

Hidden 1681

Chapter 1681: He's So Persistent

Zhuang Liaoyuan did not hide his true intentions at all.

While he was dissatisfied with Lu Tingxiao, he could not do anything when Ning Xi was so in love with him. He was only a person who was slightly closer to Ning Xi, so it was not appropriate for him to interfere.

He could not stand it when he saw Xiao Xi struggle so much in the Lu family, but at the same time, he also wished for Xiao Xi to understand and leave this guy on her own accord. He would then find her someone better!

He was only helping this guy this time because it was a serious matter and he could not just leave it after he knew the stakes involved.

Lu Tingxiao, of course, knew what Zhuang Liaoyuan was thinking. He said slowly, "I'm afraid you'll be disappointed. I hope you'll come and support us during my wedding with Xiao Xi, Chief Zhuang."

He said it as if his matrimony with Ning Xi was set in stone in the end.

Zhuang Liaoyuan was frustrated and he left with a darkened expression.

Lu Jingli started being cheeky after Zhuang Liaoyuan left. "Why would Chief Zhuang be so persistent? Your child with Xiao Xi is already so old. He can't do anything at all! Dirt will come out together if he tried to forcefully take the carrot out! Uhh, the analogy seems odd, but that's just how it is..."

...

The following night, Yan Ruyi was visiting the Guans as asked by Lu Chongshan.

"Ziyao... Ziyao! Your Aunt Lu is here. Come out and stop hiding in your room! This girl has been in her room all day long recently. I wonder what she's doing..." Mother Guan was chatting to Yan Ruyi as they walked towards Guan Ziyao's room.

"Aunt Lu!" Guan Ziyao quickly stood up and closed the book she was reading when she heard her mother's voice.

However, Yan Ruyi saw the title. It was a book about child psychology. She glanced around Guan Ziyao's room and realized that there were a lot of books about child education.

Yan Ruyi picked up one of them up. "Ziyao, these books are..."

Guan Ziyao seemed a little embarrassed. "Aunt Lu, it's nothing. Didn't I mention I was studying courses on this topic before? I'm just reading up a little..."

"A little? How many days have you stayed in your room already? I was just wondering what you were up to. It turns out that you're reading these books?" Mother Guan sounded angry.

Guilt spread across Guan Ziyao's face. "Because of my inability, I caused such a big misunderstanding the last time. I'm really sorry..."

Yan Ruyi was stunned and seemed a little shaken by the apology. "Silly child, it's been such a long time and you're still not over it. I've already told you that it's not your fault. You're still unclear about Little Treasure's condition!"

Yan Ruyi suddenly grabbed Guan Ziyao's hands. "It's no use if you just read the books. You need more time with him together. As you both spend time together, you'll get to know him more, won't you?"

Guan Ziyao and Mother Guan looked at each other, obviously understanding what Yan Ruyi meant.

Yan Ruyi sighed, "Our Lu family only has one precious grandchild and in addition to the fact that he has no mother since he was born, we're more concerned about him and we hope that Ziyao can excuse us!"

"Please don't say that, Aunt Lu. I quite like Little Treasure myself! He's a really sweet child!" Guan Ziyao said in a sincere tone.

Yan Ruyi seemed satisfied. "It's really kind of you to still stay by Tingxiao's side... You know, a lot of things have been happening recently, but I'm sure Tingxiao will be able to resolve it. It's just a matter of time!"

Chapter 1682: Spectator

"Of course, I believe in Tingxiao," replied Guan Ziyao.

Yan Ruyi nodded confidently. She thought about something, then said, "But, well, I still feel a little uneasy, so I'm going to Fahua Temple this weekend together with your Uncle Lu and Little Treasure! I wonder if you have time to join us?"

She wanted to create more chances for her to spend time with Little Treasure, and together with the elders, it was a big recognition of her identity.

Guan Ziyao and Mother Guan looked at each other and bobbed their heads up and down. "I do have time, Aunt Lu. I don't have to go to the company on weekends, so I'm free."

"Great!" Yan Ruyi smiled, then she chatted with Guan Ziyao for a long time.

A short while after Yan Ruyi left, Guan Rui came back.

"Father!"

"You're back!" Mother Guan went over and took Guan Rui's jacket for him.

"I heard your Aunt Lu came over today?" Guan Rui asked his daughter.

Guan Ziyao answered, "Mmm, she came over in the evening and just left not very long ago."

"What did she say?"

Mother Guan poured her husband a cup of tea, looking disgruntled. "What else? She's here to give us a treat! With the Lu family in dire straits, of course, she would be impatient! Also... are you sure it's alright for us to stand by Lu Tingxiao's side at this moment? I heard that the illegitimate child now has more shares than Lu Tingxiao!"

"Hmph, that's a naive opinion. Shares aren't absolute. Lu Tingxiao's strongest weapon is his reputation in the Lu Corporation. Moreover, apart from his power on the surface, Lu Tingxiao has a lot of underground forces that we can't see," Guan Rui said.

"That's right. Also, Lu Tingxiao is the legitimate eldest son of the family. That man is just an illegitimate child who can't show his face," said Guan Ziyao.

"So, you both mean that Lu Tingxiao will surely win?" Mother Guan asked.

Guan Rui looked at her in the eye. "Of course not! That illegitimate child was able to build his fortune in just a few months after he came back. Do you think he's just a normal person? His background might be even more terrifying than Lu Tingxiao's, but he does not have a solid base here. He'll be a powerful foe if he continues to grow. I don't know if Lu Tingxiao can defeat him!"

Mother Guan became anxious. "Then, you still want Ziyao to marry into the Lu family? What if..."

Guan Ziyao frowned.

Guan Rui said in a carefree tone, "Since when did I mention that I'll let Ziyao marry him? Why are you so impatient? We'll just watch the show for now!"

Mother Guan was a little taken aback at first, then she understood the whole plan. "I got it!"

"Yan Ruyi invited Ziyao to visit Fahua Temple this weekend. Should she go?" Mother Guan asked another question.

"Sure, why not? It's not a serious matter."

Guan Rui's intention was obvious. He wanted to give the Lu family some bait, then act based on the situation since they had never promised anything anyway.

Light bounced off Guan Ziyao's sparkling eyes. In the end, she never said anything and obeyed her father's arrangement.

...

The next day was also the fifth day since Lu Tingxiao had made the deal with Lu Chongshan. The situation had intensified.

Lu Tingxiao was pushed into a corner, and the people who were supportive of him now started to be shaken as they realized that the illegitimate child was extremely cruel. If they did not change sides soon, the people who still supported Lu Tingxiao would be his next target after he shifted into a position of power!

Chapter 1683: Sorry, Mother

However, Lu Tingxiao had been accumulating power for so long after all. They were not Lu Chongming who had been exiled and abandoned to despair or Song Lin who was all alone in the world. They did not have the nerves of Chi Chengkai and Liang Deyun to change sides at this moment. The fate of those traitors five years ago was still fresh in their memories. This dilemma put them in a sufferable entanglement.

Sigh, things like an illegitimate child were the main culprit of bringing chaos to rich and powerful families. Even the Lu family could not escape it...

In the blink of an eye, it was already the sixth day.

It was the weekend. Yan Ruyi had already planned the day before for the entire family to go to the temple for prayers.

Initially, she wanted to call Tingxiao and Jingli along too, but with the condition of the company. The two of them were incredibly busy as they ran around. They definitely would not have the time and as their elders, they could help with carrying out such spiritual obligations.

These past few days, Little Treasure had recovered well. When Lu Chongshan heard that she had gone to the Guan residence and that Guan Ziyao would come along for the weekend, he felt much calmer.

The sun shone brightly outside the window. The weather was pretty good today and it was a suitable day for a trip out.

Early in the morning, Yan Ruyi had woken up to get ready. She had particularly ordered the kitchen to prepare Dana vegetarian dishes.

Guan Ziyao had arrived very early too. She was sitting on the sofa and chatting with Little Treasure, who did not deliberately make things difficult for her either, but it was clear that he was acting distant.

When Yan Ruyi walked out from the kitchen and saw Little Treasure's eyes looking outside fixated, she asked suspiciously, "Little Treasure, what are you looking at?"

"Nothing," said Little Treasure as he retrieved his gaze.

When all the preparations were done, Yan Ruyi, Lu Chongshan, and Guan Ziyao, all of them left the house together with Little Treasure.

After they left, Little Treasure pursed his thin lips and looked in the distance far away. He seemed upset. When Yan Ruyi and Lu Chongshan asked him questions, the little guy was obviously distracted.

When they were about to get into the car, there was suddenly a screech like a car braking. A white race car had drifted to stop outside the old residence.

Very soon, a girl quickly pushed open the door to get down from the car, then she ran worriedly towards Little Treasure, quickly bringing him into her embrace. "Little Treasure!"

"Mommy!" When the little guy saw Ning Xi, his face which had been tense the entire morning instantly blossomed with a huge smile.

Ning Xi sized him up carefully, then there was a suspicion across her face. "Baby, where are you hurting? Where do you feel ill?"

Little Treasure blinked a little guiltily. He looked down and said softly, "Mommy, sorry... Little Treasure lied to you... Little Treasure is fine... not hurting anywhere... not feeling ill anywhere either..."

"It's okay if you're fine. It's okay..." Ning Xi's first reaction was to puff out a sigh of relief, then she had the remaining energy to study the three people behind Little Treasure with different expressions on all of their faces.

One look and Ning Xi could already guess why Little Treasure had lied for her to come over.

Little Treasure held onto Ning Xi's hand tightly. He walked up to Lu Chongshan and Yan Ruyi. He said, "Grandfather, you promised me. You taught me that men must keep their word!"

When Lu Chongshan saw that Ning Xi had unexpectedly come over today to disrupt things, he was filled with anger, yet Little Treasure's few words suddenly made him tongue-tied.

He did promise Tingxiao to give Ning Xi a chance, but how did Little Treasure know about this?

That punk! He only knew how to use Little Treasure against him!

Lu Chongshan's brows furrowed. He looked at his dearest grandson's determined expression, knowing that if he was too tough, he would definitely hurt Little Treasure. He was afraid that today's matter had fallen through too. Besides, it was inauspicious to delay praying for blessings.

Chapter 1684: Mommy Only Likes You

As Guan Ziyao watched the way Little Treasure was so protective over Ning Xi and had even secretly contacted Ning Xi, the fingers by her side suddenly turned rigid. She took a deep breath and said in an easy manner, "Uncle Lu, Auntie Lu, just let Ning Xi come with us! It's okay to have one more person!"

She was completely taking on the tone of a hostess.

Lu Chongshan's glare at Ning Xi was filled with warning. "Let's go together then."

He looked towards Little Treasure with love-filled eyes. "Little Treasure, how's this? Of course, Grandfather will keep his promise!"

Little Treasure nodded. Now, he was happy, but then he looked nervously at Ning Xi, "Mommy, I'm sorry, Little Treasure knows he's wrong. Mommy, is it okay if you come along?"

No matter how Lu Chongshan, Yan Ruyi, or Guan Ziyao's attitudes were, Ning Xi did not care at all. She only cared about Little Treasure.

At that moment, as she looked at the little guy. Ning Xi was helpless. There was no way she could reject any of her baby's requests. "Okay, Mommy will go with you! But you can't do this again the next time. Do you know how worried I was?"

"Understood, Mommy! Mommy, you're the best!" Little Treasure's coquettish ways were getting to the point of perfection that Ning Xi could not help but beam at him.

Ning Xi claiming herself to be his mother was entirely out of habit, yet to Guan Ziyao's ears, it was a kind of provocation. Her gaze had suddenly turned much colder.

After the short change in plans, the five of them got into the car and drove towards Fahua Temple.

The extra long Lincoln was very spacious. Little Treasure, Ning Xi and Lu Chongshan sat on one side, while Guan Ziyao and Yan Ruyi sat opposite them.

Because Ning Xi had rushed over, she did not manage to disguise herself. Because he knew she would worry about it, Little Treasure had already taken out a mask, a pair of sunglasses, and even a wig from his little bag like he was a Doraemon character.

Ning Xi did not know whether to laugh or cry. "Naughty little one, you've been planning this in advance!"

"This aspect of being a celebrity is so inconvenient. It's so troublesome to just go out," commented Guan Ziyao opposite her. She looked as if she did not intentionally mean to complain, but was just reminding Ning Xi of her profession and identity.

Indeed, the moment she said that, Lu Chongshan frowned.

"Mmm, it really is troublesome!" The little bun looked serious as he nodded in agreement.

Guan Ziyao was happy when she heard that. In the next second, she saw Little Treasure shuffle closer into Ning Xi's embrace and he looked up lamentably to mutter, "I hate that so many people like Mommy! Mommy is mine alone!"

The little guy then he winked to his mother to say wordlessly: "Mommy, don't worry. Father isn't here, so I'll protect Mommy on behalf of him!"

Ning Xi looked at Little Treasure's protective stance and felt moved yet amused. She touched his nose lightly. "So what? No matter how many people like Mommy, Mommy only likes you!"

Little Treasure instantly smiled brighter than the sunshine outside the car window.

Lu Chongshan snorted on the inside. Those were just flowery but insincere words even though this scene before his eyes was one that he hoped to see the most...

He hoped to see someone to take care of Little Treasure, to talk to him and make him happy...

But why did it have to be this woman of all people?

There were turbulent undercurrents all the way before they finally reached Fahua Temple.

The temple courtyard was covered densely with old trees. It was very peaceful, and one step in could make one feel as if their hearts had settled down.

The last time she came here was when Xi Shiqing had wanted to become a monk and she had gone over to stop him.

Master Xuan Jing had even told her fortune. At last, he gave her a peach blossom, hinting that she would have romantic misfortunes...

Chapter 1685: Wish That I'm My Mother's Child

The five of them bought joss sticks outside and walked into the hall. They took turns to put up the joss sticks and pray for blessings.

Ning Xi carefully helped Little Treasure light up his joss stick, then she taught him how to put the joss stick on the altar and kneel to pray.

Little Treasure arranged the joss stick on the altar, then very properly and extremely sincerely knelt on the praying mat and closed his eyes as he earnestly made a wish.

As Ning Xi watched the little bun's sincere behavior, her lips curled up as she asked, "Little Treasure, what did you wish for?"

It was rare for the little guy not to answer Ning Xi. He earnestly said, "I can't say it. If I do, then it won't work!"

"Okay, okay, okay!" Ning Xi laughed lightly.

However, she was really curious! What would the little bun's wish be?

The little bun pursed his lips as he looked up to his mother, then to the Buddha statue again. He silently reiterated the wish in his heart.

I hope that Mommy can be my mother forever! Grandfather Buddha, forgive my greed. If it is possible to have one more wish, I also wish... How great would it be if I was my mother's child...

"Buddha, please bless us. Bless our Lu family in getting through this calamity!" Yan Ruyi prayed with a fervent expression, then she murmured again as her voice lowered further, "I hope that Tingxiao can settle down and get married soon..."

Ning Xi knelt down too, but she soon got up after that. She did not wish for anything as she believed Lu Tingxiao. There was really nothing to request from the Buddha.

Lu Chongshan donated a golden Buddha statue, and the monk gratefully pressed both palms together to say, "Amitabha. Benefactor Lu is truly generous! Thank you for your contribution, Benefactor Lu!"

Lu Chongshan put both palms together and replied "Amitabha" before he asked, "I wonder if Master Xuan Jing is in the temple today? Is he free? I have something that I may need to bother him about and receive the advice of the Master!"

When the monk heard the request, he replied, "Master is currently in seclusion, so it isn't too convenient to meet guests. I'm truly sorry."

"No worries, we understand. Thank you!" Lu Chongshan appeared regretful.

Initially, he had wanted to ask Master Xuan Jing if there was any way to resolve the Lu family's matter.

Unexpectedly, he had even reached to the point of requesting help from God and Buddha...

Even though he could not meet Master Xuan Jing, they did not immediately leave either. To express their sincerity, they had chanted sutras in the temple and transcribed the scriptures. They only left the temple when the sun set.

A black car silently traveled back to the city.

They had been out for the entire day. Little Treasure yawned and wearily fell asleep in Ning Xi's embrace. Ning Xi was infected by the little bun's sleepiness, and she also started to feel sleepy.

While the other three people were all deep in thoughts of their own, they were clearly not sleepy at all.

"Ning Xi, let me carry Little Treasure!" Yan Ruyi took Little Treasure from Ning Xi's arms.

Ning Xi reluctantly let go. After leaving his mother's embrace, the little bun uneasily frowned as Yan Ruyi lifted him.

"Ziyao, have dinner with us tonight!" Yan Ruyi intimately invited Guan Ziyao.

Ning Xi had suddenly appeared and she was so close to Little Treasure, so she could not help but worry that Guan Ziyao would feel uneasy.

"Just eat at our residence! Today, our entire family must have a proper gathering!" Lu Chongshan immediately decided.

The two of them, intentionally or otherwise, straight up neglected Ning Xi's existence. They did not mention her at all.

Lu Chongshan's expression was sunken. He did not believe that with such words, this woman would still be thick-faced and use Little Treasure as an excuse to stay again.

At this moment, Ning Xi, who had been resting, suddenly woke up with wide eyes. An aloofness had suddenly appeared in her eyes. "Careful!"

Almost the instant after she said that, came a loud bam that sent a chill up everyone's spines. Their car had been severely rammed into.

Chapter 1686: Definitely Not Normal People

"Ahh!" Yan Ruyi and Guan Ziyao were screaming.

Ning Xi checked on Little Treasure. In just a blink of an eye, the car door opened and a dark silhouette swiftly grabbed the fast asleep Little Treasure away from the panicked Yan Ruyi.

Tears filled Ning Xi's eyes as she jumped towards Yan Ruyi's direction at top speed, yet she could only reach Little Treasure's shirt.

"Oh... my God! Little Treasure!" Yan Ruyi came back to her senses and screamed in despair.

Ning Xi caught up with the abductor and fought with him. She felt worried after they exchanged blows. These were professional mercenaries and definitely not normal people!

She was being careful as the person had Little Treasure, so the confrontation turned into a stalemate.

She was feeling nervous as too many things had happened lately. She had been training by herself and was now powered up to her top form since Little Treasure was involved this time. As she was about to grab Little Treasure back, another person suddenly attacked her from the side. Each and every blow aimed to kill her.

The opponent was a man and had the advantage of strength. He unleashed a high kick packed with immeasurable power. If it landed on her temples, passing out would be the most fortunate situation. This guy might even kill a person with that kick.

Yan Ruyi reactively screamed when she saw what was happening.

As the fatal blow was about to land, Ning Xi used both her hands and caught the man's ankle to reduce the impact force. Then, using her hands like sharp blades, she twisted the man's foot 360 degrees around, forcing him to the ground before she stomped on his abdomen.

"Argh!" The man groaned painfully and was rolling on the ground.

Ning Xi had no time to mess with him any longer. She tried to catch up to the other man.

"Damn!" The man with Little Treasure cursed, his eyes filled with bloodlust. He had a ferocious expression on his face. "Stop! If you dare..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Ning Xi had already closed in like a ghost. He suddenly felt a sharp pain coming from his elbow and knee at the same time. The man knelt down in pain...

Ning Xi took the chance and grabbed Little Treasure, quickly running towards the direction of the car behind her.

She was only a few steps away from the car when two mercenaries caught up to her. One of them grabbed onto Ning Xi's shoulder with his claw-like hand and stopped her.

She could not move forward. Just as Little Treasure was about to be snatched away again, she saw Guan Ziyao was closest to her, right beside the driver's seat. Ning Xi decisively handed Little Treasure over to Guan Ziyao and yelled, "Drive! Go!"

She then turned around and faced the two men, hoping to buy them enough time to get into the car so that they would be safe!

This car had a complete security system. It was impossible for the mercenaries to get Little Treasure this easily if the driver had not betrayed them...

As Ning Xi was thinking about that, she glanced back at Guan Ziyao and her pupils shrunk. Guan Ziyao just stood there in panic. Even after receiving Little Treasure and Ning Xi's instructions, she just stood there without doing anything and missed the best timing to escape.

Chapter 1687: Mother Won't Let You Be Alone

In just a few seconds, one of the men broke through her defenses and snatched Little Treasure away from Guan Ziyao.

At the same time, there was a loud noise nearby and small storms whipped around them. A helicopter slowly landed and three more masked mercenaries in the same uniform alighted from it with weapons in their hands.

Ning Xi felt a chill in her bones and her heart sank.

It was over...

Yan Ruyi could not stand it anymore. She was shivering as Little Treasure was being rescued and taken away again. She had sweat all over her. Leaning onto Lu Chongshan for support, she mumbled to herself, "Little Treasure... Save Little Treasure..."

Lu Chongshan threw away the walkie-talkie which he received no response from. He spoke to the people in a stern voice, "Who are you people? Let that child go and tell me whatever you want!"

The person, who seemed to be the leader of the group, had a face mask with the letter "K" on it. He looked at his subordinates who had almost failed coldly and did not even spare Lu Chongshan a glance. He just left with a bitter glare as he raised his hand and all his men boarded the helicopter.

The propeller created a loud noise as the helicopter slowly rose into the air.

Yan Ruyi went forward with unsteady steps as she saw Little Treasure taken into the helicopter. "Little Treasure..."

"Aunty Lu, be careful!" Guan Ziyao helped Yan Ruyi to stand up as she seemed like she would fall at any moment.

Lu Chongshan's face turned pale when he saw Little Treasure taken away from him. He clutched his chest, feeling like everything was spinning around him and he almost blacked out.

At this moment, Lu Chongshan heard Ning Xi mumble to herself, "Don't worry, my baby... Mommy won't let you be alone..."

The next moment, he saw the girl leap up towards the helicopter like an arrow released from a bow. At the exact moment before the door closed, Ning Xi forced herself into the helicopter.

The helicopter shook unsteadily but after several rotations in the air, it disappeared out of vision gradually...

Yan Ruyi sat down on the ground, looking extremely pale. Guan Ziyao quickly stood by her side while Lu Chongshan was still staring into the empty sky.

"Master! Madam! Are you guys alright?" There was a loud yell. Xing Wu walked over, limping clumsily while he covered his bleeding arm.

"What's wrong with you people?! Where's everyone?! There were so many people just now! Where are all of them?! Do you know Little Treasure's been kidnapped?!" Yan Ruyi found an outlet to release her anger and she shrieked in despair.

Wait, no. It was not a kidnapping. The mercenaries had snatched him away right in front of them!

"What? Little Master's been kidnapped?!" Xing Wu did not expect the situation to be much worse than he thought. His face went ghastly and he knelt down. "It's all my fault! All of us were suddenly ambushed at the same time. They seem to know all our security plans and the routes we take..."

"Shut up! I don't want to listen to your excuses!" Lu Chongshan interrupted him.

Ever since Little Treasure had been kidnapped once, the Lu family had upgraded their security system thoroughly, but now Little Treasure had been taken away right before their eyes. They had no one by their side. At the last moment, only that woman had stepped up...

Chapter 1688: Quickly Rescue Little Treasure

"Tingxiao... Chongshan, quickly let Tingxiao know! Quickly get him to rescue Little Treasure!" Yan Ruyi hurriedly said, then she added, "And also that girl..."

Yan Ruyi closed her eyes, mumbling in her trembling voice, "Thank goodness Little Treasure isn't alone this time... At least, he won't be as scared with that girl around... I can't imagine if Little Treasure was alone..."

Tears started falling out of Yan Ruyi's eyes.

She felt like killing herself when she thought about how she could have allowed this to happen again, about the magnitude of psychological trauma Little Treasure would go through. and also if Ning Xi had not gone with him.

"It's me... It's my fault... I didn't protect Little Treasure... Why didn't I hold onto Little Treasure tightly? Why did I take Little Treasure from Ning Xi just now? If Ning Xi had been holding onto Little Treasure..." Yan Ruyi was flooded with guilt.

Lu Chongshan did not say anything, but he was not feeling any better than Yan Ruyi. If it had not been for his impatience to bond with the Guan family, they would not have come to Fahua Temple today and given the opponent a chance.

Guan Ziyao helped Yan Ruyi up carefully. "You shouldn't blame yourself, Auntie Lu. It's not your fault. It's my fault... I was too shocked to react and didn't take Little Treasure away in time..."

"Master, Madam, we shouldn't stay here too long! Let's go back and plan it out! Another second later means more danger to the Little Master!" Xing Wu quickly reminded them.

"Return! Quick!"

...

On the way back, Lu Chongshan could not reach Lu Tingxiao's phone, so he ordered Xing Wu to go straight to the company.

The moment they got out of the car in the underground parking lot, they saw Lu Tingxiao's special assistant Cheng Feng.

Cheng Feng stepped out of his car while taking a phone call. He was grinning and seemed to be in a good mood.

"Cheng Feng!" Lu Chongshan called out to him.

Cheng Feng hung up and looked at Lu Chongshan, Yan Ruyi, and Guan Ziyao in surprise. "President? Madam? Why are you all here this late?"

"Where's Tingxiao? Why isn't he picking up the phone?" Yan Ruyi went up and demanded.

"CEO Lu is working hard right now!" Cheng Feng reported to Lu Chongshan excitedly. "President! The Yi Lan Innovative Investment Group is done for this time around!"

"What did you say?" Lu Chongshan was stunned.

"The Yi Lan Innovative Investment Group had issues with a big order and they failed to deliver the goods up to the promised standard, so they needed to pay a huge penalty, but they've been using all their money to purchase our shares and have no ready cash now.

"If they want to keep Yi Lan, they have to sell whatever Lu Corporation shares they have. They spent money several times more than the market value of these shares. If they sell them at a lower price because they need the money, they'll suffer a huge loss even if they manage to keep Yi Lan safe. Most importantly, their threat towards the Lu Corporation will then be solved!"

"Furthermore, President, please look at the stock market..."

Cheng Feng opened the stock charts of the several shares Yi Lan Innovative Investment Group had invested in on his iPad. All of them started with a strong performance, but their stock was now declining sharply.

Chapter 1689: He's Your Grandson!

Cheng Feng studied the trend of the share prices as he continued to explain to Lu Chongshan, "Boss unexpectedly organized a task force six months ago. All of them were top-notch traders from Wall Street, and now Boss is personally leading this group of dealers. If nothing goes wrong, we just need one night. Tomorrow morning, Yi Lan's share prices will fall to its lowest and everyone will dump the shares in large quantities..."

Cheng Feng was still admiringly going on about how Lu Tingxiao had laid out the networks and buried traps as well as how he had planned ahead, while Lu Chongshan stared at the shares on the iPad. He was stumped for words.

Seven days... Tingxiao had promised him seven days...

Now, it was the sixth night.

That child... He had really done it...

No wonder! No wonder Little Treasure was suddenly kidnapped!

It seems that they were driven to act in desperation!

"Uhh, President... What's wrong? And Madam..." Cheng Feng finally noticed that they seemed like a bundle of frazzled nerves.

"Today, Uncle Lu, Aunty Lu and I went to the temple to pray with Little Treasure. We suddenly met a group of kidnappers midway and they've kidnapped Little Treasure!" Guan Ziyao explained. At the same time, there was a hidden shine in her eyes. She knew that the man she fancied was not that weak!

No wonder Little Treasure was kidnapped. It was most probably the work of the illegitimate child. Those people were not good people and they would do anything if they were desperate.

In fact, this time it was not only Little Treasure. That woman had joined them by herself too.

Everything that she had been worried about would unexpectedly be all resolved tonight.

"What did you say? Little Treasure... Little Treasure is kidnapped?! How could this be?" Cheng Feng was so frightened that his expression instantly changed.

"What's so impossible about that? Little Treasure was kidnapped right before our eyes! Don't delay it any further. Quickly inform Tingxiao!" Yan Ruyi urged.

"Well..." Cheng Feng was about to respond when he suddenly thought of something and he hesitated.

Before Cheng Feng could say anything, Lu Chongshan already stopped him. "Wait! We can't tell Tingxiao now!"

"What did you say?" Yan Ruyi looked at her husband in disbelief. "Why can't we tell Tingxiao? It's already a critical stage!"

Lu Chongshan spoke solemnly, "Yi Lan's side has definitely begun to fight back already. Tonight's share market trade is exceptionally important. Tingxiao cannot be affected by anything. As long as there's an error, all his previous efforts will go down the drain! Why do you think the other party suddenly racked their brains to kidnap Little Treasure? It's to disturb Tingxiao!"

Yan Ruyi felt her lips tremble as she stared lifelessly at this man before her as if she could not recognize him at all. "Lu Chongshan... Do you know what you're saying? Little Treasure was kidnapped! He's your grandson! You keep saying that it's for the Lu family and for the benefit of all. You've sacrificed so much and been wronged... Finally, you're even sacrificing Little Treasure's life too? Do you even still have a heart?!"

Lu Chongshan frowned. "Ruyi, that's not what I meant. When did I say that I want to sacrifice Little Treasure's life? I've already informed everyone to investigate that group of people's tracks. In fact, those people will definitely come to us to make demands. When that happens, we'll..."

"Enough! Lu Chongshan! You don't need to go on with your bombastic talk! I know that the Lu family is even more important than Little Treasure's life to you!" Yan Ruyi lost control and roared.

Chapter 1690: Compromise

On the side, Guan Ziyao advised, "Aunty Lu, calm down a little. Uncle Lu makes sense too. If we tell Tingxiao now, then we would've fallen into their trap. What if, later on, they get their way and don't let Little Treasure go?"

"You shut up too!" At this moment Yan Ruyi's heart was entirely flooded with the thought of Little Treasure meeting danger and she chided Guan Ziyao insensitively.

Guan Ziyao had never been shouted at. Yan Ruyi appeared fierce even though she may be cowardly at heart. Guan Ziyao turned pale as she looked hurt and kept quiet.

"Lu Chongshan, you won't say it, will you? Okay! Then, I'll go look for Tingxiao myself!" Yan Ruyi pushed the people beside her away, quickly walking towards the dedicated elevator.

She had just reached the elevator when she wavered. She had passed out on the ground without a warning.

She had gone through too much today. The fact that she could hold on till now was her ultimate grasp to save Little Treasure. At that moment, she finally could not bear it anymore.

"Ruyi!"

"Aunty Lu!"

"Madam!"

The three of them quickly rushed over to help her up.

"President, this..." Cheng Feng panicked.

"Quickly call the doctor!" Lu Chongshan ordered worriedly.

"Then... that thing about the Little Master... Do we tell Boss?" Cheng Feng asked.

Lu Chongshan's hands nervously trembled as he shut his eyes. Some time passed before he finally said, "Don't tell Tingxiao first... but once midnight has passed, and if Little Treasure hasn't been rescued yet..."

Lu Chongshan heaved a long sigh before he continued, "No matter how the condition of the Lu Corporation is like, you must immediately inform Tingxiao!"

Cheng Feng nodded. "Okay, I've got it."

Lu Chongshan looked at Yan Ruyi who had lost consciousness. His ears rang with her every complaint and his heart ached dully.

He had watched Little Treasure grow up. Even now, he still remembered the first time he saw the little guy's excitement, remembered the soft touch when he hugged him. Then, he had watched him grow up day by day as he became smarter and smarter, cuter and cuter, and now he was obedient, sensible, and filial...

That was his grandson, his life! How could he not be worried? How could his heart not ache?! He would have much rather have himself be kidnapped!

However, this affected the entire Lu family's life and death. Everything had started with him too, so he could not just disregard all of this.

To wait until midnight was already the only compromise he could think of.

...

Not too long before that, in the Yi Lan Innovative Investment Group building.

In the dimly lit office, the computer screen shone on the man's gloomy face and his white hair.

He was looking at pictures. All of them were images of Ning Xi and Lu Tingxiao getting along in a heartwarming manner on the daily with the little bun together. He was browsing through pictures of this

family of three. They were all captured on film, yet it was incredibly real. He could feel the love in the girl's eyes even if it was just through photographs.

His inbox page was open. The sender was not anonymous. Instead, the identity was displayed without any cover-up: Lu Jingli!

Without a doubt, this fit Lu Jingli's personality very much.

His brother had been provoked by those pictures every day, so naturally, he would give him a taste of his own medicine! Who was afraid of who?!

"Boss— no! Something's wrong!" At this moment a person had suddenly rushed in through the door.

"What did you call me?" The man's gaze was indistinct as he looked up.

"CEO! CEO! Something's wrong! There's a problem with our bill with Jia Xing. Now, we need to pay them \$3 billion in U.S. dollars..."

"Just pay up."

"But... we have no more money!"