

Chapter 661

That's Not the Point

Yang Chen's heart was pounding with worry. He steeled his voice to maintain a degree of calmness before saying, "Panicking won't help the situation. Just get to the point."

Zhuang Feng realized that he was losing control of his emotions and calmed himself before regaling what had happened to Yang Chen.

As it turned out, Hui Lin was supposed to go to a media company in Beijing tonight to attend the discussions regarding the production of her music video. Even though she wasn't going to appear in the music video—due to her poor performing skills—she still had to attend the discussions regardless.

One of the most famous local directors, Luo Sheng, along with a young female model, Liu Zishan, had been invited to participate in the discussions. The model was a gorgeous woman who fulfilled all the criteria to star in the music video. Not only that, she was also the champion of the North China beauty pageant who was coincidentally looking for a way to make a name for herself in the entertainment scene. Hui Lin's music video was the perfect opportunity for her to start in the industry.

Everything proceeded smoothly for the rest of the day. Soon enough, the discussions for the music video had come to an end. All the employees were flooding out the building, ready to go home.

Since it was Hui Lin's first time meeting all these new people, she was tongue-tied throughout the course of the discussion and she couldn't muster the courage to excuse herself for a trip to the washroom. It was only when the discussions had ended and pretty much everyone had left, did Hui Lin go to the washroom.

However, just as she was getting ready to regroup with the rest of her colleagues, Hui Lin heard some odd sounds coming from the main conference room.

Upon closer inspection, Hui Lin realised that the sounds turned out to be Director Luo Sheng trying to sexually assault the model Liu Zishan.

Even though Hui Lin felt embarrassed by the situation, her innocent and naive self felt compelled to help Liu Zishan escape from her suffering. With all this in mind, she barged into the room without heeding the fact that Liu Zishan was already topless and kicked away Director Luo Sheng who had draped himself over Zishan's body.

How could Luo Sheng possibly stand a chance against Hui Lin? Before he could even lift a finger to defend himself, Hui Lin kicked him twice in succession. The force of the kicks sent him flying to the nearest wall; banking on the edge of unconsciousness.

The sudden turn in events caused Liu Zishan who had been pressed against the conference table to let out a sharp cry. Her screams attracted the attention of many, leading them back to the conference room.

When the employees and security arrived at the conference room, none of them fully understood the situation as Liu Zishan was already dressed appropriately while Director Luo Sheng was still lying on the floor looking thoroughly beaten up.

When the employees lifted Luo Sheng up, he was enraged and started hurling insults at Hui Lin. He told everyone that Hui Lin had barged in unceremoniously and randomly beaten him up when he was discussing some issues about the script with Liu Zishan.

At that point, it wasn't much of a secret for what had gone down. Everyone could guess what had happened in the conference room, but no one dared to speak out against the director.

Naturally, Hui Lin tried to defend herself by saying that she had stepped in when Director Luo Sheng tried to rape Liu Zishan. However, when questioned about this, Liu Zishan shook her head vigorously. She then proceeded to say that Hui Lin's claims were unfounded and she had not felt the least bit harassed by the director.

Hui Lin was at a loss for words. She couldn't fully understand the situation. Why would Liu Zishan vehemently deny that she had been assaulted when it was clearly the case? How would denying the situation and framing Hui Lin instead help her?

Afterwards, no matter how much Zhuang Feng and the others from Yu Lei Entertainment pleaded with Luo Sheng, the director refused to back down and even contacted the authorities to bring Hui Lin to the police station.

Zhuang Feng grudgingly forced out, "Director Yang, Miss Lin Hui is still a newbie in the entertainment industry, so she doesn't know one of the unspoken customs in showbiz. Models will try and get into a director's good books by any means necessary.

"Although this 'custom' is not much of a secret, Miss Lin Hui must have heard that slut Liu Zishan whispering some flimsy objections to the director in the heat of it. She might have mistaken it as actual resistance. Knowing her, her sense of justice probably got the better of her, so she ended up kicking Director Luo Sheng's ass," he added.

"He probably wasn't too pleased with her cockblocking him in such a public manner, though." Zhuang Feng was obviously trying to lighten the situation, but Yang Chen could easily hear the tremor in his voice. "This will probably stain Liu Zishan's reputation and possibly end her career. It's no wonder that she was pissed as well."

Yang Chen directly got into the car again. After briefly explaining to Cai Yan and Cai Ning, he drove away and asked, "Where is Hui Lin now?"

"She's being detained at the police headquarters in Beijing. Our employees have all been denied access to meet her so we thought of hiring a lawyer. But it would seem like no one was willing to partake in a losing battle," Zhuang Feng replied glumly.

"Why?" Yang Chen pinpointed the location of the headquarters thanks to the car's in-built GPS function.

Zhuang Feng explained, "Liu Zishan only plays a minor role in the video. She doesn't actually possess a lot of influence on her own. Luo Sheng on the other hand, and his sister, are not people that anyone could escape after offending."

"I told you to stop beating about the bush." Yang Chen's voice was laced with irritation, and his brow was furrowed.

“Okay...” Zhuang Feng gulped and continued, “Luo Sheng’s sister, Luo Cuishan, is the eldest daughter from the Luo clan of Beijing. She also happens to be Premier Ning Guangyao’s wife and a highly ranked official.

Luo Cuishan? Who could have guessed that after Yang Chen taught Ning Guodong a lesson, he would have beef with Ning Guodong’s uncle as well?

“Director Yang, to be honest with you, there is no one stupid enough to mess with the Ning clan. All the lawyers rejected our offers the moment they found out what they were getting themselves into. You are our last hope, Director.” Zhuang Feng was aware of Yang Chen’s unusual background, but didn’t know the full extent of it. But it did not matter as this was his last resort.

Yang Chen ended the call and was left with a building rage within him. In the beginning, Lin Ruoxi founded the entertainment company mainly for Hui Lin’s benefit and appointed him as the director in part to watch over Hui Lin. But even they could not predict everything. Mei Feng’s matters aside, Hui Lin was still being held up in the police station.

Normally, if this was a trivial problem, Abbess Yun Miao would have already taken care of it in secret. However, this time they faced both the Ning clan and the Luo clan, so they couldn’t blame Abbess Yun Miao for not doing anything either.

At that moment, Yang Chen’s phone rang and an unknown number flashed across the screen. Yang Chen answered the call bluntly. “Abbess Yun Miao, I will not let any harm befall Hui Lin, so please cut straight to the chase. ”

The caller was indeed Abbess Yun Miao. She had just received the news and found out that the other party involved was Luo Sheng. Although she was resentful that her own granddaughter had been arrested, she still had to protect the already declining Lin clan. She was faced with no other choice but to entrust public matters in Yang Chen’s hands.

“I, too, am frustrated. The potential fall out of the issue is way more than the Lin clan can bear. It shouldn’t be too much of a problem for you though. This is all my fault,” she sighed exasperatedly, the regret evident in her voice and it soon became clear why, “Hui Lin had lived a sheltered life in the mountains since she was young so she doesn’t understand the dark side of the entertainment industry. This was also one of the reasons I was against her entering showbiz. But since she’s already chosen her path, please take care of her in my stead. Even if you genuinely don’t have any romantic feelings for Hui Lin, you probably still care for her in a brotherly way.”

Yang Chen was a bit shaken but he smiled bitterly. “Please don’t even mention ‘romantic feelings’. Besides, you’re the one who has been pushing for it since the beginning.”

“Hmph. Well, whether that’s true or not, you can mull over it on your own,” Abbess Yun Miao responded coolly and proceeded to hang up the phone.

Yang Chen bit his lip in frustration at his thankless duty.

The silver lining for Hui Lin’s case was the fact that some of the people involved were political figures so the whole affair would probably never see the light of day. If this were to be leaked online and reach Lin Ruoxi’s ears, getting Hui Lin out of jail would be the least of his problems.

Yang Chen's mind raced. Wasn't he already doing that old bastard Ron a favor by letting him pick a team of assistants for Hui Lin and flying them over to China? Why would something like this still happen?

And so, Yang Chen called Ron again and said bluntly, "Ron, you bastard! Didn't I already arrange for the group that you prepared to go to Beijing? My sister is now under arrest. I let your team handle her and this is the kind of result I get?"

Silence ensued. Finally, he spoke in his weathered voice which carried a tone of annoyance. "Master, please calm down and don't be rash. No one is at fault here. In fact, under Christen's watchful gaze and Catherine's cooperation, the team was already well-prepared ahead of time. It's just that... well, Master, you know very well just how impenetrable the fog in London is. Their flight has been consistently delayed for almost a day. But according to the estimations, they should be touching down in an hour, tops."

"Are they idiots? Why couldn't they have flown in from Paris?" Yang Chen asked at wits end.

Ron was stupefied. "Master, you're too smart! Why didn't we think of that?" he blurted out.

Yang Chen nearly tossed his phone out the window. He gritted his teeth and forced out, "The people that you send better be good. If I don't meet them in an hour's time, I'm going to throw the lot of them into the Atlantic Ocean as shark feed."

"Master... the Atlantic Ocean and China are really far apart. The one closest to you would be the Pacific Ocean," Ron replied earnestly.

"Damn it! That's not the point..." Yang Chen could feel his headache building up, and ended the conversation there.

At least the roads to the police station had been relatively clear and Yang Chen arrived there quickly.

Outside the police station, Zhuang Feng and the other employees were eagerly waiting for some news to reach them and they were all visibly anxious.

When Yang Chen showed up, they all crowded around him and Zhuang Feng said impatiently, "Director Yang, the police said that this case has to be handled confidentially. They refuse to give us any knowledge on the matter! We clearly saw Luo Sheng's assistants entering the station, so the police are obviously being biased."

Yang Chen didn't reply. He headed straight for the main entrance instead.

Two police officers immediately stepped in to block Yang Chen. One of the officers said sullenly, "Please leave the premises. We are in the midst of a special case. Normal civilians are not permitted to enter."

"Get out of my way if you want to continue living." Yang Chen was already at the end of his fuse. The police station were obviously giving preferential treatment to Luo Sheng which led him to worry for Hui Lin.

The two officers were about to lose it but spotted a black Audi A8 sporting a government-issued license plate heading their way.

Dressed in an ultramarine business suit and carrying a purse was a short-haired, middle-aged woman stepping out of the car and making her way to them quickly.

The woman's face was exquisite. Her skin was still soft and supple, contrasting heavily with the air of maturity she exuded.

When the woman made her way to the entrance, the two officers stopped what they were doing and stood at attention, bowed, and greeted, "Madam Luo."

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The Premier's Wife

Luo Cuishan nodded to the policemen with a smile, but her attention was on Yang Chen seated by the side. With a curious look, she said, "Didn't expect our first official meeting to be in such an occasion. Yang Chen, if I recall correctly?"

Yang Chen was not surprised that she could identify him. As the lead woman of the Ning clan, it would've been quite embarrassing if she didn't.

"Well this is not time for chit-chat." Yang Chen couldn't read her intentions, so he decided to just ignore her completely and make his way into the police station .

The two policemen on duty instantly tried to obstruct his entry. But from a distance they felt an inexplicable pressure forcing them back.

The two of them were stunned as they stumbled backwards while trying to stand.

Luo Cuishan frowned slightly as she ordered the policemen, "That's fine, let him be. You may excuse yourself from these matters today."

The policemen immediately saluted Luo Cuishan before escorting her into the station.

Having sensed the surroundings, Yang Chen found Hui Lin's exact location in no time. He took a few quick turns and arrived at a huge, well-lit office with a few policemen and some officers standing around the large table.

Among the parties present were Luo Sheng and the model Liu Zishan as they sat in one corner, with several staffs behind their backs.

Meanwhile Hui Lin sat all alone in another corner, visibly afraid. She looked no different than a guilty school child being called to the principal's office.

Opposite her, a stern police officer was interrogating her in an impatient manner.

"Miss Lin Hui, I'm going to ask you one last time. Do you admit to physically assaulting Director Luo Sheng? You can continue to remain silent, but I'll warn you that our patience has a limit," the stern police officer furiously taunted.

Hui Lin lifted her head, tears falling from her pupils as she mumbled, "I... punched him because I was trying to protect someone."

“There, she admitted to her crime, Officer. You heard it yourself.” One side of Luo Sheng’s face was visibly swollen. He looked identical to an overgrown melon. He pointed at Hui Lin while he ranted, “Officer, she said it loud and clear. Can you please arrest this crazy woman now?”

Just as Luo Sheng made his request, Yang Chen strode right into the room. The sights he saw deeply infuriated him. It was exactly like he had expected. An entire group of people ganged up against Hui Lin.

“Eat shit,” Yang Chen mumbled those words before he instantly appeared next to Luo Sheng and gave him a smack on the swollen side of his face. It was so hard that he sent him flying in the opposite direction.

Before Luo Sheng realised what just happened he was flipped out of his chair.

Ta-thump!

The entire fleet of chairs fell down like dominos, amidst the gasps of the masses Luo Sheng was like a ball of grease stumbled to the corner of the room.

Only then did the policemen on duty noticed Yang Chen’s surprise appearance.

“Brother Yang!” Hui Lin was delighted as she ran into his embrace like a lost child. Her body was still trembling in fear of the recent events.

Yang Chen hugged her with one arm. “You’re going to be fine.”

Hui Lin vigorously nodded as she wiped the tears off her eyes.

Luo Cuishan entered the office just as she witnessed Yang Chen smacking her brother on the face. Her noble appearance instantly morphed into hatred as she glared at Yang Chen, before running to tend to her brother.

“Sheng, are you okay?” Luo Cuishan worryingly tended to him.

Luo Sheng noticed his sister’s presence and immediately broke into tears. Nobody could tell if they were actual tears. “Elder Sister, you’re finally here. I just got assaulted two times today. Two times! You gotta avenge me!”

The police officer was terrified by the presence of the premier’s wife, especially when her only brother was beaten up in his police station?! If she decided to press charges, they would be screwed!

Luo Cuishan however kept her cool as she coldly replied, “I didn’t know that victims could get assaulted in police stations. Is that how your interrogations go these days?”

“Chief Luo, please don’t misunderstand. We will arrest this rascal right away.” The stern officer was pelting in sweat as he instantly ordered the policemen on duty, “What are you guys waiting for? Arrest him!”

The eight other policemen on duty were aware of the severity of the incident. They immediately hurled themselves towards Yang Chen all at once!

Yang Chen was completely unfazed by the lot. But in an effort to keep a low profile, he swatted his hands across the air as if chasing a mosquito away.

His actions albeit small, repelled the trained policemen like flies as they were tossed to the corners of the office.

The reactions he gathered from that were panic and confusion. Even Luo Cuishan was alarmed by Yang Chen's disregard of the police force. In Beijing, an act of aggression against the police force could mean a strife against the entire police force of the nation!

Noteworthy of its venue as the police headquarters of Beijing, immediately after Yang Chen sent the policemen flying, an organised troop of two dozen armed policemen marched into the office.

The police officer felt relieved as the tides had turned for him. He was reminded of his pistol in his belt as he drawn it and aimed right at Yang Chen, before he taunted, "I don't care what you are. But you're now outnumbered. Surrender now or we will not hold back."

The armed policemen surrounded Yang Chen in a formation as they raised their weapons. Any movement from Yang Chen would result in his head getting blown off.

Yang Chen had a gleam of sombreness in his eyes. He smiled towards Hui Lin in his arms. "Hui Lin, I'm afraid that I'm going to have to kill again today."

Hui Lin was taken aback by his statement as she furiously shook her head. "No Brother Yang, we should talk about this. We can get a lawyer to bail us out. If you were to kill someone here, we'll be in huge trouble."

"Killing these people would be my last resort. But does it look like we are in a position to demand a lawyer?" Yang Chen frustratedly sighed.

At this moment, Luo Cuishan abruptly shifted her attitude as she gave Yang Chen a polite smile. "I've always wanted to meet you Yang Chen. I'm not sure if you knew, but your mother and I used to be college mates. When I heard that she was reunited with her long-lost son I was so happy for her.

"Actually, we all know today's incident can be avoided. It's nothing that we cannot sit down and discuss. If you were to stir up a mess with my brother over a petty matter like this, wouldn't that spoil the peaceful relationship between our Ning clan and yours? My husband and I deeply respect your grandfather. I know you well enough to know that these weapons will not harm you in the slightest. So could we bring this topic elsewhere and discuss it in a more civilized manner? This is not worth making a huge fuss about right?"

Yang Chen squinted his eyes as he mockingly laughed. "Are you trying to make me thank you afterwards?"

"Please don't overthink this Yang Chen. Like I said, your mother and I used to be classmates. As a senior acquaintance I wouldn't wish for you to walk down the wrong path. I understand that young people tend to make rash decisions, so I am willing to talk it through. I promise I won't make it tough for you or that girl from the Lin clan," Luo Cuishan advised with a smile.

Luo Sheng at a corner, still dazed from the beating. He whispered into his sister's ear, "Sister, what's this? Is the kid really from the Yang clan?"

Luo Cuishan glared at him. "I'm cleaning up your mess right now. It would be great if you could just shut the hell up for a minute."

Luo Sheng quickly shut his mouth as he dizzily glanced at the other staffs and the model Liu Zishan. All of them were visibly shocked at the incident.

Yang Chen giggled. "I really couldn't care less about your relationship with my mom, or what your background is. But from what you know, I'm sure you were pretty thorough with your search on my profile, the intentions of which, I assume, are not that good."

"Look, everybody knows about my feud with your pathetic son. So I guess you will find this out one way or another. Just a while ago at 'Sky Building' I made Ning Guodong kneel before me in front of everyone. I'm actually quite surprised he hasn't run back to weep in your arms yet."

Luo Cuishan turned pale as she pictured the scene in her mind. *Ning Guodong, my son, kneeling?!?* Her smile of decency instantly vanished, and a gush of fury took its place.

"What, can't take it anymore?" Yang Chen had no plans in stopping. "I'm telling you this to make sure you understand that our problems and conflicts do not stem from my generation. The root of the conflicts was planted by the ones before us, yourself included."

"You wanted to fake your intentions. Well it's up to you, but I'm not one bit interested."

"Lin Hui is my wife's only sister. And if you have not yet noticed, we care for her deeply. She is my family and as long as I live and breathe, nobody touches her the wrong way. I'm going to be extremely frank with you. Your brother is straddling on a very delicate line. Just a peep from him would be sufficient for me to slaughter him right here, right now."

Luo Cuishan tried her best to remain calm as she replied, "You're definitely Xuehua's son. Even if you were not present in China for the better part of your life, your language reminds me of her. However, Yang Chen, you're still too young to understand."

"Judging by the situation, even if you forcefully escort her out, according to the rule of law, I believe there is complete evidence that she physically assaulted my brother. I have more than enough evidence to press charges against her."

"I know she's recently been busy with a concert and an album, right? Wouldn't it be such a pity if she falls from grace at this point of her career?"

"Is that so?" Yang Chen ominously laughed. "I'm betting that you'll be changing that ridiculous thought of yours pretty soon."

Chapter 663

Between Nations

Yang Chen's words were lost in the ears of Luo Cuishan and the rest of the police force.

But Luo Cuishan obviously had a lot to consider—in addition to her position as the eldest child of the Luo clan, she was the wife of the premier who happened to also be the master of the Ning clan. Her actions had to be carefully considered as they might set off an unwanted chain reaction.

While Luo Cuishan was busy strategizing her next move, a crisp and swift array of high heel footsteps resonated from the entrance of the police station.

Before long, a tall, white brunette came into the office.

She was wearing a black uniform with white leggings, a braid of curly hair along with a pair of golden-framed glasses, resembling a classic Caucasian woman. She was the epitome of a middle-aged beauty from the west.

The policemen were left in a state of disarray. Even Luo Cuishan was puzzled by the sudden appearance of a foreign woman.

The woman scanned the office room upon her arrival, and instantly locked eyes with Yang Chen.

Once she spotted Yang Chen amidst the crowd, her face instantly glowed from exhilaration. Her proper education on etiquette and mannerisms, however, led her to elegantly walk towards Yang Chen before she bowed and introduced herself. “My apologies for the delay, Sir. I was handpicked by Her Majesty Queen Catherine to assist you with the case. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Laura Matterro. I am from London’s Linklaters Law Firm. It is my absolute pleasure to represent you both, Mr Yang Chen and Miss Lin Hui.”

A bombardment of her formal introduction left the majority of the people present dumbfounded.

And among them the only person that understood was undoubtedly Luo Cuishan. It was because Luo Cuishan knew who she was that she frowned slightly.

Queen Catherine? Linklaters Law Firm?

As the wife of China’s premier, Luo Cuishan naturally had decent exposure to the leaders of the world’s great powers, exponentially higher than the leading women of most clans.

She was fully aware of the Queen Catherine that Laura had mentioned—who she was and what her position was in Great Britain. She was also aware of the Linklaters Law Firm as one of the top five best performing law firms on the planet.

The lawyers of the firm had almost in its entirety only dealt with large corporational court cases and they were hardly involved themselves with private cases.

But a lawyer of such status to personally arrive in Beijing to serve as a private consulting attorney for what could be considered an unknown star? That was very hard for Luo Cuishan to swallow.

But there was more.

Yang Chen was unamused by Laura’s introduction, as he frowned from displeasure. “Is everyone here?”

Laura nervously nodded. “Yes Sir, I deeply apologise for the delay. London was shrouded in severe mist yesterday, which ultimately led to the twenty-four-hour delay.”

“Did you know that if you arrived ten minutes later, you’d have come all the way here only to be fed to the sharks?”

Laura went pale as she held her head low.

Yang Chen was stern in his emphasis. “Now that your team will be dealing with my sister, I expect there to be no more foolish mistakes like this one. Please be aware of the severity of the situation. Had I not be present in Beijing today, the problem would never have been settled so simply.”

Laura aggressively nodded as she replied, “Rest assured Sir, we will do our best to make sure everything will be smooth sailing from this point. In accordance to our promise, everyone from the team was selected from the cream of the crop.”

Yang Chen let out a long sigh. “I’ll stop you there. As for the complete insight of this incident, I believe you should be well-informed by now on your way here. Make it quick.”

Laura felt a strong gush of relief as she dried the cold sweat on her forehead. With her head held high, she exerted her trademark smile of confidence as she faced the police officer. “Sir, may I know if you’re the person in charge here?”

This time, Laura switched to speaking Mandarin albeit being slightly hard to understand with her heavy accent. But for the most part, it was clear and comprehensible.

The stern police officer stutteringly replied with a nod, “Ye—yes.”

Laura however continued with a smile. “I’m Laura, a lawyer from Linklaters. It is in my client’s best interest for me to request an official bail.”

While she made her request, she withdrew a thick array of internationally certified law documents, and placed them on the desk.

The police officer was bewildered by the approach. Ultimately believing that the documents were real, he distressingly stared at Luo Cuishan, awaiting further instructions.

Luo Cuishan lazily shook her head. Even if it was against a team of world-renowned attorneys, she had no intention of allowing Yang Chen to get away with it. She could not just let him go after all the things he had done.

The police officer understood her signal as he faked a cough before replying, “Regarding that erm... Miss Attorney, we went through a series of interrogations before you arrived, with this lady Miss Liu Zishan as an eye witness. She admits to witnessing Miss Lin Hui unauthorizedly breaking into the meeting room and physically assaulting Director Luo Sheng. His injuries here prove exactly that. Not to mention she admitted to her wrongdoings. All in all, we simply cannot allow her to be released on bail.”

Laura had a slight tinge of panic before she shifted her gaze towards Liu Zishan. “You must be the model. May I ask you some questions?”

Liu Zishan was still traumatized from the preceding events, but she knew clear and well that if she were to tell the truth, her road to fame would be demolished. She nervously nodded before replying, “Sure...”

“May I ask, Miss Liu Zishan, what were you doing the moment Miss Lin Hui broke into the meeting room?” Laura interrogated.

Liu Zishan instantaneously replied, “I was discussing with the director about some details regarding the video. Miss Lin Hui barged into the room and without reason, punched the director in the face.”

“No she didn’t! She was... doing those things with the director!” Hui Lin immediately confronted her lie. “I heard that she was yelling something along the lines of ‘No Director, don’t’. That’s why I broke in to save her. Miss Liu why would you lie about that?”

“Miss Lin Hui, please have some decency. Don’t insult my innocence.” Liu Zishan turned to the opposite corner, intentionally avoiding Hui Lin’s gaze.

Hui Lin’s expression went dull, seemingly unsure why Liu Zishan would betray her like that.

Yang Chen lightly patted her on the shoulder. “You better not cry. I didn’t bring any tissue.”

Hui Lin pouted her lips, as she dispiritedly nodded her head.

Laura loosened her shoulders before turning to the furious Luo Sheng. “You should be Director Luo Sheng. Do you mind confirming if what Miss Liu Zishan said was the truth?”

“Of course. We were discussing about the details for the costumes in her music video, but this crazy bitch came in and assaulted me. I have to sue her.” Luo Sheng was unwavering.

Laura looked frustrated as she asserted, “What a pity that neither of you was willing to tell the truth.”

“Attorney Laura, if there’s anything you want to say, just say it out loud right here,” Luo Cuishan demanded in English.

“Alright.” Laura reached into her bag and brought out her laptop, as she continued, “On the way I got several technicians to retrieve the security camera footage for the exact incident. According to the actual recording, it was extremely clear the footage of the director and Miss Liu Zishan’s apparent sexual intercourse...”

At this moment, the police were all in daze. Luo Cuishan’s face turned gloomy.

Liu Zishan was immensely distressed, while Luo Sheng was dumbfounded.

“Next, I will expose the exact footage of the incident right here.” Laura casually unlocked her laptop, as she prepared to broadcast the footage.

“That’s impossible.” Luo Sheng was panicking hard. “I did some prior inspections. There wasn’t a single security camera in the meeting room. You must be...”

It was at this point that Luo Sheng realized he fell right into her trap!

Liu Zishan stumbled backwards while barely maintaining her balance. She was just an ordinary model. One moment she was about to take her first step into the entertainment industry, the next she was forced into a situation like this. She was first genuinely terrified by the news of the footage, before she knew she was manipulated.

Laura smiled brightly. “Director Luo, why do you need prior inspection on the presence of a security camera for a discussion on minor details of your music video?”

“Tha—that’s because... It’s...” Luo Sheng’s mind went blank as he ran out of excuses.

Luo Cuishan was infuriated as she pushed her brother aside. She immediately went forth and replied, "Attorney Laura, I'm impressed by your methods. However, with the absence of the video footage, you lack any form of solid evidence of the matter. Meanwhile on our side, we have witnesses as a valid reason to keep Lin Hui from bail."

Laura winked as she replied, "Ah, this must be Premier Ning's graceful wife. I've read up about you before. In that regard, you're absolutely right. But, it is worth mentioning that my client Miss Lin Hui does have an additional identity that could more than suffice her bail."

Once she was done, unfazed by the looks of the people around her, Laura retrieved a red booklet from her bag.

"I'm not sure if anyone recognises this," Laura patiently explained with a smile, "But what I'm about to announce is, Miss Lin Hui's British citizenship had recently been approved. This is the her passport as evidence. I understand that according to the Chinese law no citizen is allowed a dual citizenship. But since the United Kingdom would allow for one, on a British standpoint, Miss Lin Hui is our citizen.

"And as I speak, the British embassy has received a notification for Miss Lin Hui's royal pardon in regards to foreign affairs. This also means that the detainment, interrogations and custody of Miss Lin Hui would result in a discussion of foreign affairs. As I am sure that you are well aware, a mere police station like this would not suffice for a negotiation between our two nations."

As Laura took her time in enunciating the long list of words, the police officer speechlessly sunk into his seat.

A negotiation between nations?

How would insignificant policemen like them bear such a responsibility?

Luo Cuishan naturally was aware that Laura intentionally left certain points out from her remarks. But either way she had to make sure Laura did not escalate the situation to involve foreign affairs.

What was more surprising to her was how she underestimated Yang Chen from his age and connections, that he would have the entire United Kingdom to come to his defence.

Luo Cuishan was also impressed by the quality of a lawyer from an international elite law firm. It was no wonder that they were among the best.

As the incident progressed, it was clear that Hui Lin was certainly untouchable. Luo Cuishan felt the pressure amounting due to her position as the wife of the premier. Above all, her actions could not make it so that foreign affairs would be involved.

Chapter 664

That Little Stall

Yang Chen never expected for Catherine and Ron to be so thorough in their preparations. They even went beyond what he had asked of them and arranged her a new nationality. Disregarding the actual difficulty of obtaining the passport, for them to actually do it was truly surprising for Yang Chen. This move not only shielded her from any potential lawsuits, but also paved a path for any future career advancements overseas.

Noticing that the incident was more or less dealt with, Yang Chen held Hui Lin close as they exited the police station hand in hand.

Luo Sheng was expectedly hostile towards the final decision as he grabbed onto his sister's arm. "What? How can you let them go just like that?"

Luo Cuishan shook him loose. Annoyed, she taunted, "What more do we have to say in this? They're not going to charge you for anything, pathetic brat."

Luo Sheng noticed that his sister was obviously furious. He quickly tucked his tail between his legs and scampered off into a corner. No matter how unwilling he was to accept the decision, he was still left unscarred, so he had no choice but bear with her decision.

Luo Cuishan turned around against Yang Chen waning silhouette, and ominously taunted, "Yang Chen, today you might've won. But I will not let Guodong's incident slip by so easily. You best be ready."

"Anything you want to discuss, talk to the lawyer." Yang Chen couldn't care less about what she had to say.

Seeing that Yang Chen was leaving, Laura instantly threw everything into her bag and followed his lead. She was less worried about how the case would progress than to ensure that Yang Chen was satisfied with her performance.

The police station was once again left in pin-drop silence.

Waiting outside of the station was Zhuang Feng and the rest who accompanied him here. He was relieved at the sight of Yang Chen safely escorting Hui Lin out, while concurrently feeling a sense of awe towards Yang Chen's superior background.

Yang Chen waited for the rest to leave, before he personally turned to Laura for a favor. "It's late, I'll be taking Miss Lin Hui back now. Tell the rest of your team that I'll be meeting them in the morning. There are some things I need to publicly announce. You can go now."

Laura obediently bowed and bade them farewell.

Hui Lin witnessed as Laura abruptly took her leave. She sighed and said, "Brother Yang, you didn't give me a chance to properly thank her."

Yang Chen smiled faintly. "Oh you will get plenty of chances to thank her in the future. Not just her, but the entire team of international elites as well. They'll make sure that your name will be well-known throughout the world in the shortest time that they can muster. You'll have an audience with them tomorrow."

"Well-known huh..." Hui Lin was slightly dazed as she strangely nodded.

Yang Chen let out a short sigh as he emphasized, "Your grandmother called to make sure you were okay. I think it's best if you stay at home for now, just so she could feel more reassured. Come on, get in my car. I'll take you home."

Hui Lin had no opinions on that as she obediently went to the passenger seat. She gave him her address and they were soon on their way.

Amidst the dead of night, traffic on Beijing's intra-city highway was scarce. Countless streetlights kept the highway well-lit for miles, amassing into a simmering belt.

Meanwhile in the car, it was dead silent. Tens of minutes passed without either party making a sound. Yang Chen was focusing on the road while Hui Lin leaned towards the side window as the scenery flashed by her.

The lights reflected on the windshield on her exquisite features, her long lashes reflecting that of translucent curtains shielding her pupils.

Yang Chen frowned as he eventually broke the silence. "Hey, you alright? With that face of yours, your sister might think that I mistreated you."

Hui Lin forced a smile as she replied, "I'm fine, Brother Yang. However, there's something I can't seem to wrap my head around."

"Try explaining to me, see if I can help. It's always better than emotional distress, unless it's about a woman's affairs. If that's the case then nevermind. I'm rather thin-faced. I get embarrassed easily," Yang Chen spoke his mind.

Hui Lin couldn't help but burst into laughter at his reply, as she tooted her nostrils, "You surely are straightforward aren't you? No wonder you always get harped on by Elder Sister."

Yang Chen chuckled, "Your sister is always pissed. I'm used to it."

Hui Lin bit her lower lip as her smile faded. She gathered her words and asked, "Brother Yang, there's something I've been meaning to ask since we left the police station. Why do you think Miss Liu Zishan lied to my face just to support that Luo Sheng on his claims against me? She was clearly in an unfavorable situation at the time, and I saved her from it. Isn't she supposed to be on my side?"

Yang Chen was left frustrated. He was amazed that she was still distressed by that incident. What Abbess Yun Miao said was right. There were some unspoken rules in the entertainment industry. The innocent and naive Hui Lin was not privy to them prior to her debut.

"I might not be someone from the entertainment industry, but I'm pretty sure I understood the situation. You're right about Liu Zishan's case. Maybe she really didn't want to make out with the director. But that's her struggle of survival in the industry. A young model trying to breakout into the scene would do anything it takes to succeed. This includes but is not limited to, 'improving' ties to Luo Sheng. The entertainment industry is a ruthless place. If you don't push to maximise your success when you're still young and pretty, there's no telling when your last day as a model is.

"She's not like you, you know. She doesn't have a godly voice to mesmerise her audience. She's just a model. Everyone with a pretty face can be a model. If she told the truth and offended Luo Sheng in the process, her entire career would be tainted with messy scandals that she might never break loose from, possibly ending her career. Her position as a model is rocky at best. She would do anything to get an inch closer to fame and success," Yang Chen explained.

Hui Lin frowned as she went into deep thought. She ultimately shook her head in confusion. "But... does she not care about her innocence? Does fame and fortune really mean everything to her? So much so

that she was willing to sell herself like a product? She's a pretty girl, even if she leaves the entertainment industry I bet she'll do well in many other fields.

"I used to always think that working in the entertainment industry was exciting. Singing and dancing for the people's entertainment. But now that I know the evil truth behind it, it just irks me. I hate it so much. I—I don't think I can do it anymore."

Yang Chen took a deep breath. With one quick move, he steered to a quick turn and went downhill off the path of the highway.

Hui Lin was dumbfounded by his sudden change in route. "Brother Yang, this isn't the right way."

"I know, I'm taking you somewhere else," Yang Chen coolly replied.

Hui Lin was suspicious as she glanced around. After they left the highway they entered a housing area. Since it was past midnight, there was hardly anyone left on the street.

Before she managed to ask about their whereabouts, Yang Chen made a gradual stop next to a streetlight.

"Where is this place?" Hui Lin scanned her current surroundings, but all she saw were a few unamusing shophouses and some dull shoplots.

Yang Chen lowered the window on his side of the car and pointed at a petite grocery stand on the opposite side of the road. It was still open for business despite being quite late into the night.

"You see that little stall over there?" Yang Chen casually mentioned.

Hui Lin, with her decent cultivation level, had no problems picking out to the petite stall from a distance. The sign was old and rusty, and behind it was only one slightly obese middle-aged woman crossing her arms as she presumably hoped for a few more customers before she closed for the night.

"Brother Yang... are you getting cigarettes? I can get one for you." Hui Lin knew Yang Chen was an avid smoker. She loosened her safety belt and prepared to make her way down the vehicle.

Yang Chen gave a bitter smile in response. "Where do you plan to go? I'm just trying to tell you about the store owner of the stand over there."

"Huh?" Hui Lin paused on her intention as she curiously stared at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen solemnly replied, "That woman at the stand, she had sinus cancer just last year and even after a successful operation the doctor advised her to take three years off to recuperate. Not to mention the fact that she has to go for regular check ups.

"And as a result of that, her family, whose only income was this very stand, were burdened with massive amounts of medical fees. Even her usual medicine consumption had to be phased out.

"Her husband was originally a retired worker. But because of her condition he had to pick up his construction job again to share the burden. Unfortunately for them however, just 2 months after his return, his legs were severely damaged by a construction fender, causing him to undergo an urgent operation. Any delays in the procedure would result in amputation.

“It was adding salt to the already-open wound, which is why this woman had to stay up this late.”

At this point of his narration, Hui Lin was left teary eyed as she mumbled, “That’s so sad... Do they have children?”

Yang Chen nodded and sighed. “They do have a daughter—a really beautiful one. Not too long ago, their daughter won the grand prize in a model competition, which boosted her advances into the entertainment industry.

“Obviously as a newcomer, her daughter couldn’t procure the huge sums of money they had required and her father, was almost due for his operation. She had to make sure that the money arrived by hook or by crook. Nonetheless, she went to the bank for a loan, only to realise it wasn’t enough. She was left with no choice but sell her body off, in exchange for a better life for her parents.”

Hui Lin caught the point of his speech as she carefully phrased her words before she doubtfully asked, “Could it be that... Brother Yang, are you saying they’re Miss Liu Zishan’s parents?”

Yang Chen smilingly nodded. “Liu Zishan was just hoping for her parents to return to full health, which is why she had to make out with Luo Sheng. So what do you think, is her innocence more important, or her parents’ health?”

Hui Lin’s expression turned rather sour before she mumbled, “If that’s the case... I think she’s a good person. I falsely accused her of her actions.”

About this time however, from a nearby alley came a sturdy middle-aged man, yelling at the woman by the tiny stand. “Wife, why are you still at the stall? We don’t need this little money, do we?!”

That woman replied in an equally loud pitch, “Yes. I’m packing up!”

Hui Lin with her impressive listening ability naturally overheard the conversation without hassle. That subsequently led her to confusedly shift over to Yang Chen. “Brother Yang, that’s the woman’s husband right? He doesn’t seem to be in the conditions you described him in.”

Yang Chen shrugged as he giggled. “Of course silly. I was bluffing. It’s my first time meeting Liu Zishan, so how would I know anything about her family?”

“What! How could you do that?” The fair-tempered Hui Lin reactively pouted from dissatisfaction, after all she even teared for the cause.

Yang Chen swiped his finger past her pink little lips as he continued with a serious tone, “Hui Lin, even if I made up the story, my point still stands. Nobody knows how Liu Zishan’s family condition is.

“Even if we leave her out of the picture, what about the staff working tirelessly for her? What about their families?”

“All in all, everyone in this world is interconnected. Let’s assume she genuinely had a staff under her that desperately needed the money. Does she deserve a pardon for her cause now?”

“Bu—but that was fake,” Hui Lin replied.

“The story I made up was definitely fake. But can you tell me that among the thousands of families around us, none of them has experienced a financial tragedy like the one I described? If Liu Zishan actually had a similar situation and you actually made sure her innocence was kept, but in return she would go home empty-handed, do you then think what you did was the right choice?”

“Otherwise, what if as a result of that, she was barred from entering the entertainment industry. This would cause her makeup artist along with her manager to lose their jobs. Wouldn’t they be the ones in financial mishaps then?”

Yang Chen noticed that she kept her silence as he continued, “We brush our shoulders with situations like this every single day, and when we make decisions, we obviously think of others too.

“Maybe some decisions made by others might seem wrong or indecent, but we don’t know what they had in mind when they did them, do we?”

“There’s no right or wrong in many cases. There’s always a reason why things are the way they are.

“If we make our every decision based on whether it’s right or wrong, we would stress ourselves out before we can even make a rounded decision. Maybe in your eyes you did help someone out. But you might’ve hurt them in ways that you don’t know of.”

Hui Lin maintained her silence for a long while, before she earnestly inquired, “Then... what should I do?”

“Follow your heart. Just like how you kicked Luo Sheng from Liu Zishan. Regardless of what you do, there are always consequences that follow. So no matter what you decide to do, as long as your thoughts are sincere that is all you need. You can’t control how other people think, but you can certainly control your own. There are many cases from the entertainment industry which will displease you. But as long as you stick to being yourself, what do others have to do with you?”

Hui Lin was left in daze as she mumbled to herself, and ultimately let out a grin.

“I understand now, Brother Yang. I will put my all into my music. I love my job and that’s all that matters,” Hui Lin spoke as she was beaming with confidence.

Yang Chen gave a sigh of relief. “Good thing I talked you out of this, or else the millions that your sister has invested on you would go to waste.”

Hui Lin appreciatively stared at Yang Chen and shyly said, “Thank you, Brother Yang. Sorry for the hassle.”

“Well it’s not a hassle. I’m just a little worried that this melodious voice of yours would not be heard of again.” Yang Chen winked.

Hui Lin was visibly jolly about his compliment as she hurried herself to hug his shoulder, only to realize that her actions were a little overbearing. She pulled away as soon as she hugged him.

Yang Chen meanwhile went a little stiff, when an attractive fragrant vaguely hovered around him, before abruptly vanishing.

“Alright, now that you thought it through, we should really get home now, or else your grandmother is going to accuse me of trafficking you again.”

This time, Hui Lin kept her head low as she mumbled in acknowledgement.

Chapter 665

Late at Night

In one of Beijing’s top-tier apartments, a drunk man stumbled his way back to his place. His hands were trembling heavily as he searched for his keys. It took him a long while before he finally managed to open the main door.

He zig-zagged into the apartment, before subconsciously turning on the lights.

The newly renovated space was revealed in its full glory, under the chandelier was a man struggling to stand his ground.

The man held on to the walls and furniture as he made his way to the balcony. He then uncorked a half-filled whiskey bottle and gulped it down his throat.

Amber fluid splattered all over his Versace shirt, but he had no intention of stopping.

After several huge mouthfuls, the man choked on the whiskey before he coughed and collapsed onto the ground.

“Guodong?”

Around this time, a middle-aged woman came through the unlocked door and witnessed the barely conscious young man on the ground who was covered in dirt.

Luo Cuishan rushed over to check on her son. Since her departure from the police station, she had been trying to reach Ning Guodong’s number, but to no avail.

Anxious, she instantly made her way to her son’s apartment, only to find him in such a pathetic state.

Luo Cuishan was heartbroken at the sight of her son. She rolled up her sleeves and threw her bag aside to help him up. For a mother to see her only son in such a sorry state was a nightmare to say the least.

After much effort she managed to help him over to the couch, before she rushed to the bathroom for a wet towel and cleaned his face.

Ning Guodong on the other hand had hardly moved an inch while his mother was cleaning him up.

The sight of her son’s sorry state made her eyes tear up as she lamented, “Guodong, how can you be so ignorant of your own wellbeing. I know the pain you are feeling right now. But as a man, you have to learn from your mistakes and be the bigger person. Look at yourself.”

Ning Guodong lifted his head, to fuzzily stare at his mother. Sneering, he said, “Mom, I kneeled in front of all those people. I kneeled to that son of a bitch...”

At this point, tears flowed down his cheeks as he wept in front of his mother, like a child who was bullied at school.

Luo Cuishan held her tears as she sat down by his side, holding his hand. "I know, but it is because of that you have to stay strong. You're the young master of the Ning clan. Sweet revenge is never too big a goal for you to achieve. Mom knows that deep inside you, there lies a confident kid waiting for his time to shine. He will definitely make his comeback."

Ning Guodong pushed his mother's hand aside as he self-deprecatingly laughed. "Young master? What's the point of that? I can't even get the thing I desire the most. What use does this 'Young Master' title even do? Besides, who knows if I'm actually going to be the successor of the Ning clan?"

Luo Cuishan shook her head as she tried convincing him. "That's not true Guodong. You're the only legitimate son between your dad and me. He has no choice but to pick you as his successor. So come home with me now. Formally apologize to your father. I'm sure he'll stand by you. Come home with me alright?"

Ning Guodong stiffly shook his head. "No Mom, I'm not going back. That douchebag pointed a gun at me for that whore. He's not my father, not anymore. No chance in hell am I apologizing to him."

Luo Cuishan was emotionally drained as she closed her eyes, teardrops trickled down her cheeks.

"Mom, can you tell me why that Yang bastard even deserves all those women, but I don't? How could he disgrace me like that? Who does he think he is? Why is he able to get his whole harem while I can't even get the one girl I truly want?" Ning Guodong was on the brink of emotional collapse.

Luo Cuishan took a long, deep breath before she continued, her hands shaking while she caressed the face of her son. "Guodong, are you really that desperate to get that girl?"

Ning Guodong's alcohol-ravaged eyes were filled with fury and hatred. Clenching his teeth, he taunted, "I want to slowly torture her to let her know her place in this world. I want to torture her in front of that Yang bastard bit by bit until she wished she was dead. I want to suck her blood dry..."

But before he could properly conclude his sentence, he dozed off on the couch.

Luo Cuishan was in shock. She delicately coaxed her son into sleeping, but her eyes were shrouded by uncertainty of the future.

... ..

Over at the Lin residence, ever since Lin Zhiguo's premature 'death', it had gradually faded away from the attention of many. Other than the remaining servants in the house, there weren't many people.

The Lin residence was modeled in a vintage design, as it resonated the ambience of the fifties. The interior however, was paved with a more modern design.

In an accommodation located at the backyard, Hui Lin was dressed in a white silk nightgown which she put on after her shower. Her fair shoulders were exposed to the night breeze. She sat on the side of her bed, her peachy legs gently hovering in the air.

Even after all this time, despite Hui Lin being away from the house for quite some time, the electronics in her room were still modern and contemporary. Regardless of Lin Zhiguo's absence, the financial status was still very much sustained, albeit a change in core management. It wasn't enough to change the life of the only family heir.

Hui Lin, however, had no interest in the possessions she had in her room. She sat in a corner, occasionally chuckling, but subsequently frowned as prolonged thoughts went through her head.

Her room door at this moment was slowly opened from the outside, as Abbess Yun Miao, in a pearl-white nightgown, strolled towards her. After her prolonged stay in the city, she had intentionally reduced the use of her traditional outfits, potentially to better adapt to a contemporary lifestyle.

Abbess Yun Miao noticed that the lights in her granddaughter's room were still on, so she went in to check on her, only to find her daydreaming at the corner of her bed.

"Hui'er, what are you smiling foolishly about?" Abbess Yun Miao was a little confused as she made her way towards her.

Hui Lin was startled at first, before she immediately became embarrassed at herself. She mumbled, "Grandma. It's nothing at all. I-I'm not thinking about anything, it must be the fatigue that got me in daze."

"Hmph, silly little girl. I know that you're thinking about that kid Yang Chen again." Abbess Yun Miao was fast to point that out before she casually sat by her side of the bed.

Hui Lin's jaw dropped upon hearing what she said. Her face turned bright red as she kept her silence.

Abbess Yun Miao sighed lightly and continued, "Actually, I've always known that you like him."

Hui Lin remained quiet but her heart rate quickened.

"What's the big deal?" Abbess Yun Miao affectionately pinched Hui Lin on the face. "Back then in Tibet, when Yang Chen was leaving on that helicopter, I saw you hiding in a corner quietly watching his departure. You were raised by me. How long do you think you can keep that from me? Despite how little I like this fellow, if he really is the one you like, I will play my part in supporting you."

"Grandma, don't say that. I can't..." Hui Lin's face went bright red as she stuttered.

"What do you mean no? Look at you, when he dropped you home, you stood there like a tree until he left your sight. Never once had you even done so for me you silly girl." Abbess Yun Miao rolled her eyes at Hui Lin. "Frankly speaking, I don't get what's so special about this kid. It baffles me to think at why all these girls flock to his side."

Hui Lin pouted her lips as she softly replied, "Brother Yang might seem happy-go-lucky most of the time, but when you really need him, he'll always pull through for you. He's just trustworthy and reliable in that way. I guess that's why Elder Sister came to like him."

"If you continue to call Lin Ruoxi 'elder sister', you will only drift further and further away from Yang Chen. Silly little girl, if you were a tad bit older I would have urged you to get married and have a family. Who knows how long I have left in this world." Abbess Yun Miao frustratedly continued, "You know how desperate our Lin clan has been ever since your parents were sacrificed by that maniacal grandfather of yours. You are our only seed left. If you're always going to hang around Yang Chen for nothing, then our family tree will soon die off, wouldn't it? I'm sure you don't hope to see that."

Hui Lin lifted her head, her bright pupils rolled in doubt, as she held on to Abbess Yun Miao's palm. She replied with a warm smile, "Grandma you look at most only in your forties. Why would want to be a

great-grandmother so soon? People think that we are mother and daughter as of now. Who would have thought that you are my grandmother!”

Abbess Yun Miao instantly felt overjoyed after Hui Lin’s blatant praise of her youthful appearance, even if she didn’t voice it out. She replied, “I allowed you to be a singer, but all you picked up was the sweet talking. Alright alright, don’t you have work tomorrow morning? Go to bed early tonight, I’ll go prepare herbal ginseng chicken soup for your breakfast tomorrow.”

“Alright. Rest well too Grandma,” Hui Lin obediently replied.

Abbess Yun Miao stood up before she lovingly caressed her granddaughter’s head, with a helpless yet satisfied smile.

Chapter 666

Breaking News

The next morning soon dawned in the backyard of the Cai residence.

Half asleep, Yang Chen walked out from Cai Yan’s room.

After sending Hui Lin home the previous night, he had wanted to have some release with her. After all, it had been quite a while since he last saw her. Yang Chen missed that tender and ample body of Cai Yan’s. Little did he expect that Cai Yan would sleep in Cai Ning’s room instead.

Since it was his first time here, it was rather awkward for Yang Chen to sleep in the same room as the two sisters. In the end, he decided to sleep in the empty room alone.

In the living room, breakfast had already been laid out by the servants. Cai Yuncheng and Jiang Shan were already seated and having their meal.

Upon seeing Yang Chen, Jiang Shan beamed and said, “Yang Chen, come over and have your breakfast. Why did you wake up so early?”

Yang Chen was still not used to the change in attitude in this mother-in-law of his. He let out an awkward smile and said, “Aunt, I wish I could stay, but there are still matters that require my urgent attention in Zhonghai. I’m heading back in another two days’ time. I have somewhere to be after breakfast.”

“So impatient?” Jiang Shan said regrettably. “That’s true, young people like you must have lots of work that require your attention. I understand.”

Cai Yuncheng mumbled loftily, “Work... The only work he has is managing his women.”

Jiang Shan gave a hard pat on her husband’s shoulder, grumbling, “What are you talking about? How can you talk about our own son-in-law in such a way?”

Cai Yuncheng blew at his moustache, staring at her. Yet, he was not in the least angry.

Jiang Shan’s mind was no longer on her breakfast. She started thinking and said, “Yang Chen, you and your mother both stay in Zhonghai right? Wouldn’t Master Yang feel very lonely in Beijing? From what I know, General Yang Pojun and your younger brother Yang Lie rarely visit. How about I pay him a visit in

the future? Perhaps I could make Ning'er drop by more often? Yanyan is returning to Zhonghai later, but Ning'er isn't occupied at all in Beijing."

"Alright that's enough. Why are you thinking about all these matters?" Even Cai Yuncheng felt embarrassed.

Yang Chen just smiled. He didn't want to give Jiang Shan an explanation.

At that moment, Cai Ning and Cai Yan appeared, walking side by side. Cai Ning looked alright, but Cai Yan's eyes were filled with the mischievous joy of having taken her revenge as she looked at Yang Chen.

"Did you sleep well last night?" Cai Yan wrapped her hands around Yang Chen's neck from behind, asking with a radiant smile.

Yang Chen knew that Cai Yan had deliberately evaded him. He smiled bitterly and said, "Did you have to do that? You know I had to leave due to urgent matters. You can escape me once, but can you escape me forever?"

"I did it because you left in the middle of the night with no explanation. Do you know how worried I was? You mean guy." Cai Yan pinched Yang Chen's face from behind, pouting.

Jiang Shan hurriedly attempted to stop her, "Yanyan, what are you doing? Why are you pinching Yang Chen's face?"

"Mom, why are you siding with him?" Cai Yan muttered.

"Girls do not act this way. You should be gentler and learn from your elder sister. Luckily Yang Chen wants you, otherwise I wouldn't know which family to marry you off to," Jiang Shan reprimanded her frustratingly.

Gentle? Jiang Shan's words made Yang Chen look towards Cai Ning who was sitting next to him.

Ever since she sat down, Cai Ning had not said a word. She merely drank her porridge gracefully all the while. However, beneath the table, one of her feet was stepping on Yang Chen's toes.

This was a tough breakfast for Yang Chen to digest. The two sisters were like ice and fire; neither of which was easy to deal with.

After taking his leave from the place, Yang Chen made his way to Yu Lei Entertainment immediately. He had promised to meet the team from Europe this morning.

Although he was the one who had ordered Ron to gather this group of people to make them Hui Lin's personal staff, Yang Chen thought it was rather impolite to just let them be without even meeting them once.

However, when he reached the ground floor of Yu Lei Entertainment's building, Yang Chen realized that going in was going to be a challenge.

Both the inside and outside of the building was flooded with reporters and cameras. On top of that, several mobile units from numerous media companies were also at the scene. It looked like they were all ready to conduct a live broadcast on some breaking news.

Yang Chen was a little worried. *Could it be that someone spread the news about the murder that I committed here recently? That can't be. The media would not report anything that goes against the country. The national security bureau was the one that had suppressed that news. This must be about something else.*

Yet, Yang Chen couldn't figure out what was going on. After getting down from the car, Yang Chen pulled his phone out and dialed Zhuang Feng's number.

The moment the phone call got through, Zhuang Feng spoke first about the situation without waiting for Yang Chen to ask. "Director Yang, I was just about to call you. Thi—this is overly insane."

"What are you panicking about? Speak clearly," Yang Chen said.

Zhuang Feng quickly calmed himself down and said, "Director Yang, a bus pulled up outside our company just now. A bunch of foreigners alighted and they told us that they came at your invitation. But they have only just arrived and all the reporters were already gathered here. I had only just realized that they were actually Danielle, Marcus, Rodriguez and other big shots in the industry. Director Yang, you are truly impressive. How did you manage to invite them all here?"

Big shots? What big shots?? Yang Chen thought over it for a while and finally realized what was going on. It seemed like Ron had misunderstood his orders. He ended up inviting a whole team of highly reputable people in the industry.

Suddenly, a reporter together with a few cameramen ran to somewhere near Yang Chen. Facing the camera, the reporter started a live announcement of the news.

"Dear audience, at midnight yesterday, a seemingly normal international flight landed at Beijing Capital International Airport. Yet, almost unbelievably, among our foreign visitors who had arrived at Beijing, more than ten of them belong to the ranks of globally distinguished celebrities.

"Makeup artist Danielle from Germany, fashion expert Benjamin from France, well-known stage lighting designer Shawn Steve, and also the famous music video director Marcus Kevin, and many other experts have all arrived in Beijing.

"This morning, these big shots whose charms are ever so irresistible entered the building of Yu Lei International's entertainment branch in Beijing. Based on our understanding of the situation so far, these guests' arrival are tied to Lin Hui, the artist that Yu Lei Entertainment is about to debut."

Yang Chen didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He wasn't sure if such a sudden incident was good or bad. But obviously, Hui Lin's reputation was going to soar again.

Although the outside of the building was crowded with reporters, it was still rather easy for Yang Chen to squeeze in. The security guards could now recognize Yang Chen's face so they did not stop him as he entered.

After Yang Chen took the lift to enter the company, Zhuang Feng and the rest were already waiting at the entrance of the lift. The minute he saw Yang Chen, he immediately walked up to him and said, "Director, the big shots are already waiting for you in the conference room. Please hurry."

The eyes of the managerial team in the branch company were glittering like they could see their dazzling future right before their eyes. Needless to say, they were extremely excited.

Reputation was the best advantage that an artiste could have. Hui Lin had not made an actual debut yet, but she was already very well known. Christen and Yoo Yeonhee had given her high compliments as judges in a show. And now that so many international celebrities had come to assist her, coupled with Hui Lin's extraordinary voice, it was almost guaranteed for her to be a superstar.

Yang Chen did not give it too much thought. He just entered the conference room leisurely. A team of foreigners with an array of hair colors sat waiting. Laura, whom Yang Chen had already met the night before, was also among them. However, her status was considered slightly lower in comparison to the rest of the team, so she seemed slightly restrained.

The moment they saw Yang Chen, all of them stood up together and bowed respectfully at him. A few of them were rather old. They seemed to be in the same generation as Yang Chen's grandfather, but even they behaved as though they had just met their idol. Their faces betrayed the emotions that were overflowing from them.

Hui Lin was also seated at the conference desk. However, she did not understand foreign languages, and it was her first time meeting so many foreigners. Before Yang Chen arrived, she had been twitching around in her seat restlessly.

Zhuang Feng and the others stood outside the conference room. No one dared to make even the slightest sound.

A staff asked softly, "Deputy Director Zhuang, we're not dreaming, are we? These big shots, I've only seen them on magazines. Never once have they made their way to China."

"They are the same as legendary figures that anyone in the industry has heard of. I heard that Danielle is the makeup artist for the royal family during the princess' wedding. That Director Marcus is Christen's music video director. To invite any of them would easily cost more than what we could afford for Lin Hui's whole team."

"Shut your mouth and listen." Zhuang Feng had to stop them before they finally shifted their attention back onto the situation.

Right now, Yang Chen had signaled for everyone to sit down. He then spoke in English smilingly, "I know that all of you seated here today are from various countries. But for convenience's sake, I'll speak in English. However, after today, I hope that everyone would go back and spend some time learning Mandarin. After all, you guys would probably be going to spend the next few years working here in China."

Seeing that no one had any objections, Yang Chen asked with an evil smile, "Ron and Catherine misunderstood my intentions. I had only requested for him to send an elite team here to help my younger sister Miss Lin Hui to become a qualified artiste. I did not expect them to have invited you all here. But since you've all come, it means that you're all mentally prepared, correct?"

Everyone immediately nodded in agreement and they vied to express their sincerity.

“Your Majesty, it is my utmost pleasure to be at your service,” Danielle said smilingly. She seemed to be the acting leader of the team. “You are way friendlier and warmer than what we imagined you to be. Thank you for giving us such an opportunity.”

Yang Chen’s smile faded as he said, “Why? Did you think that I was a cruel and brutal devil who would hurl slaps at you all the moment we met?”

Danielle’s expressions stiffened. She hurriedly smiled apologetically and shook her head as she said, “No, Your Majesty. Please do not misunderstand. Most of us seated here today have managed to reach our achievements as a result of your protection. It is your noble wing of protection that has kept our families and companies safe. It is because of that, we are more than grateful to be able to serve alongside you.”

Yang Chen just shook his head. “You don’t have to be so formal. To be honest, I am not quite sure in what areas I have helped you in. I believe the gratitude that you owe me is merely the results of what my subordinates have done. Perhaps Ron had invested in your companies with my money or Sauron had settled some troubles for you using my soldiers.”

“You may not remember us, but we have always remembered your kindness,” said Director Marcus who had a long and skinny face humbly.

Yang Chen reached out and pulled Hui Lin—who hadn’t said a single word until now—up from her seat. He made her stand beside him and said to everyone, “I do not require your abilities myself. But this younger sister of my wife, is now planning to enter the showbiz. She is about to release her own album and hold her own concerts.

“Amidst all of you seated here today are musicians, producers, dance choreographers, music video directors, and also lawyers, managers and more. I hope that from today onwards, you will all devote your time and effort to help Miss Lin here. Treat this as your repayment to me.”

Although she didn’t quite understand what Yang Chen was talking about, Hui Lin still smiled shyly and waved at everyone.

Immediately, all of them replied with friendly words of greetings and expressed their passion towards the job.

Following which, Yang Chen said, “I have never liked to owe others. I know that many of you here are highly respected in the global arena. Making you visit China specially just to lay out the road for a girl is putting your talents to petty use.

“Therefore, I promise to every one of you here today, that as long as you work for Miss Lin, I will provide unconditional protection for you, your families and your companies so long as you serve me.”

Hearing his words, the team stirred with excitement and they were all uttering words of gratitude repeatedly. They looked like children that had just tasted of honey for the first time.

Zhuang Feng and the others who were waiting outside the door were completely clueless. They had no idea what Yang Chen was talking about, protection and what not.

But Danielle and the rest were well aware. For as long as this person was willing to provide them with 'protection', it would mean that they had practically gained a free access card to associate with both the legal and underground world in the whole of Europe and America. No one, not even the underground syndicates, or the countries' national security bureaus would dare to do anything to them recklessly.

Yang Chen waited for everyone to settle down. He then let out a chilly smile and said, "You all seem to be in a good mood. I hate to interrupt your wonderful mood but I must say this. If I get news that any of you are not doing your job properly, or if you look down on my sister because of your status and start behaving arrogantly in your work, I trust that you wouldn't want to know what the consequences are."

And with these words, everyone felt an icy chill coming from within their bones. Their excitement from just a moment ago had completely dissipated. And all that was left of now was their reverence and fear.

Judging by their reactions, Yang Chen felt that he had said enough. Thus, he changed into a warmer tone and said smilingly again, "Alright, let's talk about other matters. I want to end with telling you guys that all your food, accommodation, and living expenses will be on my bill. I know that you are definitely not short of money, but we are a legal corporation. Since we are hiring you, we will definitely not shortchange you on your pay and your allowances."

"Please rest assured, Your Majesty. We will be sure to give our best," Danielle and the rest replied.

Yang Chen was just about to let Hui Lin get to know them better when his phone suddenly started vibrating.

Could it be Tang Wan who's looking for me since we haven't met for an entire day?? Yang Chen thought. But an unfamiliar number came into sight when he glanced at the screen.

Almost nothing good ever arose out of phone calls he received from unfamiliar numbers. But Yang Chen had no choice but to pick up the call.

"Who are you looking for?" asked Yang Chen.

A slightly familiar voice came from the other end of the phone. It sounded like a middle-aged man. "Yang Chen, do you still remember me?"

Yang Chen thought for a while and seemed to recognize the voice. Hesitatingly, he asked, "Premier Ning?"

"That's right. It's me. I heard that you are in Beijing so I wanted to find a time to meet up with you. I had wanted to make my secretary make the phone call, but I thought that it would be more sincere to contact you personally. Are you free to meet up?" Ning Guangyao asked in a friendly albeit abrupt manner.

Chapter 667

In A Greater Mess Than Mine

Yang Chen became silent all of a sudden. His face looked calm, but no one around him dared to breathe out loud.

After pondering for a while, Yang Chen slowly replied, "Okay, when and where?"

“Let’s have lunch around noon. I’ll send you the address. I’ll be waiting for you there at 12pm,” said Ning Guangyao.

Yang Chen agreed and hung up the phone. He then turned to face everyone and said, “I’ve finished all that needs to be said. As for your responsibilities from now on, just act accordingly based on Lin Hui’s schedule for the day.”

The team gave him their words. They all had a clear idea of their responsibilities.

Following which, Yang Chen summoned Zhuang Feng who was still standing outside the conference room. Yang Chen then said, “Deputy Director Zhuang, I’ll make things clear here today. These foreign friends have travelled all the way here to assist our Lin Hui at my request. They’re not employees that I’ve sought to work for the company. Thus, their sole responsibility is to be at Lin Hui’s service. They have the freedom to reject any requests concerning the other artistes and businesses of the company. I don’t want to hear anyone abusing my name to make these people do things that they are unwilling to do.”

Zhuang Feng wiped off the cold sweat on his face and forced a smile while agreeing to Yang Chen’s words. He knew in his heart the only person that these people would willingly take orders from was Yang Chen. He wouldn’t have the guts to order them around anyway. None of these people was the kind you would like to be enemies with.

Meanwhile, Danielle and the rest were staring at Yang Chen gratefully. They were already under the impression that they would be ‘selling themselves out’ to Yu Lei International, yet it turned out that working for a single artiste was all they had to do. In that case, at least their status as globally celebrated celebrities weren’t depreciated. They were merely grooming a rookie. The rookie in question was the younger sister of this noble gentleman. It was an honor to them.

What came next was naturally the matter of dealing with those reporters who had surrounded the entire building. Just as the company’s managerial team were mulling over how to explain the situation, the top artiste manager from Italy, Downey, sprung up from his seat and said, “Leave out the unnecessary explanations. Since we are going to work for Miss Lin Hui from now on, we might as well utilize this opportunity to hold a press conference. All you guys have to do is attend it. Let me handle all the talking.”

A multilingual translator who had come along with the team relayed Downey’s words to everyone.

Zhuang Feng’s eyes lit up immediately. If they did that, it would definitely be the best form of publicity one could get. So many renowned celebrities were now gathered in Beijing, and more than half of them had never been to the country. Yet they had all come specially for Hui Lin! They could definitely expect to see Lin Hui’s reputation soar through the roof once again!

“But, seeing so many highly regarded celebrities coming together so suddenly, the media would probably feel like something is off, right?” One of the staff voiced out her worries.

Downey shook his head, smiling. “Our goal is to make them feel doubtful. We want to make them doubt what other reasons we have come for. If we want to ensure that Miss Lin Hui’s media exposure is always high, we’ll need not only her singing talent, but also news that can constantly increase her hype. We can

give them any explanation, but the media will definitely sniffle for more information on their own accord. In the end, fabrications upon fabrications of the news will surface.

“But there is one thing we can be sure of. Given our influence, the media wouldn’t write anything negative. On the contrary, they would only make Miss Lin Hui’s background sound especially mysterious and intriguing.”

Zhuang Feng and the others finally understood. They quickly ordered the company’s events management department to spread news of their press conference. Hui Lin who was sitting by the side was still in a daze. She was trying her best to digest all that she had heard. She grabbed at a corner of Yang Chen’s shirt, asking softly and worriedly, “Brother Yang, will I really make it? Having so many big shots here is putting a lot of pressure on my back.”

“What is there to be afraid of? They are still normal people despite looking different from you. Compared to those people that you’ve met in the past who were always ready to kill, they are much simpler. If you dislike any one of them, just grab a sword and kill them. And don’t forget that there’s still me. Who would dare to look down on you?” Yang Chen raised his eyebrows at her and said smilingly.

“I can’t just go around killing people.” Hui Lin puffed her cheeks. But she realized that Yang Chen was right. She was no ordinary female singer, and she wouldn’t really be bullied by anyone. If something bad were to happen, she might have to rise to the occasion and protect them. Thinking about these, her fears finally dissipated.

Not long afterwards, the press conference took place in the big meeting room downstairs. Camera flashes went off crazily in the room. And they were all focused on the internationally renowned celebrities who now looked just like a tour group that was travelling in the country.

Downey was a top artiste manager that had made many international singers famous. Thus he quickly kept the situation under control and answered the reporters’ questions effortlessly. Apart from emphasizing the team’s high expectations of Lin Hui, he also created a mysterious vibe surrounding her. This successfully shifted the reporters’ preoccupation with these celebrities towards Lin Hui.

At the end of the event, Zhuang Feng shared about Lin Hui’s upcoming album and concert as the deputy director. This was basically a zero-cost publicity for the company.

Yang Chen watched in silence from aside. He just treated himself as one of the background staff. Seeing Hui Lin sit nervously in front of the cameras all by herself reminded him of old memories. Who would have imagined that the silly little nun who came down from the mountain would one day become a star that stood in the center of the media’s attention?

It was almost time to meet Ning Guangyao. Yang Chen sent a text message informing Hui Lin that he was leaving.

The address that Ning Guangyao had sent was a quiet summer resort in the mountains to the east of Beijing. Stores with farmers selling vegetables dotted the outer area of the resort. There were very few people who resided in these parts of Beijing.

Yang Chen was surprised that Ning Guangyao chose such a place, but it wasn't without its merits. The environment was tranquil and traffic was scarce. It was a temporary retreat from the city's hustle and bustle.

Pulling his vehicle into a farmer's restaurant that Ning Guangyao had specified, Yang Chen spotted a sign that hung outside the restaurant which read 'Temporarily Closed'.

Only two cars were parked outside the restaurant, an Audi A8 and a Passat. *Ning Guangyao has booked the entire restaurant,* Yang Chen figured.

Yang Chen walked into the restaurant and was immediately recognized by a bodyguard dressed in black. He signaled politely for Yang Chen to proceed to the open-air dining area behind the restaurant.

Surprisingly, there was a man-made lake behind the restaurant. The restaurant had actually been built by the side of the lake.

Amidst the tables, only one was currently occupied. Two figures were sitting at the table whereas their bodyguards were standing at least ten meters away from them.

One of the two middle-aged men was dressed in a suit and necktie. He looked like he had just come from an official meeting. Naturally, this was Ning Guangyao. Yang Chen managed to recognize him despite the few encounters he had with him.

As for the other young man who wore a light blue shirt, it was Ning Guodong. The man that Yang Chen had met at the club just the day before. The two were in constant disagreement! Yang Chen and Ning Guodong spotted each other at the same time. Yang Chen behaved as usual, whereas Ning Guodong's eyes flared up as though they were on fire!

"Dad, the mysterious guest that you wanted me to meet today is him?!" Ning Guodong instantly swung his head around agitatedly to face his father.

He was initially very excited before this. Ever since the incident over Lin Ruoxi and him being reprimanded by Ning Guangyao, Ning Guodong and his father had rarely crossed paths. He had even moved out of the house.

However, today was different. It was the first time that his father broke the ice between them and asked him out for lunch at this farmer's restaurant. This was one of his father's favorite restaurants. On top of that, his father wanted to introduce him to a mysterious guest.

Ning Guodong thought that Ning Guangyao wanted to have a proper meeting with one of Ning Guodong's superiors to give him a push up the career ladder. After all, if that was the case, it meant that Ning Guangyao had not given up on him yet, and that Ning Guangyao still intended to groom him as his successor. Little did he know that the mysterious guest was actually Yang Chen!

Ning Guangyao darted a glare at his son. He then stood up and smiled warmly at Yang Chen. "Yang Chen, hurry over and take a seat. It's been a long time since we last met."

Yang Chen took a quick glimpse at Ning Guodong and treated him as though he was invisible. He smiled and said, "I believe we were never really that close. No need to talk to me with the formalities that you use to deal with officials." He leisurely took the seat across from Ning Guangyao.

“Hmph! Not cherishing the respect that is being given to you,” Ning Guodong commented sarcastically. Yang Chen didn’t even turn to look at him. He just replied slowly, “Even without that respect, someone still had to kneel down before me.”

“What did you say?!” Ning Guodong was struck in his pain point and he yelled out in defense.

“Guodong! Sit down!!!” Ning Guangyao reproached, livid with rage.

“Dad! He scolded me! Don’t you know what he did to your son?!” Ning Guodong yelled aloud, patting on his chest.

Ning Guangyao’s face darkened and he said, “Shut up. It’s better to make one less enemy than to make one more. The reason I have gathered the both of you here is to settle the ongoing feud that you have. Haven’t you lost enough of your face yet?! Sit down!”

“How can something like that be settled so easily?!” Ning Guodong was panting for breath. He shook his head and forced a painful smile as he said, “Did you ask me out today to let me embarrass myself again?!? How could you side with an outsider to scold your own son. You are indeed my good father.”

“Make it clear what intentions you two have for each other. You’re both intelligent adults. As a man, what do you think you’re doing ridiculing each other the moment you meet?!” Ning Guangyao said solemnly. “If you want to recover your lost face, don’t be so quick to embarrass yourself now! Sit down!”

“You call me an embarrassment?” Ning Guodong’s face turned pale white. He clenched his fist and said, “Alright, Since you think of me as an embarrassment, I’ll leave. You can enjoy your meal with him and take your time talking to each other!”

Ning Guodong grabbed his jacket and walked out in a fit, not even turning to look back.

Ning Guangyao yelled for him twice but it was useless. He sunk into his chair disappointedly, his face bursting in fits of blue and white. He was obviously boiling mad.

Yang Chen just lifted the teapot leisurely and poured himself a cup of green tea. Taking a sip, he smiled softly and said, “I had originally thought that a terrible man like myself is deserving of the mess I brought upon myself and my family. But Premier Ning, I never knew that for someone who doesn’t mess around, your family is in a greater mess than mine. Tsk tsk...”

Chapter 668

Do You Understand

Ning Guangyao acted like he had not heard a single word coming out of Yang Chen’s mouth. He took the teapot from Yang Chen and poured himself some tea. He took a big gulp of the tea before his emotions returned to a neutral state.

They both sat in silence before Ning Guangyao spoke with a slightly bitter smile, “That was an embarrassing scene. I didn’t expect that the enmity between you and Guodong has escalated to degree where being in the same room made the both of you hostile. It would seem like I have made a mistake.”

"I believe you've misunderstood." Yang Chen leaned back against the rattan chair and yawned lazily. "It is your son that bears hatred against me. He is not worthy of my hatred."

Ning Guangyao was not upset by Yang Chen's words. He said calmly, "I've always thought that you were an arrogant young man ever since our first meeting. A man who has no regard for others at all. It seems like I am correct."

"It depends on who I'm facing," Yang Chen said.

Ning Guangyao nodded and said, "It is my genuine hope that you can ease the tension between you and Guodong. Even if you can't be friends, I wish that you wouldn't be enemies."

"Premier Ning, if there was a man who was always yearning after your wife, would you be able to be on good terms with him?" Yang Chen asked and sneered.

Ning Guangyao's expressions changed. Yang Chen's words seemed to have triggered some matters that had been weighing on his mind. He poured two cups of tea consecutively and sighed, "I haven't gotten around to asking you this yet. Are your family doing well?"

"Who?" Yang Chen smiled almost eccentrically as he asked, staring straight at Ning Guangyao.

Ning Guangyao was evading Yang Chen's gaze. He tried his best to stay composed as he replied, "Naturally your mother, and your wife."

"My mother is quite satisfied with her life in Zhonghai. Although her life could be considered troubling at times, I know for a fact that she is satisfied with it. As for my wife, she is rather busy with her work. Even though she doesn't say it, I know that she's not happy most of the time," Yang Chen said.

Ning Guangyao was disconcerted. He asked before even thinking, "Is there something troubling Ruoxi? Or is she too tired?"

"You seem very concerned about my wife." Yang Chen grinned and asked, "I thought that you only had associations with my mother."

Ning Guangyao hurriedly let out a forced smile, saying, "I've met her once or twice in the past. It's not easy bearing such a huge responsibility at her age. I respect her, that's why I couldn't help but asked a few more questions."

"I have to thank you for your concern then, Premier Ning. Regarding why she's not having such a good time, it's mainly thanks to the creep you call son, stirring up problems for her. Ever since your son showed Ruoxi a copy of Lin Kun's medical record, Ruoxi hasn't been able to lift her spirits," Yang Chen said with a shadow of a smile.

Ning Guangyao's hand that was holding the teacup trembled a little. He tried to keep up his front and said, "Regarding that matter, I'm very sorry. I've also called to explain it before. That medical record is a fake copy. Your family members don't have to be overly concerned with it."

The temperature in Yang Chen's gaze dropped, "Premier Ning, do you know who was the first person to discover that medical record?"

"Hmm?" Ning Guangyao raised his head and stared at Yang Chen in doubt.

“It was me,” said Yang Chen.

Ning Guangyao seemed startled. A tinge of nervousness flashed across the corner of his eye.

Yang Chen said coldly, “On that day, after Lin Kun’s death, his doctor-in-charge summoned his family members into the doctor’s office. That doctor surname Jiao, pulled out that medical record in front of my eyes. It was clearly recorded on that document that Lin Kun was born without seminal vesicles.

“Back then, the doctor even blackmailed me up to hundreds of millions using that medical record. Needless to say I did not give him the money. All I did was warn him that if the information were leaked, I would claim his life immediately.

“But I could never have guessed that someone would investigate Ruoxi’s family members in order to get even with me. In the end, through various twists and turns, that medical record ended up in the hands of your son.”

Ning Guangyao couldn’t speak a word. He just drank his tea in silence.

“Premier Ning, I know even better than you do whether Lin Kun is fertile. And I can tell you this right now. The servant that my family had hired back then, who is still serving in my house currently—Wang Ma—she had watched Lin Kun get married. The old CEO had already revealed the truth to Wang Ma when she was still alive. Given how there wasn’t a phone call from you on that day, the records had to be true,” said Yang Chen.

Ning Guangyao took a deep breath. He said with a stiffened smile, “Is that so? This is so saddening. That was my mistake. But it’s too upsetting to talk about this matter. Let’s not continue this topic.”

Yang Chen shook his head, “I haven’t even gotten to the crucial part yet. The reason why I agreed to come today is to make something known to you right now.”

“Young man, what is it?” A sharp gaze flashed across Ning Guangyao’s eyes.

Yang Chen was not in the least affected. He said sternly, “I accompanied Ruoxi to visit her mother and grandmother’s graveyards recently. As we were going up the hill, I noticed a familiar looking Audi A8 exiting from the bottom of the hill. That car was the exact same car that I had seen before outside the military’s courtyards. Premier Ning, I am certain that that was your car.”

Ning Guangyao could feel his body stiffening up. He smiled feebly and asked, “Is that so? Your eyes deceived you. I’ve never been to any graveyard.”

“Oh, really? Then it seems like the bouquet of Chinese redbud flowers that lay before my deceased mother-in-law’s grave wasn’t by you as well?” Yang Chen asked smilingly.

“Of course not.” Ning Guangyao let out a feeble laughter. Cold sweat was emerging on his temples.

Yang Chen smiled coldly. “Premier Ning, are you going to continue to feign ignorance? Firstly, given my eyesight, it is impossible for me to make a mistake on the car plate number that I saw that day. More importantly, you were already acquainted with my mother and my deceased mother-in-law Xue Zijing in university. What more can you say to deny your claims?”

“What exactly are you trying to get at?” Ning Guangyao asked solemnly.

“What I want to say is that no matter how hard you try to conceal it, it will never change the fact that you are Lin Ruoxi’s birth father!”

All at once, it felt as though all the air in the atmosphere had been vacuumed away.

Ning Guangyao’s stared with his eyes wide open; they were painted red. His body was trembling, and his front of authority as the premier was falling apart.

Yang Chen looked like he had just announced someone’s death sentence. His eyes were staring at the middle-aged man before him coldly without the slightest change in emotion.

“Hahahaha...” Ning Guangyao let out abrupt fits of laughter. He pointed at Yang Chen and said, “Yang Chen oh Yang Chen, you may be able to think whatever you want but you will not simply say whatever you wish. Let’s not dwell in this anymore. I’ll act as though you’ve never said anything about it.”

“Why shouldn’t I mention it?” Yang Chen smirked, “Do you think that people wouldn’t know about it if I don’t mention it?”

“That’s enough!” Ning Guangyao exploded. His eyes were bursting with rage. “I do not wish to continue this topic! If you refuse to talk about anything other than this, scam right now!”

“I’ll come and leave as I wish. But I have to finish my words!”

Yang Chen did not budge an inch and replied coldly, “I’ll tell you this, what is done by night appears by day. The old CEO was well aware of your adultery with my mother-in-law back then. She just kept it to herself and never revealed it.

“Furthermore, my mother has also attested to witnessing you secretly visiting Zhonghai back then while she was still there. With all the evidence that was laid out before me, there is no denying the fact.”

“I have not the slightest idea of this nonsense you are spouting!” said Ning Guangyao who was wild with anger.

“There is no use in denying. Even if you deny it, my mother, Wang Ma, and many others who had sensed what was going on back then, all know the truth.” Yang Chen mocked, “Do you think that everything would be resolved should you turn a blind eye to it? Those photos that my mother-in-law had taken when she was still alive, any of those that she took with you would raise questions and provide answers. Not to mention poetic verses were even scribbled behind some of those photos, saying things like ‘day after day of you I think, but you are not in my view. Although as one we drink, the water clear of River Blue’. If you two weren’t in love, then are you claiming that it was my mother-in-law’s one-sided love?”

Ning Guangyao was seized by a surge of grievance. He was so dumbfounded that words failed him.

“Premier Ning, let me be frank.” Yang Chen supported himself with both his hands on the tabletop as he said aloud, “If not for the fact that I had already figured out that you were Ruoxi’s father, and that Ning Guodong was Ruoxi’s half brother of the same father, I would have already killed Ning Guodong off. The mere offence of him threatening Ruoxi with the medical record is enough to make me want to tear his bones apart!

“Why do you think your son has been able to stay alive until now? Did you think that I cared about your Ning clan? Cared about you?! Screw off! I merely chose the path that did not lead to my woman’s heart breaking. Do you understand?!”

Ning Guangyao jaw was half dropped. Evidently, he hadn’t realized that Yang Chen had already figured out everything so early on, and that so many matters were closely entangled.

Yang Chen had finished his words. He scratched at his scalp and controlled his emotions. Looking at the dumbfounded Ning Guangyao, he said earnestly, “Premier Ning, I highly implore you... to meet Ruoxi at least once.”

Chapter 669

Twice

Ning Guangyao was caught off guard by Yang Chen’s words. It took him several moments before he stared right at Yang Chen’s expectating glance, and ever so slightly shaking his head.

“No, I will not,” Ning Guangyao bitterly replied with somber eyes.

“Why?” Yang Chen was instantly filled with disappointment. “Does it pain you so much to accept the fact that she is your daughter?”

Tears threatened to fall from Ning Guangyao’s pupils, but he was unsurprisingly as strong-willed as ever. “It is because she is my daughter that I’m never going to see her.”

Yang Chen was outraged. The continuous spiral of frustrations led him to taunt Ning Guangyao. “Look, Premier Ning, I am not a talkative person. But the reason I am still here is to make things clear for you.

“I understand you might’ve already found out that Ruoxi was your daughter many years ago, which is why you would clear the obstacles in her path whenever you can. You would also do what her grandmother asked of you. It was clear that Lin Zhiguo was not capable of achieving that much all on his own.

“If she was always in your mind, and now that she knows you’re her father by blood, why would you still insist on not meeting her? Do you know the kind of pain she is going through right now?”

Ning Guangyao unwaveringly shook his head. “So what if I went to meet her. Nothing would change even if I did.”

“Bullshit!” Yang Chen couldn’t hold it in anymore. “What logic is that?! What could she make you do even if you go visit her? All she wanted was your recognition. All she wants is her own father’s support, that’s it!”

“I didn’t abandon her! But I cannot meet with her!” Ning Guangyao ranted. “Humans have emotions that may or may not be under our control. I can, but can you guarantee that she could? After the first meeting, who’s to say that there isn’t a second or third? If anyone found out about our relationship it would destroy our careers and decimate my family!

“Those people who have supported me in the past, what would they think of me then? A child born out of wedlock is not something that I can deal with right now. What will my wife think of me? What will

Guodong think of me? My family will be in ruins! When that happens I will lose the reputation that I've spent my entire life to build!

"Yang Chen, you must understand that I'm not like you. I cannot live my life by the day. I'm the premier of a nation! The premier of China! Every step I take will affect the livelihood of billions. How can I risk that for some personal recognition?"

Ning Guangyao got emotional as he spoke, his body trembled as he kept his tears in.

Yang Chen however was equally headstrong, as he sneered, "Huh, how fancy. No surprise that the premier of a nation is able to bullshit through anything."

"You're still young, I don't expect you to understand these things," Ning Guangyao coldly replied.

Yang Chen softly rebuked, "All I know is that there isn't an excuse in the world that would allow a parent to abandon their own flesh and blood."

"I did not... abandon her! I merely stood in the shadows as she grew up. If it wasn't for me, how do you think she could be what she is right now? Did you really think Yu Lei International became so successful on its own?" Ning Guangyao grumbled.

As their confrontation escalates, the gentle breeze and water ripples seemingly became huge contrast to the both present.

Yang Chen went silent for a bit before he lifted his head, as he replied emotionlessly, his voice became a little husky from the suppressed emotions, "Premier Ning, I figure you are aware that I did not know my parents for the better part of my life, aren't you?"

Ning Guangyao nodded with uncertainty of where this would lead.

"Those days I never had any hope that I would meet the people who have brought me into this world. Therefore, when my mother and that man suddenly reappeared in my life, I was not only astonished, but appalled at the prospects. I wanted to hate them for the rest of the life for leaving me in that hell.

"I am never proud of the abilities that I possess right now, because if anyone could live through all that I have experienced and live to tell the tale, I believe that it is nothing more than a pathetic compensation.

"I was just the one that was blessed with perfect timing to live through all of that. I am the sole survivor on top of a pile of corpses.

"Hence, I would never give them the satisfaction of recognition. All they were to me were the people who had abandoned me when I needed them the most. I had no interest in their deplorable recompensation of love."

At this point of his explanation, Ning Guangyao let out a long breath.

Yang Chen stopped for a moment, before he continued, "Until one day, the old man came to my house and told me that my mother was imprisoned. All because she wanted to come see me. She wanted to reunite with me, and that man kept her as prisoner.

“At that point I thought to myself, so what if she was imprisoned? She abandoned me for the better part of my life. She is just reaping the seeds that she had sowed.

“It was Ruoxi, however, who persuaded me to rescue my mother. She told me that couples can break up or get divorced, friends can be separated, colleagues can be changed at will. But the one thing that will stay true to a person from the day that they are born, is that they will only have one set of parents.”

Ning Guangyao shut his eyes as tears crept through its edges, on one hand he clenched his cup so tight one would easily assume that his intention was to shatter it.

“If anyone else were to tell me that, I would have brushed it off as nothing. But if that foolish woman was the one to break the news to me, surely I cannot turn a blind eye.” Yang Chen self-deprecatingly joked, “You wouldn’t know how dumb she actually is. Since young, she had accepted an impotent man as her father, and failed to realize that her beloved grandmother was actually fake.

“She devotes herself tirelessly to her work, working overtime almost every night. Within the company, she has a reputation of being stone-cold, keeping almost everyone away. Unlike the ladies of her age who would spend their time going to nightclubs with heavy makeup seeking for partners, she’s spending the prime of her life working to no end.

“However, the company she has built from her blood, sweat, and tears had to be contested by a man who wasn’t even her birth father. Lin Kun was disgusted by her possessions which he believed were rightfully his. And all she could do was compensate by funding his lavish lifestyle of cars and women, all just to keep a company that flourished in her hands.

“But that wicked man was never content, kidnapping her and almost taking her life.”

Ning Guangyao hovered his head low in shame, as he palmed his hand to his forehead, seemingly unable to bring himself to continue listening.

Yang Chen meanwhile had no intention to stop, as he stoically continued, “Even in such circumstances, this young woman mentioned the importance of family to me. Even after all she had suffered from by the hands of her parents, she made sure I wouldn’t sit by as my mother was struggling. She mentioned that filial piety should never be neglected.

“After all that she had said, how could I not feel heartbroken? How was I supposed to disagree?

“Which subsequently led to my actions on that fateful day when I rescued my mother. From the looks of it, I seem to have made the right decision.”

“Please... please stop with this,” Ning Guangyao pleaded in a sorrowful voice.

“Why? You feel guilty now?” Yang Chen sneered ever so slightly. “Was it because you realized, that my mom would take a bullet for me? Or that my mom would willingly move in with me despite her reputation taking a hit?”

“Yang Chen, I have told you time and time again. I’m not like your mother. I’m not like anybody else,” Ning Guangyao spoke firmly.

Yang Chen continued, “Both of you are parents in your own rights. But why can my mother do it but not you? All Ruoxi needed was one meeting with her father. Her personality might be cold and

unexpressive, but deep down she treasures her loved ones more than anything. It didn't matter to her that you're the premier, or the head of the Ning clan. She doesn't care about any of that! All she ever wanted was for you to admit to her face that she's your daughter!

"Premier Ning, just so you know, the day you called to tell her that the medical reports were fake, was the same day that we found out that you were her blood father!"

"What?" Ning Guangyao was dumbstruck.

"Just like that." Yang Chen painfully laughed. "You realize now don't you? How brutal your actions were to her? After all these years she finally found out that her birth father is you, but you reactively made sure she thinks that medical records were fake!

"In such a short period of time, you have ruthlessly abandoned her twice! What sort of father even does such appalling actions to his own daughter?!"

Chapter 670

Country or the Heavens

Enough, that's enough!"

Ning Guangyao couldn't take it anymore as he stopped Yang Chen from continuing. "You... can stop now. You've made your point extremely clear. There's no need to bring this up again."

Yang Chen sneered, "Hah, sick of my presence? Well fret not, I have no intention of having a meal with you either." Once he finished his sentence he stood up and headed towards the door.

Ning Guangyao however halted him in his tracks. "Wait! I haven't finished what I want to say!"

Yang Chen tried his best to keep his emotions under control. "Look, if you have anything else to say, spit it out. Every second I spend here is wasted from my life."

"You..." Ning Guangyao had never met anyone with such disgustingly low regards towards him. He held on to his rage and continued, "If that's the case, I'll keep it short.

"From what I know, you have a rather formidable relationship with Master Tang, and also an intimate relationship with his granddaughter Tang Wan. Not to mention your relationship with Li Dun from the Li clan. I believe you both are also close, am I right?"

Yang Chen giggled. "Why would you even bother to ask if you have looked them up already? The Ning clan is arguably the biggest clan among the dominant four. I wouldn't be surprised that you knew all that about me."

"From what I have gathered, Master Yang surely favors you over your brother Yang Lie, despite your hippie antics. I believe it is because of your past experiences and achievements. Not to mention your personal ability is one the Yang clan had been expecting. That said, I understand that the full reins of the Yang clan's political and military powers would sooner or later fall into your hands."

"What are you hinting at?" Yang Chen sneered.

Ning Guangyao cracked a light smile. “Judging from the situation, our Ning clan is the only one you don’t sit well with because of Guodong. I hereby pledge to negate our individual differences and prioritise the greater good. You see, if the day comes when you take command of the Yang clan, and if there’s to be a visible conflict between us, it would bring about a bad reputation towards China.

“I understand that there are things within the Yang clan that might have been intentionally hidden from you, but it will be my pleasure to make it clear now.

“Put simply, the might of the military might be comfortably held within the reins of the Yang clan, most notably the army led by your father Yang Pojun within the Jiangnan district. But the truth is, about half of those are still loyal to your grandfather. I believe you understand that militants in particular are notably loyal to the general that has charismatically led them for years. The charismatic presence infused by your great-grandfather, General Yang Ye, into the military of our country was largely unwavering till this day. This is the reason why the presence of your grandfather still wields more power than seen on the surface...”

“Why are you telling me this? How about instead you try to educate your son better, in the name of national peace?” Yang Chen rebuked.

“I will discipline my son, you can be sure of that.” Ning Guangyao continued with a serious tone, “All I can hope for, for the sake of Ruoxi, is that you view our relationship as in-laws and avoid the possibility of a feud. Otherwise, I believe you understand the idiom: when the stork and the clam struggle, the fisherman has the advantage.

“You’re not in my current position, so I forgive your ignorance towards the seemingly simple relationship between the Tang’s and the Li’s.”

Yang Chen instantaneously burst into laughter, as if he was about to suffocate from it.

Ning Guangyao was stupefied. He frowned and asked, “What’s so funny about what I just said?”

“Funny?” Yang Chen held his laughter as he replied, “It’s the joke of the year!”

Ning Guangyao was confused by how the situation had progressed.

“You previously voiced out such ridiculous reasons for refusing to meet my wife... But now you want to convince me for the fact that Ruoxi is my wife?!”

“Haha! Premier Ning, you sure are a thrifty businessman.

“Since you’re ordering me around using the relationship between you and Ruoxi, you might as well just instruct me to start a witch hunt on all your political dissidents. Oh wait, I can even slash the presidents of other countries apart. What do you think, my—beloved—father-in-law?”

“How dare you speak of me like that! This is for the mutual harmony of our two clans, for the order of our country!”

“I don’t give a shit about this damn country or the heavens! I’m an ordinary man, the husband to my wife! I would never wish for my wife to be depressed and agitated by her heartless father! I want her to be able to live her life happily! Anything else, you can count me out!”

Ning Guangyao was furious. His hand trembled as he pointed at Yang Chen, unable to raise his voice.

Yang Chen went further out before stopping and turning back. "Premier Ning, I am never considered a good man. In fact I'm an utter mess, perverted, motivation-lacking. I can't help myself but always mess around with other women. Ruoxi has confronted me about it several times and she has every right to do so. She hated to her guts how I can never wholeheartedly love her and I'm aware of that. I'm guilty and repentant for my actions. Which is why I would never raise my voice towards her. However, I will spend the rest of my life compensating for my sins.

"But even a scumbag like me pales in comparison to a man like you. Ruoxi comparatively is much more fortunate than my late mother-in-law.

"At the very least, I have never once thought of leaving any of the women I love behind, regardless of the circumstance.

"Oh yeah, one more thing. I am very glad that I didn't bring Ruoxi here to meet you, because you don't deserve it. You don't deserve to be her father and you never will!"

"Get out of my sight!" Ning Guangyao exploded.

Yang Chen gave him a look of despise and disdain, before he scorned and left.

As he made his way out of that problematic household, Yang Chen stared up at the overcast sky. Under feeble rays of sunlight he mumbled, "Babe Ruoxi, if it was not for you, I would've butchered that trash of an existence."

Yang Chen took a deep breath of the relatively fresh air, before he suppressed his anger and drove away.

After the ruckus it was way past lunchtime, but Yang Chen didn't want to miss out on lunch, so he dialed up Tang Wan's number.

"You despicable bastard, with that young policewoman by your side how dare you still dial my number?" Tang Wan's tone was noticeably hostile.

Yang Chen gave a bitter smile. "Well I'm calling you right now, ain't I? Should we go for lunch? I'll go pick you up."

Tang Wan grumbled, "Did you bother to check the time? I've had lunch with Tang Tang a while ago. We're on our way to visit some relatives right now. I don't have time for you. Besides, I'm going back to Zhonghai in 2 days, why don't you go look for Cai Yan instead?"

"Alright..." Yang Chen was filled with disappointment. He figured that someone mature like Tang Wan would be a great company for him right now.

Tang Wan felt Yang Chen's dejection over the phone. She replied with sympathy, "Next time... I promise. I'm really occupied at the moment... Erm... why don't we have dinner tonight instead?"

"It's alright, I'm not a kid." Yang Chen told the mother-daughter pair to rest more before ending the call.

He then scrolled through his contact list, understanding that there weren't many people who would be keen for lunch at this hour. But nonetheless he called Cai Yan, believing that it would be great to be in her company.

Once the call got connected, a loud noise could be heard. With her high-pitched voice, Cai Yan taunted, "Bastard, why did you call? Don't you know that I'm busy!"

Yang Chen felt gloomy. Similarly being a woman, Tang Wan was caring and considerate even when she was jealous. Why was Cai Yan the complete opposite?

"I haven't had lunch yet. Just asking if you and your sister would fancy a lunch with me?" Yang Chen frowned. "Where are you, why is it so loud?"

Cai Yan chuckled. "Of course it's loud. Elder Sister and I are having fun at the bird market right now. You coming by right now would be perfect. We haven't had our lunch yet so we're both starving!"

"The bird market?" Yang Chen was dumbfounded. *What a peculiar pair of sisters, spending their freetime in the bird market over a shopping mall?*

Regardless Yang Chen was not bothered by the destination, as long as he got to leave the business with the Ning clan aside. So there he was navigating on the GPS towards the biggest bird market in Beijing.

As his car came to a stop, Cai Ning and Cai Yan stood by the entrance in all smiles. The sisters were dressed in red and blue respectively, with an identical Levi's vests and denim shorts, clearly going for a matching look. The two girls were undeniably pleasant to the eyes, one was sporty and outgoing, the other was elegant and sophisticated.

Yang Chen instantly felt much better, as he went towards them with both his arms wide open.

Unsurprisingly, however, they both instantly dodged his advances, as Cai Ning's face turned little red. "Stop, there are people looking!"

Yang Chen was slightly annoyed at that. If it were An Xin, she would have instantly responded with a tight embrace. But he understood nonetheless that everyone was different. He pointed at the enormous bird cage that Cai Yan was holding, covered in an old rag cloth. "What did you buy?"

Chapter 671

Best Part

Cai Yan stuck out her tongue childishly and remarked cheerfully, "Elder Sister got this starling for me! When she was still training in Sichuan, she would come into contact with various flora and fauna, so she can differentiate birds really well! It will learn very quickly if you teach it a phrase or two."

"That also requires patience on your part," added Cai Ning.

"Honestly, Elder Sister, don't you have any faith in your own sister?" Cai Yan rebuffed.

Cai Ning nodded without any hesitation. "I don't."

Cai Yan pouted and sulked. Her face looked as if she had bitten into a bitter gourd.

Yang Chen reached out to squeeze her cheeks and said, "Alright, stop pouting. Let's grab something to eat. Are there any good restaurants nearby?"

"Yeah, yeah!" Cai Yan nodded enthusiastically. "I know this great place on the east side of this market. It's a restaurant serving Hunan cuisine, and even the air in the place carries a faint spiciness to it. Can you handle spicy food?"

"Cut the crap. Let's go." Yang Chen watched Cai Yan's mood lift and let her lead the way to the restaurant.

When they arrived at the restaurant that Cai Yan mentioned, the number of patrons were already thinning out. They walked to the second floor and seated themselves at a table that had a bird's-eye view of the street.

Even though there was a weird scent in the air, it was a unique dining atmosphere nonetheless.

Yang Chen wasn't eating simply out of hunger, but out of a sense of liking and appreciation for food. It was a deep-set habit as well. Whenever he was feeling low, he could always snap out of his funk by binge eating. He flipped through the menu, and promptly rattled off a number of dishes to the waiter.

"Are you some sort of pig? Why are you ordering so much?" Cai Yan's eyes widened.

Yang Chen rolled his eyes at that. "Can't you be more delicate?"

Cai Yan just grunted at that. "If you waste even a single grain of rice, you're doomed. I'll stuff it right down your throat if I have to," she said huffily.

Yang Chen was at a loss of words and could only smile bitterly. One moment she was so obedient and the next, she became so aggressive. It was tiring to keep up with her ever-shifting moods.

Can Ning just silently sipped a cup of tea which was of rather mediocre quality and didn't speak a word. She broke her silence like she suddenly thought of something and asked, "Yanyan, when you bought the bird, did you ask the seller about the kind of bird feed to get?"

Cai Yan stilled, and blinked in confusion. "Elder Sister, you didn't tell me that I had to get bird feed."

At that, Yang Chen just froze and Cai Ning's face twitched.

After a moment, Cai Ning smiled warmly and asked, "Why don't you go over to the store now while we're still here? The store is just nearby, and the store owner might just give you a little something. Besides, you need to feed the starling, if you want your starling to sing."

Cai Yan nodded eagerly then stood up to retrieve the bird cage. "In that case, I'll head over right now. Don't start eating without me!"

"You can visit the store by yourself, so why do you need to bring the cage along with you?" Yang Chen said dismally.

"Hmph, it's none of your business! I'm going to deepen my bond with the bird." With that, she stuck out her tongue before she turned and rushed downstairs.

Yang Chen sighed loudly and shook his head. "Ning'er, has your sister always been like this?"

Cai Ning understood what he was trying to say, unable to hold back her amusement. The edge of her lips twitched and she said, "You know, when my grandfather was still alive, he called the whole family together, and told us all one thing."

"What did he say?" Yang Chen asked curiously.

"Grandfather said something along the lines of, 'throw Cai Yan into a tiger's den, and she'll befriend it.'"

Yang Chen nearly spat out his tea and burst into laughter. "Isn't this her adorable side? At times, she acts just like a child and yet she wants to become a violent policewoman."

Cai Ning turned to Yang Chen who was thoroughly amused. Her tender gaze was directed at him as she said, "I guess your mood is much better now."

Yang Chen halted in his movements. "How could you tell that I was in a bad mood?"

Cai Ning grinned. "Because it's your feelings, that's why."

Yang Chen felt touched and reached out his right hand to hold her hands before asking, "Ning'er, can you answer a question of mine?"

"Go ahead."

"I'm such a problematic person with so many personal issues, yet how did I still end up with so much love from you all?" Yang Chen said disbelievingly. "Sometimes I think it's just because I have money, or because I can fight and possess authority to a certain extent but... does any of those things really matter?"

"I'm not even capable of providing any of you with the love you deserve. With your own charm and merit, finding a wealthy person who will treat you well wouldn't even be an issue..." Yang Chen trailed off, at a loss for words.

"What happened?" Cai Ning interjected and added, "Have you lost faith in yourself?"

Yang Chen couldn't bring himself to form his next words but when he finally did, he said, "The whole situation feels really surreal to me if I'm being honest. When I was at the entrance of the market and saw you two sisters waiting for me, I thought to myself that the feeling of being looked forward to was really nice, y'know? Yet in an instant, I thought that I was being too extravagant with my emotions."

Cai Ning regarded him silently and reached out her hand to hold Yang Chen's palm in her own. "Are you alright? You've never acted like this before. What happened today?"

Yang Chen laughed bitterly at that. "Maybe it's because I met someone who seemed to have it all, but was actually hiding all his deeds behind a facade of luxury. It got me thinking about how none of these matters and will eventually fade away anyway."

Trapped in an ever-worsening spiral of thoughts, Yang Chen gazed out the window, and Cai Ning stayed silent.

After a while, she burst into a smile for seemingly no reason at all and said, "Do you know what the best part about you is?"

He was taken aback but just shook his head. "I honestly have no idea. What do you all see in me?"

Cai Ning let out a little huff and said, "I can't speak for others but, to me, the best part about you isn't wealth or your power, nor was it your family background. I can't deny the fact that all these things were the ones which led to me knowing you but, to me, those are all just details anyone can find from your business card."

She took a deep breath and continued, "The way I see it, the best part about you is that you don't even realise the best part about yourself and that's why I made the decision to follow you."

Yang Chen stared dumbly at the woman, still in a daze from how her simple words had such a huge effect on him.

He smiled gently and in one move, slung his arm around her petite waist. He leaned in to close the distance between them and said, "Ning'er, give me a kiss."

Cai Ning was shocked by the sudden display of affection and her face flushed but she stubbornly kept her head down.

"I guess I'll do it instead," he said without any regards to her deepening shyness. He kissed her multiple times on her cheeks and her ear then backed away while laughing loudly.

She bit her bottom lip, and glared at him with a mixture of affection and annoyance. "I should have just said that there was nothing good about you."

He was in a great mood and just about to tease her more when they heard a loud shout from downstairs. "Thief! Don't run! Everyone, stop him!"

At the sound of the familiar voice, Yang Chen shared a look with Cai Ning before they turned their attention to a street to their west. It turned out that it really was Cai Yan who shouted.

The market was naturally crowded with people and various stalls selling plants or birds were set up with no rhyme or reason, making it hard for anyone to navigate the market freely.

Yang Chen's field of vision was much larger than a normal person and when he looked closely, there really was a boy who seemed to be in his early teens and was running at a breakneck speed. That boy was probably the one that Cai Yan yelled at.

Some passersby were stunned when they felt Cai Yan's powers rising off of her. At the sight of the teen fleeing, most chose to hang back and watch from the sidelines with the assumption that someone else was going to stop the teen.

Yang Chen let out a long suffering sigh, and said to Cai Ning, "I guess it's time to help a certain heart set on bringing justice to this world." He exchanged a knowing look with her, and they both made their way downstairs.

Since it had already come to this, they very well couldn't let Cai Yan chase after the thief blindly and cause a ruckus.

However, releasing his powers in an area with so many civilians was out of the question. This left them with no choice but to quickly slink their way through the crowd and they caught up with Cai Yan in no time.

Cai Yan was obviously given special training as well and was in top physical condition. The thief was just a normal human, and simply couldn't keep up in terms of stamina. After running past two different streets, right in front of a stall selling bonsai, he tripped and fell.

Chapter 672

Very Attentive

You little rascal! I've got you now! Don't you dare run from me!" Cai Yan was trying to catch her breath as her face went bright red while wrestling with the skinny teenager.

The teenager was huffing and puffing, as he whimpered, "What are you talking about? I didn't steal anything!"

"Cut it with the excuse!" Cai Yan eagerly snatched the snakeskin purse from the hands of the teen. "How dumb are you to think that I would believe this is yours?"

Casual bystanders flocked to the scene, as they gossiped about the incident, mostly words of criticism for the teen.

Cai Ning held on her sister's hand as she persuaded, "Yanyan, he's just a kid. There's no need to be this harsh on him."

"Elder Sister, you don't understand. Kids these days need to be taught a lesson!" Cai Yan proudly pointed at the teen as she taunted, "Look, kid, tell me your name, house address, and your age. You better be honest to me, or else I will send you straight to the police station!"

The teen wailed louder at the mention of the police station, as he repeatedly pleaded her not to.

Yang Chen was a little frustrated by the incident as he stood up for the kid. "Yanyan, just look at that poor kid. We are not in Zhonghai right now. Let's leave this matter to the people in charge."

Cai Yan gave a gentle hush as she replied, "Where is the securit—"

Before she finished her sentence, a middle-aged woman draped in lavish jewelry with a huge handbag in her hand forced her way through the crowd as her heels clacked. In a menacingly high pitch, she taunted Cai Yan who still had a tight grip on the kid, "Let go of my son!"

Upon ending her sentence, the woman rushed towards Cai Yan and dragged the teen into her embrace. She stared furiously at Cai Yan before ranting, "Look at what you've done! You're making him cry. Are you crazy?"

Cai Yan was dumbfounded, pointing at the woman as she stuttered, "You... This... isn't your purse being pickpocketed?"

“Pickpocketed?” The woman was so furious she broke into laughter. “Are you blind? I gave him permission to take the purse from me because he wanted to buy a turtle. I made him go on his own. How blind do you think I am, or any of these people?”

The surrounding crowd of bystanders instantly broke into laughter. This dramatic plot twist turned Cai Yan into the centre of attention.

Yang Chen himself was trying hard to contain his laughter. As for Cai Ning, she facepalmed and turned her head away, embarrassed that the one causing a scene was none other than her younger sister.

Cai Yan frowned as she guiltily stared at the purse in her hands. She then pouted and asked, “How can it be? If that’s the case, why did he run? He could have just told me the truth...”

At this moment, the teen in his mother’s embrace finally gathered enough courage and replied in a stern voice, “Aunt, you were chasing me like mad. I thought you were here to beat me up! Of course I had to run!”

“Aunt?! Do I look that old?!” Her pupils enlarged at his reply.

Frightened, the teen once again burst into tears.

The woman panicked as she agitatedly taunted Cai Yan, “Why are you continuously threatening my son?! Are you a mental institution fugitive? At least give it some thought before you play hero!”

“You ran straight towards my son confidently identifying him as a thief. Before I could grasp the situation the both of you disappeared. How was I able to make my point! How easy do you think it is to run in heels?! This is crazy! If it’s not because you’re a woman I would take you straight to the police! Crazy woman, give me my purse back!”

The woman reached for her purse while she cursed under her breath before taking her crybaby of a son away from the scene.

The crowd of bystanders were seemingly amused by the self-inflicted embarrassment by the beauty.

Cai Yan glanced around her surroundings. “What are all of you looking at huh? What’s so funny? On your way you go!”

The crowd was wary of this slightly aggressive woman, as they instantly dispersed to separate ways.

Yang Chen scratched the back of his head and gave an awkward smile. “Chief Cai, I think I might have hypertension. I’m afraid that one day you might just end up sending me to the heavens early.”

Cai Yan pouted as she glared at Yang Chen. She ran to her elder sister’s embrace. Feeling wronged, she coyly said, “Elder Sister, that kid just called me ‘Aunt’! How rude of him to call me that!”

Cai Ning on the other hand was as calm as ever. She lifted an eyebrow as she frustratingly replied, “Yanyan, I don’t think that is the main takeaway from this incident.”

“Of course it is! I’m still young and healthy. Why would he call me ‘Aunt’? Do I look old to you? That’s enough, from today onwards I’ll pamper my skin! Elder Sister, let’s go look around cosmetics outlets. I

want to buy a whole set of face masks!” While emphasizing, Cai Yan dragged her sister along towards the exit of the market before the latter could even respond.

“Hey guys, we haven’t even had lunch yet!” Yang Chen tagged along while he pointed out.

“Go eat on your own! We have a more important situation on our hands here! If I’m an aunt you can be the uncle then!” Cai Yan turned back and glared at Yang Chen, before she continued hand in hand with Cai Ning towards the exit.

Yang Chen gave a long and sorrowful sigh. He was already an uncle in Tang Tang’s eyes. It hardly mattered to him, but he was tactless against the living gem of a person Cai Yan. *Well I guess lunch’s called off for today. Luckily I’ve yet to pay but bad luck to the eatery for wasting a well prepared meal.*

Since the sisters took the bus here earlier, they instantly hopped onto Yang Chen’s car, making their way to a mall known for their abundance in cosmetics. However their journey was prolonged to approximately an hour due to unexpected traffic.

As she got down the car, Cai Yan flipped her tight-fitting t-shirt as she pouted. “What a miserable day. Chasing a kid down a few streets only to be the centre of the joke. I’m gonna have to take a good shower after buying my mask packs. Why is it so warm out here all of a sudden?”

“Well if you weren’t always so rash and brazen, you would not have encountered that situation. What happened to your femininity?” Yang Chen replied with a pout.

Cai Yan stood up straight as she proclaimed, “Well I’m hardly anything like your descriptions. Unlike what you think of me, I’m always very attentive to details. You can ask my sister as living proof. I’m always the one in charge of my parents’ birthday presents, and they have always loved what I got them! Only when it comes to defending the rule of law will I be this rash. It’s undoubtedly because of my job. This is something an aimless person like you will never understand.”

Yang Chen was left speechless. “What kind of example is that? Why would any parent reject the presents given by their own children?”

Before Cai Yan rebuked his statement Cai Ning stepped up with a casual mention, “Yanyan, where’s the bird I bought for you from the market?”

“... ..”

Cai Yan froze at the spot, and it took her a long while before she screamed at the top of her lungs.

“Oh my god! I left the bird and its food bag at the market!”

“Huh, some attentiveness you’ve got there.” Yang Chen instantly turned around and left her alone as he walked towards the entrance of the mall.

Cai Ning kept her head low and left without saying a word.

The journey back to the market would take another hour, and there was no guarantee that the bird would still be there. So it went without saying that they weren’t turning back for it, rendering her bird lost by default.

Along with her goal of teaching the parrot to speak.

As the three of them made their way into the mall, Cai Yan was still pouting, which prompted Yang Chen to tease, “Yanyan, are you trying to reach for a kiss?”

Cai Yan immediately kept her lips in as she anxiously stared at Yang Chen. Even though she had a headstrong personality, public displays of affection were still outside of her comfort zone.

As a policewoman, Cai Yan was rather unfamiliar with female cosmetics, while Cai Ning was keen on being bare-faced. In the end, they decided to go for the bigger, more well-known brands.

After visiting L’Oréal, Estee Lauder, and a few other brands, they eventually settled at Shiseido where they carefully handpicked the cosmetics they saw fit.

The outlet staff enthusiastically took the sisters through an array of their products, while Yang Chen loitered around the store.

Right when Yang Chen was contemplating their plans for dinner as a reward to himself, two silhouettes of a man and a woman entered the store.

The man stood out like a sore thumb with his eyepatch and sturdy figure. The woman on the other hand, was sweet and mesmerising. At that particular circumstance however, she was noticeably dragged along against her will.

The man noticed Yang Chen from afar. Slightly startled, he proclaimed, “Old Yang, what are you doing here?!”

They were none other than Li Dun and Tang Xin!

Chapter 673

“Why can’t I be here?” Yang Chen drew a circle in the air with his pointer where Cai Ning and Cai Yan stood. “You dragged your lady here while I was dragged by mine.”

Tang Xin was also slightly surprised that Yang Chen was here. But as usual, she kept her elegance as she greeted him with a nod. As normal as it may seem, it was already leaps and bounds better than how she usually treated Li Dun.

Li Dun on the other hand seemed to be unfazed by her cold attitude towards him. He cheerfully mentioned, “I intentionally brought Tang Xin along to get some cosmetics. What a coincidence to see you here. Since it was a fated encounter, I know you wouldn’t mind to settle the bill together, would you?”

Yang Chen was stupefied that the idiot came to leech on his money immediately upon their encounter. He decided to ignore him and went on to greet Tang Xin. “Oh Tang Xin, didn’t expect to see you out here with him. I thought for sure you’d have rejected him.”

Tang Xin with a face of dispiritment frustratingly replied, “Well this genius here was cheeky enough to go straight to my father. Unsurprisingly enough, he told me to come with him.”

Li Dun proudly added without a single hint of embarrassment, "Well this is what I call efficiency. With this, I can even build a decent relationship with my future father-in-law! Killing two birds with one stone. Well Miss Tang Xin, don't you think that I'm intelligent?"

Tang Xin gave a disturbed look as she rolled her eyes, with no intention to reply to his narcissism.

Right at this moment Cai Yan jovially hopped by Yang Chen with two bottles of white facial cream. "Yang Chen, how about I buy two bottles of this for you. I heard from the staff that it's pretty effective for skin whitening for men!"

Yang Chen frowned as he replied, "Why would I need that? I don't get by in life with a pretty face."

"Pfft, not that there's anything bad about that," Cai Yan happily replied.

Yang Chen reached out as he lightly slapped her on the butt cheek. "Alright stop it with the nonsense. Finish up your purchases, we're leaving soon."

Cai Ning came over and nodded at Li Dun as a greeting. She then looked at Tang Xin and greeted her too with a smile though they didn't know each other.

Tang Xin mumbled with a smile, "Wow Young Master Yang, you surely are in no shortage of pretty women by your side. It's no wonder that Elder Sister brought Tang Tang out early this morning just to avoid you. It would seem like you do have other people to meet in Beijing."

Before Yang Chen replied, Li Dun patted on his chest as he proclaimed, "You see Miss Tang Xin, men like these are terrible. Unlike them, I'm always single and ready. My heart and mind will always be filled with the thought of you!"

His proclamation was rather astounding, which led to many of the other customers and outlet staffs to look over at this direction. This even prompted several women to envy his public confession.

Tang Xin's cheeks went bright red as she glared at Li Dun, unable to speak a word.

Li Dun meanwhile was gleaming with pride, with belief that his confession was a success.

Subsequently after, despite Tang Xin being there against her will, Li Dun took her around to buy some cosmetics. Li Dun in such circumstances however was completely willing to break the bank, starkly opposing his usual stingy demeanor.

Cai Yan bought a huge array of cosmetics, of which prompted Yang Chen to wonder if she actually knew how to use them. Cai Ning on the other hand, only had a tiny bag, presumably only accompanying her sister in buying things.

Since they had met through pure fate, the five of them decided to have dinner together. As it was not quite nighttime yet, they went for a stroll on the streets.

Beijing in May was still relatively cool, as the evening sun shone upon the streets, the leaves of the Chinese Parasol trees wavered under the warm breeze. The streets were slightly crowded with the presence of tourists.

Tang Xin might not be interested in a chat with Li Dun, but was more than willing to with the Cai sisters, despite their differences in profession. They were born into a similar age range, leading to multiple common topics.

Cai Yan was unsurprisingly the most enthusiastic among the group. She boasted and babbled about things questionably true. Li Dun who had wanted to take this opportunity to bond with Tang Xin, was left grumpy by a corner, too awkward however to cut through their conversation.

As they arrived at an outdoor cafe, the five of them took their seats and each ordered a cold drink. They decided to make a pit stop before truly searching for their dinner place.

Yang Chen brought up something he had in mind. "Tang Xin, how's the situation back at the Tang clan?"

What Yang Chen was curious about was naturally the culprit that poisoned Tang Wan. He did not however think of investigating the case on his own, nor sending someone for that. Realizing that he was still in Beijing, a personal investigation of his would cross paths with the security bureau under the jurisdiction of the Li clan.

Thus, Yang Chen could only observe as a bystander while he ensures the safety and wellbeing of Tang Wan and her clan.

Tang Xin had a distressed look on her face as she replied, "There isn't a lead yet, but the people from the security bureau are already on it. We increased the security monitoring around the estate. So long as nothing drastic happens, we should be fine."

Yang Chen appeared to be in deep thought as he nodded, his pupils faintly focusing on Tang Xin. "You too, take care of yourself."

Tang Xin noticed that there was something off with Yang Chen, as his expression was vaguely unnatural, but regardless she nodded with a smile. "Thanks, I will."

Li Dun slurped through his cup of cappuccino before he said, "Fear not, I'll always be here! If anyone were to harm a single hair on Tang Xin's head, I would slaughter them!"

Cai Yan was unamused as she debunked his claims. "Just you? Don't boast too much about yourself. Who knows, you might not even be an equal match to the person behind this."

"Haha." Li Dun twitched his eyebrows as he replied to her distrust, "If I'm really not his match I can always borrow your man to use as backup. Just make sure you won't get mad when I do."

Cai Yan was slightly embarrassed by that comment. "He's his own person, take him if you want, I don't care."

Right at that moment, two girls were holding a rainbow coloured ice-cream cone on their hands as they joyfully walked past.

Tang Xin had her eyes fixed on the ice-cream that they were holding as she appeared to be craving for it.

Li Dun was quick to notice the slight change in expression of the woman he fancied, as he instantly ejected out of his seat. "Tang Xin, allow me to get you one!"

Tang Xin was amazed that such slight expression of her fondness had immediately caught Li Dun's attention. She—like most girls—enjoyed eating ice cream. But all these years of spending time at home looking after Master Tang, along with her lineage in a clan had rendered her chances of having ice cream relatively slim.

"That's fine, we are about to go for dinner anyway." Tang Xin was slightly embarrassed, but this time around she did not ignore Li Dun, after all she was moved by his attentiveness.

Li Dun however remained resilient. "Well dinner is dinner. If you feel full after having ice cream, we can always delay our dinner!"

"Hey, who gave you permission to decide when we'd have dinner?" Cai Yan rebuked.

Li Dun cracked a smile, "Miss Cai if you fancy one, I can get you one too."

Cai Yan reacted like a child upon hearing his reply, as she cheerfully accepted. "Alright, then let's have our dinner later! Oh yeah, get one for my sister too. You can leave Yang Chen out, I'm worried he might be diabetic."

Yang Chen was dumbfounded by her reply. *Wow what a snake this woman is. Besides, what the hell have I got to do with diabetes?*

Li Dun wholly agreed. After all, these were just cheap foods. He had no problems with that.

The ice cream parlor was located just a couple of steps away from the cafe, and right in front were a few children queueing.

Li Dun was rather enthusiastic, as he ran towards the stand, his charismatic military presence seemed to be on full display, as if he was going to war!

However, exactly because of that, in addition to his sturdy build and his eye patch, freaked the children out of the queue!

The children were terrified at the sight of the approaching Li Dun, instantly towards a tree in fear.

The waiter at the ice cream parlor was slightly shocked, but regardless she gave the fearsome Li Dun a respectful smile. "Sir, what can I help you with?"

Li Dun was puzzled as to why the children ran from him, but nonetheless responded to the ice cream parlor staff. "Everything you have! Stack every flavor on!"

"Wait!"

Tang Xin slowly approached him and forcefully shoved Li Dun away. Furious, she taunted, "How can you treat the kids like that? Look at them, they're terrified of you! Apologise to them now. Besides, why did you cut queue?!"

Li Dun was stunned, staring blankly at Tang Xin. He then turned around at the schoolchildren watching from afar, and awkwardly giggled. "That's because I wanted to get one for you as soon as possible. I didn't mean to scare them away."

"But that doesn't explain why you had to cut queue. They're just kids, do you even have basic decency?"

Tang Xin was agitated as she shoved Li Dun aside and went towards the kids. She squatted down and switched to a gentle, approachable tone. "Kids, do you guys want ice cream? It's my treat."

Needless to say, after years of accompanying Tang Zhechen as guardian and caretaker, she had adapted to be patient and caring towards most, in addition to the fact that she had a sweet and innocent-looking face, allowing her to easily defuse the hostility from the children.

The pupils of the schoolchildren instantly glowed as a young girl mentioned, "I want the strawberry one."

"Oh, strawberry? It'll taste even better if you mix it with vanilla. Do you want to try it? It's going to taste great," Tang Xin persuaded with a smile.

The little girl vigorously nodded.

"Elder Sister, I want the mango one!" the other boy shouted.

It didn't take long before the children let their guard down towards them both, even the ferocious looking Li Dun was less frightening now, as they gathered around Tang Xin while flocking towards the ice cream parlor.

Tang Xin patiently ordered the flavors chosen by the children and paid with her own money. Throughout the entire process, Li Dun stood by a corner as he watched.

Before the schoolchildren left, the little girl happily kissed Tang Xin on the cheek, leaving a noticeable ring of vanilla cream.

As Tang Xin stood by and watched the children disappear into the horizon, she turned back towards the parlor, only to be greeted with an extra large serving of an ice cream cone.

All she could see was Li Dun holding a huge cone filled with seven different ice cream flavors. His expression was peaceful as he mentioned with a light smile. "Now that you got one each for the kids, don't forget your own."

Chapter 674

Form A Good Relationship

Bathed by the glow of the sun, a man stood holding a colorful huge ice cream in his hand. It was quite an unusual sight.

Tang Xin stared at him for a moment before she pursed her dry lips and reached her hand out for the cone.

This was also the first 'present' she had ever received from the man before her.

Tang Xin raised her head to look at Li Dun, only to realize that he was also looking at her. Her heartbeat quickened before she lowered her head as fast as she raised it.

What's wrong with me? Why am I feeling these things? It's just an ice cream is it not?

But ever since young, apart from my deceased mother, no one else has bought me an ice cream before.

Tang Xin was lost in her thoughts, ice cream forgotten. Instead, she said softly, "Sorry, I was a little overboard just now."

Li Dun shook his head. "It's nothing. I rarely mingle with people. That's why I tend to overlook some details. I just hope that Miss Tang is willing to believe that I didn't bully the children on purpose."

"To be honest, I feel honored by my choice. After all, a woman who treats other children so gently will definitely care for her own children. I believe that Miss Tang Xin will make a good mother to our future children."

"Children?" Tang Xin almost dropped her ice cream when she heard this. Frowning, she said shyly and anxiously, "Young Master Li, what are you talking about?! Please don't say meaningless things. It's really impossible between us."

Li Dun's serious look immediately faded away. He showed a slightly evil look and said with a soft smile, "Miss Tang Xin, the possibilities of our relationship are not defined by words. It depends on how we feel in our hearts. In any case, I am very confident in our future. Hurry up and eat your ice cream, or it'll melt soon."

Tang Xin wanted to say something else, but Li Dun had already walked back towards his seat.

Yang Chen and the Cai sisters had been watching them since long ago. Cai Ning who was next to Yang Chen said to him slowly, "She's a good person by nature."

Yang Chen gave Cai Ning an astonished look. "You seem to know something."

"Call it women's instinct," Cai Ning said with a smile.

Yang Chen raised his eyebrows. "It could all be an act."

Cai Ning shook her head. "My instincts tell me that she is not acting."

"Hmph," Yang Chen shrugged, "Let's hope for all our sakes that it is correct."

Tang Xin did not hear this conversation. She stood there for a while, lost in a daze before she returned to her seat. It took her quite a while to finish her ice cream.

Since Li Dun hadn't bought an ice cream for the Cai sisters, they continued with their dinner.

After they finished the meal, Li Dun sent Tang Xin home, whereas Yang Chen drove back to the Cai's with the two sisters in his car.

In the car, Cai Yan was still struggling to come to terms with her blunder of the day. Sitting in the backseat of the car, she hugged Yang Chen's neck from behind. She pouted as she said, "Yang Chen, am I stupid? Everytime I think about what happened earlier, I feel like killing myself by banging my head against a wall."

Yang Chen reached a hand behind to caress Cai Yan's hair gently. "I didn't say anything about you. Why are you thinking about all these?"

"Don't you think that I'm too stupid?" Cai Yan said doubtfully, "Look, Elder Sister would never do such a thing."

Cai Ning was sitting in the front passenger seat. She just shook her head in resignation and said nothing.

Yang Chen placed his hand on Cai Yan's face and started pinching her cheeks, saying, "A woman who lives her life with a sincere attitude is beautiful no matter what. Compared to many other women in this world, our Yanyan is not stupid by any means."

Cai Yan blinked her eyes. She suddenly strangled Yang Chen's neck with brutal force and said happily, "Dear I knew that you are the best!"

Cough!

Yang Chen said gloomily, "I know I'm the best, but you didn't have to strangle me! I'm still driving!"

Cai Yan chuckled, "Since you're so understanding, I'm not going to sleep with my sister tonight. I'll prepare a present for you!"

Yang Chen's mind started burning upon hearing her words. If Cai Yan hadn't reminded him of it, he would have had forgotten about his lonely stay the previous night. He asked eagerly, "What present? Tell me about it."

"Hmph! Come and see it for yourself tonight," Cai Yan said mischievously.

Yang Chen's heart was leaping in anticipation. He looked at Cai Ning beside him and said with a naughty smile, "Ning'er, how about you join us too?"

As though she had already anticipated this, Cai Ning immediately turned on the car speakers without saying a word. She turned up the volume and said, "Let me listen to my music in peace."

Cai Yan chuckled and said, "My sister knows how to be embarrassed too. Look, Dear, she's blushing!"

Under the dim light, Cai Ning felt even more embarrassed and annoyed. Finally, she turned around and glared at Cai Yan while pinching her little sister's cheek.

When they reached the Cai residence, Cai Yuncheng and his wife were watching the news in the living room. When they saw that Yang Chen had brought the two sisters back, Jiang Shan stood up excitedly before Cai Yuncheng could say a word. She asked enthusiastically, "Yang Chen, you're back! Have you had dinner yet? Do you want a cup of tea?"

After all that had happened, how was Yang Chen supposed to be in the mood for tea? He was all too anxious to dash towards Cai Yan's room in the backyard. Thus he rejected Jiang Shan in a few words.

But before Yang Chen could walk towards the backyard, Jiang Shan called him out again and said, "Yang Chen, don't be in such a hurry to leave. There's something I'd like to ask you."

Yang Chen was crying out in his mind, *Hurry up and spit it out. I'm in a hurry to get intimate with your daughter!* But on the outside he still put up a gentle and calm face said, "Aunt, is anything the matter?"

Jiang Shan smiled embarrassingly and slightly awkwardly as she said, "Well, now that our Cai clan is related to your Yang clan, I intend to prepare some presents for the Master Yang. But since Yanyan and Ning'er are going to live with Ruoxi in the future, I should send Ruoxi some presents as well since she's

your legal wife. Although I've known Ruoxi since she was young, I'm not sure what her likes and dislikes are. That's why I wanted to ask you."

Upon hearing this, Yang Chen let out a bitter smile and said, "About that, I think it's better if you just let it go. There is nothing that she needs."

"I still have to give her something even if she lacks nothing," Jiang Shan said awkwardly. "I just gave Ruoxi a call. She didn't sound too happy to hear about your relationships. I want to help Ning'er and Yanyan form a good relationship with her so that it won't be too awkward between them in the future."

Yang Chen's eyeballs almost dropped out upon hearing what she had just said!

"Wha—wha—what did you just say?!" Yang Chen asked as he lost control. His facial expressions had stiffened up.

Jiang Shan asked with a confused tone, "What's wrong? I said Ruoxi didn't sound too happy. It's understandable given the fact that she is a woman. In all these big clans, it's common to find legal wives who agree on the surface about their husbands' affairs even though they're secretly upset about it. That's why military clans are good in a sense that the men usually wouldn't get in contact with too many women. Just like our Old Cai, he doesn't have the luck even if he had the guts to do it."

Yang Chen's knees almost gave way immediately. This Jiang Shan was like a jinx to him. She could create trouble for him even when it was not her intention to!

Although he had never intended to keep on hiding his relationship with the Cai sisters from Lin Ruoxi, but he had never expected everything to be exposed so suddenly!

What made it worse was that it was communicated to Lin Ruoxi via Jiang Shan's phone call. This made it look even more like Yang Chen was purposely hiding it from her, which would only further enrage Lin Ruoxi.

"Mom, why did you act on your own accord without even asking Yang Chen first?!" Cai Yan realized the graveness of the situation and was stomping anxiously.

Cai Ning looked a little gloomy too, but there was nothing she could do.

Jiang Shan finally realized that something was amiss. She pondered for a while and asked, "Could it be that...? Ruoxi does not know of your relationship?"

Cai Yan found it a hassle to even answer her question. She rolled her eyes and let out a long sigh.

Jiang Shan quickly covered her mouth and returned to her seat on the sofa awkwardly.

Yang Chen sorted out his thoughts and turned towards Cai Yuncheng, "General, why didn't you stop her earlier?"

Cai Yuncheng smiled bitterly. "I was about to tell you just now. I wanted to stop her too, but your mother-in-law made the call when I wasn't looking. I only learned about it afterwards too. But since these are all the truth, you'll have to tell her eventually. As you are the one who chose this path, you should face it on your own."

“Oh shit! Ruoxi is going to hate me even more than she already does!!! I was planning to find an opportunity to apologize to her face-to-face...” Cai Yan said anxiously.

Yang Chen placed his hand on his forehead, mulling over whether to give Lin Ruoxi a phone call. But he figured that she was probably still jumping in fury, and it was better to just feign ignorance for the time being. It was a good thing that he was going back to Zhonghai very soon. There was nothing he could do in the meantime but take this time to formulate his speech.

Chapter 675

Stop Staring at It

Looking at how Jiang Shan was suddenly engrossed with the news, Yang Chen resorted to shaking his head in frustration as he went out to backyard for a quiet stroll.

Cai Ning too was noticeably fatigued as she dragged her dispirited sister along when leaving the living room.

Cai Yuncheng waited until the three of them left on their separate ways before he sighed to his wife. “Why would you stir up problems that have already been put to rest? Now you have undoubtedly become a pain in the arse for our daughters and that kid Yang Chen.”

Jiang Shan lifted her head as her preceding guilt was nowhere to be seen. She proudly taunted, “You really think I am an idiot, don’t you? I can’t predict for sure what happened between the kids, but one thing I know clear and well is that Yang Chen was never a sincere person to begin with. That’s why I faked the call.”

Cai Yuncheng was caught off-guard as he gave a bitter smile. “What even... why would you even do that?”

“Why not?” Jiang Shan confidently elaborated, “As a mother to my beloved daughters, I would do all that I can for their happiness. Of course it’s a good thing that they chose the Yang clan’s successor. But knowing that they would be relegated to the sides, what would they have to deal with if I don’t do my best to support them when I still can? Looking at the personality of this darn kid, I believe he doesn’t have the final say at home in front of his wife. We have to solidify our position in the family and never allow the chance to have our daughters present themselves as third wheelers!”

Cai Yuncheng patted the armrest of the cushion as he spoke his mind. “Wow you make it sound like we’re in a war. I know Yang Chen doesn’t seem to have a commanding presence, but knowing him personally, he can be as stubborn as it gets. If his mind has been made up, there is no force in this world that can change it. It’s without a doubt that the main co-heir of the Yang family is going to be Ruoxi, but with a noble personality like Master Yang in the driver’s seat I’m confident that our daughters will not be neglected.”

Jiang Shan gleefully replied, “Of course I’m aware about that, and I didn’t really plan to challenge Ruoxi’s position as alpha. However, with our two daughters, I’m confident that the double package would compensate whatever lacking in the visuals department.

“Besides, Ruoxi was raised under our supervision. For the happiness of our daughters, it’s about time the intimate relationship between our two clans be put into good use.”

Cai Yuncheng crossed his legs as he relaxedly took a sip of tea. "If that's the case, I'll see how far your plans can go."

Jiang Shan sneered as she chuckled, "Old Cai, look at that pretentious face of yours. We've been married for almost 3 decades now. There isn't a single thing that you can do without me knowing. You really think I wouldn't have guessed what you have in mind, don't you? If you wanted to stop the call I made just now, you had all the time in the world to do so, but you didn't, because you wanted me to play the villain, didn't you?"

Exposed, Cai Yuncheng awkwardly scratched on his chin, as he snarkily smiled. "Isn't my wife such a genius, haha. Come on I was also considering the future of daughters."

The conversations between the couple in the living room was naturally unknown to Yang Chen, but either way what was done was done. Nothing else mattered to him right now.

As they arrived at the estate's backyard, Cai Ning silently slipped back into her room, while Yang Chen accompanied Cai Yan to hers.

As he sat on the edge of Cai Yan's bed, Yang Chen was brooding as he fell into deep thought, trying to plan out his next move carefully.

Cai Yan saw that Yang Chen was in deep concentration, so she discreetly tidied up her abode before grabbing some clothes along to wash in the bathroom.

Even after moments of exercising his brain juice Yang Chen couldn't figure out a viable solution to calm Lin Ruoxi down, nonetheless he instead recalled about the incident between Mo Qianni and Ma Guifang.

Yang Chen, after moments of contemplation, was betting that Ma Guifang would have cooled off by now, and Mo Qianni, he assumed should be in a better mood. So he instantly grabbed his mobile and dialled Mo Qianni's number with the intention of a discussion on convincing her mother about their relationship.

The call was connected after just a couple of beeps.

"What led you to call me?" Mo Qianni sounded weary, but from her tone it was not hard to guess that she was expecting his call.

Yang Chen could only imagine that she had not been in decent condition the past days, unlike himself, with his thick-faced and stubborn personality. She sounded extremely tired, as he sympathetically noted, "I have been thinking about the incident between us day and night, but because of that I couldn't bring myself to make the call. So... are you feeling better the past few days?"

"Yeah, I'm much better now." Mo Qianni chuckled. "There has been a lot to handle in the company recently. You can push away your problems when you're busy working you know. I just got home and was about to go for dinner befo—"

Before she got to finish her sentence, Ma Guifang's voice was audible from the background.

"Is that Yang Chen? How many times must you defy me? Are you trying to give me a heart attack?" Ma Guifang ranted furiously at her daughter before snatching Mo Qianni's mobile from her grasp and

shouted at Yang Chen on the other end of the line, "You son of a bitch. This will be my final warning to you. If you call here one more time I assure you I'll bring her back to our hometown you get that?"

Before Yang Chen could react, Ma Guifang ended the call.

Yang Chen was left in a daze. He never expected Ma Guifang to be just as furious about this as the first day it happened. He could only expect to meet her when he makes his return to Zhonghai, otherwise any phone calls would only add salt to the wound.

As he stared at the date shown on his mobile, he mumbled to himself, "It's about time I go back now."

Right at that moment, the bathroom door was flung open, Cai Yan was just done with her shower, as she was covered by nothing but a white towel, her alluring legs was exposed in full glory as she walked barefooted onto the plywood floor.

"Stop daydreaming there now. Go take a shower," Cai Yan happily said as she dried her supple black hair with a towel.

Yang Chen gave a sinister glance at her protruding peaks as he grinned. "Those matters can be left aside. As for now, I believe you have a gift for me to unwrap."

Upon finishing his sentence he dashed into the bathroom for a shower, without forgetting a peck on her supple face.

After a cold shower, he could finally leave the frustration and stress behind. He casually dried himself and in his birthday suit, he bolted his way to the bedroom.

As he swung the door open, the majestic view on sight left him in a hot fuzz, as blood gushed into his brains...

Cai Yan that was just moments ago wrapped in a towel, was now all of a sudden dressed in a different attire, what more, it was a police uniform!

Cai Yan was wearing a pair of glossy yellow heels, her rose-colored high-waist stocking exposed her gorgeous pair of legs, the short skirt of the police attire barely covered her thighs. As he slowly moved his gaze upwards, the mint-colored police blazer was loosely buttoned around her bosom.

Yang Chen's gaze was fixed on the rose-colored lingerie exposing her cleavage deep into her seductive outfit as it reflected the light beamed upon it.

Cai Yan on the other hand took the means for breakthrough as she awkwardly avoided his gaze when she mumbled, "This is the gift I mentioned on our way back. You like it?"

Despite Yang Chen's constant delusions about making out with her in her police attire, never once had he thought she would actually take the initiative to do it.

The radiant colour of the lingerie became a striking contrast with her supple skin, exerting a visual sensation for the beholder.

Yang Chen felt a certain region of his body on the verge of exploding, as he succumbed to Cai Yan's offer.

Cai Yan felt like she was hit by an enormous wave as she was pinned down on the bed, her loosely buttoned attire ripped open by a primitive force, her bubbly breasts popped out as they bounced in all their glory.

It was a known fact that her body curves was inferior to that of Tang Wan, but due to her line of profession and the intense training that came along with it, it was firm and supple.

“Lighter... alright?” Cai Yan wiggled in his grasp as she felt Yang Chen smooching and savouring the taste of her in the regions she was most sensitive. Her emotions were running rampant as they flicked back and forth from excitement and embarrassment.

Yang Chen on the other hand did not care about how she felt as he forced his lips on hers, prompting to her to occasionally gasp for air.

His hands placed right on her twin peaks as he fondled and groped, before lifting her legs and tossed her over on her back as he flipped her skirt up.

The solemnity of the police uniform, the laced panties engulfing her supple buttocks, and the rippled trench of her nether regions combined fueled his primal impulse as blood gushed to his crotch.

As she struggled to turn to him, all she could say as his gaze was fixated on her crotch was, “Stop staring at it... Take it off”

Yang Chen replied with a sinister smile, “No don’t take it off, never take it off. Tonight you’re going to sleep in that!”

Cai Yan was so embarrassed she wished that the bed would open up and swallow her whole. But she ultimately understood that it was an initiative she willingly took, which she could only avoid in future endeavours solely from the primitive lust in Yang Chen’s eyes. She knew this was going to be a long and exhilarating night.

Before she even got to consider her next move, a boiling sensation penetrated into her body as her mind went blank.

Chapter 676

Very Serious

After a whole night of pleasure, Yang Chen woke up the next morning feeling very much refreshed. The troubles that he had faced did not seem so impossible to deal with anymore.

When he walked into the living room, Cai Yuncheng and his wife, as well as the elder sister Cai Ning were all having their breakfast. They shared an odd look when they saw Yang Chen walking out alone.

A tinge of redness appeared on Cai Ning’s cheeks. But she chose to feign ignorance as she continued with her meal.

Jiang Shan, on the other hand, had the most cheerful smile among them all. “Yang Chen, you must be tired. Come on, eat up. You must treat your body well when you are young.”

Cai Yuncheng coughed aloud and gave his wife a glare. *Is that something to be said so openly??* he thought.

Luckily Yang Chen was also an expert at being thick-skinned. He figured that they had probably overheard Cai Yan's moans the previous night. He just sat down casually, grabbed a steamed twisted roll with scallions, took a bite and said, "Don't underestimate me just because I don't seem fit on the outside. I have more than enough internal strength to spare. Aunt, please rest assured."

Cough! Cough! Cough! Cai Yuncheng wasn't coughing on purpose this time round—he had choked upon hearing Yang Chen's words.

Jiang Shan covered her mouth and chuckled non-stop. She made sure to place two fried eggs in Yang Chen's bowl.

Yang Chen moved his body towards Cai Ning and said with a creepy smile, "Ning'er, there's actually a lot of free time in the night. Do you want to join us next time?"

Cai Ning tried her best to stay composed. She raised the half-eaten steamed vegetable bun in her hand and stuffed it straight into Yang Chen's mouth. "Hurry up and eat."

Yang Chen swallowed the steamed vegetable bun in two bites. Then he grinned and said, "Tsk tsk, this vegetable bun that has been half-eaten by a beauty tastes special indeed."

Cai Ning had stuffed that bun out of a moment of fluster. She, too, just realized that she had already taken a few bites out of that bun. Embarrassed, she could feel her cheeks starting to burn.

Jiang Shan, who had been watching their interaction, laughed even more happily now, "Ha, I've never seen such a red blush on my dear daughter's face. I guess having a partner makes all the difference."

Cai Ning could no longer remain seated. She placed her chopsticks on the table and ran back to her room in a hurry.

"Hey, Ning'er, you haven't finished eating!" Jiang Shan shouted out behind her, but it was no use. She shook her head with a big smile and just let her daughter be.

Cai Yuncheng let out a sigh of resignation, "You can't keep a daughter once she's grown up. Truer words have never been spoken."

Cai Yan did not step out of her room once even after they had finished their breakfast. In the end, Jiang Shan had to bring some food into her room. Cai Yuncheng rolled his eyes, annoyed at the situation.

Yang Chen told Cai Yuncheng briefly that he was going back to Zhonghai within the day. He had already settled his matters in Beijing. As for those matters that were still unresolved, it was best to just leave them as they were for the time being.

Cai Yuncheng understood what Yang Chen meant. He knew that it was completely up to Yang Chen's will whether to stay or leave, so he didn't ask too much.

Cai Yan was still on holiday and she planned to stay in Beijing for a few more days to accompany her family. Cai Ning didn't have any important duties either, and now that she didn't have to continue monitoring Yang Chen, she decided to spend some time with her family too.

Yang Chen made it a point to ask Cai Yuncheng not to assign any dangerous duties to Cai Ning. Hearing his words, Cai Yuncheng was glad and naturally agreed to it. He had a plan in mind—if they were to run into any highly difficult problems, he could bring up the excuse of not being able to deploy Cai Ning, and request Yang Chen to help them settle instead.

Yang Chen could well guess what Cai Yuncheng had in mind. But since the two sisters now belonged to him, it wasn't too much to do Cai Yuncheng a few small favors in return.

On the other hand, Tang Wan and her daughter were also going back to Zhonghai within the next few days. After all, the National College Entrance Examinations were starting the next month. That saved Yang Chen the need to bid them farewell. Tang Wan was busy bringing Tang Tang around to pay visits to pave the way for her daughter, so they didn't really have time to spend with Yang Chen.

Before he left, Yang Chen went to Yu Lei Entertainment to check up on things. He was worried if Hui Lin and the team could work well together.

Many reporters and paparazzi were still stationed at the ground floor of the company, unwilling to leave. They were of course waiting to chance upon meeting those international celebrities during their entry or exit, so that they could take a few more photos or even dig up some interesting news.

Hui Lin and her team members were all preparing relentlessly for her first album that was scheduled for release within the next week. In an effort to create a mysterious vibe, they didn't even disclose the poster officially. It would be unfathomable if other singers did the same, as it did not help with publicity at all.

But the last thing that Hui Lin had to worry about now was precisely publicity. After the entire series of her movements that had thrown the entertainment industry into a surprise, everyone was waiting to see what kind of album she would be capable of releasing.

When Yang Chen stepped into the company, Hui Lin, the company employees, as well as some members of her team were in the midst of a meeting. They were discussing the logistics of a tour and the release of more songs in multiple languages.

The music producers who had had a chance to hear Hui Lin's vocal all shared the same sentiments. Hui Lin was an undiscovered rising star. She was too outstanding, be it her talents or her looks. Therefore, they were considering rearranging some of the songs and replacing the lyrics with foreign languages so that she could make her way into the global market as early as possible.

Yang Chen was not too familiar with the topics that they were discussing on. After he had entered the conference room and met everyone briefly, he spoke some words of encouragement to them before leaving.

Although Hui Lin wanted to spend some time with him, she was already too busy with her own work. She had no choice but to ask Yang Chen to send her regards to everyone at home.

Yang Chen left the office and headed straight for the airport. He was rather relaxed as he didn't have much luggage. He had already booked his ticket the previous night while Cai Yan was resting. According to his estimation, he would probably reach Zhonghai by dinnertime.

Upon reaching the airport, a member the Green Dragon Society came to collect the BMW Z4 he borrowed. But Yang Chen was surprised to see that the Green Dragon Society member that came was actually one of the airport service crew. Liu Qingshan's influence was truly omnipresent.

But immediately after passing the immigrations security check, Yang Chen heard an extremely unpleasant news from the airport broadcast system. There were thunderstorms looming in the horizon!

It was May after all. Although it wasn't truly summer yet, occurrences of thunderstorms were still understandable. But out of all the times that it could have happened, it just had to be now!

With such an unforeseen circumstance, there was no telling how long the delay was going to take. This wait was going to be an agonizing one for Yang Chen.

Yang Chen considered using his cultivation to teleport himself back to Zhonghai. Yet somehow, a lurking feeling of uneasiness made him feel wary about using his cultivation.

When he previously teleported to the mountaintop with Yan Sanniang, he had already felt worried. However, he didn't pay too much thought to it, neither did he ask Yan Sanniang about it. Right now, this feeling was getting stronger.

Yang Chen realized that he was facing a situation in which he had very little understanding of. It was better not to use an overly powerful cultivation before he figured out what was happening.

Since it was only noon, Yang Chen located a Japanese ramen restaurant in the airport and had his lunch there.

Thunderstorm poured and lightning struck. The whole ordeal nearly lasted three whole hours!

Yang Chen thought that it was finally over. However, a new problem arose due to the large number of travellers stuck in the airport. Because there were so many delayed flights, the airport had trouble rescheduling flight times.

With all these unforeseen events, by the time Yang Chen's flight took off, it was already 8 o'clock at night!

Yang Chen had already eaten quite a few bowls of ramen in the airport, and had almost tasted all the flavors available in that restaurant!

But he was glad that he hadn't told his family about going back to Zhonghai. If not, he would feel sorry towards them for all the delay.

Two hours later, Yang Chen reached the airport in Zhonghai and collected his car. He raced home quickly in the dark.

Although he had only been away for a few days, breathing in the familiar air and thinking of those people whom he missed in this city, Yang Chen felt extremely relieved to be home.

He had only returned to the country back then because of the demise of Seventeen and the child in her womb. Devastated, he had wanted to live a peaceful life. After a substantial amount of time, he now had a family and family members. It was truly a gift from the heavens.

Half an hour later, Yang Chen parked his car on the roadside outside a bungalow, but he didn't enter the house immediately.

He took a look at the time. Fortunately, it was only 11 o'clock at night. He got down from his car and noticed few passersby in the surrounding. Then, in the blink of an eye, he was standing on the balcony of Rose's house.

Since no thief would have a chance of getting near Rose's house, she didn't have a habit of locking her glass door.

Yang Chen opened the door and walked gently to Rose's bed. In the darkness, she had covered her body with a thin silk blanket. Her black hair was spread out on the white pillow, and her bewitching face looked peaceful and quiet. She was sound asleep.

Rose didn't seem to be in a deep sleep yet. She sensed something in her subconscious and slowly opened her eyes, only to see the man standing before her bed.

When she got a clear look at him and confirmed that she wasn't dreaming, Rose propped her body up in shock, "Hubby, aren't you in Beijing? Why have you come back? When did you arrive?"

Yang Chen smiled gently and sat on the edge of her bed. Reaching out his hand, he combed through Rose's messy hair. "I just arrived. There was a thunderstorm in Beijing. I waited from noon till night and finally made it back."

Rose was slightly taken aback, "Why did you wait for so long? Since there was a thunderstorm, why didn't you just change your flight? Did you come back for some urgent matters?"

Yang Chen's expressions turned serious. He nodded and said, "It's very serious. I had to be back by 12 o'clock tonight."

"What's wrong?" Rose started worrying, "I was wondering, why did you come straight to my place upon arriving? Do you need my help?"

Yang Chen glanced at Rose with a complicated look in his eyes. He sighed heavily and held her hand in his, pulling her soft body into his embrace.

She wore a fragrant breeze on her warm petite body. It made Yang Chen lean against the back of her neck in pleasure, taking in a deep breath of her sweet, fragrant smell.

Rose wrapped her hands around Yang Chen's waist. She was getting anxious, her thoughts wavering in worry.

"Babe Rose," Yang Chen whispered gently right beside her ear, "Happy birthday."

Chapter 677

Not Even At War

Yang Chen had merely spoken a few simple words, but it sent Rose who was feeling slightly nervous into a daze immediately.

They held onto each other for a long while before she finally parted from his embrace. In the darkness, Rose gazed at the man before her eyes with deep affection. She could feel a slight hoarseness in her voice as she asked softly, "You... When you said you had to be back before 12 o'clock, was it really just for this?"

"What do you mean 'just for this'? This is a very important matter to me. It dawned upon me two days ago when I was driving. I had purposely scheduled it nicely so that I can come back. And I even scheduled for the time to get you a present. But now it seems like I can only give myself to you tonight as your present." Yang Chen beamed at her.

Rose's eyes became a little watery. When Yang Chen waited at the airport for such long hours, and when he tried so hard to rush back, she didn't know that he did it just to say these simple words of blessings to her.

In fact, ever since Yang Chen married Lin Ruoxi, Rose had never expected to get much of his time. But, even though she wouldn't say it, she still felt a little sad. Yet at this moment, every second that she had spent waiting for him had turned into sweet blissfulness.

"Thank you. Even I had forgotten about it myself," Rose murmured.

Yang Chen touched her face gently and said, "I met you when I first came back to the country. Until now, despite having many people whom I love and who love me too, the only birthday that I remember is yours. It is a day that I wouldn't miss for the world. After all, you were the one who accompanied me through my darkest days."

"Why are you saying such sad words? Don't think about those things anymore, okay?" Rose said gently and wrapped her hands around Yang Chen's neck.

Yang Chen patted on her back and said, "This is no big deal. But, why do you seem to have lost weight when I've only been away for a few days? Could it be that you missed me too much?"

"Hmph, stop being so full of yourself," Rose said. "The atmosphere at home is a little awkward recently. It's all your fault, making things so difficult for Qianni. Because of that, I have been affected by her as well. I haven't been eating and sleeping much. Of course I would lose weight."

Yang Chen was stunned, and then he sighed. "I have also been fretting over this matter. I plan to arrange a time to have a proper talk with my mother-in-law. But I will definitely not give up."

Rose nodded. She thought of something, and asked curiously, "Hubby, you said that you only remember my birthday. What about Ruoxi's?"

Yang Chen touched his nose awkwardly and said, "About that, I don't know about the others, but I believe that Ruoxi dislikes having her birthday brought up."

"Hmm... Why?" Rose was baffled.

Yang Chen shrugged, "It's a long story. Babe you should stop asking about it. Seeing that I came back from so far away just to wish you happy birthday, don't you have any gesture of appreciation?"

Rose was naturally aware of what he meant. She replied shyly, "Let's not. Now Aunt Ma is also staying on this floor, and Qianni as well. They don't know that you're back yet. It wouldn't be nice if we're too loud and accidentally wake them up."

Yang Chen smiled sneakily. "This you can be rest assured. I guarantee that not a single soul outside the room can hear whatever is going on in this room."

It was no joke. Even during his Xiantian Full Cycle phase, he could totally use his Xiantian True Qi to confine the sound waves within a certain area. Given his cultivation level now, such a trifle task was easier than flexing a single finger on his hand. It was merely a matter of whether he wanted to do it.

"Really?" Rose asked, her voice full of hesitation and doubt.

Yang Chen smiled. "Why, it seems like Babe Rose is yearning for it too. Your face is filled with eagerness."

"I—I'm not." The queen of the underworld looked just like a little girl whose thoughts had been seen through. Her face was flushing.

Yang Chen couldn't care about all that. He just grabbed the silk blanket and pushed Rose onto the bed, pressing his body onto hers.

The silk blanket folded itself inside out while melodious cries echoed throughout the night.

The night sneaked away in their passionate love.

In the morning, when the sky had brightened up, Yang Chen pecked a kiss on Rose who was still half asleep before quickly sneaking from the room to where his car was parked.

Yang Chen didn't want his family to find out that he had spent the night in Rose's room before coming home at such a critical period.

He pulled the car into the garage, as though he had just come back from the airport.

After entering his own house, Yang Chen bumped into a most familiar scene. Wang Ma was walking out from the kitchen with a bowl of porridge in her hands. And at the dining table, Guo Xuehua and Zhenxiu were already seated having their breakfast.

All three of them were startled when they saw that Yang Chen had come back so suddenly. Their startled expressions soon turned into happy smiles.

"This child. Why have you suddenly appeared? You came back in a morning flight?" Guo Xuehua quickly asked.

Thick-skinned, Yang Chen nodded his head and said, "I have settled my matters anyway, so I decided to come back earlier. By the way, why don't I see Ruoxi?"

Yang Chen looked around him but failed to see Lin Ruoxi anywhere. It was still too early for work.

Zhenxiu pouted and said, "Brother Yang is such a good husband. The moment you come back you're already thinking about Sister Ruoxi. You didn't even greet us."

Yang Chen walked towards her and pinched Zhenxiu's tender cheeks. "You're the only one with so many opinions. Where's your Sister Ruoxi?"

Zhenxiu broke free of Yang Chen's hold and pointed at the staircase, saying, "Isn't she coming down right now?"

Lin Ruoxi was slowly walking down the stairs from the second floor.

She was not in her usual formal office suit today. Instead, Ruoxi was wearing an ivory dress. A light yellow ribbon-knotted leather belt wrapped her waist. And she wore a bright yellow knitted short-sleeve blouse over her dress, bringing out a bright mood.

Lin Ruoxi looked like she had cut her hair slightly shorter. Her silky black hair was wavy at the ends instead of straight. It added a mature sense of charm to her originally clean and beautiful demeanor.

Although they had already lived with each other for a year, Yang Chen was still captivated by her appearance as he was lost in his thoughts.

He finally gulped when Lin Ruoxi reached the last step of the stairs, rebuking himself in his mind that he was indeed a beast. *No wonder so many people hated me for marrying Ruoxi. I am indeed like a pig that wasted a nice and clean cabbage.*

"My wife, I'm back." Yang Chen approached her and smiled, trying his best to please her.

Lin Ruoxi acted like she hadn't seen a thing. With the fragrant breeze that she carried, she walked straight past Yang Chen.

Yang Chen's smile now faced nothing but empty air. He froze in his motions, looking just like a statue.

Lin Ruoxi pulled a chair and sat down quietly. She smiled gently at Guo Xuehua and greeted her good morning. Then she smiled at Zhenxiu and started having her breakfast.

Yang Chen turned around with his brows wide apart, looking downhearted and in a struggle.

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma could only give him a helpless look, whereas Zhenxiu was covering her mouth snickering, as though watching Yang Chen hit a wall was her special hobby.

"Babe Ruoxi." Yang Chen perked himself up and made a dash for the seat next to Lin Ruoxi. He smiled shyly after sitting down and said, "Did you miss me? I missed you when I was in Beijing. You might not know, but I encountered some matters and was feeling pretty frustrated. At that time, I thought, you could help me come up with a solution if you were by my side. Guess what happened."

Yang Chen said a great deal. Upon finishing, he looked at Lin Ruoxi with anticipation.

But Lin Ruoxi behaved as though she had not heard a single word, like every word he said had been perfectly blocked. She continued eating her breakfast in grace, as though Yang Chen who sat right next to her was nothing but air.

Yang Chen let out a bitter sigh. Although he already knew that Lin Ruoxi would give him an attitude, what he received was much worse than he anticipated. Lin Ruoxi wasn't even putting up a 'war'.

A breakthrough point is needed in order to resolve any problem. Yang Chen was now in a situation where he had a whole load of energy yet nowhere to unload it on.

He had prepared a great number of explanations and words to please her beforehand. However, now it seemed like it was all for naught, for he couldn't even find a window of opportunity for talking.

Yang Chen scratched his head and said with a bitter smile, "Ruoxi, I know that you must hate me right now, but we have to communicate about our issues. We can't just keep them to ourselves."

Lin Ruoxi suddenly raised her head, but she was looking at Wang Ma. "Wang Ma, cook noodles tomorrow. I'm getting slightly sick of having porridge every day."

Yang Chen almost plunged himself head first onto the floor. Although he was the one at fault, but this state of ignoring was too thorough.

Wang Ma darted a look of sympathy at Yang Chen, but still she replied smilingly, "Sure, Miss. I'll cook your favorite green mustard noodles for you tomorrow."

Lin Ruoxi nodded her head in reply. She then put down her chopsticks, stood up and grabbed her bag, saying, "I don't have much of an appetite. I'm off to work."

"You only ate so little. Do you want to bring some food with you to the office?" Guo Xuehua asked worriedly.

Lin Ruoxi shook her head lightly before turning around and walking out the door.

Yang Chen was contemplating whether to block her at the door so that this woman would have to talk to him. But the sense of guilty in him made him think twice about doing something that might further annoy Lin Ruoxi.

After witnessing her beautiful figure leave the house right before his own eyes, Yang Chen scratched his head bitterly and released a long sigh.

Guo Xuehua finally stared at Yang Chen now, saying, "You rascal, how could you create so much trouble in so few days? Serves you right that Ruoxi is ignoring you the way she is. No matter who it was, they would be enraged. Ruoxi is being so calm. It's really tough on her. When will you finally reign yourself in?"

Yang Chen asked in surprise, "Mom, you know what happened?"

"Of course." Guo Xuehua rolled her eyes at him. "Your maternal aunt called and told me everything. How glamorous you are, making such a huge commotion the moment you reached Beijing. I was still worried that you wouldn't do well because of your personality. I didn't expect the Li and Tang clans to come to your aid as well. Your maternal aunt even said that the Yang clan has a successor now. She said that I gave birth to such a good son. I can't even go one second without worrying."

"Maternal aunt? Where is this coming from?" Yang Chen was shocked.

"Yali, Guo Yali," Guo Xuehua sighed speechlessly. "What you did in Beijing, I got to know about it even before Ruoxi did. To think that that Jiang Shan from the Cai clan is so unscrupulous to even call Ruoxi.

But you honestly deserved it this time. This time you have to think of a way to talk to Ruoxi. Mom can't help you."

Yang Chen didn't know whether to cry or laugh, finding out that Yong Ye's mother was behind this. He had totally forgotten that he had met the Li and Guo couple. Maternal aunt—he would never have expected such a term to appear in his past twenty years of life.

Now that he actually had all these family members and relatives, it had changed his life completely. However, there was no shortage of troublesome issues as well.

Zhenxiu asked out of puzzlement, "Aunt Guo, what's the matter?"

Guo Xuehua pressed her finger on Zhenxiu's forehead and said, "You little girl, finish your meal quickly and go to school. Don't poke your nose in adult's issues. Your National College Entrance Examination is coming soon. You have no time to be a busybody."

Zhenxiu pouted, but she stopped asking.

Wang Ma hesitated for a while before saying warmly, "Sir. I don't really know what happened again this time. But it seems like you have pushed Miss to a new level of anger. Whenever you had arguments in the past, at least she would give you a much colder attitude. But this time, she isn't even reacting in the slightest. The more she acts in this way, the more it makes us worry."

Yang Chen could also feel his scalp going numb because of what was going on this time. This situation was way scarier than a cold war.

Yet, in such a short while, Yang Chen didn't know what he could do that would ease Lin Ruoxi's anger while not provoking her further at the same time. He could only curl his lips and say, "I'm also going off to work first. I'll think about how to resolve this."

Guo Xuehua quickly said, "Son, are you going to skip your breakfast as well?"

"Ruoxi said that she had no appetite. If I still have the appetite to eat, wouldn't that make me heartless?" Yang Chen said and left the house.

Watching Yang Chen leave, Guo Xuehua sighed and murmured, "You have always been a heartless person indeed."

Chapter 678

Empty

Still processing what had just happened, Yang Chen arrived at Yu Lei Entertainment in his car. Despite having been away for many days, this director's return didn't spark any special reactions from employees of the company. After all, it was a well-known fact that Yang Chen was more often than not, away.

Right now, most of them were glued to their monitor screens in high spirits, but Yang Chen had no idea what they were all so excited about.

As he entered the office, he saw An Xin at her desk, reading something from her monitor. She looked to be in deep concentration. He had entrusted her with his duties for the past few days while he was away, and she seemed extremely cautious about it.

An Xin wore a light purple blouse on the inside and a two-piece white business skirt suit on the outside. She had put on some light makeup allowing her face to glow gently. It made her look less bewitching but more beautiful in an office setting.

It had been days since Yang Chen last saw the vixen. Meeting her again lifted Yang Chen's mood considerably.

"Hubby?! You're back!"

An Xin's eyes sparkled with excitement the moment she noticed Yang Chen walk in through the door. She put down the pen that she was holding, sprung up from her seat and flung herself at him.

They gave each other a warm, tight hug. Then Yang Chen patted her hips and said smilingly, "Babe An Xin, I was already thinking to myself while I was in Beijing that you are the only one who would throw yourself into my embrace so readily. I am glad to know that you did not disappoint."

An Xin lifted up her head and said with a tone of jealousy, "That means you were with other women while you were in Beijing."

Yang Chen's smile froze at her words, realizing the slip up he had made. But fortunately, An Xin wasn't one to hold a grudge. He winked and said, "Even when I'm with other women, I'm still missing you."

An Xin was obviously pleased. Blushing, she rolled her eyes at Yang Chen, saying, "You are glib-tongued... But you being so mushy all of a sudden is making me embarrassed."

Yang Chen pinched her nose adoringly and said, "Nothing big happened in the company for the past few days, right?"

An Xin was immediately reminded of something as she clapped her hands together and said, "You came back just in time. There's a press conference happening later. As the director, your attendance is very important. Let's get ready quickly and inform Zhao Teng and Wang Jie of your return."

"Press conference? Why?" Yang Chen was shocked. He had intended to spend some time on his own to mull over how to reconcile with Lin Ruoxi, yet there were official business duties that needed his immediate attention.

An Xin launched her soft fist at Yang Chen's chest. She pouted as she said, "Hubby, you're too absent-minded. The first star that our company is introducing—Miss Lin Hui—had just released her new album globally early this morning! Now the internet is flooded with messages. Her new songs rose all the way to the top spots almost immediately!"

Yang Chen couldn't quite keep up with what she was saying. An Xin dragged him to the computer and he finally understood the situation after reading the messages on the screen.

It was Hui Lin's first personal album. As the name 'Lin Hui' was unsuitable for publicity purposes, they had titled the album 'Miss Lin' instead. This also ensured its viability for the worldwide audience.

The album consisted of ten original songs. All produced by top-notch musicians from all over the world. All sorts of different musical styles were performed perfectly by Hui Lin's unique voice.

Because of Star of Yu Lei, Christen, and Yoo Yeonhee, Hui Lin's reputation had already been soaring. Now that she was backed up by a team of internationally well-known celebrities, it garnered the attention of the rest of the world. The local public, especially, had been looking forward to it. Thus, the moment her album was released, online searches and click rates spiked immediately.

A few web portals had already bought the digital copyrights beforehand. And that was in its own a recognition of Hui Lin's voice. Now that all of them were releasing the album simultaneously, it ensured that the netizens could easily listen to Hui Lin's songs the moment it was available online.

Only a few hours had passed, but many of the netizens who originally saw Hui Lin as just a singer who was trying to gain fame through publicity stunts had now completely lost their grounds. Favorable comments far surpassed the unfavorable ones like an enormous wave. At least five songs in her album made it into the top ten in various critics lists.

Yang Chen finally realized why the employees were staring at their screens in such high spirits just now. They all knew that their efforts in the past few months had resulted in a tremendous success. Given such a reaction, Hui Lin's concerts would not only have to be held in Beijing, she probably had to do a concert tour!

This excellent news made Yang Chen's mood rise a little. According to what An Xin had said, they invited Zhao Teng and Wang Jie over to have a discussion on the press conference and contacted their team in Beijing to decide on the venues of her concerts in several cities.

These matters had to be attended to as soon as possible. Fortunately, Yu Lei International had access to an abundance of resources that they could utilize, thus making it much easier to coordinate matters.

They worked without rest from morning until late afternoon when it was almost time to knock off.

Sitting on a leather chair, Yang Chen read all the news about Hui Lin on his computer and smiled contentedly. But the moment he thought about the issues between him, Lin Ruoxi, and Mo Qianni that still awaited him, he started to frown again.

Yang Chen wanted to make a call to ask if Lin Ruoxi had gone home. But then he worried that Lin Ruoxi would avoid him and not go home on purpose just like before. In the end, he abandoned the thought and chose not to call. There was no point tackling a problem with no foreseeable end.

An Xin finished tidying up her documents and saw Yang Chen sitting there, lost in thoughts. She sighed and walked over, stopping behind him. Her gentle, soft hands landed on his shoulders as she started giving him a massage.

"Babe An Xin, it has been a busy day for you today. You should go home and rest." Yang Chen only just realized that An Xin was still in the office.

"Are you unhappy because something has happened at home again?" An Xin asked.

Yang Chen reached his hand behind him and patted on the back of An Xin's hand, "Don't worry, I'll handle it. I always do."

An Xin lowered her body and rubbed her face gently against Yang Chen's, saying, "Dear, do you know that when you were not in Zhonghai, I feel like the entire city is desolate. Thus, no matter what happens, as long as I have you beside me, it would be the greatest satisfaction to me."

Her gentleness embarrassed Yang Chen a little. He had made his woman sad with his unhappiness. He felt bad about it.

Yang Chen turned around and said with a smile, "Alright, go on home. I assure you that I'll pick up my spirits to solve my problems right away. If you stay here any longer, I'm going to have to drag you into my 'office games'..."

"I see that you have returned to your usual self. I feel less worried now." An Xin smiled playfully and kissed Yang Chen on his lips before she waved him goodbye and left the office.

The office became very quiet. Yang Chen moved his cursor on the screen to click on the play button for Hui Lin's latest songs.

Although he had already heard her singing before in the recording room, it was still a pleasure listening to the completed product once again.

In her ethereal voice and the bright melody of the songs, a tinge of light slowly appeared in Yang Chen's eyes.

Yang Chen got home no more than half an hour later. Luckily, Lin Ruoxi had knocked off on time and already reached home. She was helping Guo Xuehua out in the kitchen, seemingly in a good mood.

Yang Chen pondered for a while and strode into the kitchen, saying smilingly, "Babe Ruoxi, you're so diligent. Seems like you'll become the master chef in the house in the near future."

Both Wang Ma and Guo Xuehua turned to look at Yang Chen, but Lin Ruoxi just continued peeling the potato skin and completely ignored Yang Chen. She did not even flinch from his words.

That made Yang Chen feel almost choked as he retreated into the living room awkwardly. He thought that Lin Ruoxi was in a better mood. Yet it seemed like she was still ignoring his presence.

Yang Chen remembered about Hui Lin and turned around again, "By the way, Hui Lin has released her new album and it's such a hit. Ruoxi you should give her a call to praise her. She's holding a concert soon, and I bet she could use some encouragement."

Lin Ruoxi's hands paused for a moment after his sentence. A complicated expression flashed across her cold face briefly.

Yang Chen felt like he was getting a taste of the bitter fruits of his own actions. Lin Ruoxi had obviously heard what he had said, but she chose to ignore him. Yet, Hui Lin's matters could elicit her reactions.

There was still so much that Yang Chen had prepared to say to her, but now it seemed like he had lost the chance to say them.

At that moment, Lin Ruoxi's phone started vibrating in her pocket. She put down the half peeled potato and the peeler, wiped her hands and pulled her phone out to check. Her cold and stern face turned a little happier, and she quickly picked up the phone.

Chapter 679

What Exactly Have I Done

Yang Chen furrowed his brows. *What has suddenly made her so happy again? Is that Hui Lin on the phone??* he thought.

All he heard was Lin Ruoxi asking gently, "Chris, have you arrived in Zhonghai?"

Chris?? Yang Chen was taken aback. *It's a foreigner? And a male at that?!*

What kind of man can make Lin Ruoxi who hasn't even smiled much for the whole day so happy upon receiving his call?

"Oh... you're still such a foodie. But since you're in Japan, you should be able to reach Zhonghai by tomorrow. I'll pick you up at the airport. What time are you reaching?" Lin Ruoxi asked eagerly.

Yang Chen's eyeballs were almost falling out of their sockets. *She's completely ignoring me, her husband. Why then is she showing such eagerness towards a foreign man?*

"So early?" Lin Ruoxi was still in her conversation. "Hmm, I guess it's a good thing too. I'll pick you up in my car. See you tomorrow morning."

She hung up the phone and looked like she was reminiscing the past. Then she put her phone back into her pocket and went back to peeling potato skins.

"Erm... Ruoxi, who is it that called? Why do you need to pick them up at the airport so early in the morning?" Yang Chen couldn't help but ask.

Still, Lin Ruoxi said nothing. She focused on the peeling.

Yang Chen felt extremely uncomfortable in his heart, as though he was being held down by a rock. But there was nothing he could do for he didn't wish to provoke Lin Ruoxi.

He looked at Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma, but they obviously had no clue as well, neither did they pay much attention to it.

Yang Chen trudged back to the living room and started pacing up and down. He mulled over it for a long time. The more he thought about it, the more he felt that something was off...

Actually, he had considered before that given Lin Ruoxi's looks and status, she definitely had many suitors. Whether it was that Xu Zhihong, or that Zeng Xinlin, or even the current Ning Guodong. They were all very good examples.

But there wasn't any man who was really close to Lin Ruoxi. Although it might be because she didn't like those men, no one could truly guarantee that she had no male friends whom she was close to. After all, Lin Ruoxi had attended high school and even university. She had spent many years integrated with society after all.

On top of that, Lin Ruoxi was now utterly dissatisfied with Yang Chen. So it might drive her into the presence of another man. Whether it was to spite Yang Chen or whether it reflected her disappointment at Yang Chen, it was a serious matter.

Yang Chen believed this was not the time to pretend to be magnanimous. This concerned the happiness of his family.

Who exactly was Chris?? Yang Chen's head started to spin from the possibilities. In the end, he clenched his teeth and decided, *Since Ruoxi is going to pick up that guy at the airport tomorrow morning, I might as well follow her and have a look for myself.*

Zhenxiu who had just come back from school saw Yang Chen gnashing his teeth in rage the moment she entered the house. She asked worriedly, "Brother Yang, are you alright?"

Her question made Yang Chen realize that he was letting his agitation slip through. It wasn't as if he had no reason to. If not for the fact that he was at fault, he would have grabbed Lin Ruoxi by her collar and demanded an explanation from her. But now, all he could do was to face it without a word.

Yang Chen waved his hand and said, "It's nothing. I was too engrossed in my thoughts."

Zhenxiu didn't quite buy what he was saying. Then she remembered something and said happily, "By the way, my classmates in school played Sister Hui Lin's songs using their phones today. We were so engrossed into it we forgot about our revision. When is Sister Hui Lin coming back to Zhonghai to hold her concert?"

Yang Chen caressed this young girl's head and said smilingly, "She will hold it. I have already got someone to contact the stadium. Focus on your revision. When your exams are over, I'll let you go on stage to present flowers to Hui Lin."

"I don't want to." Zhenxiu was shaking her head so violently as though she was playing a drum. She giggled and said, "I just want a VIP seat."

Yang Chen's mood finally turned better after talking to Zhenxiu. Unfortunately, when dinnertime came, Lin Ruoxi still showed no intention of melting the ice. Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma didn't interfere too much in the couple's matters either. They feigned ignorance as usual.

After eating, Lin Ruoxi helped Wang Ma do the dishes. Given her practice all this while, Lin Ruoxi had indeed improved greatly in her ability to do household chores. It delighted Wang Ma a great deal, not to mention Guo Xuehua.

After tidying up everything, Lin Ruoxi went upstairs into her study, still not saying a word.

Yang Chen was still frustrated that he couldn't get a word in. Seeing that Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma were busy watching Korean drama, he just went upstairs as he didn't want to disturb them. He then went to bed early after taking a cold shower.

As he was too occupied with thoughts about the phone call that Lin Ruoxi had received and about that mysterious Chris, Yang Chen barely slept for the entire night.

When the first light shone and the night had finally passed, Yang Chen knew that Lin Ruoxi would be leaving for the airport. So he pricked up his ears, listening for any motion from the floor above him.

He waited until it was time for breakfast and heard the footsteps of Lin Ruoxi going down the stairs. Yang Chen was in no hurry to follow her downstairs. He waited till Lin Ruoxi started the car and left

before he silently jumped down from the balcony. He ran to the garage, started his car, and tailed Lin Ruoxi all the way to the airport.

When it came to tailing people covertly, Yang Chen required no practice at all. He could follow closely behind Lin Ruoxi's Bentley without her noticing him in her rearview mirror.

Yang Chen was feeling very uneasy. He was pondering, *‘If it's really a man who is very intimate with Lin Ruoxi, what should I do? I can't possibly kill him right away.’* His headache worsened the more he thought about it.

Yang Chen wound down the car windows to let the cold morning air flow in. He took in a deep breath and finally managed to suppress his agitation.

More than half an hour later, both cars pulled into the airport.

As it was still early and very few cars were around, Lin Ruoxi parked her car by the roadside near the international arrivals exit.

Alighting from her red Bentley, Lin Ruoxi who was wearing a grey dress with a blue blazer looked especially energetic. Her Korean-style outfit coupled with her gorgeous looks attracted numerous gazes from passersby outside the airport.

Lin Ruoxi was used to such attention. Unaffected by the gazes, she just looked at her wristwatch and waited patiently for the man that she was picking up to walk out from that exit.

Yang Chen parked his car a few hundred meters away from her and observed from afar. If that guy called Chris didn't do anything intimate with Lin Ruoxi, he would leave quietly and no one would be the wiser.

After a few minutes, the automatic gate at the exit opened and a group of tourists walked out.

A mature man in checkered shirt who looked like he was in his forties walked out, pulling a black suitcase in his hand. He had curly hair and a tall, burly physique, and he was rather good-looking. When Lin Ruoxi saw him, she smiled and walked up to him eagerly.

Yang Chen who was sitting in the car tensed up instantaneously. *‘That's Chris? He doesn't look like a foreigner, more like a Chinese. But he seems to be rather old.’*

But the next scene became unbearable for Yang Chen.

Yang Chen saw Chris put down his suitcase. Then he walked forward and hugged Lin Ruoxi with a big smile on his face. He even went so far as to pat Lin Ruoxi on her back.

Yang Chen felt the hot blood rushing to his brain, and even his teeth were grinding so loud they sounded like the grinding of gear wheels. He immediately started his car and pressed his foot on the accelerator hard.

Vroom!

The generator of the BMW M3 roared aloud like a rocket bomb, and it frightened the passersby and workers nearby. Some even thought that they were under a terrorist attack!

All they saw was a car with white body dashing in the direction of that exit, as if at the speed of light.

Yang Chen reached in just a few seconds for it was merely a few hundreds meters away. He hit the brakes very hard and almost drifted.

Lin Ruoxi and Chris also got a big shock. Chris had let go of Lin Ruoxi and was staring at the car frantically with his eyes wide open.

But Lin Ruoxi could tell that it was Yang Chen. A mix of shock and confusion filled her eyes.

Yang Chen got down from the car and slammed the door close. Completely blue in the face, he strode towards the two. He first gave a cold stare at Lin Ruoxi, then he glared at Chris furiously.

Chris gulped and forced a smile to ask him in English, "Hi, do I know you?"

Yang Chen sneered without the slightest change in his emotion. He replied with a similar US accent, "So you are Chris?"

Chris nodded his head stiffly. This man before him was obviously very young, but the stressful atmosphere that he carried with him made Chris so afraid that he didn't dare to speak loudly.

"How does it feel to hug another man's wife?" Yang Chen asked with a slowly growing smile.

Chris was stunned. "Wife?" He turned to look at Lin Ruoxi and asked in shock, "Lin, you're married? Why didn't you tell me? Is this your husband?"

Lin Ruoxi's gorgeous face was ghastly pale right now. Her eyes were glowing with tears. She just looked straight at Yang Chen and said nothing.

Yang Chen looked at his woman coldly and sneered, "Why, didn't you tell this man that you're married? Looks like you were already prepared for this. Although I know that I have let you down in many aspects, you have truly impressed me. Lin Ruoxi, if you wanted to make me jealous by getting yourself such an old man, there's no need for that. Also, you don't have to be so secretive. Isn't just opening it up for the public to know a lot better?"

Many people had surrounded them now, wanting to find out what was going on.

A traffic police in uniform pushed through the crowd and stopped next to Yang Chen. He pulled out a stack of tickets and said solemnly, "Sir, I'm afraid that your driving earlier had broken several road rules. You're not allowed to drive so dangerously at the airport. Please take note of this next time. I'm issuing you a fine of four hundred..."

Looking at the traffic police take down his car plate number, Yang Chen mocked, "Officer, you don't seem to comprehend the current situation. I'm settling some issues between my wife and another man. If you have a little conscience, it would be best if you leave me alone first."

The traffic police looked like he had been put on the spot, "Sir, I know that you're in a bad mood, but I too have to do my job. I am required by the law to give you a ticket."

"Enough with the ticket!" Yang Chen was engulfed by his anger. He snatched the stack of tickets from the police and threw it aside right away.

Lin Ruoxi was trembling like she had suffered from a terrible shock. She bit her lips and looked almost on the verge of a breakdown.

Chris finally understood what was going on and he spoke hurriedly, "Lin's husband, I believe we have some misunderstanding..."

"Misunderstanding?" Yang Chen let out a disparaging smile, "I don't think that this woman here would simply hug a normal friend. Lin Ruoxi—"

The tears in Lin Ruoxi's eyes finally started dropping. She was clenching her fists so tightly she seemed as though she was going to push her nails right into her flesh.

Yang Chen felt that he was about to go crazy. He endured the heartbreaking pain and said, "It's fine that you don't speak to me. I can understand that you're angry at me. Even if you were to beat me up or give me a scolding, I can accept it too. But you refused to listen to any of my explanations and just rushed to the airport to meet this Chris. Lin Ruoxi, I truly never thought tha—"

Slap!

Lin Ruoxi suddenly raised her hand and shoved a slap straight into Yang Chen's face.

The crisp, loud voice of the slap made everyone around them exclaim in shock.

Yang Chen did not dodge; he didn't want to do so. Touching where he had just been slapped, he snorted, "Why, you dare to do it but don't dare to hear others' comments?"

"Sir you've really misunderstood," Chris started yelling anxiously. "I am Lin's university mentor, I'm no—not the kind of person you think I am."

Upon hearing his words, Yang Chen felt as though something in his heart had snapped apart...

He was stupefied for quite a while before he finally recollected himself. He turned over stiffly to look at Chris, asking in a hoarse voice, "What did you just say?"

Chris said with a bitter smile, "Sir, you have really misunderstood Lin. My name is Chris Vanderloo Auerbach. I was Lin's teacher in university and also her research mentor. My main field of research is in human resources management. Although I am half Chinese, I am an American. And I am already married. My wife Jennifer is coming to Zhonghai in a few days' time to meet me.

"Two years ago, I went back to the US to teach. I have received Lin's invitation recently to take up some managerial roles at Yu Lei International. Lin is the student that I'm the proudest of. Although she discontinued her studies halfway and didn't graduate, we have been on good terms and have always been in contact. And I can foresee prosperous future developments for Yu Lei International. That is why I rushed over specially.

"I never expected that my hug would make Lin's husband, you, to misunderstand. God bless, I truly had no idea that Lin is already married, and that you have come together with her. Sir, you have really misunderstood Lin this time."

Yang Chen didn't even know how to put his current feelings into words. That was because rather than a sudden delight, it was more accurate to say that it was a sudden disaster.

He finally understood everything now.

Because her mentor from university had come to China to help her out with company matters, Lin Ruoxi was so happy about his arrival.

Because he was an American professor, she identified him by name. That was why she called him Chris instead of his family name.

Because he was an American, and he hadn't seen her, his student, in years, they hugged each other according to Western customs.

Yang Chen was afraid of facing Lin Ruoxi right now, for he looked so grim in her devastated eyes.

The people around them were pointing fingers at them discussing. Although many of them didn't know what exactly was going on, they could tell that it was Yang Chen who had misunderstood Lin Ruoxi.

Yang Chen knew that he had not only embarrassed himself, but he had even made a fool out of Lin Ruoxi publicly...

What exactly have I done? I actually doubted her loyalty to me, and I even drove my car to secretly follow my wife. I even reproached her publicly...? thought Yang Chen.

If he could, Yang Chen wanted to snap his own head. But that would change nothing.

Even though Yang Chen's brain was capable of improving his cultivation level by leaps and bounds, and understanding stages that others might never be able to understand even if they spent a few lifetimes, he was still utterly dumbfounded by this dead end that he faced.

"Ruoxi... I..." Yang Chen's mind was as messy as glue. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't think of a single word to console her. He pressed his brows together tightly and was almost going mad.

Lin Ruoxi shut her eyes tight and wiped away her tears with her hands. Within her bright and beautiful body, her soul seemed to appear dim and dark.

After a long while, Lin Ruoxi finally tried her best to maintain her calmness as she said to Chris who was standing beside her, "Chris, I'm sorry that you had to bump into something like this the moment you arrived. Let's go. I'll bring you to meet some of the important leaders in the company."

Chris nodded. He looked at Yang Chen hesitatingly. But he probably figured that there was nothing else that he could say, so he just sighed and got into the car after Lin Ruoxi.

Only Yang Chen was left standing at the same spot. He looked like a rooster that had been defeated. All the colors had been drained from his face.

The traffic police whose tickets had been thrown aside stomped forward at this moment. He finished writing a ticket aggressively and just stuffed it into Yang Chen's hand.

"Sir, your ticket. Make sure you pay attention to the traffic rules next time. Hmph." As though he was still not appeased after saying these words, the traffic police pointed his finger at Yang Chen's nose and reprimanded, "It's one thing to break the law. It's another to be a man as terrible as you are. Hmph."

Yang Chen was just like a wooden figure, standing stiffly as though he hadn't heard a word. He held on tightly to the ticket in his hands, his eyes staring at the floor, looking like he had completely lost his soul.

Chapter 680

You Are Not Successful

After getting into the car with her mentor Chris following behind her, Lin Ruoxi started the engine and left the airport.

Chris sat in the passenger's seat. He said guiltily, "I'm very sorry, Lin. I didn't expect to have caused so much trouble upon my arrival. I will apologize to your husband."

"Nevermind." Lin Ruoxi's eyes were still reddish, although her emotions had calmed down now. She said nonchalantly, "You didn't do anything wrong."

"But..."

"Chris, the reason why I asked you here is to let you enter the company as the Human Resources Department Director. You don't have to bother yourself with my family and marriage matters," Lin Ruoxi said.

Chris sighed and nodded his head with a bitter smile, saying, "Alright. To be honest, I'm very curious about that man. How did the two of you find each other? No matter what, I only wish for you to have a long and happy life with him. After all, I can tell that he cares a lot about you."

Knowing that she couldn't deny it, Lin Ruoxi just snorted softly and said, "Chris, please say no more. I have a complicated relationship with him. And if following me sneakily and sounding out his distrust in me publicly without even getting his facts right are also counted as caring about me, then I would rather do without it."

"Well Lin, there might be many matters that I have no knowledge of. But there is one thing I can be sure of. That is, the conflict between you and your husband is not solely his responsibility. You have a part in it too. As your teacher, I have to admit that you are extremely intelligent in both your studies and your career, so much so that you make me feel ashamed. But in every other emotional aspect you are not successful. You should learn from my wife Jennifer," Chris said, shaking his head.

Lin Ruoxi frowned and glanced at her teacher, "Why?"

"You know what? Just half a year ago, I had a very intimate lover. I often lied to my wife Jennifer to be with my lover," Chris said, looking slightly embarrassed. "Unfortunately, my wife caught me with her in a shopping mall one day. And she figured out what was happening immediately."

Lin Ruoxi showed a look of shock in her eyes. She forgot about her pain momentarily, and continued listening to Chris's story.

Chris sighed, "I thought that I was doomed then. I thought that my public figure would crumble from this one incident. As I saw Jennifer approaching, even my hands and legs were trembling, and I almost fainted. I was worried that she would cut her ties with me right there and then. That would be terrible... The US reporters would definitely write this: Well-known human resources professor Chris Vanderloo

Auerbach was caught red-handed in his extramarital affair. Then the court's summon would follow, and my reputation would crumble apart."

Lin Ruoxi just listened in silence. She couldn't imagine that her own teacher was also a man like this. But he was her teacher after all, and he was a senior to her, so she couldn't say anything about it.

Chris touched his chin and said with a guilty smile, "But, things did not end up like what I had imagined.

"My dear Jennifer walked over gracefully and stopped before that woman and I. She smiled like she had merely bumped into a friend and said, 'Our children have always thought of you as a noble father. And I have always believed that you are the best decision I have ever made. We'll be waiting for you to come home for dinner, and I'll make you your favorite cheesy chicken salad.'

"Lin, you know something? I felt extremely ashamed right then. I realized how difficult it was to express my love towards Jennifer in words. She is truly a wife that I can't reject. I broke up with that woman immediately and never contacted her anymore. Until now, I still have a good relationship with Jennifer. And this time, she didn't even hesitate to accompany me to stay in China again."

Lin Ruoxi tightened her grab on the steering wheel and smiled bitterly, "Is that so? That is really good."

Chris smiled and said, "I'm telling you this story because I hope for you to have a happy marriage too. You are, after all, the student whom I'm the proudest of.

"Lin, actually what a man needs is so little compared to what a woman needs. Women think that men are not romantic enough, not thoughtful enough, or not loyal enough. But in fact, all a man needs is just for the woman to give him face."

"Face?" Lin Ruoxi repeated after him, murmuring.

"That's right. Regardless of the circumstance, whether it's in public or before their family, men don't want to lose their faces. Don't ever think of making a man surrender to you in public. That is unrealistic. Well, that is unless the man has absolutely no face. Just like what my wife Jennifer did—in front of the public, even though she found out that I was having an affair, she still protected my pride. Her actions made me feel extremely grateful to her, and it awakened all my love towards her.

"Trust me, Lin. Your husband loves you very much. I am a man. I can tell that. And the most irresistible thing that you can do for a man who loves you is to be forgiving towards him.

"As long as you treat him better before others, for example, in front of colleagues or in front of your parents, and make him feel that he's being respected, it will be enough for him. Whereas when the two of you are alone together, he would never be upset with you no matter how much you pick on him. Paradoxically, you can have the actual say in this way." Chris raised his brows and smiled. He continued, "Just like me right now. Jennifer has taken all my money away and rendered me penniless. But I am still a happy man regardless."

Listening to his words, Lin Ruoxi felt as though a string was being plucked at in her heart. She bit her lips and thought, *It seems like... it is true that I have never given Yang Chen face all this while. Even in front of his mother Guo Xuehua, I haven't been nice to him.*

Chris sighed and said, "To be honest, I'm very embarrassed to be telling you all these. But I hope they'll be useful to you."

Lin Ruoxi responded and said, "Although it's very complicated, I still want to thank you. From now on, I hope that you'll pay more attention to your work."

Chris laid out his hands in resignation.

At the same time, traffic was busy outside the airport.

After standing for a very long time at the airport exit, Yang Chen touched his face and let out a long sigh before he got back into his car and drove away.

He drove aimlessly on the highway for about an hour before he gradually cooled down. Yang Chen laughed at himself mockingly. He then drove onto an exit, planning to head for the company.

Although he had not yet figured out how to solve the awkward situation that he was currently in, Yang Chen did not intend to just remain in such low spirits.

However, unexpectedly, he had brought his car into a familiar area. He ended up at the west district market.

He used to sell mutton skewers in this area for more than half a year. Revisiting the place, Yang Chen had mixed feelings. When he was still in the public relations department at Yu Lei International, he had also visited this area to buy breakfast for his female colleagues. But now, it had already been months since he had last been here.

Most of the hawkers who were now working there were no longer familiar faces, even though the streets still looked the same.

Yang Chen slowed down and took a turn at a corner, driving into the bar street.

It was still broad daylight so not many people could be seen on the street. Most of the bars were still closed.

As his car passed by the bar where he first met Lin Ruoxi, Yang Chen stepped on the brakes and took a few close looks at it. Then, he just shook his head and smiled bitterly. This was the place where his incredible life for the past year started. Now that he felt as if this life was about to reach its end, he had coincidentally returned to this place once again.

Yang Chen continued driving forward. He drove to somewhere near the dangerous little house where he used to stay in, only to realize that the building had already been removed. In its place stood a new condominium building that was still under construction.

Yang Chen stopped by the side of the road to gather the thousand and one thoughts he had running through his head. Finally, he seemed to have come to a resolution. Clenching his teeth, Yang Chen turned the car around and drove towards the city center.

Due to a traffic jam, it was already noon by the time he reached Yu Lei.

Yang Chen parked his car and took the lift straight up to the CEO's floor. He ran to Lin Ruoxi's office and knocked on the door, but no one replied.

Scanning briefly using his sense of awareness, he realized that there was not a single soul in the office. No wonder Wu Yue did not come running to stop him.

Yang Chen scratched his head in puzzlement. He went to the floor below and asked the first female secretary that he spotted, "Where has Boss Lin gone to?"

That female staff seemed to recognize Yang Chen. She replied respectfully, "Boss Lin is having a meeting in the conference room. It should be ending some time soon."

Yang Chen was stunned, thinking, *?Meeting? She still has the mood for a meeting?*

He knew that Lin Ruoxi was always capable of keeping her emotions in control. But he didn't expect her to be capable to such an extent.

Yang Chen felt insignificant compared to her. She was no longer just a workaholic. Ruoxi was more like a woman with multiple personality disorder, treating her relationship and work separately.

When he reached the corridor outside the conference room, he bumped into a group of executives who happened to be walking out of the room.

In the lead of the group were Lin Ruoxi and Chris. And beside them stood Mo Qianni whom he had been thinking about. Also with them were Liu Mingyu, Li Minghe, and a few others.

The moment they saw Yang Chen who was standing in the corridor like a guardian, they stopped in their steps.

Mo Qianni wore a complicated look on her face, whereas Liu Mingyu looked surprised. Meanwhile, Wu Yue furrowed her brows in despise.

Lin Ruoxi was in the midst of explaining some matters to Chris. Upon seeing Yang Chen who had suddenly appeared, she evaded her gaze a little. She couldn't pretend that she hadn't seen him in such a circumstance, but she didn't know what to say.

Unaware of the situation, Chris greeted Yang Chen in a friendly manner, "Hi, Boss Lin's husband. It has only been a while. We run into each other again. Are you alright?"

Boss Lin's husband?

Every single executive present heard his words, loud and clear. Immediately, Wu Yue, Li Minghe, and the rest who had been in the dark widened their eyes in shock.

Lin Ruoxi was flustered, realizing that the secret that she had never disclosed to others had been revealed in such an abrupt manner.

As for Mo Qianni and Li Mingyu, a bitter smile started to form on their faces.

Chris picked up on the shock and puzzlement that came from the people around him. Awkward, he let out a stiff smile. A blind man could've seen the trouble he caused from a mile away.

