

Elite Doting 421

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Chapter 421: The Meeting Between the Love Rivals Was Exceptionally Hostile

Yan Rusheng's heart ached when he heard that Xuxu was hungry." He frowned and glared at Lu Yinan. "Lu Yinan, is this how your family treats their guests?"

The corners of Lu Yinan's mouth twitched. "Young Master Yan, if you want me to instruct someone to prepare food for your wife, just simply say it. Why must you phrase your words with a layer of hidden meaning for people to decipher your real thoughts?"

Communicating with this guy was really tiring. He had to use his brains all the time.

Fang Jiayin was completely neglected as she stood at a corner, looking exceptionally lonely.

"Jiayin, do you want some food?"

Lu Yinan asked her casually as he walked past her.

Fang Jiayin composed herself and smiled at Lu Yinan. She shook her head and said, "I'm not hungry."

She began to move on her feet and followed Lu Yinan out of the room.

The pair of heels that Xuxu was wearing was really sapping her energy away, so Xuxu settled herself on a chair.

Ming Ansheng walked over and sat next to her as he shuffled the mahjong tiles on the table. He looked at Xuxu as his twinkling eyes shone with craftiness. "I want to witness how impressive a married couple can be playing as a team."

Xuxu smiled. "But, I don't even know how to play."

She really had no clue how good Yan Rusheng, Jiang Zhuoheng and the rest were at mahjong. After she had moved out of the Yan's house, she rarely joined their gatherings.

Even if she did join them, usually they would drink, play billiard, smoke or sing at bars. She had never seen them gamble before.

Ming Ansheng quipped, "Ask Third Yan to bring you along during our gatherings and you'll soon be an expert as well."

When he finished his sentence, he gave a significant glance to Yan Rusheng who was standing behind Xuxu's chair.

Wen Xuxu remained silent and smiled instead.

Ming Ansheng had attempted to link her and Yan Rusheng together repeatedly. Even a fool would have understood his intentions.

But, he was unaware that the conflict between them and their strained relationship was different from other ordinary loving couples.

What they needed to improve their strained relationship wasn't advice from an outsider. Rather, it was love and feelings for each other.

They were lacking in these and even if they reconciled, it was just a show for outsiders.

"Look here! I've brought Ah Heng over. Today let's see if Ah Heng is truly invincible or if the husband and wife team will prevail."

Lu Yinan had gone to take some food personally for Xuxu and dragged Jiang Zhuoheng along as well.

Jiang Zhuoheng wore a smoky-gray suit with a blush-pink shirt inside. He was tall and charming.

His hands were stuffed in his pockets as he was dragged along against his will by Lu Yinan.

"Ah Heng." Xuxu leaned against the chair and smiled brightly at Jiang Zhuoheng.

Her hair brushed against Yan Rusheng's suit.

Yan Rusheng looked at her, but her eyes were focused on Jiang Zhuoheng—her curled long eyelashes with a pair of inverted crescent eyes—she looked happy.

Without giving Yan Rusheng time to respond, Jiang Zhuoheng marched into the room as his eyes swept past swiftly across Yan Rusheng. He glanced at Xuxu with a gentle and tender smile.

The two of them had completely ignored his presence and Yan Rusheng observed how they were gazing at each other. His good-looking face seemed to freeze with a layer of icy frost, he clenched his fists. He was struggling to suppress the blazing fury and jealousy inside of him.

He bent down and pulled a chair towards him before sitting down.

He sat close to Xuxu.

"Aren't we playing?" He put his hand around Xuxu's waist as he questioned Ming Ansheng and Lu Yinan.

The jealousy was overflowing and the meeting between the love rivals was exceptionally hostile.

Ming Ansheng and Lu Yinan eyed each other in agreement as they tried to stifle a grin.

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Chapter 422: You'll Lose the Game If You Continue Being Distracted

"Xuxu, I randomly chose some food for you." Lu Yinan passed her a plate full of food.

Xuxu received the plate and said, "Thank you."

After Lu Yinan sat down, Ming Ansheng asked, "It has been quite a while since the four of us sat down to play. Same old rules?"

Lu Yinan shrugged. "I don't mind."

Jiang Zhuoheng didn't object as well.

Ming Ansheng looked at Yan Rusheng. Xuxu seemed puzzled. "What old rules?"

She couldn't believe that these fellows were such hardcore gamblers that they even had their own rules.

She was curious about those rules and how big was at stake.

However, Yan Rusheng remained mum and didn't object as well.

So no one answered Xuxu's question about the rules.

But, she was someone who was able to suppress her inquisitiveness so she didn't press them for an answer. After Ming Ansheng made sure that no one raised any objections, he began to throw the dice.

Xuxu rose and said to Yan Rusheng, "You should play and I'll eat my food."

"You play, I'll feed you," firmly said Yan Rusheng as he pushed her back to her seat.

Xuxu stared at his aloof-looking face and was shocked beyond words.

He wanted to feed her? In front of all so many people? And these were all their friends who had grown up together with them!

Did she hear wrongly?

When Yan Rusheng saw that Xuxu didn't respond, he thought that she didn't want to display their intimacy in front of Jiang Zhuoheng. He frowned unhappily and questioned her solemnly, "Is there a problem?"

Didn't she just ignore his presence and gazed lovingly into Jiang Zhuoheng's eyes earlier on?

Then he shall behave intimately with her as though there were no one else in the room.

Xuxu could feel a murderous and dangerous aura emitting from Yan Rusheng, and his deep and sinister-looking eyes terrified her.

She was afraid that he might do something crazy in front of them. She could only nod and agree. "Okay."

She turned around and started to shuffle her tiles.

Jiang Zhuoheng sat opposite and the speed of the game was really fast. As a new player, she was one or two steps behind their speed.

They had more than a dozen tiles each and everyone took their tiles promptly and smoothly when it was their turn. She was already slow to begin with and wasn't used to the game, and yet Yan Rusheng slowed her down even more by constantly feeding her with food. She was severely distracted.

Her fair hands fumbled as she tried to arrange her tiles.

"Don't be anxious, take your time."

Jiang Zhuoheng could sense that she was nervous and gently reminded her.

"Let me do it."

Yan Rusheng all of a sudden spoke up as he inched closer to her.

He stretched both of his hands and enveloped Xuxu as he took his time to arrange the tiles.

Instinctively, Xuxu glanced at Jiang Zhuoheng. She felt awkward, upset and sorry.

She knew that Yan Rusheng had done this on purpose, but there was nothing she could do to stop him.

“You’ll lose the game if you continue being distracted.”

Yan Rusheng spoke once more, his voice was cold and deep. It served as a timely warning to her as well.

Xuxu immediately snapped out of her thoughts and concentrated on her tiles instead.

Yan Rusheng speared a piece of beef and fed her.

Although Xuxu felt that he was being too ostentatious, she had no choice but to accept it.

She felt like a puppet as he controlled her every movement—from how he instructed her to ditch or take a tile to how he fed her with every bite.

Xuxu stared at her tiles and Yan Rusheng didn’t advise her this time round. After pondering about her next step, she threw out a tile.

“This.”

The second she put down the tile, Jiang Zhuoheng who was sitting opposite of her revealed all his tiles. “Sorry, I’ve won.”

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Chapter 423: Puked

Jiang Zhuoheng proclaimed happily as he stretched his hand to take the tile that Xuxu had just discarded.

“What! Your luck is ridiculous. This was the last remaining tile!” Lu Yinan stared in disbelief at Jiang Zhuoheng’s. He frowned and looked rather unconvinced.

“Ten tokens each.” Jiang Zhuoheng extended his hands towards Lu Yinan and Ming Ansheng.

From what Yan Rusheng could tell, Jiang Zhuoheng was feeling exceedingly smug and pleased right now.

Of course, his mood wasn’t exactly pretty at that moment, but he controlled his emotions well. A fleeting smile played around his mouth and he seemed unconcerned.

He took the fork, speared another piece of meat and delivered it to Xuxu’s mouth.

Xuxu lowered her head to count ten tokens and stretched her hand to pass it to Jiang Zhuoheng. “Here, ten tokens.”

Throughout the game, they had been playing with tokens so she didn’t know how much money did each token represent. She gave it out rather enthusiastically each time.

The chandeliers on top of them shone and illuminated Xuxu’s fair hands. Her neatly trimmed fingernails on her beautiful and slender fingers sparkled in the light.

Yan Rusheng gazed at her hands and had a sudden whim to grab her hands and envelop them tightly with his.

He noticed Jiang Zhuoheng's outstretched hand, ready to collect Xuxu's tokens and he couldn't take it any longer. He hastily stretched his hand to collect the tokens from Xuxu, and slammed it down in front of Jiang Zhuoheng.

The atmosphere in the room turned freezing cold in a split second.

Xuxu's hand hovered in mid-air for a while before she retracted awkwardly.

"You guys carry on. I need to go to the comfort room."

She simply couldn't stay in the room any longer.

She stood up quickly and went around the table, past Yan Rusheng. She grabbed the hems of her dress, strode quickly to the door, and disappeared out of sight in no time.

She went out of the room and searched for the comfort room.

Two fashionably-dressed ladies in the bathroom were chatting near the basin. They greeted Xuxu politely when they noticed her walking in. "Mrs. Yan."

Xuxu held the hem of her dress with one hand and the other clutching her chest. She stole a glance at them but remained silent. Without stopping, she walked towards the cubicle.

Yan Rusheng kept stuffing her with food earlier and she had gobbled the food down in a rush. The food seemed to be stuck around her chest area and she felt very uncomfortable. She was afraid of puking the instant she opened her mouth.

The minute she went inside, she slammed the door and starting puking and flushing the toilet simultaneously.

The loud flushing sounds covered the sounds of her puking so no one knew that she was feeling unwell.

"Look. So the rumors are right. She had simply ignored us with that aloof attitude even when we tried to greet her."

"Tch . How could she be so arrogant? She is just Third Madam Yan in title."

"How could it be? Didn't you see how loving she was with the Third Young Master tonight?"

"Everything is just for show. I heard that they sleep separately at home and Third Young Master doesn't even touch her. She is like a living widow."

The two wealthy madams who had greeted Wen Xuxu earlier on took it to heart that Xuxu had ignored them.

They looked at the closed door and criticized Xuxu viciously.

From a dark corner, a pair of malicious-looking eyes which resembled a bottomless abyss was glaring intensely at them with a glacial expression.

Xuxu puked out all the food she had eaten earlier on and her head was spinning. She had to hold the wall for support to get out of the comfort room as she wobbled in her heels.

She went to the basin and turned on the tap. The water was warm and she gargled her mouth.

Then she straightened her back and pulled some tissues to clean her hand. She rested against the basin and took a deep breath.

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Chapter 424: The Song Has Ended

In the hall, a waltz tune sounded. She could visualize how the hall would look like with all the couples happily dancing to the tune. But then again, all she wanted to do was to stay out of it.

She lifted her head and gazed at the towering figure heading towards her. She bent her head and a bitter smile appeared on her face.

It seemed too much to hope to just stay at this spot for a moment longer.

Yan Rusheng had a cigarette in his hand as he strode towards Xuxu. He noticed that she looked rather peaky and he frowned. "Are you feeling unwell?"

"I'm fine," Xuxu replied softly and shook her head. She threw her tissues into the trash can and straightened her back. "Let's go."

She thought to herself, *'Just endure it for a while more, the celebration will be over soon.'*

"Let's go get some warm water." Yan Rusheng flicked his cigarette away and held Xuxu's hand as they left for the main hall.

He walked leisurely, and for Xuxu, the gesture was thoughtful enough.

Several couples were huddled closely together in the main hall, dancing away to the beautiful tune. There were married couples, lovers, and others merely dance partners.

Yan Rusheng instructed a waiter to get a glass of warm water.

Xuxu took a few sips of the water and her face regained some color after resting for a while.

"Follow me."

Suddenly, Yan Rusheng took the glass away from her hand and conveniently placed it on the table behind them.

Wen Xuxu didn't have time to react when Yan Rusheng grabbed her wrist and pulled her towards the middle of the hall.

Of course, she knew that he wanted to dance with her.

"My heels." Wen Xuxu peered down to look at the heels she was wearing. She wasn't confident as she couldn't even walk properly in those heels. It would be harder to keep herself steady if they were to dance.

Yan Rusheng ignored her protests and wrapped his long arm around her slender waist. He didn't care about the traditional waltz posture at all.

They quickly stepped into the dance smoothly and became the center of everyone's attraction.

Yan Rusheng embraced Xuxu tightly and kept their bodies close together. Several times, he lifted her off from the ground and made a complete turn as he swung her around.

Xuxu was very anxious and her hand gripped tightly onto Yan Rusheng's arm for fear of falling.

Her waist-length hair flowed and swayed along as they danced.

She raised her face and glanced at Yan Rusheng. He was gazing into her eyes and tenderness was billowing in his deep black eyes—tenderness that swept past her heart gently and brought about ripples in her heart.

This was the first time they had danced together. And such an intimate dance to boot.

She had no idea that he could dance so well, and even the expression in his eyes was so precise.

Gradually, Xuxu began to forget about her fear and trusted Yan Rusheng not to let her fall.

After the song ended, everyone else stopped.

But Yan Rusheng didn't seem to have the idea of letting go of Xuxu yet.

All pairs of eyes were staring at them and Xuxu began to feel embarrassed. She whispered to remind Yan Rusheng, "The song has ended."

She was blushing scarlet.

Yan Rusheng stopped abruptly and released his hands from Xuxu's waist.

But in the next moment, he swiftly cupped Xuxu's face with both hands and pressed his lips against hers.

In front of so many strangers, friends, and acquaintances...

Xuxu's eyes widened in surprise and her eyes darted around in shock. She wanted to push him away, but she didn't dare to be too obvious about it.

However, Yan Rusheng had no intention of letting her go. One of his hands pulled her towards him and steadied her body.

He smirked coldly as he stared a distance away.

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Chapter 425: Forgotten All About Him

Xuxu followed the direction of Yan Rusheng's eyes and she caught a glimpse of a lonely-looking figure as he turned to depart.

Her eyes slowly turned red and glinted with tears. She retracted her gaze to glare at the man standing in front of her. She was embarrassed yet livid.

Yan Rusheng's eyes shone coldly, and he finally moved his face away from Xuxu. His hand which was hugging Xuxu's waist earlier on moved upwards to her shoulders.

He turned around and surveyed each and everyone who was present. He emitted an aura of arrogance and dominance.

His low and deep voice resonated loudly in the spacious hall. "Let me formally introduce my wife once again. Those who weren't sure, please look at her carefully and bear this in mind."

He paused and shifted his glance towards the two ladies standing together. His eyes displayed a murderous beam. "Those who love to gossip unnecessarily behind others' backs, beware. Someday, you might not be able to keep your tongue."

The two culprits shivered violently and looked down guilty. They didn't dare meet Yan Rusheng's eyes.

Other than the two of them and Yan Rusheng, no one else knew what happened.

Xuxu glanced at the two ladies in confusion. Even a fool could tell that Yan Rusheng had said this to warn everyone present, and specifically directed at the two ladies.

But why?

She sized up the two ladies and recalled that she had bumped into them earlier on at the bathroom.

Needless to say, they must have gossiped about her and Yan Rusheng, and he had caught them red-handed.

Yan Rusheng averted his gaze and moved towards the main VIP table. Seated there were Old Master Lu and another elderly man... Ming Zhongsheng.

The corners of his mouth curled with a callous and cold smile. "I do not wish to read anything about my wife on the newspapers tomorrow."

He paused deliberately and enunciated every word clearly to serve as a warning. "Bear... the... consequences... yourself."

At his proclamation, everyone turned their heads towards Ming Zhongsheng with a bewildered expression.

The Mings and Yans were family friends for generations. Even though the attempt to link their families by marriage had failed and it had caused some unhappiness. But wasn't that matter already settled?

What was Third Young Master up to?

Ming Zhongsheng's wrinkled face turned red and he wanted to yell at him. But he took into consideration the venue and occasion and was afraid that he might not be able to extricate himself out of this embarrassing situation later.

He suppressed his burgeoning rage and remained silent, allowing others to make wild guesses.

"Ansheng, what's this all about?"

Lu Yinan whispered in Ming Ansheng's ear and asked him.

Ming Ansheng turned solemn and downcast as he glared at Ming Zhongsheng, his old and wrinkled grandfather whom he had doted on and loathed at the same time.

He had already warned him before. Will the old man only stop after he had destroyed his friendship with the Third Yan?

Not only Lu Yinan, but even Xuxu also couldn't understand why Yan Rusheng was glaring at Ming Zhongsheng when he made that warning. She lifted her head and glanced askew at Yan Rusheng, looking perplexed.

He can be quite condescending at times, but he doesn't usually embarrass people in public. Especially when this person was Ming Ansheng's grandfather.

'I do not wish to read anything about my wife in the newspapers tomorrow...'

"Newspapers? News?"

A sudden thought hit Xuxu and she was enlightened instantly. She opened her mouth in shock.

Her scandal with Charles... That culprit behind the attacks on Yan Rusheng and even Flourish & Prosper. Could it be... Ming Ansheng's grandfather?!

She couldn't think of any other possibility.

Now that she had mulled over the matter, Ming Ansheng's grandfather was indeed suspicious and most likely had an ulterior motive.

She had been constantly guessing who was the culprit behind the attacks on Flourish & Prosper's image, and the one who had so viciously tried to tear her marriage with Yan Rusheng apart. She had even thought that the culprit might be Fang Jiayin.

She had forgotten all about him—Ming Ansheng's grandfather.

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Chapter 426: He Is Truly Flawless And Exceptional

Ming Zhongsheng had looked for Xuxu personally and even forsaked his pride just to beg her to let Wen Xinyi off and to not pursue the matter. But she had rejected him straightaway.

He had already disliked Yan Rusheng due to the failed linked marriage between their two families.

Xuxu quietly analyzed all these facts in her heart as she stared blankly at Ming Zhongsheng. The old man sat there with an ugly and sullen expression on his face.

Then she stole a glance at Ming Ansheng and he was looking towards their direction, looking at Yan Rusheng. Even though his expression wasn't that obvious, it wasn't hard to guess.

He looked helpless and seemed to be trapped between his grandfather and his friend.

Xuxu bent her head and she didn't want to consider anyone's feelings right now. She wasn't that magnanimous to begin with.

No one could possibly understand what she had gone through these few days. Furthermore, Charles was an innocent party and he had been dragged into the matter.

"Whatever I've said tonight, I'll make sure to stand by it."

Yan Rusheng concluded in his usual cold and deep voice.

The whole hall was hushed and the chilly atmosphere seemed to freeze everyone's breath.

With the exception of Xuxu who was feeling warm all over especially her heart. Unconsciously, her body inched closer to Yan Rusheng's chest as she leaned against him.

It wasn't him who had suggested that she should make an apology at the press conference. He was kept in the dark all along.

After saying his piece, Yan Rusheng embraced Xuxu with his arms and nodded at Old Master Lu politely. "Sorry, Grandfather Lu. I've used up your time at your birthday celebration. I would like to apologize to you once more."

His tone softened and the mood lightened up considerably.

Suddenly, a crisp and clear voice sounded from the second floor. "Third Brother Yan, a verbal apology wouldn't suffice."

Yan Rusheng glanced at her with a faint smile. "Then what does Miss Lu propose?"

Lu Yishan wore a white evening gown and she walked down the steps with a hand holding the hems of the gown.

She looked at Yan Rusheng as she spoke, "I heard that you can play the piano really well."

Yan Rusheng immediately understood her and nodded promptly. "Alright, I shall play a song for Grandfather Lu to express my apology."

He held Xuxu's hand and they walked towards the piano.

The pianist hurriedly stood up and gave them his seat.

Everyone was looking at them in anticipation they reached the piano. Yan Rusheng bent his head and whispered in Xuxu's ear.

Xuxu bit her lips and nodded lightly.

She bent her body to sit down, leaving a bigger space for him.

Yan Rusheng bent his back as well and sat down beside her.

Both of them placed their hands on the piano and gazed at each other simultaneously.

A familiar happy tune sounded in the hall and it lightened up the mood instantly.

"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you..."

With them playing the tune, everyone else clapped along to the rhythm. Even Old Mr. and Mrs. Lu, who were sitting at the VIP table, couldn't help but join in and sang along.

The couple sitting at the piano seemed to have rehearsed this performance beforehand. They complemented each other perfectly and were perfectly in sync.

This rapport they shared gave them a pleasant surprise as well.

Two pairs of hands on the piano; the bigger pair of hands had clearly-defined knuckles, while the smaller pair was soft and supple. Even their hands seemed so compatible.

Who else would dare say that they weren't loving at all? Not compatible?

"I'm afraid that it's impossible to find a second man like Third Young Master in this entire world."

"I second that. He is truly flawless and exceptional."

"That's true love indeed for this pair of childhood sweethearts."

Fang Jiayin watched Xuxu and Yan Rusheng and heard the compliments from people around her. The wine she was drinking seemed exceedingly bitter.

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Chapter 427: Avoiding Him On Purpose

Her beautiful eyes seemed to be lost in the depths of an abyss.

"Everything is destined and love can't be forced."

"Wen Xuxu, do you really think so?"

There was an enigmatic smile on her face and suddenly, she tilted her head and gulped down an entire glass of wine.

Secretary Liu, who was sitting beside her, inched closer and whispered, "Jiayin, don't drink so much."

His eyes swept past Yan Rusheng swiftly and said softly, "I don't see how the current Young Madam Yan is better than you."

"The Young Madam Yan now..."

Fang Jiayin threw a glance at Yan Rusheng and Xuxu. Her expression was unfathomable.

She placed the glass down. She turned to look at Secretary Liu as she rubbed her temples. "Uncle, when is the celebration ending? I have a slight headache and I would like to go home first."

She ignored his previous comment and declined to divulge her thoughts to him.

Secretary Liu answered sternly, "Old Master Lu is an esteemed and prominent figure. How can we excuse ourselves from his birthday celebration now?"

He stole a glance at the piano and the music had stopped. Yan Rusheng held Xuxu's hand as they stood up together.

A scheming and sly gleam flashed past Secretary Liu's eyes and he inched once more towards Fang Jiayin's ears. "You can play the violin very well. Why don't you perform a song for them?"

Without giving Fang Jiayin a chance to protest, he grabbed her by her arm. He turned around to the next table where Old Master Lu was. He said with a smile, "Old Master Lu, my niece has just came back from abroad and she is a great violinist. She would like to perform a song for you as well."

Fang Jiayin was annoyed by Secretary Liu's suggestion. She flung her hand away. "Uncle!"

With an apologetic expression, she turned to Old Master Lu. "Grandfather Lu, sorry I'm not feeling well today. Hence, I shall not embarrass myself. I'll perform for you another time."

"No worries." Old Master Lu smiled benevolently at Fang Jiayin. "If you're unwell, ask Yishan to bring you upstairs to take a rest."

Lu Yishan was just standing beside him and he gave her a meaningful glance.

Lu Yishan responded right away and walked to Fang Jiayin. "Miss Fang, please follow me."

Fang Jiayin rejected politely. "It's alright, I'm just feeling a little stuffy. I'll take a walk outside."

She bowed at Old Master Lu graciously and turned around to walk towards the door.

The second she raised her head, two familiar figures appeared a short distance away.

She was stunned for a second time and then quickly wore a smile. "Ah Sheng, Xuxu, that performance had showcased the perfect rapport between the both of you."

When Xuxu heard Fang Jiayin calling him 'Ah Sheng', she withdrew her hand instinctively.

Yan Rusheng's grip on her hand suddenly became empty and he glanced at her. Xuxu had already put her hands behind her back, avoiding him on purpose.

His face immediately fell.

Secretary Liu came towards them with a bright smile. "President Yan, you and your wife put on such a great performance earlier on."

Yan Rusheng vented his anger at Secretary Liu and with a scornful expression, he said, "To Secretary Liu, that should be considered as *just* a good performance."

Xuxu was dumbfounded.

How could this fellow embarrass the capital city's committee secretary in front of so many people?

Furthermore, he was Fang Jiayin's uncle.

Secretary Liu's smile transformed into an awkward expression in a split second. He turned to glance at Fang Jiayin. "Jiayin, you should chat with them."

Fang Jiayin's face fell as well and she didn't respond.

Earlier on when Secretary Liu had dragged Fang Jiayin to fawn upon Old Master Lu, Xuxu and Yan Rusheng had witnessed the scene.

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Chapter 428: Wasn't Life Abroad Good?

Fang Jiayin really does surprise her sometimes. She seemed delicate and demure on the outside, but she was actually tenacious and brave deep down. And she was decisive and unyielding as well.

She really excelled at everything.

No wonder Yan Rusheng had fallen in love with her and was devoted to her for the past three years.

Secretary Liu turned to leave and Fang Jiayin glanced at Xuxu and Yan Rusheng with an awkward expression. "Ah Sheng, Xuxu, I'm feeling unwell..."

Xuxu suddenly cut across her. "I'm a little thirsty. I'll go get a drink."

She turned to leave promptly and walked towards the tables.

Yan Rusheng glared at her with resentment and anger as he prepared to chase after her.

"Ah Sheng."

Fang Jiayin called him suddenly.

He halted his footsteps and turned around to look at her. He pressed his lips as he waited for her to speak.

"You shouldn't always be so fierce towards her." Fang Jiayin furrowed her brows and said softly, "Be gentle towards a woman. Take a softer approach and perhaps you'll find that the problem can be easily solved."

Her sparkling black eyes glinted clearly under the light. She appeared sincere and straightforward.

Yan Rusheng pressed his lips once more, as though he had given her an answer.

Then he spun around to look for Xuxu, but she had vanished out of sight.

He surveyed his surroundings and there was no sight of her anywhere.

He didn't see Jiang Zhuoheng as well and he began to feel moody. He strode across the hall towards the entrance.

And he bumped into Lu Yinan.

"Third Yan..."

Yan Rusheng stretched his hand towards him and said impatiently, "Give me a cigarette."

"Oh."

Lu Yinan noticed that Yan Rusheng was in a bad mood and he was wise enough not to say anything. He retrieved an exquisite cigarette case from his pocket and passed it to him.

Yan Rusheng opened the cigarette case and placed a stick in his mouth. He lighted it as he walked out.

After exiting the hall, the freezing wind blew towards him. He took a few puffs and was covered by wisps of smoke as he hastened his footsteps down the stairs.

This was one of the Lu family's mansions and they used it occasionally for parties or celebrations.

In the middle of the courtyard, there was a fake hill with a splendid and majestic fountain.

Yan Rusheng held his cigarette and stuffed his other hand in his pocket. The temperature outdoors had dropped beyond zero degrees but surprisingly, he didn't feel cold at all.

He stood beside the fake hill as he peered at the vast night sky. He was admiring the moon as he mocked himself silently.

"My heart is with the moon, but alas, the moon shines somewhere else instead."

He had yearned to be her refuge and harbor but she doesn't even cherish him at all.

"I won't do that."

"Hmph! You must think of your parents!"

Suddenly, he heard a woman and a man arguing behind the fake hill. Even though their voices were hushed, Yan Rusheng could still recognize their voices.

He was slightly startled and he took a detour towards the source of the commotion.

A short and plump man vanished around the other side of the hill.

A tall and slender woman stood there. Sensing his presence, the woman turned around and faced him.

When she saw that the intruder was Yan Rusheng, Fang Jiayin was startled and stared at him in shock.
"Ah Sheng."

After a while, she lowered her head nervously.

Yan Rusheng strode towards her as he gazed at Fang Jiayin, feeling suspicious. He questioned her, "What are you doing here with Liu Changjun?"

"No... It's nothing." Fang Jiayin turned to look at her feet as she shook her head. She rubbed her eyes as she answered him.

She seemed rather aggrieved.

Yan Rusheng could tell that Fang Jiayin was troubled but he didn't press further.

He took another puff and turned to find a flat spot around the fake hill. He leaned lazily on it.

After taking a puff, he glanced at Fang Jiayin, "Wasn't life abroad good?"

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Chapter 429: Lovey-dovey

Yan Rusheng's tone was calm and nonchalant, as though he had simply asked a casual question.

Fang Jiayin took a deep breath and inhaled deeply. She said, "I knew I shouldn't have come back. I've caused trouble for you and Xuxu the minute I did."

Her voice sounded like she had just cried.

"I didn't mean it that way." Yan Rusheng explained then he paused before continuing, "Liu Changjun isn't a good person."

She lifted her head and her eyes sparkled for a moment. She was startled to hear that from him and she nodded her head lightly. "Yes, I'm aware."

She lowered her head once more and her hair fell and tumbled across her shoulder, covering the sides of her face.

She was wearing a thin outerwear over her dress and she seemed cold.

Yan Rusheng saw her in that state but he remained silent. He threw the cigarette on the ground and stubbed it out with his feet. He stuffed his hands back into his pockets and left her.

The guests began to leave one by one as the celebration ended.

Xuxu wore a sleeveless light fur jacket draped over her shoulders and she stood by the entrance's pillars. She watched as a black Audi leave the courtyard.

After the Audi vanished out of sight, she retracted her gaze. She bent her head and let out a heavy sigh.

As she turned around to go back to the mansion, she bumped into a 'flesh-colored' wall.

She raised her head and her eyes met another pair of cold-looking ones.

After getting over her shock, she said to him, "Let's go home."

"Wait for me here." Yan Rusheng instructed her and turned to go back to the mansion.

After informing the Lu family that they would be leaving, he came out of the mansion to see Xuxu still standing there with her arms crossed. She was shivering badly and she tried to hug herself tightly.

He was quite furious when he saw her. "Can't you get inside if you're cold?"

Xuxu stared back at him innocently, "You were the one who asked me to wait here."

He saw her freezing in the cold and she seemed so docile that he didn't have the heart to berate her anymore.

He gnashed his teeth with frustration and anger. "I've also forbade you not to talk to Jiang Zhuoheng, but didn't you still exchange lovey-dovey looks with him?"

As he berated her, he removed his blazer and put it over her shoulders.

Xuxu immediately covered herself tightly with the blazer to feel the residues of his warmth.

A moment ago she was still shivering from the cold. But the next instant, she felt warm all over.

She lifted her head and seemed to regain her strength to reason with him. "We've grown up together. Do you expect me to treat him like a stranger?"

"Wen Xuxu, those lovey-dovey eyes was what I meant." Yan Rusheng could barely suppress his anger anymore.

This stupid woman had merely disappeared from his sight for a short while. And when she returned, she had turned into a sharp-witted woman.

Xuxu snorted with contempt. “Weren’t you having an intimate conversation with Fang Jiayin in the garden by the fake hill just now?”

Yan Rusheng replied promptly with a clear conscience. “That was a coincidence.”

“Oh.” Xuxu bent her head and walked down the steps towards the car.

He trailed after her and surveyed her from head to toe, feeling bewildered. Why did he have a feeling that she had seemed to change after just a while?

The chauffeur was waiting in the car and he hastily got out when he saw them.

Xuxu got in first but she didn’t shut the door after her this time, instead she moved further in.

Yan Rusheng was pleased and bent his body to get into the car. The car tilted substantially to his side when he sat down.

The heater was switched on in the car and Xuxu removed the blazer and placed it on her thighs.

Elite Doting Marriage: Crafty Husband, Aloof Cute Wife

Chapter 430: Ate the Wrong Medicine?

Both of them were seated one body length away from each other and were lost in their own thoughts. They remained silent in the car just like when they first came.

Shortly, drowsiness hit her and Xuxu’s eyelids felt heavy.

...

The car drove into the courtyard and Yan Rusheng reminded the chauffeur to stop the car slowly and gently. The car steadily pulled to a stop afterwards.

The chauffeur unfastened his seatbelt, opened the car door and gingerly got out of the car.

Yan Rusheng also followed suit and got off. He walked over to the other side of the car and opened the door. Being gentle with his actions, he carried Xuxu out of the car.

With Xuxu’s level of sensitivity, he thought that a gentle nudge would wake her up.

If she did wake up, he would let go of her.

To his surprise, she didn’t. She was sound asleep and her head was nested on his chest.

The moment he entered the door, he carried Xuxu straight to the second floor without even removing his shoes. When he saw the servants, he gave them an eye signal from afar, hinting them to not to make any noise.

When they were upstairs, Yan Rusheng hesitated for a while before walking towards Xuxu’s bedroom.

Her room door was open and when he was about to step inside, the person in his arms suddenly wrapped her hands around his waist.

His breathing became sluggish and the stifling desire in his heart was suddenly aroused.

He looked at Wen Xuxu. There was a faint smile on the corner of her mouth as she inched her face deeper into his arms.

Damn, stupid woman. How dare she feigned sleep!

What exactly was she doing? What did she want?

“Are you seducing me?”

Yan Rusheng’s cold voice fell above her.

Xuxu remained silent and didn’t reveal her face. She just kept snuggling into his arms incessantly.

Keeping silent meant that she had tacitly agreed, but Yan Rusheng wasn’t exactly pleased. He continued to stride forward to her room and made his way to her bed in huge steps.

He threw her onto the bed and turned around to leave decisively.

Xuxu raised her head and watched as Yan Rusheng’s towering figure disappeared. She was saddened beyond words.

When she saw him and Fang Jiayin in the garden, she was overwhelmed with fear—fearful that she might lose him one day.

She wanted to put in her utmost effort to keep him closer to her. She wanted to try out Zhou Shuang’s style, to let him fall head over heels in love with her.

...

Morning came and everything outside was covered in snow. Yan Rusheng had already washed up and changed into his working suit. He came downstairs and was dumbstruck when he walked into the dining room.

Xuxu was dressed in a long pink woolen sweater and a dark green apron was wrapped around her. Her raven long hair was loosely tied up and some strands of hair fell over her forehead. She was absorbed in setting up the dining table.

She lifted her head and caught sight of Yan Rusheng and broke out into a dazzling smile. “You’re awake. Breakfast is almost ready.”

After saying her piece, she turned back to the kitchen.

Yan Rusheng was dumbfounded for a long time before snapping out of his daze. Were his eyes playing tricks on him?

He strode with huge steps to the kitchen entrance and saw the busy little figure. Indeed, he wasn’t seeing things.

But... can someone tell him what was happening?

“Did this dumb woman take the wrong medicine today?”

Xuxu brought out two glasses of milk from the kitchen and paid no regards to Yan Rusheng's stare. After putting the glasses of milk on the table, she hurried back to the kitchen and dished out the breakfast.

There were two sets of identical breakfast laid opposite to each other.

She said to Yan Rusheng, "Breakfast is ready. Try and see if you like it."

As it had been a while since she stepped into the kitchen, she wasn't too confident of her culinary skills.