

Hidden 181

Chapter 181: I Have Never Regretted It

Ning Xueluo glanced over the most recent news on her cellphone, and only when she saw a screen full of titles like "Ning Xi talks arrogantly after obtaining a sponsor"; "Ning Xi suspected of becoming a mistress"; "Ning Xi refuses to admit her crime and shows no remorse", did she relax: "Good, make sure public opinion doesn't change, and definitely no more setbacks after this!"

Just as she finished saying so, someone knocked on the door.

Ning Xueluo immediately looked at Chang Li nervously.

Chang Li hurriedly tidied up the pieces of the broken lamp and covered the TV with a cloth before opening the door.

Outside the door, Su Yan was a little surprised to see Chang Li in Ning Xueluo's ward at this time. "Were you discussing something?"

"I had some work matters to discuss with Sister Chang, we've just finished. Brother Yan, why are you here so late?" Ning Xueluo changed the topic.

"Then you guys talk, I'm leaving first!" Chang Li took her leave, giving Ning Xueluo one last look before she left.

Su Yan didn't notice the exchange between the two. He was frowning a little, and looked a bit down.

Seeing him like this, Ning Xueluo probed, "Does this have to do with Ning Xi?"

Su Yan didn't say anything.

Ning Xueluo bit her lip, and her body quivered slightly. "Brother Yan, are you blaming me? For pushing Ning Xi to this point?"

Su Yan sighed. "You, why does your imagination always run wild, this whole thing is her fault, how can I blame you? I just... blame myself... for not settling everything before now, and making her go this far..."

"I also never expected that she would rather sell her own body than apologize to me... why does she hate me this much? What on earth can I do to pacify her? Is leaving you really the only way?" Ning Xueluo's face was full of pain.

Su Yan's face changed instantly, and he said in a harsh tone, "Xueluo, you're not allowed to say this, we've been through so much to be together, don't tell me you want to give up over such a small thing?"

Ning Xueluo hurriedly snuggled into his arms, her expression scared. "I'm sorry, I won't say it again, I'm just afraid that you'll regret it, regret being with me..."

Su Yan stared at her blankly before saying firmly, "I have never regretted it."

As the two of them were talking, there was yet another knock on the door.

Su Yan went to open the door, and was surprised to see Ning Yaohua and Zhuang Lingyu. "Uncle, Auntie..."

"Dad, Mum... why are you here?" Ning Xueluo was surprised, and was about to hurriedly get off the bed to greet them.

Zhuang Lingyu pressed down on her shoulders. "Don't move around, you're still injured, be good and lie back down. It's nothing, we just wanted to see you!"

Ning Yaohua's face was dark: "Xueluo, don't worry, I came here to tell you that I will find justice for you, even if I have to tie her up and drag her here to apologize to you!"

Ning Xueluo's eyes welled up with tears. "Thank you, Dad and Mum, actually I'm alright, I just hope Sister realizes her errors and mend her ways; as she is right now, her whole life will be ruined!"

Zhuang Lingyu's face was especially unsightly. "I never expected she would actually do such a dishonorable thing. What crimes have our Ning family committed to deserve this! If I had known earlier, I would never have brought her back. Having Xueluo is enough for us, but your grandfather wouldn't listen, now look at what has happened..."

Ning Yaohua became anxious. "Enough, stop prattling on, I'll deal with this. Also, don't let the old man know about this!"

Now was the crucial period in his fight with his younger brother to claim the right of inheritance.

Chapter 182: Because She No Longer Cared

Lu residence.

After coaxing Little Bun to sleep, Ning Xi applied a facial mask, and was just about to get some beauty sleep, when the screen of her cellphone suddenly started flashing with an incoming.

The call was from Ning Yaohua...

Ning Xi narrowed her eyes, then walked out onto the balcony before picking up the call.

"Hey..."

"What hey! Don't you know how to greet your father? Where are your manners!"

"Are you sure you want to fight with me over this again?"

"How I wish the Ning family didn't have someone like you, but the Ning blood runs through your veins, and no matter how much I try, that can't be erased! The dirty things that you do outside, in the end reflects back on our Ning family, and we're the ones who lose face!"

"Heh, the dirty things I do... was it something Ning Xueluo said again?"

"Does it have to be from Xueluo? It's all over the Internet now! They say that you're poisonous and completely unrepentant, and... and that you've even become someone's mistress. You don't think it's shameful, you actually think it's an honor, and you flaunt it off publicly in front of people!"

"Don't say that I've accused you wrongly again, I had people waiting outside your apartment for days, but you never returned. Why don't you tell me where you've been staying these last few days? And where did you get that money from?"

"I'm warning you, Ning Xi, this is your last chance, come back at once and apologize to Xueluo! Also, I've arranged proper work for you at our Singapore branch. I've booked the flight ticket; pack your things and leave the day after tomorrow!"

Heh, he had banished her once five years ago, and five years later he actually wanted to banish her again...

Ning Xi enunciated every word as she spoke: "Chairman Ning, I do have the Ning blood running in my veins, but apart from donating one single sperm, you have done nothing for my upbringing. Even if you lose face, and lose it all the way at the very bottom of the Pacific Ocean, it's not for you to lecture me, and even less for you to meddle in my life!"

"Ning Xi! You impudent...! Think carefully about the consequences of making me angry! You..."

Ning Xi hung up directly, cutting off the roar from the other end of the line.

This time, she felt unexpectedly peaceful inside; there was no anger, no disappointment, and definitely no sadness.

"Ning Xi..." Suddenly, there was a gentle call from the side.

Ning Xi turned her head, and saw Lu Tingxiao looking at her worriedly from the balcony of his room next door.

Ning Xi was surprised. "Eh, Lu Tingxiao... why are you still awake?"

Lu Tingxiao walked to the edge of his balcony where it was closest to her. "I heard noises on the balcony, so I came out to take a look. Are you alright?"

Ning Xi's looked the same as she shrugged. "I'm fine, it was Ning Yaohua, and the same old speech every time he calls me. I can even recite what he's going to say."

Lu Tingxiao wasn't so good at comforting people, but he reached out over the balcony rail to touch her head gently. "Don't be sad."

Ning Xi smiled, and under the light of the stars, her countenance was light and serene. "I'm not sad at all. In this world, the only people who can hurt us are the ones we care about. The more you care, the more you get hurt. But now, I won't get hurt anymore."

Because she no longer cared.

That time at the hospital was the last time she would feel sad because of those people. That wasn't going to happen anymore.

"Okay! I'm going to bed! I still have to get up early tomorrow morning! Good night!" Ning Xi waved at him.

"Early morning? There's nothing on tomorrow, you can sleep in."

"I'm waking up early to go grocery shopping!"

"Groceries for what?" Lu Tingxiao didn't understand.

"Of course to cook! Last time, I promised to cook for you and Little Treasure. It kept getting put off, and till now, I still haven't done it yet!"

"You just recovered, there's no need to rush."

"I'm just going to buy some groceries and cook, it's nothing tiring, plus it's just nice that I have time tomorrow, so that's settled! Oh, right, remember not to eat too much for breakfast, save some space in your stomach, I'll definitely make you wish you had two of them!"

Looking at the girl's pleased face, Lu Tingxiao smiled. "Okay."

Chapter 183: Married And A Wife

Early next morning.

Ning Xi wore a light pink dress with a pair of white low-heeled sandals. She wore light makeup, and her natural curls had been straightened so that her hair fell in a wave over her shoulders. As usual, the pink heart-shaped hair clip had been pinned into her hair at her temples. In short, she looked very much like a good wife and loving mother.

Lu Tingxiao was sitting on the sofa reading a newspaper, and he was stunned for a moment when he saw her. "This appearance..."

If it wasn't a special occasion, Ning Xi tended towards a simple and light style most of the time. This was the first time that he had seen her dressed like... like a true lady.

Ning Xi bounced excitedly in front of him. "So, so? Do I look like I'm married and am a wife?"

Lu Tingxiao looked at her, and there was a meaningful and profound light in his eyes: "Very much so."

Married and a wife.

There were no more beautiful words than these.

"Hey, hey, that's good! This way, I won't be ripped off when I shop at the market!" Ning Xi nodded in satisfaction. "Then I'm leaving!"

Just as she was about to take a step, she couldn't move her legs.

It was Little Bun hugging her leg again.

Ning Xi didn't know whether to laugh or cry as she looked at her "leg accessory". "Darling! Why are you up so early?"

Little Treasure rubbed his sleepy eyes and stretched out his arms, indicating that he wanted a hug.

Of course Ning Xi had to pick him up. "I'm just going grocery shopping, I'll be back very soon!"

Little Bun still clung to her neck.

"Can we go with you?" At this time, Lu Tingxiao spoke from the side.

Ning Xi blinked. "Ehh, the both of you want to go as well?"

"It's just nice, we can take Little Treasure out for a walk," Lu Tingxiao said.

Little Bun also nodded his head vigorously.

Ning Xi scratched her head. "Of course you can go! But a place like the market may be a little chaotic! I'm not going to the supermarket, but a big market a little further away. The ingredients there are the freshest!"

"That's not a problem. Let's go." Lu Tingxiao put down the newspaper and picked up a car key.

And so Ning Xi's solo trip became a three-man expedition with Little Bun and Big Bun.

Underground garage.

Looking at the row of shiny cars, Ning Xi swallowed her drool, especially when she saw her male god "Little White".

Noticing Ning Xi staring at the white Bugatti sports-car, Lu Tingxiao asked her, "Shall we take this one?"

Ning Xi came back to herself, and shook her head hurriedly. "Of course not! We're just going to the market, how can we drive a sports-car there? Do you have a more low-key car?"

She glanced around the garage. There really wasn't any...

There was no way he could have any...

But Lu Tingxiao nodded. "Yes, I do."

After that, he pressed some switch, and then a black car was delivered out from another partitioned area of the garage.

It was a family car, priced at about five hundred thousand yuan, and it looked new.

Ning Xi nodded repeatedly. "This one's great!"

But why would Lu Tingxiao have a car that was so out of place here?

Lu Tingxiao seemed to know what she was thinking, and explained, "This was prepared for you when you first came, but you never drove it."

"Ah..." It turned out to be the car that Lu Tingxiao had prepared for her in the beginning.

Seeing the slightly lonely expression on Lu Tingxiao's face, Ning Xi felt as if she had made a huge mistake, so she hurried to explain, "That's because I usually take the subway since it's more convenient, and there's no traffic jam!"

With these words, she quickly changed the subject. "Let's hurry, if we're just a little late, the good stuff will have been snapped up by other people, and that will affect my performance!"

Chapter 184: A Special Date

On the road, Ning Xi rolled down the car window. The morning breeze was cool, and it felt nice on her face. It also blew away the depressed mood she had been in for days.

Lu Tingxiao turned on the radio, and instantly, light music floated out of the car.
Confession balloon / blown across the street by the wind / I saw a smile in the sky
You said you were difficult to chase after / you wanted me to give up
You don't need the dearest gift / but you want leaves from the Elysee
Oh / I will take you on a romantic date / not afraid to screw everything up
Owning you is owning / the whole world
My love / I love you / since I met you / everything is sweet
My love / Don't refuse / your eyes
Are saying you agree.

...

The melody of this song was very sweet; it was as bright and crisp as a summer day, but listening to it, Ning Xi felt something was strange.

They were just going out to buy groceries, why was it turning out to feel like a date?

And the lyrics... for some reason, listening to them made her feel strangely bashful.

After half an hour of this strange atmosphere, they arrived at the market.

"Do we need to buy you a mask?" Lu Tingxiao asked her with some worry. In order not to be disturbed, this time he did not have bodyguards follow them.

"No need. The people who come here don't have so much time to care about gossip. Besides, today I'm dressed like such a lady, definitely no one will recognize me. Compared with me, I think you and Little Treasure need the masks more!" Ning Xi teased.

Although it was still very early, there was already a lot of people at the market. It was bustling with activity, as crowds of people came and went.

Worried that Little Treasure wouldn't be used to it, Ning Xi bent down to pick him up.

It was Little Treasure's first time in a place like this, and there was so much to see around him. His little head shifted from her left shoulder to her right shoulder as he looked around very intently.

However, Little Bun had recently put on a little more weight, and was really getting a little heavy. After a while, Ning Xi was starting to feel the strain.

Next to her, Lu Tingxiao took Little Treasure away from her just in time. "I'll hold him."

Little Bun was already in Lu Tingxiao's arms, but his hands still clung tightly to Ning Xi's neck.

Lu Tingxiao looked solemn. "Do you know you're very heavy?"

Hearing this, Little Bun immediately looked like he had been dealt a huge blow, like a girl who had been told that she was fat.

Ning Xi found it very funny, but still hurriedly comforted him. "Don't listen to your father's rubbish. You are not heavy at all, and you can still be a bit fatter. But your dad can hold you a little more steadily. He's also taller, so you will have a better view if he carries you!"

Little Treasure reluctantly agreed, but he wasn't in the mood to look at the scenery. Instead, he stared fixedly at Ning Xi the whole way, for fear that she would be pushed out of his sight by the crowd. As soon as she was a little further away, he would stretch out his hands towards her.

"Wow, the fish over there looks really fresh!" Like a loach, Ning Xi bored her way through the crowd to reach the front of one stall.

Lu Tingxiao gave the girl a look, and then freed up one of his hands to hold hers.

"..." Ning Xi was startled, and instinctively looked at their joined hands, her palm burning a little.

"Little Treasure is very worried that you'll get lost," Lu Tingxiao said with a resigned expression.

Ning Xi gave Little Treasure a look, and only then realized how anxious his expression was.

"Hey, madam, do you still want this fish?" the fishmonger auntie asked.

Ning Xi hurriedly said: "Yes, yes, yes! I've looked around, Elder Auntie, your fish is really fresh!"

"Madam, you have a good eye. You can ask anyone, everyone knows that our fish is the best in the whole market!" The elder auntie was very proud.

Only after quite a long while did Ning Xi realize that something was wrong — this elder auntie called her "madam"?

It was obvious that she had mistaken them for a family of three...

Chapter 185: All Your Family Members Are Handsome

Forget it, it was troublesome to explain, and Ning Xi couldn't be bothered. "Elder Auntie, give me one!"

"Okay!" The elder auntie was very honest in weighing the fish, and even charged her less for it.

After selling the fish, the elder auntie looked admiringly at the man next to Ning Xi holding a child in his arms. "You're very lucky, madam. Your husband and your son are both so handsome!"

Even in a place like the market, what's more with a baby in his arms, Lu Tingxiao still had an extraordinary temperament; this really was a kind of talent.

"Haha, really? But I'm also very handsome!" Ning Xi said jokingly.

"Yes, yes, yes, your whole family is handsome! Especially your little darling, he really is too lovable! He completely inherited yours and your spouse's strong points! Come, let Elder Auntie give you a small fish as a gift!"

Ning Xi touched her face subconsciously. Little Bun had inherited all hers and Lu Tingxiao's strong points?

It seemed that this wasn't the first time she had heard this...

After that, Ning Xi and Lu Tingxiao, who was holding Little Treasure, more or less became the focus of the whole market. Wherever they went to buy something, the stall owners all wanted to give them something; onions, garlic, eggs, fish, shrimp, there was a bit of everything. Ning Xi's basket was quickly becoming full to bursting.

Ning Xi's expression was that of someone who had hit upon a new way of getting rich. She sighed with excitement: "I never expected that bringing Little Treasure would be such an advantage! I'll bring him again next time!"

Little Treasure nodded his head repeatedly.

Lu Tingxiao: "Okay."

Finally, the three left to return home with their gains.

The whole way back, Ning Xi was in a very good mood. Halfway there, she suddenly remembered something, and shouted, "Lu Tingxiao, do you know my apartment? Turn left at the intersection ahead!"

"I do, do you want to go back?" Lu Tingxiao drove his car to her apartment, familiar with the route even if he had only been there once.

"Mm, I'll go get my super secret spice! Wait for me!"

"Alright."

Ning Xi ran into the apartment building and was quick to grab the spice before going back downstairs. As she passed through the lobby, the girl at the front desk quickly called out to her. "Hey, wait, wait, are you Ning Xi? You have two express deliveries which have been sitting here for several days, do you still want them or not?"

After saying this, prying eyes eager for gossip sized Ning Xi up. She was thinking that Ning Xi hadn't come back for a very long time, and probably had become a mistress.

Ning Xi pretended to not notice her look, directly picked up one big box and another smaller one, and left.

When she exited the main door, she saw from a distance Little Treasure pressed against the window of the car on the other side of the road, anxiously waiting for her.

Ning Xi's eyes became warm, but in the next second, three men suddenly appeared in her line of sight. They were dressed in black, and with one look, she could tell that they were up to no good, as they rushed directly at her...

Ning Xi's eyes grew hard with conditioned vigilance. In that one moment, she put down the things in her hands, forcibly ripped the hem of her dress apart, and then instantly kicked one of the men when he rushed forward.

Caught off guard, the man's whole body flew back from the kick, and the two other men were stunned for a long moment before they came back to themselves, and advanced on Ning Xi with even more ferocious looks on their faces...

Ning Xi was dressed too lady-like today, which hampered her actions, so she was unable to instantly defeat the two men.

As she was fighting them, another man came up behind her to grab her by the arm and try to tie her up with a rope.

Ning Xi was about to retaliate when the man's hand was suddenly whipped away from her arm, and he screamed in extreme pain.

She almost heard the crack of bones in his hand...

Ning Xi's gaze followed the man's arm up to see Lu Tingxiao gripping the man's wrist firmly. She didn't know when he had come out of the car; he looked icy as frost, and gave off a murderous aura...

Chapter 186: Sweet Nickname

She didn't know what twisting move Lu Tingxiao made, and only saw the man's whole body spin horizontally as he was tossed aside. He fell to the ground like a sack, and didn't move after that...

It was probably because Lu Tingxiao had been so savage in his attack, that the other three men looked at each other before instinctively retreating.

"Are you alright?" When Lu Tingxiao turned in Ning Xi's direction, there was still a hint of violence in his eyes.

Ning Xi nodded blankly. "I'm fine..."

She had never seen Lu Tingxiao fight, and had even assumed that for the large part, he was a mild and refined person. She had never thought that he would be so good... at fighting...

Just then, a black Ferrari pulled up nearby and slowed to a stop. A person stepped out of the car.

Dressed in a high-end, tailor-made Giorgio Armani suit, it was Ning Yaohua.

Ning Yaohua looked at the man beside Ning Xi as if he was looking at trash, and then glanced contemptuously at their parked car. "Ning Xi, is this the man you're been dallying with these last days, and the reason why you've never returned home? Driving a shabby car worth just several hundred thousand yuan!"

Hearing this, Ning Xi was so angry that she almost laughed aloud. "You judge a man's worth by the car he drives?"

From his words, it turned out that he didn't care about her becoming a mistress, only whether the person was powerful and influential enough.

Was it more noble for her to be the mistress of a man who drove a Bentley instead?

"If I don't judge by the car, am I supposed to judge by his face? I thought you had found someone distinguished, it turns out he's some no-good boy toy! Really, the more you live, the worse you become!" Ning Yaohua cursed at her.

The man's looks were not bad, but since he drove this kind of car, at the most he was only a small-time businessman of a small company.

Ning Xi: "..."

He actually called Lu Tingxiao a boy toy...

After scolding Ning Xi, Ning Yaohua gave Lu Tingxiao an overbearing and arrogant look. "Who are you? Do you know who she is? You dare to fool around with my, Ning Yaohua's, daughter! Don't you know that I can destroy you in the capital!"

Ning Xi: "..."

In front of outsiders, Lu Tingxiao never spoke needless words. In front of Ning Yaohua, he appeared even more condescending as he looked askance at him, not even bothering to give him a proper look.

Ning Yaohua was about to continue berating and humiliating him, but for some reason, a sliver of fear flashed in his heart, and he was suddenly unable to speak.

He was just a small-time boss, why was he so imposing...

Hmph, this good-for-nothing daughter of his must have definitely been deceived by this pretentious appearance!

"Ning Xi, what I said last night is still valid, it's not too late if you choose to go back with me now!" Ning Yaohua said, as if he was performing an act of charity.

Ning Xi curled her lip and held onto Lu Tingxiao's arm in an intimate gesture. "Sorry, I choose my boy toy! You should just go back to wherever you came from!"

"Ning Xi! You'll regret this!" Seeing them leave arm-in-arm, Ning Yaohua flew into a rage, then with a dark face, ordered the bodyguard next to him, "Follow them!"

Too many things had surprised him today, one of them being Ning Xi's skill in martial arts. He had had the impression that this daughter of his was physically very weak.

The other was that man.

For some reason, he felt something was off about that man's identity...

Back in the car.

Ning Xi immediately scratched her head and apologized to Lu Tingxiao. "Sorry! You were scolded for no reason because of me..."

"It's fine." Although Lu Tingxiao had been scolded, at that moment, he was not angry at all.

The reason, naturally, was because of the way Ning Xi had hugged his arm at the end. Even the words "boy toy", because she had added "my" in front of them, became a sweet nickname.

Chapter 187: Mysterious Package

"Darling, were you scared?" A little worried, Ning Xi looked at Little Treasure.

Little Treasure shook his head, and clung to her arms. He didn't seem frightened, and in fact, looked a little depressed.

Why was he only five years old?

He really wanted to grow up quickly.

That way, he could protect her, and not just watch from afar.

Lu Tingxiao obviously saw right through his son's thoughts: This is your father's job, stop trying to do it.

"Only a few people know my address, who would send me these packages..." Ning Xi grunted as she picked up one of the express boxes. She looked at the name of the sender, but the handwriting was so indistinct that she couldn't make it out clearly.

Lu Tingxiao was about to ask her if she needed a knife, but Ning Xi had already skillfully ripped the package open by hand.

This was probably a skill every girl should have.

After opening the outer layer of the package, she saw a bottle of very nice-looking perfume in an exquisitely wrapped gift box. There was also a very simple note: Happy birthday.

In the rearview mirror, Lu Tingxiao looked at Ning Xi's extremely happy expression: "Friend?"

Ning Xi carefully put the perfume back, and then said, "It's my cousin! I told you before that my second uncle has a son and three daughters, right? The son is not his, and two of his daughters are illegitimate children which he had with women outside. My second auntie only had one child, my cousin Ning Tianxin!"

Lu Tingxiao looked a little relieved. So it was her cousin. Good, a cousin was very good.

Ning Xi had a longing expression on her face. "When I was living with the Ning family, she was the only one who was good to me. Although she looks very cold, it's only on the outside, she's actually a warm person.

"It was a pity that at the beginning I didn't get too close to her because she looked too cold. I didn't take her words to heart when she considerately reminded me several times to be wary of Ning Xueluo...

"In fact, Sister Xin's character is very similar to yours. You both look very cold but actually are very nice!"

Lu Tingxiao: "..."

He had been praised. But he didn't know if he should be happy. Was this the legendary nice guy status?

After Ning Xi said that, she opened the second package.

While the writing wasn't illegible, the name of the sender wasn't written anywhere at all.

"Eh? An anonymous package... I've been slammed so badly recently, isn't it better if I don't casually open an anonymous package?" As Ning Xi spoke, she shook it. There was no sound from inside, and she couldn't hear anything.

"Let me open it for you." From the driver's seat, Lu Tingxiao stretched out his hand.

"Ah?" Just as Ning Xi was about to remind him that he was driving and so couldn't help her, she saw Liu Tingxiao take his hand off the steering wheel, but the car continued to travel along steadily, even turning itself when they reached an intersection.

Ning Xi was completely stunned. "What... what is with this car?"

Lu Tingxiao replied indifferently: "Its system was modified a bit."

Ning Xi: "..."

It was not unusual to have a car that could drive itself nowadays. But you actually modified it yourself???

Only then did she realize that, while the car looked like a several hundred thousand yuan model of a generic, mid-range brand on the outside, the features inside the car were quite different.

Did Lu Tingxiao wind up just using the shell and changing everything inside?

Was the seat under her butt actually real leather? The metal armrest was so lustrous, was it made from some high-tech material? The jade pendant hanging in the front for protection was exceptionally translucent, was it... an ice jadeite...

She simply didn't dare to continue thinking...

Ning Xi came back to herself with some difficulty, and then nervously reminded Lu Tingxiao, "Lu Tingxiao, you must be careful! In case the package is really..."

Just then, there was the sound of a "bang"...

The jadeite is perhaps the world's most expensive gem, and the ice jadeite the rarest of them all.

Chapter 188: Do You Like This Style?

Sparkling powder exploded in a mushroom cloud, covering Lu Tingxiao's head and clothes.

A closer look revealed that scattered in the mess that had exploded were lots of shiny objects that... looked like... diamonds...

This familiar way of sending things, she didn't need to ask, she already knew who the sender was.

It was just that his taste had become worse.

While a certain someone crushed people with money, this person crushed them with diamonds!

Although the carat size wasn't large, there were so many of them, that if each one was made into a ring, there would be hundreds of thousands of young men who could propose marriage to their sweethearts!

It wasn't just Lu Tingxiao, Ning Xi and Little Treasure in the back seat had also been caught a little in the exploding mess, and their bodies flashed and glittered with it.

Ning Xi: "..."

Lu Tingxiao: "..."

Little Treasure: "..."

Ning Xi wiped her face, and then helped Little Treasure wipe his. Then she quickly leaned over to help pick at the mess that was stuck to Lu Tingxiao. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry... are you alright? Did any of it get in your eyes?"

Lu Tingxiao ran a hand through his hair, shaking loose a small shower of tiny diamonds, and a piece of paper.

He picked it up and read what was written on it: Dearest, happy birthday. You still like this sort of thing, right? - YS.

"You..." Lu Tingxiao looked at her with a slightly complicated expression. "Do you like this style?"

He started to reflect on himself; compared with the simple and straightforward methods which other people used, was the way he expressed his intentions too vague?

Ning Xi was speechless. "Do I look like I like this type of thing? While you can still call it a surprise, but this is a horror thriller, alright? Lu Tingxiao, although you are very rich, you must not ever chase a girl like this in the future! If you want to chase someone, I can teach you later! It's a promise!"

When Lu Tingxiao heard this, the corners of his mouth tilted upwards slightly. It was exactly what he wanted: "Okay."

At this moment, out of the corner of his eye, he noticed a car following them in the rearview mirror.

It looked like Ning Yaohua's car.

Seeing something off in Lu Tingxiao's expression, Ning Xi followed his gaze, and also saw the car. "F***! This guy just doesn't stop!"

"Do we need to throw them off?" asked Lu Tingxiao.

Ning Xi thought about it gloomily, then shook her head. "Forget it, ignore him, they can't get in anyway. And Little Treasure is still in the car, it would be too dangerous to drive fast."

"Mm."

Ten minutes later, Platinum Palace.

Lu Tingxiao's small black car, which completely did not match the luxury cars coming and going, slowly approached the front gate.

When it was a few meters away, the guard saluted respectfully and then gallantly opened the gate for them, and kept watching the car until it drove out of sight.

But Ning Yaohua, who was following them closely, was immediately stopped.

"Hello, please show me your pass." The guard had a business-like expression on his face.

Ning Yaohua looked anxiously at the black car, which disappeared around a corner, and asked impatiently, "What pass?"

"If you don't have a pass, you may have the resident inside call to let us know to let you in," said the guard.

Ning Yaohua frowned. "Then why could that car just now enter so easily?"

"He is our resident," the guard answered.

"What?" Ning Yaohua's face instantly changed.

Was there a mistake?

It was Platinum Palace! The gathering place for the wealthiest people in the capital! Not just anyone could live there!

How could that boy toy driving that shabby car be a resident here?

Or... or could he be a housekeeper or assistant, or someone's illegitimate son?

Chapter 189: Apron Play

After a number of extraordinary events, the three of them finally arrived back home.

After taking all the bags to the kitchen, the first order of business wasn't to cook, but to take a shower.

The three of them were covered in varying amounts of fairy dust and little diamonds. Any one of them could be dropping thousands of yuan as they moved, and Ning Xi watched each step she took very carefully, which was torture.

After a shower, Ning Xi changed into a comfortable outfit which was easy to move around in, taking on the stance of someone about to go all out.

"Need help?" Lu Tingxiao came downstairs with Little Treasure.

Little Treasure smelt so nice after a shower, and Ning Xi squeezed him in a hug. "Call Wanwan to come help me, the two of you only need to go watch TV and wait to eat. You just showered, there's no point in getting dirty again!"

"Wanwan's not around, I gave all of them the day off," Lu Tingxiao said.

"Day off?" Ning Xi thought for a bit, and realized that it might actually be good for Little Treasure to get involved himself, so she said, "Then the two of you help me out. Do you have aprons? I forgot to buy them when we were out shopping just now!"

"We should have." From the pile of plastic bags, Lu Tingxiao took one bag out and opened it to reveal three aprons inside, all in the same color and pattern. Two were large-sized, and one small.

"Huh? When did you buy these?" Ning Xi asked in surprise.

"The girl selling the crabs gave them to me for free."

"Eh, okay..." They really gave away all kinds of free stuff these days!

Ning Xi took the small apron and called Little Bun over. "Little Treasure, come here, let me help you put this on."

Little Treasure obligingly raised his short arms in great expectation.

Ning Xi helped him put it on, tied the apron strings at the back, and tutted, "Darling, you're so cute even in an apron!"

Saying that, she turned her head and saw that Lu Tingxiao had put the pink apron on over his casual suit... unexpectedly, he still looked dazzlingly handsome.

It also created an unexpectedly cute contrast.

"Ahh, that's it... I can't help it, I need to take photos again!" Ning Xi ran off to grab her cellphone and started to take photos non-stop, from time to time giving Little Bun things like tomatoes and ribs, anything that could be used as a prop, to hold.

Next to the cute little bun was a cool big bun, who should have looked a little out of place, but together, they looked incomparably loving.

"Shall I take some of you?" Lu Tingxiao asked suddenly.

"Huh? No need..."

"You and Little Treasure together." Lu Tingxiao helped her put the apron on as he spoke.

Little Treasure couldn't contain himself any longer, and flew over to Ning Xi.

Actually, Ning Xi selfishly didn't want to leave too many traces and memories, but she was helpless to resist Little Treasure's expectant eyes.

Forget it, what was the point of thinking so much! Enjoy the wine today, and leave the worries for tomorrow!

The photos of Ning Xi and Little Bun together looked a lot more natural, as Ning Xi led Little Bun in doing plenty of funny gestures and movements.

Like having Little Bun hold a bunch of lotus roots and posing as if he was releasing shockwaves with them, and Ning Xi acting as if she was being blown away by it... in the end, they had so much fun they forgot all cooking!

"Damn it, Lu Tingxiao, you can do everything! Why are you so good even at taking photos! The composition and the lighting, everything is too perfect!" Ning Xi was browsing through the photos on her phone, and was deeply amazed.

She really wanted to use these as her phone wallpaper... but that wasn't possible.

After all, Little Treasure's circumstances were very unusual, and she was usually very careful to not divulge any news related to him.

If she had such a cute son, she definitely wouldn't be able to stop herself from posting pictures of him all day everyday, until everyone unfriended her online!

Chapter 190: Wanted To Be Someone's Wife

With three people working together, they were quick to finish preparing a full table of dishes.

Fried pig's trotters with chili and salt, crayfish in special sauce, spicy crab, grilled lamb leg, pan-fried beef steak...

Most of them were main dishes, and more meat than vegetarian. For someone like Ning Xi, who was always on a diet, this dinner was a major commitment!

After all, Little Bun was still a little too skinny, and Lu Tingxiao also needed more nutrition since he was usually so tired from work.

Looking at the table full of appealing and delicious dishes, Lu Tingxiao was surprised. "Now I believe what you said before."

"About what?"

"About becoming a chef."

Ning Xi laughed merrily. "You thought I was exaggerating! I'm a little out of practice, but years of experience don't lie!"

"Did you want to be a chef at first?" Lu Tingxiao didn't understand.

Ning Xi's smile faded. "Don't laugh when I tell you this, but it wasn't because I wanted to be a chef — I wanted to become someone's wife."

Lu Tingxiao narrowed his eyes a little, and the slightest hint of ice came off him.

"To become someone's wife", what a touching sentence, but that "someone" wasn't him.

"I was too naive back then, I thought the way to a man's heart was through his stomach! Who would've thought..." At this point, Ning Xi suddenly stopped, and glanced apprehensively at Little Treasure, who was staring at the soup pot attentively. She moved slightly closer to Lu Tingxiao, and continued in a low voice, "Who would've thought that I placed my hand too high. The true position is three inches below the belly button. I cooked for him for years, but Ning Xueluo only had to sleep with him for one night. Pathetic, right?"

"He's the pathetic one, he will regret it." Lu Tingxiao comforted her as if he was stating a fact.

Ning Xi admitted that she really was comforted by his words, and laughed lightly. "Okay, today is such a happy day, let's not talk about things that'll spoil the mood. After the soup is done, all I need to do is to stir fry some vegetables, and we're all set!"

Lu Tingxiao took a look at the vegetable basket. "We didn't get any vegetables."

"We didn't?" Ning Xi stared dumbly. "What about cauliflower? Carrots?"

"None."

"Eh... so I actually only bought meat? How can we eat all this without greens? It'll be too oily! We did get some eggplants as a gift, but it isn't enough for a dish..."

So far, they had eight meat dishes and just two vegetable dishes, lotus slices in cane sugar and cold sweetened tomato slices...

"It's fine, I'll go over to Jingli's place and pick some."

"Huh? Second Young Master has this kind of thing?" Ning Xi was astonished.

"Mm, he has a greenhouse for vegetables at the back."

"Awesome! But I should be the one to go! You definitely don't know what to pick!"

"Alright, then I'll watch the soup. Let Little Treasure take you, since the guards don't know who you are," Lu Tingxiao reminded her.

"Okay! Be right back!"

...

Because Little Bun was with her, Ning Xi was able to enter the greenhouse in the courtyard behind Lu Jingli's house without a hitch.

The vegetables in the greenhouse were really amazing, they were rich and juicy, and much fresher than those at the market, since they were just harvested, after all.

Lu Jingli that guy really knew how to eat well...

As she carried a basket and plucked vegetables with Little Treasure, a series of sharp alarm sounds suddenly went off above their heads.

Ning Xi lifted her head. "What's going on?"

Soon after that, there was a loud roar behind them —

"Ho! You little thief! You actually dare to steal this young master's vegetables! Eh... Little Treasure... Ning Xi..." Lu Jingli was in pajamas, his hair was messy from having just woken up. He had a stupefied expression on his face as he looked at the two of them.

Holding the basket, the corners of Ning Xi's mouth twitched. "You put an alarm system in your greenhouse... Second Young Master, was it necessary to go that far? Do you have gold buried here or something?"