

You Owe Me, My Love Chapter 246

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“Bai Rong.”

Bai Rong had been standing at the side of the road and was in a stance for a long time. She didn't come around until Cheng Jinrong called out to her. Despite that, her mind was still scrambled when she shifted her gaze to Cheng Jinrong's car.

Right then, she started thinking about all of her past mistakes.

The source of confidence and satisfaction is ignorance.

I thought that I am smart and assumed that telling Gu Mingchen about Tian is the right thing to do.

But I've never even imagined that this is all a ruse.

I was the one who was too ignorant and egoistic. I'm weak and worthless! How can I be so dumb that I actually believe I have the capability to analyze things in a clear manner?

Bai Rong suddenly felt like everything she had done in the past simply made her look like a fool.

She struggled and barely survived, but all that was under someone else's control.

Nonetheless, she didn't care if she died. Her life was miserable, so she had nothing to look forward to, anyway. Death was just an end to all that.

But Gu Mingchen trusted me, and it's my fault that his life is hanging in the balance, and his reputation is on the verge of being destroyed.

This is all my fault.

I should never have shown up again. Song Xiyu was right. Bad things had been happening to Gu Mingchen ever since I showed up.

If I had stayed away, Gu Mingchen would not have fallen for me once more. He and Zhou Hailan would've naturally gotten closer together, and they would've found their child soon.

Zhou Hailan is a soldier as well. Given how the two of them used to date, it is easy to see that they are attracted to each other and cared about each other.

He would've been happy, and his career would've grown smoothly.

As for me, I only bring misfortune to those who are close to me.

Cheng Jinrong saw that Bai Rong was behaving oddly, so he walked towards her. Indeed, at that moment, she was not moving at all.

"Bai Rong," called out Cheng Jinrong.

Bai Rong turned to him. Instantly, her sorrow turned to tears, and they rolled down her cheeks.

Guilt overwhelmed her that instant. She could not take it anymore.

"What's wrong?" asked Cheng Jinrong in a concerned tone.

Bai Rong shook her head and suggested, "Let's head over to that piece of land and check things out."

"Okay," replied Cheng Jinrong before he opened the door to the passenger's seat.

Without another word said, Bai Rong got into the car and buckled herself up.

Cheng Jinrong drove as he informed, "It'll take us about half an hour to reach the place."

"Okay," replied Bai Rong. Keeping mum, she looked out the window, and tears kept rolling down her cheeks.

Cheng Jinrong shot a look at Bai Rong before asking, "Did you get into another fight with your husband?"

Nevertheless, Bai Rong didn't answer him.

"Let go of that relationship if it's really that tough, or your illness will just become worse. There are tons of great men out there, and life is a journey one should take with someone they could stay together forever.

"Time will make everything better, and the intense love you feel will slowly fade away. You will also start accepting the person you are with because the heart can change.

"Your love for your ex-husband had faded when you fell for your current husband, right? It's the same thing. The love you have for your current husband will fade when you fall for someone else.

"In a year, you'll look back at the matter and see that it's not a big deal at all," said Cheng Jinrong to comfort Bai Rong.

Bai Rong grinned bitterly at that.

She would never be with another man again, even if that meant that she had to spend the rest of her life alone.

Her heart and love would always be with the man named Gu Mingchen, and that would remain true, even if they couldn't be together. All I want is to see him happy.

When Bai Rong was a teenager, she read a lot of romance novels. The contrast between the happily ever after and her current reality showed her how cruel things truly were.

How many could stay together as couples? How many couples were genuinely in love with one another? Can love last forever even after they become a couple?

Bai Rong wanted to cry aloud, but her tears could not change anything.

She thought about how things would've been if her neighbor never rescued her when Bai Bing tried to commit suicide and take her along for the ride. I won't live to see how cruel the world is, and I will die with my mom. At least I would still have a shred of warmth in my heart, and at least I wouldn't die lonely since I had my mom with me.

I won't be suffering like I am now. I won't be living an agonized life where there is no hope.

Cheng Jinrong could tell that Bai Rong was upset, so he parked the car at the side of the road and turned to Bai Rong while looking concerned.

At that instant, Bai Rong's sobs become louder and louder until even Cheng Jinrong felt like crying.

"If you feel horrible, you can talk to me about it. You'll feel better afterward. How about we compete against one another and see who has had it worse? Maybe you'd feel better," suggested Cheng Jinrong with a grin.

There was a time when she wanted to kill herself because she felt like the whole world had wronged her.

At that moment, she was sad because she had wronged Gu Mingchen.

This is all my fault. I didn't trust Gu Mingchen in the past, and that was why I was upset. But now... now I'm upset because Gu Mingchen trusted me.

Humans often contradicted themselves, and it was usually too late when they finally came around and saw through everything. All that was left was even more sorrow and regret.

Bai Rong wiped her eyes before she insisted, "Let's head over to that plot of land."

Cheng Jinrong stared at Bai Rong with worry glowing in his eyes. Still, he started the engine and drove.

Bai Rong heaved a sigh. She found it strange that her illness didn't act up at that time. Was it because I've already made choice?

"Wei and I grew up together. We went to the same kindergarten, the same middle school, the same high school, and even the same university. We were close when we were in middle school and started dating when we were in high school. She wanted to get married after we graduated, but I wanted to start a business first. She waited year after year, and my temper became worse with each passing year. I never got to apologize or ask her to stay when she left," shared Cheng Jinrong as he recalled his past.

"Looks like she never really intended to leave you. She just wanted you to care a little more and change a little for her," guessed Bai Rong.

"I never changed. One time, I got drunk and slept with my subordinate. That subordinate was Wei's best friend, and we ended up being in a relationship afterward. I tried my best to reel my temper in, but I never knew just how terrible I was to Wei until the last time you and I spoke."

"She had been waiting for you the entire time. Is that why you wanted to turn over a new leaf and get back together with her?" asked Bai Rong.

"Yes, I want to go back, so I broke up with my girlfriend, Yang Ni," replied Cheng Jinrong.

Bai Rong stared ahead.

In novels, the male lead would often remain loyal even if there were some misunderstandings between him and the female lead. They would eventually find their way back to one another and live happily ever after.

The reality, however, was that men would end up sleeping with another woman, and when he finally turned over a new leaf, the woman he loved would already be murdered.

“I will definitely help you catch the killer. Let’s head to the police station once we’re sure that military-grade weapons are found buried there.”

Earlier, Su Xuyan had given her a week to decide, and Bai Rong would, at most, need three days to solve Wei’s murder.

Since Bai Rong made a promise, she didn’t want to go back on her words.

Half an hour later, they reached their destination.

A lot of soldiers were stationed there, and no one was allowed to get too close.

Cheng Jinrong then walked up to a local resident and shared a cigarette with the guy before asking, “Hey, why are there so many soldiers here?”

“They came in the middle of the night and found a lot of military-grade weapons in there. It was so scary. I can’t believe that those weapons were buried right there, and we didn’t even know about it despite living in the area,” replied the man.

Bai Rong finally got her confirmation. Maybe it was because she had been expecting that answer, so she was rather calm to hear it. Thus, she simply said, “Let’s go.”

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Bai Rong bought a new phone before she went back. Just to be safe, she even changed her number. She copied everybody’s phone number into her new phone as she headed to the police station. Those numbers included Su Xuyan’s, to which she sent a text to soon after.

Su Xuyan called her as soon as he received Bai Rong’s text, and she picked it up.

"So you changed your phone and your number, huh? Are you trying to run away?" said Su Xuyan in distaste.

"If I was trying to run, I would not be texting you now, would I? I've already decided. I will agree to your terms, but I have some things I need to deal with first. I should be back on the day after tomorrow, and I'll go to you once I return," replied Bai Rong in a distant tone.

"You're still struggling, aren't you? You won't break free this time. I have control of everything, and he will die if I deem fit," growled Su Xuyan arrogantly and firmly.

"Su Xuyan, you really are arrogant sometimes," commented Bai Rong.

"That is not a shortcoming," refuted Su Xuyan nonchalantly.

"Cheng Jinrong is my friend, and his ex-girlfriend was murdered. I promised I'd help him find the murderer, so I'll be staying here for a few days," explained Bai Rong.

"How nice of you. Gu Mingchen is about to die. Yet, you are focused on helping someone else. I wonder how Gu Mingchen would feel if he learns about this. What a poor sap. He fell for a heartless woman and is doomed to suffer," dissed Su Xuyan gleefully.

Bai Rong looked ahead calmly.

She didn't care how he thought of her, so she didn't bother explaining any more than she already had.

"I'm hanging up now if there's nothing else you'd like to say," replied Bai Rong coolly.

"See you tonight," said Su Xuyan before he hung up.

Bai Rong's heart skipped a beat. What does he mean by that?

Meanwhile, Cheng Jinrong had noticed how Bai Rong was holding her phone with a stunned expression, so he asked in an apologetic tone, "Is that your husband? You don't have to help if he's unhappy with it. This has nothing to do with you anyway, and I feel bad for causing a fight between the two of you."

"That's not my husband. Besides, I've promised to help you out, so I will keep my word. Let's discuss further after we reach the police station," said Bai Rong as she put her phone away.

The truth was that she was still a little worried.

She asked Gu Mingchen to pull some strings and get her into the police station so she could be a part of the investigation team. Now that Gu Mingchen is in trouble, will I still be able to do so?

Bai Rong was nervous when she walked into the police station and went to the director's office. She knocked on the door and introduced herself, "Hello, I am Bai Rong."

"Hey, the expert is here. Welcome, welcome. I thought you'd be here in the morning. Come in," said the director warmly.

Bai Rong sighed a breath of relief. Looks like the director is still unaware of Gu Mingchen's issues... Or maybe Gu Mingchen had his men come to talk to the guy beforehand.

It's good that Gu Mingchen's issues haven't been publicized.

"I'd like to look at the files of the woman who was murdered at home last night," requested Bai Rong directly.

"Ah, you're talking about Chen Wei's case. They're discussing that case right now. Thank you for looking into this matter with us, Ms. Bai," said the director nicely.

"It's nothing. It's my job, after all," replied Bai Rong politely.

The director later led Bai Rong into the conference room.

There was a moment when Bai Rong thought about Gu Mingchen's issues, that sorrow and pain welled up in her soul to the point that it was almost hard for her to breathe.

No, I must keep my head in the game. I have to solve this case quickly.

"Guys, let's put a pause to it. I have an announcement to make. This is Bai Rong, and she is the psychology expert recommended to us. She will participate in the case, and you guys can discuss it with her. Please cooperate with her to solve the case together," said the director.

Bai Rong nodded then took a seat.

No one spoke, and they merely stared at one another.

"Please tell me more about the content of her text. The victim was holding her phone at the time. Who did she last communicate with?" asked Bai Rong.

"It's actually kinda strange. The victim died between five o'clock and six-thirty in the evening. She never went out of her room during dinner time when her parents called for her, thus leading to them discovering her death. At that time, her windows were locked from the inside.

"Her parents were inside the house all day, and they claimed that no one ever went in. Thus, this homicide actually looked more like a suicide. The drugs we found in her system could cause its victim to hallucinate or faint, but the victim showed no such symptoms when she hung out with her parents just an hour ago.

"With that, we think that the victim had accidentally taken the wrong medication, leading to hallucination. That, in turn, caused her to commit suicide. The victim texted her ex-boyfriend at five in the afternoon. She was simply asking where he was, but he never replied. Still, there was nothing suspicious about it," answered one detective.

"Don't they have any security cameras in their neighborhood?" asked Bai Rong.

"We've checked. No one went in or out of Chen Wei's place during the time of death, and we saw no signs of a struggle in her room," replied the detective.

Bai Rong narrowed her eyes and pointed out, "I don't think it's a suicide. Who would hold a phone in one hand and a knife in another just before they commit suicide? Especially if there isn't any special content in there?"

"She accidentally took some sedatives. It's normal for her to act strangely under those circumstances," refuted a detective.

"And where did that sedative come from? How did she end up accidentally taking it? Was the sedative found at her place? If not, then none of this makes sense. Also, if something strange had happened in the room, wouldn't her parents have heard everything? She couldn't have taken the wrong medication, lay on her bed with her phone in one hand, and then killed herself with the other," shared Bai Rong.

The detectives found that to be strange as well, so they turned to one another.

"Are Chen Wei's parents still here?" asked Bai Rong.

"They're taking a break in the other room."

Bai Rong got up immediately to head over to that room.

At the same time, Cheng Jinrong was there with Chen Wei's parents.

"Mr. and Mrs. Chen, I'd like to ask you some questions. Did either of you notice anything off after Chen Wei went into her room?" asked Bai Rong.

"No, we were watching TV. Wei is a good girl, and we thought that she was reading in her room," replied Chen Wei's mother.

"What are Chen Wei's hobbies and habits?" asked Bai Rong.

"She's an introvert and rarely goes out. She doesn't really offend others either," answered Chen Wei's mother.

All of a sudden, Cheng Jinrong seemed to have suddenly recalled something. He then told Bai Rong, "Wei loves freshly ground coffee. She drinks it regardless of how her mood was. I gave her a coffee machine back in the days, and she kept it in her room. I don't think I saw it at the crime scene, though. Could there be something to that?"

"Does she still drink coffee every day?" asked Bai Rong.

"She does. She would grind the coffee beans every evening around five o'clock and drink some," replied Chen Wei's mom.

"Did she buy any coffee beans or take the machine somewhere else yesterday?"

"No."

"Then this is definitely murder. Someone knew about Chen Wei's coffee-drinking habit. They broke into her room after she went to bed on the previous night, then put some sedatives in the coffee machine.

"Chen Wei texted you, then had some coffee. She was holding her phone because she was waiting for your reply, but she got more and more tired until she eventually passed out. "Someone broke in at that moment to stab Chen Wei's heart with a knife before leaving with the coffee cup and the coffee machine," shared Bai Rong with Cheng Jinrong.

"Who is the culprit?" demanded Cheng Jinrong suspiciously.

"Come on, let's go check the security footage," replied Bai Rong before she turned around. She had the police officer get the footage for her, so she could examine the footage between 9 p.m. the night before the murder and 5 p.m. on the day of the murder.

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Chen Wei's parents joined them.

No one visited Chen Wei's house between the suspected time frames, and there were no suspicious individuals lurking around. Everything was quiet.

Bai Rong watched the footage three times, but she never saw anyone suspicious.

"Did Wei buy those sedatives herself? That doesn't seem possible either. Wei is a very obedient child, and she would never buy something like that. She's not depressed either," commented Chen Wei's mom in a confused tone.

"I am going to kill that son of a b*tch!" growled Chen Wei's dad angrily.

Bai Rong could tell what Chen Wei's dad guessed. He must have assumed that someone harassed his daughter.

"Calm down. The chances of your daughter taking the drug on her own is zero. If she had taken the drug out of her own free will, it would not make sense for her to hold on to her phone like that. It'd make even less sense that she'd take it with her coffee. We must've missed something," said Bai Rong.

"We've watched the footage in its entirety three times. There is no murderer or anyone suspicious. It's not like the murderer could've crawled up from under the ground," said Chen Wei's father grimly.

Bai Rong immediately had an epiphany. "You're right. The murderer might have crawled up from under the ground! Let's go. If they climbed into the room, then there had to be a hole there somewhere. It hadn't been that long since the crime took place, so the culprit may not have filled the hole yet. Let's hurry over."

With that, Bai Rong rushed out of the conference room with Cheng Jinrong close behind. Chen Wei's parents and the other detectives followed them.

They soon reached Chen Wei's room, which was not that big.

Everyone started examining the place.

“Move the closets and all other furniture aside,” instructed Bai Rong.

The police officers moved the furniture out of the way and discovered a dark hole underneath one of the closets.

Seeing that got Chen Wei’s mother to break down immediately. “My baby!”

Bai Rong’s heart was especially heavy as well.

When someone is spying on you, no one would feel safe even if they’re home with their family. And these people would not stop until they achieve what they tend to – even if that meant killing the person.

How can anyone prevent bad things from happening or be vigilant about something like that?

“Go check the tunnel out and see where it leads,” instructed Bai Rong.

Some police officers went down, but they returned soon after to report, “It’s a dead-end down there. Someone has blocked it.”

“What’s going on?” asked Chen Wei’s dad as he looked at Bai Rong.

“The killer blocked it to keep his or her identity hidden,” answered Bai Rong.

“What do we do now? Did Wei die in vain?” asked Chen Wei’s mother with a broken heart.

“The murderer didn’t get to fill the tunnel completely. How big is the tunnel right now?” asked Bai Rong.

“It’s about thirty feet deep and three feet wide,” replied the police officer.

“From the volume, it seems that the culprit has quite a bit of soil left to get rid of. Besides, all those dug-up soil has to be stored somewhere, and the culprit couldn’t dig the tunnel in public. Hence, the murderer must be staying somewhere nearby!” said Bai Rong.

She turned to the police officers and instructed, “First things first – bring the security footage of the area over. Next, get as many officers as you can to investigate this neighborhood. Any place with excess soil around would indicate that the murderer lives there. But do hurry up and try to get into the houses even if the residents refused to let you into their place or if no one is home. Check to see if there is any dug-up earth stored at their house compounds.”

"Understood!" said the police officers before they started working on it immediately.

After they left, Bai Rong sat on Chen Wei's bed and thought about the situation.

"We'll find the murderer soon, won't we?" asked Chen Wei's mother nervously.

"Yes, it is likely we will apprehend the killer soon. This person knows about Chen Wei's habits and planned the murder ahead of time," said Bai Rong rationally.

"Who would hurt my daughter? She has always been a good girl and has never offended anyone," cried the elderly woman between sobs.

Half an hour later, a police officer ran over and reported, "We've found the culprit. The person is staying behind this house."

Chen Wei's father was the first one to rush over with Cheng Jinrong close behind. Bai Rong ran over as well.

Even from a distance, she could see a thin person in a black hoodie. The person had her head down, so no one could tell what she looked like, but she was covered in dirt.

Cheng Jinrong rushed over and pulled her hood away. He gasped in surprise, "You?"

"It's all her fault for seducing my boyfriend. You broke up with me for her!" roared Yang Ni, who seemed mentally unstable.

"I thought you'd understand," replied Cheng Jinrong, who couldn't calm down either.

"Cheng Jinrong, you are nothing but an assh*le! I was there when you started your business, and I slept with your clients to help you boost your career. You treated me like a tool, then discarded me once you were done with me. Heck, you didn't even hesitate to dump me. I am not someone you can bully, you know? I am simply unlucky to have been caught. If I wasn't, I would've killed you next," growled Yang Ni angrily.

"Take her away," instructed Bai Rong solemnly.

"You really are something else. It only took you a few hours to help us find the killer. If we were even a day late, she could've flushed all the soil down

the toilet, and all the evidence would've been gone. What a crafty murderer," said the police officer, who smiled as he praised Bai Rong.

Bai Rong nodded politely at the officer, but she felt terrible.

Love... must it always be either self-destruction or the destruction of another? If so, who on Earth would still want love?

The police officers left soon after, and everyone became lost in their own thoughts. No one could speak.

Bai Rong was the first to come around. She turned to Cheng Jinrong and said, "My condolences. You can't turn back time now, so you should just do what you are supposed to. I'll take my leave now."

"It's late. You haven't eaten yet, right? Let me treat you to a meal," suggested Cheng Jinrong as he suppressed the pain in his heart.

"No, that's not necessary. Take care of Chen Wei's parents. They just lost their daughter, and you're like a son to them, so they are your responsibilities now," replied Bai Rong, who spoke in a meaningful tone.

Cheng Jinrong nodded and replied, "I understand."

Then, Bai Rong turned to Chen Wei's father, who was still in a daze. She said, "If Chen Wei was still around, she'd wish that you'd live a happy life. Don't be too sad."

He slowly shifted his gaze to Bai Rong and asked, "Can I speak with you in private?"

"Sure," replied Bai Rong.

The man then led the way while Bai Rong followed.

He went into a room and fished out a notebook from a locked drawer to hand it to Bai Rong.

Bai Rong didn't know what he was trying to do, so she didn't accept it.

"I truly appreciated your help in seeking justice for my daughter. Thank you," said Chen Wei's father in a voice thick with tears.

"Just doing my job."

He then shoved the notebook to Bai Rong and advised, "Don't tell anyone about it and don't show it to anyone. Also, you should leave."

Bai Rong had a strange feeling about it.

She felt like the notebook had something to do with the treasure. But Su Xuyan has already gotten his hands on that piece of land... Is there something more to it?

"Luckily, I deliberately shared the wrong address. Haha, I really did dirty to the one who helped me," said Chen Wei's father as he grinned bitterly and wiped his tears off. He walked out of the room before Bai Rong did.

Deliberately shared the wrong address... Could it be... that the treasure wasn't hidden at the land Su Xuyan procured?

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Feeling thoroughly sorry for what had happened, Cheng Jinrong stood outside the entrance and looked into the room.

Chen Wei's father closed the door, leaving Cheng Jinrong where he was.

Bai Rong could surmise that the traitor whom Chen Wei's father mentioned was probably Cheng Jinrong.

If the treasure was somewhere else, it might be because Chen Wei's father was being cautious. Instead of the mastermind, Cheng Jinrong was on the receiving end of the message. Chen Wei's father was hoping to muddle the mastermind and at the same time coax Cheng Jinrong into marrying his daughter. Once things were done, he would disclose the exact location.

What he had planned and done was all for his daughter.

Sadly, she died in the hands of her love rival.

He must have been furious with Cheng Jinrong and himself.

If he hadn't cajoled Cheng Jinrong with the treasure, he wouldn't have broken up with his daughter, and she would still be alive.

That was why he gave Bai Rong his notebook that contained crucial information about the treasure.

She wasn't in it for the fortune. All she wanted was to fulfill the promise she made to Tang Xiaojiu by tracking down the murderer, having the person incarcerated, and returning the treasure to the country.

As for Gu Mingchen and her, only fate would know if they would still end up together.

Since she had fulfilled her promise to Cheng Jinrong, it was time for her to deal with her own issues.

After she slotted the notebook into her bag, she trudged to the entrance. "I shall take my leave then, Mr. Chen. Take care."

With tears brimming in his eyes, he nodded and opened the door for her.

Cheng Jinrong didn't move an inch.

"It'd be better if you leave. Seeing you would only make Chen Wei's parents feel worse. Wait till they're over it, and then you can make up to them by supporting them to the best of your ability." Bai Rong went up to him and offered her advice.

"You're right. Well, I guess I went for wool but came home shorn. I deserve this." He let out a bitter sigh. "Anyway, where are you headed? Need a ride?"

"No." There were some things that she had to deal with on her own.

"Okay, then."

As she walked toward the main road, she drew her phone out and gave Su Xuyan a call.

"What's up? Missing me so soon?" He chuckled vilely.

Despite the chills running down her spine, Bai Rong pulled herself together and snapped, "My work here is done, and I'll be going back to A City now."

"Are you playing me for a fool?" Su Xuyan was enraged as he was already on the train to Jadeborough.

"It's not me who decides when a case is solved. If you think that's what I'm trying to do, so be it. Bye." She hung up, took a cab to the hotel, and proceeded to check out.

As she walked past the room which Gu Mingchen had booked, she paused. Their plan to meet here had dissolved into thin air as things unfolded. All the hopeful outlook they had was just a pipe dream now. "Wait for me, Gu Mingchen." She turned to the door and murmured as her heart wrenched in pain.

On her way to the train station, she phoned Lu Xingzhou.

“Speak up!” It was evident that the man wasn’t in his best mood.

Bai Rong totally understood where that came from. After all, the land which he thought was riddled with treasure had fallen into the hands of the officials. It’d be a tough row to hoe for him to take over now.

“I’m sorry, but I have to return to A City to handle an emergency. It might take me a couple of days before I can get back here again.”

“Cheng Jinrong told me everything. Give me a buzz once you’re back in town.” He hung up right after the last word.

It was already 6:48 p.m. by the time she got on the train.

Taking her seat, she had just taken her first bite of the day when someone sat down across from her.

She looked up and was flummoxed to see Su Xuyan. Her appetite was instantly gone.

“I see that you’re still in the mood for a feast. Hmm, you’re indeed a cool-blooded creature, seeing how you’re so indifferent to anyone who is treating you well.” Su Xuyan cast his steely eyes upon her and pursed his lips.

She shoved down a spoonful of food and snarled, “You’re the one who drained what little warmth I had in me. I don’t get it. Why are you so hung up over a heartless woman like me? For you to orchestrated so many trickeries...”

Su Xuyan leaned back against his seat and threw in his explanation. “As you can see, I’m very petty, or perhaps spiteful is a better word. You’ve wasted three years of mine so I’m going to do the same to you.”

Bai Rong couldn’t stand it any longer. She slammed her chopsticks on the table and asked, “Tell me. If I fulfilled all your demands, how do you plan to set Gu Mingchen free?”

“I’m the person in charge of the witness protection program. It’ll be my words against or for him.” Su Xuyan smirked.

She knew from the start that he had another identity.

“What if you failed to free him?”

"If I can put him in, I can easily pull him out. Why? You don't trust me? Let's end this conversation then. Honestly, between you and Gu Mingchen, I'm more inclined to kill him. In other words, you have no leverage here, Bai Rong." Su Xuyan shrugged.

"Can I at least see him one last time?" she asked.

"Of course. And before I forget, talk him into a divorce and make him promise to marry Zhou Hailan. Only then I'll agree to let him go." He then plunked a stack of documents on the table.

Bai Rong knitted her brows and looked at him in silence.

Su Xuyan put on a sly grin. "Go on, finish up your meal and go through these papers. I'll take you to see Gu Mingchen tomorrow."

With that, he got on his feet and paced toward the first-class cabin.

Bai Rong took the stack of documents and saw that it was a divorce agreement meant for Gu Mingchen and her. Aside from that, there was also a copy of a prenuptial agreement for Gu Mingchen and Zhou Hailan. On the prenuptial agreement, it was stated that either party who asked for a divorce would have to leave the marriage with nothing.

Su Xuyan was indeed a malicious rogue. Not only did he rewrote their fate, but he was also going to make her hurt Gu Mingchen one last time.

Bai Rong got frustrated and started losing herself. Her mind plunged into chaos, choking on all her nerves. A wave of her hand sent her dinner crashing to the floor.

Sensing something was wrong with herself, her quivering hands ransacked her bag for the pills. She popped one into her mouth and slumped onto the seat. A minute passed, and her mind was clear again.

Whatever. I'm just a crazy b*tch by now. These pills won't last me much longer. I can't even have a baby with Gu Mingchen. Sooner or later, I'll be a burden, just like my mother.

All Bai Rong wanted was for Gu Mingchen to be happy, even if it meant giving up her life.

With that thought in mind, a smile crossed her face.

No matter what difficulties lay ahead, she would be happy as long as he was happy.

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Bai Rong followed Su Xuyan to his apartment during the wee hours of the night.

He took a syringe from the fridge, sat at the dining table, and gestured for her to sit next to him.

Bai Rong went with the flow and rolled up her sleeve. Her eyes were affixed to the turquoise fluid-filled syringe.

“Doesn’t the probability of death worry you? I told you before that once the pernicious virus spreads, not only will you feel that your muscles are being ripped apart, but you’ll also be bleeding from your eyes and ears.” Su Xuyan curled his lips.

“I thought you’re the one who wanted this?” Bai Rong turned toward him insouciantly. She would rather die on her feet than live on her knees. She was ready to give up her life for Gu Mingchen’s.

“Huh,” he tittered.

She’s right. I was the one who wanted this. Perhaps I’m expecting her to beg for my forgiveness? But even if she did, I’m still going to go through with this.

Jab! He drove the needle into her arm.

She trembled, and sweat dotted her forehead. As her head began to spin, all she could hear were the echoes of her breath.

She plunged into total darkness and lost all her senses.

The only thing she held dear to was her belief. Despite the loneliness she was about to face, she had no regrets.

As her sight gradually recovered, the sound of the clock ticking away rippled into her ears.

She threw Su Xuyan a sidelong glance.

“You have to take this once a month. If you feel excruciating pain all over your body, and blood starts to come out from your nose, eyes, and ears, that’s the end,” Su Xuyan explained.

"How long more can I live for?" Bai Rong was as calm as a millpond.

Su Xuyan's tensed up at the thought of her death. His feigned calmness couldn't conceal the anxiety that had surfaced in his eyes. "As long as I want."

Hearing that, there weren't any changes to her expression. To her, living longer wasn't something that would gladden her.

"Take me to Gu Mingchen now. I'll have him sign the papers, and you will let him out tomorrow."

"At this hour? Are you sure?" Su Xuyan was perplexed.

Gu Mingchen was locked up and accused of being a spy. He must've missed her so badly, and Bai Rong could imagine him worried sick.

Another day in the cell would add another blanket of anxiety and pressure.

She needed to get him out, the sooner the better.

"Am I sure? Aren't you the one who wanted this?" Her words were brimming with derision.

"Gu Mingchen is a doomed man. What's there for me to worry about? But it's definitely better to have the contract signed as soon as possible." Su Xuyan stood up and straightened his shirt.

"If he signed it today, he's going to be released tomorrow, right?" Bai Rong needed assurance.

"Hmm... should be." Su Xuyan sneered and walked toward the door.

Once they got into the car, Su Xuyan had Bai Rong blindfolded.

"What's this for?"

"Due to Gu Mingchen's remarkably unusual status, the organization feared that someone might come to his rescue, and that would bring dire consequences. Thus, the secrecy. Even his parents aren't allowed to see him."

The lines on Bai Rong's forehead deepened as she got more worried.

That must mean that countless interrogations awaited him every day. Even if he was innocent, to have his loyalty doubted by the country he served must've filled him with exasperation.

She lowered her head, closed her eyes, and allowed her tears to wet the blindfold as she bottled up her feelings.

An hour later, she was pulled out of the car and led toward the underground cell.

Blindfolded, she tripped over a step and dipped her knee onto the ground. Upon hearing her muffled grunt, Su Xuyan slapped his man, who was tugging her. "Are you dumb? Why didn't you make her aware of the step?"

"My a-apologies, commander. I d-d-didn't notice."

Su Xuyan pulled Bai Rong up and removed her blindfold.

While holding on to his hand, she was confounded by how Su Xuyan was addressed. A commander?

After pondering for a while, however, she thought it was nothing to be surprised about. After all, he always had an unspoken identity.

Numerous armed guards stood tall at the entrance, forming an impenetrable barricade.

Behind them was an unusual building with the structure of an arch bridge that bore no windows.

Su Xuyan flung Bai Rong's hand away. "Keep up."

She followed him into an enclosed corridor and down a flight of stairs.

Halfway through, Su Xuyan turned around and grabbed Bai Rong's arm but was shook off by her subconsciously.

Ticked off, he gritted his teeth, gave her a vicious glare, and strode ahead.

Bai Rong picked up her pace, and after a couple of minutes, they came to a sizeable chamber under the surveillance of two guards.

Su Xuyan stopped in front of a door and turned his head toward Bai Rong. "He's in here."

She clenched her fist and walked toward it.

"You need company?"

"No, thanks." Her face was as pale as a ghost.

"Hmph." Su Xuyan gave the door a few knocks and stood aside.

When the guard pushed the door open, a gush of cold air sent her heart trembling.

She was stupefied by how unbearable and dim the cell was.

In the ill-lit room, she saw Gu Mingchen lying on a wooden bed behind the metal bars. No blanket was given.

"You can keep asking the same question, and I'm going to give you the same answer. The firearms buried under that land aren't mine." He let out a low hum and stacked his arms on his forehead.

Bai Rong gripped tightly onto the bars, and tears started welling up.

"Gu Mingchen." She did her best to hold her tears in.

Gu Mingchen jumped up at the sound of her voice and lunged toward her. He wrapped his hands around hers and started asking questions. "Why are you here? Did you go to look for Su Xuyan? Or did he come to you? What are his conditions?"

"I was the one asking to see you as I want to know what's going on. Mingchen, why are there weapons hidden under that land?"

"I've been framed. Su Xuyan must've known that I've acquired that land and thus, planted those weapons to set me up."

"Do you have any evidence to prove your innocence?" She looked at him, hoping for a yes.

A fifteen-second long silence ensued before he finally replied, "My conscience is clear."

Bai Rong knew then what she had to do next.

In this world, having a clear conscience wouldn't keep you in the game. It was up to the others to decide if you were right or wrong. They decided if you were lying or speaking the truth.

If you were believed to be innocent, you would still be a free man, despite all your evil deeds.

If they trusted that you're guilty, your head would be on the chopping board regardless of your innocence.

Bai Rong knew what the best course of action ought to be.