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Chapter 551 The Severity Of Her Condition

"Wow! You're really my idol! You're cute even when you scold me!" Pei Huan, Li Heng, and Bao were rendered speechless. This woman must have something wrong with her brain.

Pei Huan was the first one to snap back to her senses. She cleared her throat and said, "Uh... The food is ready. I guess everyone's already starving. Let's dig in!"

Pei Huan ordered Aunt Zhang to keep the chessboard. Meanwhile, Song Zhe walked down the stairs. "Mr. Li, if there's nothing else, I'm leaving."

"Wait a minute!" Pei Huan stopped him. "Let's eat together." Song Zhe was surprised to hear that. He looked at Pei Huan before glancing at Li Heng. "I don't think that's appropriate, Madam!"

"Just sit down!" Li Heng ordered. Since Li Heng had spoken up, Song Zhe had no choice but to join them. Hearing that, Aunt Zhang immediately went to prepare another set of cutlery. Song Zhe also sat down at the dining table.

"Wow! The food is so tasty!" Huo Ling had the habit of exclaiming about seemingly everything. Initially, everyone felt strange when they saw her acting that way, but since she kept doing the same thing, they got used to it soon.

Perhaps Huo Ling was really starving. She finished five bowls of rice in one go and still said that she wanted another bowl. Song Zhe, who was seated beside her, stared at her with wide eyes. "Ms. Huo, you must've been starving for days."

"No." Huo Ling stared at him as if she was talking to an idiot. "Mr. Song, does this rice belong to your family?"

"No." "Then, why are you giving so many comments?" Huo Ling could not help but roll her eyes. After finishing another bowl of rice, she put down her cutlery and burped satisfyingly. "Everything tastes amazing! Great Mr. Li, I want to stay in your house frequently!"

Li Heng could not stop himself from glaring at her coldly. Nevertheless, to Huo Ling, everything he did was attractive, so she did not even take his glare seriously.

She thought of playing with Bao after finishing her food. However, Bao found her annoying and ignored her. Unfortunately, Huo Ling had made up her mind to follow him everywhere he went, so she started chasing him around the living room.

Pei Huan served Li Heng a cup of hot tea. "Have some tea."

Li Heng nodded. "I'm going to the hospital in a while."

"To meet my brother?"

Li Heng nodded. "I want to pay Shi Nuan a visit too."

"All right. I'll go with you, then. We can also tell them we've found Huo Ling."

"Great Mr. Li, where are you guys going? I want to go too!" said Huo Ling, leaning over suddenly and scaring Pei Huan.

Li Heng glared at her furiously. "Stay away from her!"

Scratching her head, Huo Ling stuck her tongue out mischievously. A moment later, she put on a solemn expression. "Great Mr. Li, are Pei Huan and Bao the patients you asked my brother to treat?"

As soon as Huo Ling finished her sentence, Li Heng and Pei Huan stopped and stared at her.

Huo Ling looked into Li Heng's eyes. For a moment, she felt that his gaze was terrifying. Pei Huan quickly grabbed Li Heng's hand to stop him. "Heng, don't scare her." Immediately, she turned to look at Huo Ling, "Ms. Huo, why would you think that Bao and I are the patients?"

Huo Ling chuckled as she took a seat. "Although you look healthy, your face is a little pale. Besides, there are black spots behind your ears. You probably didn't even notice them yourself, did you? Bao has some behind his ears too. I guess that's not a coincidence. However, the spots behind Bao's ears are smaller compared to yours."

Upon hearing that, Li Heng checked Pei Huan's ears. As expected, he saw a dark patch at the back of her ears. Instead of looking like specks of dirt, they looked more like shadows.

Then, he walked over to Bao to check his ears. Sure enough, he saw similar black patches behind them. "Ms. Huo, you're very observant!"

"Haha!" Huo Ling scratched her head awkwardly. "Actually, I'm merely guessing. I don't exactly know what is going on too, but are your wife and child not who the patients you meant, Great Mr. Li?"

Li Heng nodded in response. "Indeed, they're the ones I asked your brother to treat. But now, I have something more serious I want you to take a look at, Ms. Huo."

Having that said, he brought Pei Huan and Huo Ling along to the hospital. Fu Chengyan and Su Shaoqing already knew that they were coming. Hence, they waited for their arrival patiently in the hospital.

After they got out of the car, Li Heng carried Bao in his arms while Pei Huan followed behind them. Huo Ling spoke excitedly as she walked behind them. "Great Mr. Li, you're so handsome!"

Pei Huan was a little helpless. "Ms. Huo, a-are you always that straightforward?"

Huo Ling chuckled, "You're gorgeous too, Goddess!"

Pei Huan could not help but shake her head. "You can just call us Huan and Heng."

"How can I address you guys like that? Those names can't convey how impressive my idols are!" Huo Ling laughed. Her eyes were gleaming like twinkling stars, so bright that one might find it hard to stop looking at them.

Pei Huan lifted a brow. "Suit yourself, then!"

Huo Ling hugged Pei Huan's arm, giggling. "Goddess, how did you know Great Mr. Li? Are you really not going to consider letting me be Bao's godmother?"

Huo Ling could not stop chattering along the way. Pei Huan did not think that she was noisy. This young lady is so energetic. She didn't even stop talking for a second along the way.

Meanwhile, Su Shaoqing was waiting at the entrance. As soon as he saw Li Heng walking over with Bao in his arms, he approached them with a bright smile. "Hello, Bao! Come. Let me carry you!"

Bao glanced at Su Shaoqing disdainfully. Although he was reluctant, he spread his arms obediently.

Su Shaoqing noticed the disdain in Bao's eyes, and he felt devastated as he carried Bao. "Where is the one from the Huo family? I thought she's here?"

He turned around and scanned his surroundings. Immediately, he saw a young lady walking over with her arm hooked around Pei Huan's. He did not know what they were talking about, but it was evident that the young lady looked excited. Her face was beaming with an exuberant look, indirectly spreading positive energy to the people around her.

Right then, Pei Huan walked over to him too. The moment her gaze fell upon Su Shaoqing, she smiled and nodded. "Master Su!"

"May I know who this is?" Su Shaoqing shifted his eyes onto Huo Ling. Similarly, Huo Ling started to size him up. A hint of arrogance and rebellion flashed across her eyes. "Goddess, who is this guy?"

Su Shaoqing twitched his lips. "Little brat, I'm your-"

"Shaoqing, this is Huo Shenxing's sister, Huo Ling!" Li Heng interrupted.

Su Shaoqing was stunned. Scrutinizing Huo Ling, he said, "You can't be serious!"

Li Heng did not bother to pay him any more attention. He pushed the door open and said, "Let's go in, Ms. Huo!"

Huo Ling let out a few chuckles. As soon as she stepped inside the ward, she screamed, "Oh my god! What a handsome man!"

Her gaze fell upon Fu Chengyan. Then, she quickly ran over to him. "Hello, handsome! I'm Huo Ling."

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes, exuding a cold, terrifying vibe. He stared at the woman running toward him with an ice-cold gaze.

It seemed like Huo Ling had sensed the coldness in his eyes as well. She could not help but tremble in response. Then her gaze fell on the woman who was lying on the hospital bed.

Shi Nuan was holding a book in her hands. The moment she saw Huo Ling, she was influenced by her cheerful vibe and flashed a smile at Huo Ling.

Huo Ling's eyes lit up. "Oh, my! Great Mr. Li, everyone around you is so good-looking! As a person who's obsessed with looks, I can now die without regrets!"

Shi Nuan looked at Fu Chengyan, feeling speechless. Then, she shifted her eyes to the people walking into the ward. "Li Heng and Huan are here too!"

She smiled as she put down her book.

Pei Huan approached her swiftly. "Nuan, this is Huo Ling. She's the miracle doctor Heng found."

In fact, Pei Huan had witnessed how skillful Huo Ling was before coming to the hospital. As soon as Huo Ling pierced two acupuncture needles on Pei Huan's body, the black patches behind Pei Huan's ears faded. Moreover, Pei Huan also felt better instantly.

Although Huo Ling was young, she had gained her reputation through her own capability.

Miracle doctor?

Fu Chengyan met Li Heng's gaze. Li Heng nodded in response. "She's Huo Shenxing's sister!"

Huo Ling shifted her attention to Shi Nuan. With a solemn expression, she stared at Shi Nuan while circling her twice. Not long after, she pouted. "That's strange. All of you have viruses in your bodies, but I wonder why your condition is less severe compared to theirs."

"Less severe?" Shi Nuan did not understand what Huo Ling was saying. "Didn't we get infected with the same type of virus?"

"I'm not too sure about this. May I check your pulse?"

Shi Nuan nodded. The next moment, Huo Ling walked over to sit on the stool beside her. She then put her fingers on Shi Nuan's wrist to check her pulse. Huo Ling looked very much like a miracle doctor when she calmed down and treated a patient.

Initially, there was a relaxed look on her face. A moment later, she furrowed her brows and sized Shi Nuan up. "Would you mind if I look at the back of your ears?"

Shi Nuan nodded as she turned her head around to show Huo Ling her ears. In an instant, Huo Ling came to a realization. "The person who injected the drug into your body showed you mercy, didn't they?"

"What do you mean?"

Although Fu Chengyan knew nothing about medicine, he could understand what Huo Ling said. "Are you saying the virus in my wife's body isn't serious?"

Huo Ling nodded. "My goddess' condition is the most serious one among all of you." After a brief pause, she added, "I mean, Huan!" However, no one understood what she was saying, so she pointed at Pei Huan and explained, "She's been infected with the poison for the longest time among the three of you. Thus, the virus has invaded many parts of her body. That's why her treatment is the most complicated. As for this young lady and Bao, their conditions are not severe. For now, I'll suppress the virus in your body with my needles first. But then, I'm not very confident that I can cure you completely."

After all, Huo Ling was young, so she had rarely encountered complicated diseases like that. Moreover, she had heard before that that type of virus was dangerous. Even if Huo Shenxing was here, he might not be able to treat it too.

"Okay!" Initially, Fu Chengyan did not believe in what Huo Ling said. However, he decided to place his faith in her upon seeing how serious she was just now. After all, he could not guarantee that he could find an antidote in time either.

In an instant, Huo Ling took out a set of silver needles from her backpack. After signaling Shi Nuan to calm down, she took out a needle and poke it into Shi Nuan's purlicue.

"Will the virus affect my baby?" Enduring the pain, Shi Nuan lifted her head to look at Huo Ling. Huo Ling looked exceptionally focused when she was treating a patient.

Huo Ling had inserted two silver needles into Shi Nuan's purlicue. Upon hearing Shi Nuan's question, she responded, "To be honest with you, it'll definitely affect the baby to a certain extent. Luckily, you haven't been infected for too long. Also, they've only injected a small amount of the virus into your body, so your baby should be fine for now. I've checked your pulses just now. Your baby is doing great. But then, if you're still worried, I'll give you some medicine to prevent miscarriage. Everything will be fine as long as you take the medicine according to my prescription."

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Chapter 552 Under Pursuit

Huo Ling gave Shi Nuan a jab before making a prescription for miscarriage prevention. However, Fu Chengyan didn't trust Huo Ling that much, so he asked Yu Qing to come and take a look. Since Yu Qing was a doctor who practiced modern medicine, and Huo Ling gave a traditional medicine prescription, there wasn't much Yu Qing could say. She turned to Fu Chengyan with a troubled look and apologized, "I'm sorry, Mr. Fu, but traditional medicine isn't something I'm familiar with."

Huo Ling pouted. "Relax, I'm not going to hurt her. You all are my benefactor's friends. For this reason alone, I won't hurt her." She thought it was understandable that they weren't inclined to believe her medical skills because she was still young.

If it was outsiders who questioned her skills, she would've jabbed them to death with needles. Nonetheless, she didn't have the heart to do it after looking at the people in the building. After all, she was someone who liked people with good looks, and all of them looked stunningly attractive.

Naturally, the others didn't know what Huo Ling was thinking. Fu Chengyan merely narrowed his eyes at Li Heng, who then nodded and handed the prescription to Zhou Zheng. Li Heng had Zhou Zheng go to the pharmacy to get the required medicine.

"I think you all should let me have a look at the medicine after you bring it back. Just in case," Huo Ling said before putting away her needle. She covered her mouth with her hand and yawned. It was clear she was tired.

"You must be tired, Ms. Huo! Come, I'll take you back home to rest first." Pei Huan grabbed Bao from Su Shaoqing's embrace. She also spoke to Shi Nuan for a while before looking at Fu Chengyan and Li Heng. She knew they still had something to say to each other, so she left with Huo Ling first. Before Huo Ling left, she said she would come back tomorrow. After the women left, Fu Chengyan stood up and stared at Li Heng. "Let's talk outside!"

Fu Chengyan then patted the back of Shi Nuan's hand. "You should rest first, since people from the Huo family are already here. Trust me on this, okay?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "Then, my sister—"

"I've already asked my men to look after her. Shen Qianan'll be fine!"

Shi Nuan nodded after he gave her his word. Perhaps because of her pregnancy and Huo Ling's acupuncture earlier, she felt rather tired. It didn't take long before she fell asleep.

"Ask them to pay more attention while guarding the ward, Zhou Zheng. Don't allow anyone to get close to the ward. If a similar event happened again, I'll be sending you all to hell," Fu Chengyan threatened. Zhou Zheng immediately straightened his body and replied fearfully, "Understood, Mr. Fu!"

After Fu Chengyan and Li Heng left the ward, they headed to Su Shaoqing's lab together. "So, what's the matter?"

"Something's up in Frosa." Li Heng handed the documents to Fu Chengyan. "Fu Sijue also has a company in Frosa. Even though I've only recently found out about that, it's something that happened seven years ago. It seems like his conspiracy didn't start three or four years ago, Chengyan!"

A glimmer of light flashed across Fu Chengyan's eyes as he stared at the documents. There was a tinge of shock on his face. "Anything else?"

"Don't you think there's something suspicious about the stock matter in the capital and Jiang City? What did Mr. Pei say?"

"There are a couple of moles in Shengyuan Group. I have no idea when they were planted. I can't believe they caused such a mess during the period I wasn't in the company. It seems like they're working with Fu Sijue."

Li Heng nodded and twirled the cigarette in his hand. "That's what I think as well. However, we can use this opportunity to clean out unwanted staff in the company. If Fu Sijue remains in hiding, then it'll be a problem. But if he's out in the open, things will be easy to deal with."

Fu Chengyan nodded. "I think so too. Right now, we should focus on flushing him out. I can tell he's getting impatient. After all, he's spent a long time and put in so much effort in carrying out the plan. There's no way he will keep hiding in the shadows."

Fu Chengyan had no idea who Fu Sijue was, but since he was part of the Fu clan, then both of them should be similar in some aspects.

Since Fu Chengyan had the galls to use Shen Qianan to deal with Fu Sijue, it meant that he had guessed a lot of possibilities.

"My people are keeping a close eye on the villa near the sea, and they noticed that Shen Qianan's signal was around there!" Fu Chengyan stood up and stared at the flickering light outside of the window. He stayed silent for a moment before saying, "We probably need to put an end to this matter, but involving Huan is..." He pinched his glabella.

"The enemy came prepared. This is something we couldn't have predicted!" Li Heng stood up and patted Fu Chengyan's shoulder. "He won't remain in the shadows for long!"

Inside the car heading toward the Li residence, Song Zhe was driving while Pei Huan was carrying Bao in the backseat. There was another young lady sitting next to her, and she was none other than Huo Ling. Even though the young lady looked tired, she was still quite energetic. She kept chatting along the way.

Pei Huan continued to listen to Huo Ling talking about interesting things from her childhood while coaxing Bao to sleep.

When Song Zhe, who was in the driver's seat, was listening to Huo Ling, he glanced at the rearview mirror and saw that she was smiling as bright as the sun. It seemed to him that she was very happy. He couldn't help but grin. Just as he was about to speak, his expression suddenly turned dark.

Without warning, he sped up the car. The women didn't expect he would suddenly speed up the car and almost tumbled because of the inertia. Thankfully, Huo Ling was quick enough to grab Pei Huan. "Are you hurt, Goddess?"

Pei Huan shook her head, which led to Huo Ling scolding Song Zhe. "Hey, are you sure you know how to drive, Mr. Song? Do you think you can bear the consequences if she's hurt—"

"Shut up!" Song Zhe roared. "Sit tight and lower your head!"

"What's wrong, Song Zhe?" Pei Huan asked.

"Someone's chasing after us!" Even though he still looked collected, his mind was filled with worry.

He was the only man in the car at the moment, and there were two women and a child with him. He had no idea who the enemy was, but he knew the enemy was targeting them.

When Pei Huan heard that, she turned back and saw there was indeed a car chasing after them.

She put Bao down and said, "Bao, stay down and don't move, okay?"

Bao stared at her with his big, round eyes and nodded smartly.

She then turned to Huo Ling and saw her being exceptionally calm. "Ms. Huo!"

"I'm fine!" Huo Ling lowered her head and observed her surrounding before formulating a plan. Song Zhe sped up the car and kept changing lanes and making turns. Despite that, the car behind them was still following them closely.

Pei Huan was aware of the severity of the situation. She hurriedly grabbed her phone and called Li Heng. "Heng, we're being tailed by someone on the road right now."

Li Heng stood up as the look in his eyes turned cold. "Don't end the call! I'll be right there! Don't be afraid, Huan. Just keep yourself and Bao safe!" After he finished speaking, he turned to Fu Chengyan and Su Shaoqing. "Chengyan, you stay at the hospital. Shaoqing, you follow me!"

"What happened?"

Fu Chengyan saw how Li Heng was acting and asked, "Was it Huan who called you?"

"Yep! She called me and told me that someone was chasing after them. It's possible that they're Fu Sijue's men!" Li Heng's face became more serious than ever.

Fu Chengyan's face darkened when he heard that. "I'll go too!"

"No! Shi Nuan is still at the hospital. There's no guarantee that Fu Sijue's men won't make a move on her. I only need Shaoqing to come with me!" Li Heng then left with Su Shaoqing.

"You drive, Shaoqing!" He threw the car keys to Su Shaoqing while he sat in the passenger seat. After that, he immediately turned on his laptop to track Pei Huan's phone's location. Once that was achieved, he called Liang Lin and Pei Jingxiu. "Mr. Pei, I'm sending you a location now. Huan is in danger!"

Pei Jingxiu was prepared to take a nap at the villa when Li Heng called him. He narrowed his eyes and simply grabbed a coat before heading out. A seemingly capable and experienced woman followed him behind. "Mr. Pei!"

His gaze fell on her as he stopped in his tracks. "Didn't I tell you to stay in Sheen City to keep an eye on Ning Xi?"

"Mr. Pei, Ning Xi—" Before the woman could finish speaking, Ning Xi walked out from a corner and called him out, "Mr. Pei."

Pei Jingxiu's expression turned scary the moment he saw Ning Xi. "Why are you here?"

Ning Xi's expression remained unchanged. "I'm here to see if there's anything that needs my help." When she was saying that, she stared at him very calmly and then took a glance at the woman behind him. "Mr. Pei, you should know that it's pointless making her follow after me because no one can stop me if I want to leave!"

"Just follow me!" He didn't have time to argue with them. "Get in the car right now!"

Ling took the wheel, while Ning Xi sat in the passenger seat and analyzed the location Li Heng had sent her. When she saw there were multiple cars chasing after Su Zhe's car, her face darkened. "They're armed, Mr. Pei!"

Pei Jingxiu nodded. He lowered his head and dealt with the tracking software on his laptop. His fingers were moving incredibly fast for a few moments before he turned off the laptop. Then, he pulled out two guns and gave one to Ning Xi. "For defense!"

Ning Xi grabbed the gun and played with it in her hands. "Do we shoot to kill?"

He shot a glance at her. She furrowed her eyebrows yet remained silent.

Meanwhile, Li Heng had already locked on Pei Huan's location, since their call was still connected. "I'm coming over to you right now, Huan. Keep yourself and Bao safe, okay?"

"Don't worry, Heng. We'll be fine!" Just as she finished speaking, the car behind them suddenly caught up to them and bumped into the back of Song Zhe's car.

A loud banging sound was heard. She lost her balance and almost fell out of the car. Thankfully, Huo Ling grabbed her in the nick of time. "Be careful!"

While she managed to grab Pei Huan in time, the car behind was still following closely behind them. Song Zhe was basically sweating bullets as he gripped the steering wheel tightly. "Sit still, Madam! I'm going to speed up!"

Pei Huan was holding Bao in her embrace and hiding below the seat. However, it only took a while before the car was completely surrounded by the pursuers in several cars. Both sides of Song Zhe's car were blocked by the pursuers.

"F*ck!" Song Zhe couldn't help but swear. "B*stards! Fight me in a duel if you dare!"

He stepped on the gas pedal as hard as he could in order to escape from the pincer attack. Unfortunately, the pursuers were persistent. He had no opportunities to escape from them at all.

Another bang was heard as both sides of the car were severely damaged. The vehicle shook so badly that Song Zhe had to ask, "Are you hurt, Madam?"

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Chapter 553 Gunfight

Even though Pei Huan was currently afraid, she couldn't show her fear. Otherwise, it would make Song Zhe panic even more. Therefore, she shook her head and said, "Focus on driving, Song Zhe. You don't need to worry about me and Huo Ling. We'll take care of ourselves." Although she said that, her eyes were fixed on her phone.

She knew she couldn't panic and put more stress on Li Heng. Thus, she could only hold Bao tightly and comforted, "Don't be afraid, Bao. I'm here." Li Heng's eyes were turning reddish when he heard her voice over the phone. "Drive faster, Shaoqing!"

Su Shaoqing pressed down hard on the gas pedal and suddenly thought of something. He hurriedly turned on his phone and called Fu Chengyan. "Chengyan, I haven't had the time to take care of Ling lately. If it's true that the enemy is targeting the Fu clan, then Ling is—"

"I got it!" Fu Chengyan had actually hired people to protect Fu Ling all this while. However, when he heard Su Shaoqing say that, he immediately called Zhou Zheng and asked, "Who has been following Fu Ling lately?"

"It's Zhou Zhi, Mr. Fu!" Zhou Zheng replied. "Is there a problem, Mr. Fu?"

"Tell Zhou Zhi to bring Ling to the Fu residence right now!" He paused before continuing, "Also, send more people to protect Bai at the hospital!"

"But, Mr. Fu, is it really okay to send her to the Fu residence?" After all, both the Fu clan and Fu Ling had a common understanding about Fu Ling's departure from the Fu residence previously.

Fu Chengyan stayed silent for a while before saying, "Tell Zhou Zhi to take her there. If the old man asked about it, tell him it's my order!"

Su Shaoqing was still worried after hanging up the phone. Just as he was about to give Fu Ling a call, Li Heng grabbed the phone away from him. "Focus on driving!"

Su Shaoqing furrowed his eyebrows, but he had to obey Li Heng. After all, Pei Huan was in greater danger at the moment.

Once Li Heng locked on the target, he ordered, "Huan, turned on the speaker and let Song Zhe listen!"

Pei Huan immediately turned on the speaker, allowing Li Heng to speak to Song Zhe. "When you reach the spot five hundred meters ahead, turn around and enter a narrow path. You need to get rid of the car on your right first."

"Understood, Mr. Li!" Upon receiving his order, Song Zhe sped up the car. "Ms. Huo, Madam, sit tight!"

His driving skills were pretty good. Even though the car had suffered a significant amount of damage, it was still able to swerve and get rid of the car on the right. "I got rid of the car, Mr. Li!"

"Good. Now, I need you to turn left and enter the tunnel. Get rid of the car behind you." Li Heng paused before asking, "Do you know how to use a gun, Huo Ling?"

"I do, Great Mr. Li!" Huo Ling quickly replied. Song Zhe understood that and threw the gun he pulled out from his waistbelt to her. "Do you know how to use this one, Ms. Huo?"

"I do!" Even though she came from a family of doctors, there were still some other skills she needed to learn. After all, she was a very important person. Ever since she was a child, she was required to learn different self-defense skills to protect herself. Therefore, it was natural that she was good with guns.

Huo Ling was holding the gun in her hand when Li Heng said, "Take out one of the cars inside the tunnel! You don't need to shoot the people. Just hitting the tire will be enough!"

"Got it!" Just as Song Zhe made the swift turn, she took the opportunity and crawled to the passenger seat.

"Keep Bao safe, Goddess!" As she spoke, she wound down the car window. When Song Zhe drove the car into the tunnel, Huo Ling observed one of the pursuers' cars. When they arrived at the middle section of the tunnel, she took her aim and fired two rounds at the tire.

When Song Zhe drove the car out of the tunnel, he noticed that they had gotten rid of the car. He couldn't help but let out a sigh of relief. However, the danger wasn't over

yet. A car suddenly appeared in front of him, causing him to panic and turn the steering wheel to the side. The car smashed into the guardrail at the side of the road.

A loud bang was heard from the car due to the impact. He quickly asked, "Are you all right, Madam?"

"I'm fine!" Pei Huan could feel herself getting hit pretty hard since the pain was making her wince. Still, she gritted her teeth and comforted, "I'm here, Bao."

Bao was very calm throughout the whole journey. It wasn't that he was unafraid; it was just that he didn't want Pei Huan to worry.

Song Zhe reversed the car and drove forward again. The cars behind them were still chasing after them relentlessly. Eventually, his car was surrounded by the pursuers.

Song Zhe's face turned pale. "Stay in the car, Madam. I—" Before he could finish, a gunshot was heard. He immediately pushed everyone down and protected them with his body.

Thankfully, Li Heng and Pei Jingxiu had made it in time. When the former saw that Song Zhe's car was surrounded, he pulled out his gun and fired. He was quick and accurate. Before the pursuers realized what was going on, a few of them were already dead with a bullet in their heads. The others in the cars exited their vehicles and prepared to head straight toward Pei Huan.

Pei Jingxiu and Ning Xi hurriedly got out of the car and began an all-out gunfight with the pursuers.

There were a lot of people on the opposing side. Even though Li Heng's side consisted of a large number of men, it still wasn't easy to take the enemies all out.

It was clear that the enemies came prepared. Their target was clear. They were there to capture the people in Song Zhe's car.

Just as the enemies were keeping Li Heng and Pei Jingxiu busy, two of them went over to where Pei Huan was and pointed a gun at her head. However, this time around, they did not capture Pei Huan. Instead, they were targeting Huo Ling.

Huo Ling found the right opportunity, aimed her gun at the guy's head, and pulled the trigger. A hole was formed in between the guy's eyebrows before he dropped dead to the ground.

She was pretty skillful in using a gun. With Song Zhe's support, she managed to take down a few men in black clothing.

The scene currently playing out on the empty road was thrilling and horrifying. The gunfight didn't last very long. After Pei Jingxiu and Li Heng took down the enemies one after another, Li Heng approached Pei Huan and saw that Bao was still in her embrace. At that moment, Pei Huan was trembling violently, but she was still holding her child in a really safe position.

"Huan!" He carried her out of the car and gently patted her back. "It's over, Huan!"

Pei Huan lifted her head and stared at him. "Heng!"

"Good girl!" He gazed at her with a gentle look.

Huo Ling finished off the rest of the enemies and hurried toward the couple. "You're finally here, Great Mr. Li!"

He nodded and was really impressed by her. After what had happened, he changed his opinion of her. "Sorry for this frightening experience today, Ms. Huo."

"Li Heng, you bring them back first." Pei Jingxiu swept his gaze across his surroundings. "I'll stay back and take care of this mess. Go, now."

Li Heng nodded. "All right!"

Li Heng left with Pei Huan, Bao, and Huo Ling first. Pei Jingxiu, Su Shaoqing, and the others remained behind.

Pei Jingxiu checked the surrounding surveillance cameras before dialing Liang Lin's number. "Did you erase the footage?"

"I did, Mr. Pei!" Liang Lin was pretty quick. The footage taken by the surveillance cameras was already wiped a few minutes ago. "I've already retrieved everything involving the chase and the gunfight."

After hearing that, Pei Jingxiu hummed in response. "Ling, check and see if there is anyone still alive," he instructed.

"No, Mr. Pei!"

He nodded. "Good. Let's go!"

"Hey, Mr. Pei!" Su Shaoqing pointed at the bodies on the ground. "Don't tell me you're going to leave this mess unattended? Do you know how chaotic Jiang City will be when the words get out tomorrow?"

"That's the plan." Pei Jingxiu sneered, "I want to see how far these b*stards will go. Let's move!" Su Shaoqing pouted. "Fine!" After he got in the car, he didn't forget to give Fu Ling a call.

At the moment, Fu Ling had just gotten off work due to overtime. An unfamiliar man promptly stopped her path. "My name is Zhou Zhi, Ms. Fu!"

Fu Ling was stunned for a moment and stared at him cautiously. "I don't know you!"

"I'm one of Mr. Fu's men, Ms. Fu. Zhou Zheng is my older brother!" As he spoke, Zhou Zhi pulled out his ID card. "Mr. Fu has asked me to bring you back, Ms. Fu!"

"Back?" She stared at him perplexedly. "Back where? Mr. Zhou, I'm heading to the hospital right now."

Even though he claimed to be one of Fu Chengyan's men, she didn't know him, so she didn't plan to follow him. Zhou Zhi had no choice but to call Fu Chengyan. "Yes, Mr. Fu. She's currently here with me, but she's unwilling to leave with me!"

Then, he handed the phone to her. "Ms. Fu, Mr. Fu would like to speak to you."

She suspiciously grabbed the phone and heard Fu Chengyan's voice coming from the other end of the line. "Follow Zhou Zhi back to the Fu residence first, Ling."

Her eyebrows immediately furrowed in disdain when she heard that. "No need. I'm currently living in a pretty good place right now. You don't need to worry about me."

"Ling, listen to me." Fu Chengyan pinched his glabella. "This is not the time for you to be willful."

"What's wrong?" She could tell that there was a tinge of exhaustion in his voice. "Why must I return to the Fu residence? I want to visit Bai at the hospital!"

Fu Chengyan went silent for a while before saying, "Fine, then let Zhou Zhi take you to the hospital."

"No need." She rejected his offer without a second thought.

"Listen to me. If you don't allow Zhou Zhi to send you to the hospital, then you're going back to the Fu residence!" His voice sounded resolute. She had no choice but to agree. "Fine." She ended the call and returned the phone to Zhou Zhi. "Please send me to the hospital right now, Mr. Zhou!"

Zhou Zhi nodded. "Please follow me to the car, Ms. Fu!"

Because there had been a gunfight on the road to the hospital, Zhou Zhi saw police cars surrounding the place where the gunfight had taken place when he was driving her to her location. There were a lot of police and onlookers gathering around the scene.

Since the gunfight had happened at night, and it was on a highway, even if someone knew a gunfight had transpired, no one would care. Even if they cared, no one could make out the culprits' faces. That was why the police were setting up roadblocks to investigate the incident.

Because of that, Fu Ling and Zhou Zhi had to be questioned by the police for a while before they were allowed to leave. She thought that it was odd. It wasn't until the car was far away before she looked away and commented, "I wonder how the gunfight happened."

Zhou Zhi's expression froze when he heard that. He merely smiled and answered, "No idea. It's not safe to be out at night nowadays."

She stayed silent and lowered her head. No one could tell what was on her mind.

Right then, her phone rang. It was from Su Shaoqing. She hung up on him without a second thought, but he kept calling. Her phone rang again and again. After a while, Zhou Zhi's phone rang. "Yes, Mr. Su. Ms. Fu's currently in my car. We're about to arrive at the hospital."

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Chapter 554 A Round Belly

Zhou Zhi drove Fu Ling to the hospital. He also personally watched Fu Ling walking into the entrance before reporting the matter to Fu Chengyan. Zhou Zhi relayed the information regarding what had happened on the road earlier. He clarified, "There were no witnesses at the scene. However, I saw a few people who seemed to be seasoned fighters. They roamed around nearby before leaving!"

When Fu Chengyan heard that, his dark eyes flickered. "All right, I understand. Thank you for your hard work today. You can go back and rest now." Fu Chengyan hung up the phone and then called Li Heng. When he heard that everyone was safe and sound, he was finally relieved.

Shi Nuan noticed that Fu Chengyan, who had been in the ward with her the whole time, had made several phone calls. She asked, "What's going on?"

"Nothing! It's very late now. You should get some sleep!" Fu Chengyan did not want Shi Nuan to know about it, so he simply did not tell her anything. "Ms. Huo will come and check on you tomorrow, okay?"

Shi Nuan nodded.

Fu Ling went to the hospital. She felt that the hospital had become very strange recently. Every time she came to this hospital, it seemed very quiet. It was as if there were not many people here. Although Fu Ling was weirded out back then, she did not question it. For some reason, though, she felt that something was off on that very day.

Su Shaoqing saw Fu Ling coming even when the latter was still some distance away. "Ling! You're here!"

Fu Ling pursed her lips slightly. She looked at Su Shaoqing with a slightly unhappy expression. "Am I not allowed to visit?"

"I didn't mean that!" Su Shaoqing immediately put on a smile. "Did you come to see Bai? The nurse said that Bai had already fallen asleep. Actually, since you've worked late into the night today, you don't have to come here. I got a nurse to watch over Bai, so don't you worry!"

Su Shaoqing kept talking to Fu Ling as they walked. He asked, "Have you had your dinner yet? Are you hungry?"

Seeing Su Shaoqing behaving that way, Fu Ling could not help but frown. "Su Shaoqing, you don't have to do this." She could not understand it. I've specifically made myself clear to Su Shaoqing. Why does he never seem to listen to me?

Su Shaoqing did not care about what Fu Ling thought. "I'll get someone to buy you food, okay? Bai is asleep right now, so why don't you go to my office first? Or do you want to visit Nuan?"

"Nuan?" Fu Ling immediately stopped in her tracks. "Nuan is in the hospital?"

Fu Ling had always felt that something was amiss in this hospital back then. When Su Shaoqing mentioned Shi Nuan, though, Fu Ling finally thought about it seriously. "Nuan is in the hospital? Is Chengyan here too?"

Su Shaoqing nodded. "Yes."

Fu Ling frowned. "Why didn't anyone tell me?" Other than her workplace, she would often be at Su Shaoqing's mansion or even at the hospital. And yet, no one told her about Shi Nuan's hospitalization. "What happened to Nuan? Why is she in the hospital? Isn't she pregnant?" Fu Ling asked.

"It's a long story. Actually, I didn't want to tell you at first. But now, I think it's better that you know about it!" Su Shaoqing proceeded to tell Fu Ling about everything that had happened. "It seems like those guys are targeting the Fu clan. Pei Huan and Bao each

got injected with the virus, and now they've made a move against Nuan. That's why I'm worried that something might happen to you too."

"So you had Zhou Zhi come and send me to the Fu residence?" Fu Ling had it figured out, so it was not difficult to understand why Fu Chengyan had been insistent on doing so that day. She responded, "I don't think it's a big deal. Those guys didn't attack me, probably because they don't think I'm that important!"

Fu Ling believed that if those guys had wanted to attack her, she would not be still alive and kicking.

Su Shaoqing did not seem to share the same opinion. "It's better to be safe than sorry. Therefore, for the time being, you can either go to the Fu residence or follow me to the Su residence!"

"I'm not going anywhere!" Fu Ling did not want to go to either place. "No matter what you guys say, I won't go!"

"Ling, this isn't the time for you to be willful!" Su Shaoqing extended out his hand and was about to grab Fu Ling's hand. However, Fu Ling avoided his grasp. She looked at Su Shaoqing coldly. "What are you doing? You forced me to go to your mansion in the past. And now, you still want to force me to do something against my will?"

Fu Ling's voice was very cold. Su Shaoqing was at a loss for words. "I—"

Fu Ling suddenly exclaimed, "Since Bai fell asleep, I'll go visit Nuan instead!"

Although Fu Ling was at odds with Su Shaoqing and Fu Chengyan, she still had an amicable relationship with Shi Nuan.

Ever since Fu Ling found out that Shi Nuan was pregnant a while ago, the two had not met each other for a long time.

Su Shaoqing brought Fu Ling over to Shi Nuan's ward. Fu Chengyan was trying to get Shi Nuan to sleep at that moment. Shi Nuan opened her eyes wide and looked at the ceiling, unable to fall asleep.

Hearing footsteps coming from outside, Shi Nuan turned her head to look at the door. Sure enough, she saw Su Shaoqing coming her way with Fu Ling.

"Ling!" Shi Nuan exclaimed.

Hearing Shi Nuan's voice, Fu Ling pushed open the door and walked in. "Nuan! How are you feeling?"

"I'm fine. It's such a late hour, though. Why did you come here all of a sudden?" Shi Nuan beckoned Fu Ling to sit down. "Were you here to visit Bai?"

Fu Ling nodded. "He already fell asleep, though. How are you feeling right now, Nuan?" Fu Ling took the glass of water that Su Shaoqing had handed over to her. She held it in her hands but did not drink from it. "I heard that you fell ill."

"I'm fine for the time being!" Shi Nuan smiled. "I heard that you've been very busy with work recently. You have to take good care of yourself no matter how busy your work gets." Shi Nuan looked at Fu Ling, who seemed to have lost weight. "Why did you come at such a late hour?"

"I was working overtime!" Fu Ling took a sip of water. When she sensed Shi Nuan's disapproving gaze, she quickly changed the subject. "Your belly is so big, Nuan! How many months pregnant are you?"

"I'm six months pregnant! They're twins!" Shi Nuan replied.

"Really?" Fu Ling's eyes sparkled. "That's wonderful!"

Her eyes were fixated on Shi Nuan's belly. There was a hint of longing in those bright eyes of hers. Su Shaoqing stared at Fu Ling, looking at her expression when she looked at Shi Nuan's belly. His expression darkened.

Fu Ling did not notice Su Shaoqing's expression. She was very happy for Shi Nuan. However, when she thought about the virus inside Shi Nuan's body, she was a little distressed. Fu Ling advised, "Nuan, you must take good care of your body. Leave all the work to Chengyan. He's a big and strong man, after all."

Shi Nuan smiled and nodded. "Yeah, I can't do anything right now. It's as if I'm the princess!"

When Shi Nuan said that, she glanced at Fu Chengyan with a hint of annoyance. Fu Chengyan's inky black eyes shifted slightly. He could only reach his hand out and pat Shi Nuan's head in resignation. "Mischievous girl!"

When Fu Chengyan patted Shi Nuan's head like that, she pushed him away in dissatisfaction. "Stop! You're messing up my hair!"

Fu Chengyan wore a smile on his face. "Haha!"

Fu Ling was also happy when she saw how Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan were getting along so well. "Nuan, you and Chengyan have such a good relationship!"

Shi Nuan smiled, but her gaze fell on Su Shaoqing. She noticed that he was staring at Fu Ling. Su Shaoqing's gaze had been fixed on Fu Ling all the time.

Shi Nuan gave Fu Chengyan a wink. Fu Chengyan took the hint and gave a curt nod in response. He said, "It's getting late. Shaoqing, you should send Ling back home."

"There's no need! I can go home by myself!" Fu Ling rejected it without even thinking about it. Fu Chengyan could not allow her to do so, though. He stated, "Just listen to me. In the face of recent events, you should stop being stubborn and willful. You can ask Shaoqing to send you to the Fu residence, or you can follow him back to the Su residence!"

"But..." Fu Ling wanted to say that she did not want to go to any of those two places. However, as she saw Fu Chengyan's serious expression and thought about what Su Shaoging had said before, her eyebrows were knitted into a frown.

Surely, Su Shaoqing could tell that Fu Ling was reluctant to do as her brother said. However, just as he was about to speak, Fu Ling had already stood up. "Fine!"

Su Shaoqing looked at Fu Ling in surprise. "Good! Let's go then!" The result could not have been any better.

Fu Ling bade Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan farewell before leaving. Su Shaoqing followed behind her. He did not walk too fast or slow, and he also kept a distance from her.

Looking at the two of them, Shi Nuan could not help but sigh. "What do you think Shaoqing is thinking about? If he really likes Ling, he could've cleared things up to her and opened up about what happened that year. If he merely feels guilty, I don't think it's necessary for Shaoqing to treat Ling this way. What's done is done. He'll only end up hurting Ling by being so ambiguous!"

"Oh, you! Don't worry about them. Let them deal with it on their own!" Fu Chengyan helped Shi Nuan to lie down. He also grabbed the blanket and tucked her in. "It's getting late. You should have slept by now."

"What about you?" Shi Nuan looked at Fu Chengyan. Although Fu Chengyan had been with her the whole time, he had not slept in the ward for the night.

"I'm not leaving. Now, go to sleep!" Fu Chengyan replied.

"Get on the bed, then!" Shi Nuan patted the bed as she moved a bit to make room for Fu Chengyan. "This bed is big enough, anyway!"

Considering that Shi Nuan was having a big belly because of the pregnancy, Fu Chengyan had ordered a large bed the day after Shi Nuan was admitted to the hospital. Previously, when Su Shaoqing saw the bed, he mocked Shi Nuan and said that Fu Chengyan was trying to do something with the large bed. At that time, Shi Nuan's face turned beet red because of his words.

After hearing Shi Nuan's offer, Fu Chengyan lowered his eyes. A gleam flashed across those dark eyes of his. The corners of his lips rose and curved into a smirk. He looked at Shi Nuan with those long and narrow eyes of his. "Are you sure?" He spoke in a devilish but also serious tone.

Shi Nuan blinked. She then patted the bed again. "Sleep right here."

Fu Chengyan smiled. "Okay!" He quickly took off his jacket and got on the bed.

Shi Nuan felt the weight of the bed shifting as the man lay down beside her. She grinned. Before Fu Chengyan could react, Shi Nuan turned and shifted her body with some difficulty. She reached her hands out and hugged Fu Chengyan's waist.

"Careful!" Fu Chengyan saw that Shi Nuan's belly was already as round as a ball, and yet she still turned her body over. Shi Nuan could not help but rub against his abdomen and pinch his waist. Fu Chengyan could not help but gasp. "You're playing with fire right now!"

Shi Nuan pouted. "No, I'm not!" She then sighed. "Women who are having children are pitiful! Look at my belly! And look at yours!"

"Huh? What's wrong with mine?"

Fu Chengyan reached out and laid Shi Nuan's body flat. He then carefully placed his hand on Shi Nuan's belly. His warm palm touched her belly through her thin pajamas. It was a wonderful feeling.

Shi Nuan put her hand on the back of Fu Chengyan's hand. She said unhappily, "Look at how big my belly is. I've put on a lot of weight all over my body! Now, look at you! Your figure is still so good!"

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Chapter 555 Returning To The Su Residence

Fu Chengyan laughed at Shi Nuan's words and pinched her nose. "You can't sleep?"

Shi Nuan nodded while pouting. "Yeah." Fu Chengyan chuckled and turned sideways, supporting his head with one hand while placing another on Shi Nuan's belly. He then gently stroked it as though he was coaxing her. "Honey, I like you no matter what."

A bright smile appeared on Shi Nuan's face. Just when she was going to speak, she felt a sudden nudge in her belly. "Ah!"

Meanwhile, Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows as he could feel the pulses. The next moment, he sat up and placed his head near Shi Nuan's stomach. "Did it just move?"

The latter nodded hurriedly. Curiosity and delight filled her eyes. "Yes. It just moved... Ah! Could it be the fetal movement, Yan?"

"It must be!" Although Fu Chengyan had never encountered fetal movements nor grasped what they were, he had learned about them in Yu Qing's free lessons. She taught that one could feel the fetal movements once the baby reached a certain growth.

It was an indescribable feeling for Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan, who knew nothing about fetal movements, to experience what they were in person.

Shi Nuan stared at Fu Chengyan with excitement glowing in her eyes. Meanwhile, the latter's expression softened. Under the dim light, he looked unbelievably gentle.

His big palm was on Shi Nuan's belly as he caressed it gently. Joy swirled in his eyes as he coaxed, "Be good. I know you guys are excited, but it's late now. Don't disturb Mommy's sleep, okay?"

Shi Nuan laughed happily upon hearing Fu Chengyan's gentle voice. "Yan, will they understand what you said?"

"They will as my children are brilliant!" With that, Fu Chengyan neared her belly and spoke. His warm breath fanned Shi Nuan's belly. Shi Nuan's gaze softened when she saw how Fu Chengyan interacted with their babies. She reached out her hand, stroked Fu Chengyan's black hair with her sleek fingers, and patted. "That's enough. It's late now. We should sleep."

Fu Chengyan nodded and kissed her on the lips before he lay down. "Let's sleep then."

Shi Nuan closed her eyes eagerly. Meanwhile, staring at her sleeping face, Fu Chengyan reached out his hand and held hers, their fingers intertwining.

After Fu Ling left the hospital with Su Shaoqing, she halted the thought of not wanting to go back with the latter as Fu Chengyan's words resounded in her ears. Fu Chengyan had been treating her nicely despite her awkward, opposing status in the Fu clan. Deep inside her heart, she was aware of Fu Chengyan's kindness throughout the years. That was why she felt guilty and moved out of the Fu residence.

She knew that Fu Chengyan would never ask her to return to the Fu residence unless there was a serious matter. However, she would rather go to the Su residence over the Fu residence. The Fu clan was something that Fu Ling had yet to get over.

Fu Ling glanced sideways at Su Shaoqing, who was focusing on driving. She let out a weak laugh before she turned around and viewed the scenery outside through the window.

As for the Su family... it won't matter much to me since nothing will ever happen between us. Regardless of her thought, her fingers were snarling tightly, turning pale. The color expressed how anxious she was at the moment.

In the meantime, Su Shaoqing did not know what she was thinking. What troubled his mind was Fu Ling's attitude toward him. The latter seemed to be colder to him as compared to before.

Su Shaoqing thought that Fu Ling behaved in such a way just because of her unwillingness to follow him to the Su residence as he requested. Usually, he would give up on persuading her. However, for some reason, frustration built up in him at that moment as though he was worried about her safety or angry at her for having rejected him so many times.

"Let's go to the Su residence?" Su Shaoqing asked. Fu Ling clasped her hands upon hearing that. After a while, she turned around and faced Su Shaoqing with a composed look. "Haven't you already decided it, Mr. Su?"

The latter furrowed his eyebrows as he did not like her cold tone. "You don't have to speak to me like that, Ling. I'll send you to the Fu residence if you don't want to go to the Su residence."

"There's no need for that," Fu Ling rejected him curtly. She looked at Su Shaoqing indifferently. "I'd rather go to the Su residence over the Fu residence. Plus, we're old acquaintances, aren't we?"

The latter frowned, gripped the steering wheel tightly, and decided to keep his mouth shut, afraid that he would fail to control his outbursts. He was scared that his words would end up hurting Fu Ling. To be exact, he wished that the latter would vent her frustration on him.

Upon seeing the quiet Su Shaoqing, Fu Ling did not continue the conversation.

Her eyes darkened when she imagined what would happen next at the Su residence. Hence, she closed her eyes and stopped thinking about it.

Su Shaoqing felt suffocated in the stuffy atmosphere. However, the moment Fu Ling had her eyes closed was the only chance he dared to stare at her. There was no trace of arrogance found on her resting face. It was as if they had gone back to the old days.

Fu Ling had been staying by Su Shaoqing's side obediently. However, her presence had always gone unnoticed by the latter. She never asked him for anything, but what she wanted was more than everything else he had. Her wish had turned into an extravagant hope as he could never fulfill what she wanted.

Su Shaoqing wondered for the very first time while staring at Fu Ling's sleeping face.

Wouldn't it be great if I can turn back time? Anyway, I'm not the kind of person who believes in turning back time. Even if I managed to go back in time, I'd still treat her just like back then.

He gave Fu Ling a complicated glance as he fell into deep thought. It looks like there's no perfect way to deal with the matters between us.

With that, he let out a sigh. Meanwhile, Fu Ling stopped pretending to be asleep. She met Su Shaoqing's eyes the moment she opened hers. The latter explained hurriedly, as though he felt quilty for peeking. "We're here."

Well, to be exact, we've arrived for quite a while. Fu Ling nodded despite her inner thought. She kept pretending to be asleep as Su Shaoqing did not try to wake her up. However, his passionate gaze made her feel uncomfortable, leading her to open her eyes.

"Then, let's get out of the car." Compared to Su Shaoqing, Fu Ling's action was swift. After getting out of the car, she took a deep breath. Across the opened gate, the Su family's butler was standing at the door, looking at her and Su Shaoqing. Fu Ling could not help but feel nervous. Su Shaoqing wound the window down upon seeing that. "We still need to park the car inside the house."

Fu Ling frowned. "Why did you stop outside then?"

It seemed like the butler had been waiting for Su Shaoqing's arrival for quite a while. Not seeing the latter's figure, he peeked out and was stunned when he saw Fu Ling. In split seconds, he regained his composure and asked, "Young Master Shaoqing, it's late now. Aren't you coming in?"

Su Shaoqing glanced at Fu Ling. The latter opened the door and got into the car once again despite her unwillingness.

Su Shaoqing smirked as he was happy to see Fu Ling showing more of her emotions to him. A gentle smile cracked on his face. "Do you still remember Butler Li? You should since you used to come over often."

Su Shaoqing initially planned to ease the awkwardness between him and Fu Ling. To his surprise, Fu Ling's face turned pale the moment she heard Butler Li's name. Her emotions vanished as she glared at Su Shaoqing coldly. "Why should I remember him?"

The latter tightened his grip on the steering wheel. "It's okay. You've remembered it now."

Fu Ling frowned and did not reply to him.

Su Shaoqing parked the car in the garage. He walked toward Fu Ling, who had gotten out of the car. The latter avoided him before he could hold her hand.

With that, awkwardness flashed across his face as his hand froze in the air. Nevertheless, he retrieved it and said, "Let's go."

Fu Ling nodded and followed behind him.

In the meantime, at the Su residence, everyone in the Su family knew about Su Shaoqing having brought a woman home after being notified by Butler Li. Initially, everyone was thrilled that Su Shaoqing was willing to bring a girl home. However, all of them paled when they found that Fu Ling was the girl.

Although the latter was from the Fu clan, the Su family regarded her as not worthy of Su Shaoqing as she was still not acknowledged by the Fu clan. Furthermore, they still remembered what had happened in the past.

Hence, Lin Shuqin could not bring herself to like Fu Ling despite being a reasonable person.

Her face darkened when she found out that Su Shaoqing had brought the woman from back then home.

Fu Ling was well aware that Lin Shuqin did not like her. However, she would rather face Lin Shuqin's insult and disgust over confronting the Fu clan.

With Fu Ling trailing behind, Su Shaoqing had noticed Lin Shuqin and Su Yunwan right after he entered the house. At first, shock filled his expression. The next instant, he smiled and walked over to Lin Shuqin and Su Yunwan. "Mother, Aunt Su, why haven't you guys slept at such a late hour?"

After staring at her son's innocent and nonchalant look, Lin Shuqin shifted her gaze to Fu Ling, who was pacing over quietly. Her face remained darkened. "Isn't this Ms. Fu? Why are you visiting the Su residence at such a late hour?"

As a distinguished lady from a prominent family, Lin Shuqin always spoke politely. However, her words to Fu Ling sounded sharp and hurtful. Even Su Yunwan, who always stayed out of someone else's business, could detect her dislike toward Fu Ling, let alone Su Shaoqing.

Su Shaoqing frowned. Just when he was about to speak, Fu Ling chimed in, "Sorry for the disturbance, Mrs. Su."

She did not explain herself further after giving a short and simple answer in a flat tone. Nonetheless, Lin Shuqin and Su Shaoqing were stunned by her indifferent reaction.

Su Shaoqing stood up and tried to grab Fu Ling's hand. However, the latter avoided it. "Mr. Su, where is my room?"

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Chapter 556 What Are You Afraid Of

Su Shaoqing naturally noticed the hidden meaning in Fu Ling's words. He was about to say something, but he realized that the time was not right since he had not grabbed hold of her yet. "I'll take you there. It's just beside my room!"

After saying that, Su Shaoqing immediately grabbed Fu Ling's arm before she could even react. Fu Ling tried to put up a fight, but Su Shaoqing didn't give her any chance to do so. Then, she heard Su Shaoqing say, "Mother, Aunt Su, I'll be bringing Ling upstairs to rest."

After saying that, Su Shaoqing grabbed Fu Ling's hands and went upstairs without even looking at Lin Shuqin and Su Yunwan's reactions. After Su Shaoqing and Fu Ling went upstairs, Lin Shuqin looked upset as she clutched her teacup tightly. Su Yunwan took a look at Lin Shuqin and commented, "It's rare to see you like this."

Lin Shuqin frowned and grumbled, "It's all right if he chooses anyone else, but why did he have to choose her?"

Su Yunwan raised her eyebrow and responded, "It's a good thing that he's willing to bring her home. Do you want him to stay single forever?"

However, Lin Shuqin was still upset. "But that girl doesn't suit him! She's a cunning woman!" Su Yunwan knew what Lin Shuqin was thinking about. "But Shaoqing likes her. Besides, the event that happened all those years ago-"

Lin Shuqin became even more frustrated when she thought about it. "That's enough, Yunwan! She's such a cunning woman. I already knew that she didn't suit Shaoqing when she set him up before. I thought Shaoqing would meet a better woman when she finally left, but look at what happened now?" she lamented.

Su Yunwan tapped Lin Shuqin's hand and comforted her. "We can't rush these things. I think Shaoqing hasn't settled on her yet. They haven't married yet anyway, so there's no need to be so anxious."

After hearing that, Lin Shuqin could only hide her frustration.

How can I not be anxious? Su Yunwan said Su Shaoqing hasn't settled on her yet, but he has already brought her home!

Meanwhile, Su Shaoqing was taking Fu Ling upstairs. As they turned around a corner, Fu Ling slapped Su Shaoqing's hand away. She gave Su Shaoqing a dirty look as she went past him and headed upstairs.

Su Shaoqing frowned. Looking at his empty palm, this was the first time that he had a feeling of emptiness in his heart. However, he didn't think much about it as he hurried up the stairs to catch up with Fu Ling. He brought her to a room beside his and said, "You'll sleep in my room tonight while I'll sleep in the room next door."

"No. I'll sleep in the room next door," Fu Ling turned him down without any hesitation.

She knew she was already pushing it when she came to the Su residence, so there was no way she would sleep in Su Shaoqing's room. Moreover, ever since she returned from abroad, she had no plans to develop her relationship with Su Shaoqing, so she turned him down.

However, Su Shaoqing laughed and asked, "The room next door is my study. Do you want to sleep in my study?"

Fu Ling frowned and snapped, "Then, bring me to the guest room!"

"The guest room is not cleaned yet. Besides, it's late now, so it would be inappropriate and inconvenient to ask the servants to clean up the room," Su Shaoqing said.

Fu Ling didn't look pleased when she heard that. "Then, bring me back to the mansion!" she snapped.

Su Shaoging's face darkened, and he asked, "What are you afraid of, Ling?"

Fu Ling remained silent as she looked at Su Shaoqing. He took the opportunity to get close to Fu Ling and asked, "Are you scared that you'll fall in love with me again?"

Su Shaoqing was getting too close to her that she could feel his warm breath on her neck. His familiar smell surrounded her, and she didn't know how to react. She blushed as she pushed Su Shaoqing away. "You're so full of yourself. I won't fall for the same trick twice! Su Shaoqing, it's over between us, or should I say, we never even started anything before!"

Fu Ling's words were heartless and cold. She looked at Su Shaoqing, but her eyes lacked the passion they had all those years ago.

When Su Shaoqing noticed that Fu Ling was looking at him lovingly all those years ago, he turned her down repeatedly and hurt her. He even said something nasty to hurt her feelings and got her to stay away from him.

Su Shaoqing had seen the love in Fu Ling's eyes countless times, so he would never forget it. However, there was none of that in Fu Ling's eyes right now.

In the past, Su Shaoqing could deceive himself and insisted that Fu Ling was only pretending not to love him. However, this was the first time he felt afraid when he looked at Fu Ling's cold and heartless eyes. "Ling-" Su Shaoqing called out to her as he grabbed her arm.

Fu Ling didn't resist. Instead, she looked at Su Shaoqing impassively and said, "Mr. Su, do you think I'm still the naive and pathetic girl from before?"

She looked down at Su Shaoqing's hand which was holding her and mocked, "Mr. Su, what are you doing? Please don't forget. I may be an illegitimate child, but I'm still Fu Chengyan's sister and a member of the Fu clan. You are even friends with my brother. Do you think it's appropriate for you to lay your hands on me in private?"

There was hurt in Su Shaoqing's eyes as he let go of her. "Ling, are you still blaming me? I-"

Fu Ling stared at Su Shaoqing and said, "I would gladly accept since you offered me your room. Mr. Su, it's late, and I'm getting tired."

Su Shaoqing pursed his lips as he opened the door of his room. "Please go ahead and wash up. I'll ask the servants to bring you a change of clothes."

Fu Ling stopped being melodramatic as she nodded and entered Su Shaoqing's room.

She only breathed a sigh of relief when she closed the door. She looked down at her trembling hands which had betrayed her true emotions.

Fu Ling crossed her arms as she felt a little cold. A hint of loneliness flashed across her eyes as she laughed self-deprecatingly, but she immediately returned to her cold self again.

She only glanced at Su Shaoqing's room for a moment before averting her gaze.

I knew I will run into Su Shaoqing when I returned to Jiang City and meet with the people from my past. I'm mentally prepared, but sometimes I still can't control my emotions.

She closed her eyes and reminisced about her pathetic self from three years ago. She had learned her lesson and knew some things just weren't meant to be hers, so she no longer longed for them.

The lesson from three years ago had made her realize that time wouldn't wipe away the differences between Su Shaoqing and her. It would only make her realize how different she was from Su Shaoqing.

Fu Ling's cold eyes grew even colder. During her stay at C Country, the only thing she learned was how to hide her emotions and live a good life.

Someone knocked, so Fu Ling opened the door. She saw it was Su Shaoqing, so she asked, "Mr. Su, is there anything else?"

"Here are your clothes. It's late, and we don't have any clothes for you. You have a similar size to my mother, so I borrowed two sets of clothes from her."

Fu Ling nodded. "Thank you, Mr. Su."

Fu Ling's expression was devoid of feelings when she took the clothes from him. When her fingers touched Su Shaoqing, he suddenly held on to her hand and said, "Ling, you don't need to be so distant to me!" Su Shaoqing's voice sounded a little hoarse, and this would have never happened to him in the past.

Fu Ling lowered her gaze. Her eyes gleamed for a moment, but she quickly hid her emotions. "Mr. Su, you are being paranoid. I'm grateful that you let me stay here today. If there is nothing else, I'll be going to take a shower," she said.

Fu Ling pulled her hand away from Su Shaoqing's grasp and closed the door without looking at him.

After seeing Fu Ling shut the door in his face for the second time, he looked lonely as he stood by the door.

Lin Shuqin was standing at the bottom of the stairs. She felt upset when she saw Shaoqing in this state. "Shaoqing, come with me. I've something I wanted to talk to you about," she said.

Su Shaoqing hid his emotions and said, "It's getting late, Mother. What do you want to talk to me about?"

"Come here!" Lin Shugin insisted so Su Shaoging had no choice but to follow her.

"Close the door," Lin Shugin ordered.

Lin Shuqin had brought Su Shaoqing to the study beside his room. He had just closed the door when her face darkened. "Shaoqing, you're not a child anymore. I have always turned a blind eye to the company you keep, but I'll not agree if you want to be with her!"

Su Shaoqing narrowed his eyes and asked, "Mother, you don't like Ling?"

"I've never liked her before. I already told you before. She is not suitable for you. I thought you listened to my advice!" Su Shaoqing did indeed assure her last time that there was nothing going on between Fu Ling and him. However, Shaoqing suddenly slept with her when my back was turned. The baby that she had brought so much trouble to the Su family!

"She has ulterior motives for getting close to you. Shaoqing, she is a homewrecker, just like her mother..."

"Mother! I don't wish to hear you say something like this again!" Su Shaoqing interrupted her.

Su Shaoqing's face darkened as his tone became cold.

"What did you say? How dare you talk to me like this?" Lin Shuqin didn't expect Su Shaoqing to talk to her like this for Fu Ling's sake. "Do you know what you are talking about? You're my mother, so I should listen to you. However, I wish you can accept Ling!" Su Shaoqing said.

"Shaoqing-"

Looking at Lin Shuqin, Su Shaoqing became serious unexpectedly and said, "Mother, I have missed the chance to be with Ling for so long, so I don't want to let her go again! I know you are still angry about what happened before, but that's not her fault. It's actually my fault!"

Su Shaoqing smiled bitterly and continued, "It happened so many years ago, so I don't want to talk about it again. There is still a misunderstanding between me and her, so I hope you don't come between us!"

Su Shaoqing's voice was chilly, and he had a serious look on his face when he looked straight at Lin Shuqin. However, Lin Shuqin couldn't accept what Su Shaoqing had just said to her. "Shaoqing, there will be no future between you and Fu Ling. Both of you are not suitable for each other. Didn't you promise me before that there wouldn't be anything happening between you two?" Lin Shuqin asked.

"But Mother, I want to pursue her now," Su Shaoqing insisted.

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Chapter 557 We Will Not Accept Her

Lin Shuqin froze as he could not believe that her own son would say something like that. "But, her background-"

"I wish to date her not because of her background, but because I love her. It doesn't matter who she is; I just want to be with her. Mother, I'm hoping you'll support me!" It was Su Shaoqing's first time speaking to Lin Shuqin with a tone like this. Lin Shuqin still could not accept it. "Shaoqing-"

"Mother, it's getting late. You should get some rest." Ultimately, their conversation came to an abrupt end. Su Shaoqing didn't mind if Lin Shuqin agreed or disagreed because no one could change his mind. No one, not even his biological mother.

On the other hand, Fu Ling wanted to ask about the shower in the bathroom with Su Shaoqing. She could not get the shower to work no matter how many times she tried.

She was on her way to the study and accidentally heard Su Shaoqing's conversation with Lin Shuqin. Fu Ling was about to call out to him but stopped when she realized they were arguing. She then quickly returned to Su Shaoqing's room.

She shut the door while the conversation replayed in her head. Fu Ling only smiled, and it was not a pleasant one. Her head dropped, and her fingers shivered. She sighed and went back into the bathroom after a while.

Fu Ling expected that she would not be able to fall asleep. In reality, she had been busy lately and was tired. After blowing her hair dry, she slept soundly on the bed.

It was late in the night when the bedroom door was pushed open. Su Shaoqing came in as his gaze fell on Fu Ling's face. Even though it was dark, he could still see her face at a glance.

Since he had previously been trained in the army, his vision was exceptionally keen, as was his night vision. He approached Fu Ling and sat on the edge of the bed as he looked at Fu Ling's sleeping face.

He reached out his hand, wanting to caress her. Just when his hand was near her cheek, he hesitated. In the darkness, he stared at Fu Ling as a feeling of nostalgia struck him. It was as if time had frozen in place.

Fu Ling had no idea Su Shaoqing had entered the room and was watching her sleep, nor did she realize he had been sitting on the bed the whole night.

When Fu Ling awoke the next morning, she could smell a familiar scent in the air but had no idea what it was. She then took a whiff of the blanket, and it had the same smell.

She frowned deeply but did nothing else. She quickly went to wash up and changed into the clothes Su Shaoging had given her the day before.

To be honest, Lin Shuqin's body was still in good shape despite her getting old. Fu Ling's body was similar to Lin Shuqin's, with the exception that Fu Ling was slightly taller.

Su Shaoqing had given her a cheongsam. Fu Ling, who came from a prestigious scholar family, adored cheongsam, especially custom-made ones. Knowing that, Su Shaoqing had asked Lin Shuqin to pick some of her cheongsams for Fu Ling. Despite her reluctance, Lin Shuqin chose two decent cheongsams that would look excellent on Fu Ling.

Fu Ling put on the clothes after taking a look at them. The clothes appeared to be brand new, and they unexpectedly fit her size.

Su Shaoqing's room did not have a mirror. After looking around the room, she believed that Su Shaoqing rarely lived there, so the blanket and bedsheet had been recently cleaned.

Fu Ling came out of the room and saw that Su Shaoqing had just left the study. He, too, had changed into new and refreshing clothes. Su Shaoqing's eyes flashed with amazement when he noticed her.

However, he hid his emotions when their eyes met. He then walked toward her and asked, "Did you sleep well yesterday?"

Fu Ling nodded. "Yeah!"

He gave a smile as his gaze returned to her body once again. This time, it was just simple admiration. "It's beautiful!"

Her heart skipped a beat when she heard that. As they locked eyes with each other, her heart pounded slightly faster.

Fu Ling furrowed her brows as she clenched her fists tightly. She lifted her head and looked at Su Shaoqing calmly. "Well, Mrs. Su has good taste!"

Su Shaoqing pursed his lips, clearly annoyed by what she had just said. However, she did not intend to prolong her engagement with him. "Mr. Su, it's getting late. I'll head to work first."

"Ling!" Su Shaoqing quickly grabbed her hand. "Have some breakfast before you go!"

Fu Ling frowned and replied, "No, I'm going to be late."

Fu Ling did not forget how the Su family treated her. She also knew from the beginning that Lin Shuqin did not like her.

Staying at the Su residence was already her limit. Having breakfast with the Su family in the early morning was not something she could possibly do. Not to mention, although not being in a more urban area like the Fu residence, the Su residence was still far from the city. If Fu Ling ate breakfast, she would have difficulty calling a cab and would be late to work.

Su Shaoqing understood her intentions very well. He was also aware that he could not be impatient, so he just nodded. "Okay, then I'll drive you."

"It's fine!"

"No. Either eat breakfast or let me send you to work!"

Su Shaoqing did not intend to back down as he went on, "It's quite a distance to your workplace from here!"

"I can take the bus!" Fu Ling had been to the Su residence before, and she found a bus station near there. Even though there were only a few bus trips per day, one was available in the early morning.

"Since you haven't been here in a long time, you're probably unaware that the schedule has changed. There are currently no buses available! I'll drive you there!"

Fu Ling looked at him dubiously as she inquired, "Really?"

Su Shaoqing nodded with a straight face and replied, "Yes. It's been a while since your last visit to Jiang City, so you'd have no idea. Besides, this is where I live. Obviously, I'll know about it. If you aren't having breakfast, I will take you to your workplace, and you can eat there!"

Fu Ling couldn't think of any more excuses as she nodded in response to Su Shaoqing's insistence on her. "All right. Then, I'm counting on you. The clothes…" She bit her lip and continued, "I'll return it after I wash it."

Upon hearing that, Su Shaoqing frowned. "It's yours now. You don't have to return it!" Besides, Fu Ling's words suggested that she was not going to come back.

Following that, they both went downstairs. Except for Su Yunwan and Lin Shuqin, as well as Su Yumin, Su Huainan, and Su Huaibei, all members of the Su family had arrived. One of Su Shaoqing's aunts had left.

Fu Ling knew of the remaining people, and because of that, she was even more eager to leave.

Just when Su Shaoqing and Fu Ling were about to leave, Su Huainan said, "Shaoqing, don't you see that everyone is waiting for you? Where are you going?"

Su Shaoqing paused for a while before smiling. "Grandpa, Father, Ling is going to be late for work, and I have some business at the hospital. I'm leaving now."

Su Huainan let out a long sigh as he wanted to say something but was stopped by Lin Shuqin, shaking her head.

Su Huainan then glanced at Su Yumin. Su Yumin's face darkened as he slammed the table. "Since when is that woman back? Why is she here?"

He had slept early the night before, so he was unaware that Fu Ling was there. On the other hand, Lin Shuqin informed Su Huainan after he returned home.

Su Huaibei was unsure about the situation because he had just come home. However, from Su Yumin's tone, he immediately knew that Su Yumin did not like Fu Ling.

"Why aren't you talking?"

"Last night, Shaoqing brought her back!" Su Yunwan answered as she added, "Dad, let's eat!"

Su Yumin snorted. "I disapprove. I will never approve of her marrying into the Su family. Keep this in mind, everyone." As he put on a darkened face, it was not a pleasant breakfast for the rest.

Fu Ling could not have been unaware that the Su family despised her. It was just that she was used to it and did not give it much thought. After all, she had no intention of being with Su Shaoqing.

Along the way, Fu Ling was very silent. Su Shaoqing thought her mood was down and stopped the car before they arrived at the company.

Fu Ling was immersed in her thoughts as it took her a few moments to realize the car had stopped. She even thought they had arrived and wanted to get out of the car. However, Su Shaoqing stopped her by grabbing her hand.

She turned around and looked at him without saying anything.

He was uneasy as he looked at her expressionless face. His face gloomed as he recalled Fu Ling treating the Su family as if they didn't exist, and now she was looking at him unbothered. "Did you think I'd give up if you kept ignoring me, Ling?"

Fu Ling frowned. "What are you trying to say?"

"I'm not going to give up. I told you before that I wanted to be with you, so you can only be with me!"

Su Shaoqing tightened his grasp as he said it. She did not intend to respond, but as she struggled to break free from his grip, she realized it was pointless.

Fu Ling stared into his eyes, and she suddenly smiled. He was taken aback by her smile. She then immediately switched to glaring at him as she said, "Su Shaoqing, who do you think you are? Just because you want to date me, you're forcing me to only be with you?"

She paused for a while before continuing, "I've already told you that I'm not the Fu Ling you used to know. I'm not the girl who used to bother you and orbit around you even though you didn't love me. The girl you used to know died three years ago. I'm Gu Ling now. I don't love you, and nothing you do can change that."

Fu Ling stared at him coldly and added, "So, I advise you to not waste any more time on me."

"That's not true. Ling, you're lying to me, aren't you? How can you just suddenly stop loving someone you once adored? Why did you promise to be with me after you returned if you didn't love me? Ling, you still love me, right?"

Fu Ling laughed coldly when she heard that. "Su Shaoqing, are you kidding me?" She then forcefully shook his hand away. Her face was extremely cold as she said clearly, "I don't love you. The moment you cold-heartedly aborted our child, I don't love you anymore. I assumed you were already aware of it. If not, I'll repeat it one more time. I don't love you, and I'll never love you ever again!"

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Chapter 558 Getting Fatter

"Mm! What are you doing?"

Right as those words came out of Fu Ling's mouth, Su Shaoqing pulled her closer and pressed his warm lips onto hers. Her eyes widened. In the next second, she tried to struggle out of Su Shaoqing's arms, but unfortunately, he was holding tightly to the back of her head, so her efforts were in vain.

Su Shaoqing had to admit that he had gone mad, and Fu Ling was the reason for it. He could tolerate anything she said, except for that one thing—that it was impossible between them.

Like a madman, Su Shaoqing hugged Fu Ling tightly in his arms. His hot kiss was almost a product of insanity. Fu Ling felt the urge to put a distance between them.

She did not like that feeling at all. She did not like that his emotions had taken over his rationality. Fu Ling shuddered. The scent on Su Shaoqing's body and his kiss captivated her, just like they used to.

Although they were not together, it was not the first time something similar had happened between Su Shaoqing and her. The truth was that they had done it a few times, though he might not know about that.

Fu Ling hated her instinctual reaction. She put her hands on his chest to resist him, but her rationality was long gone.

Her struggles were nothing to Su Shaoqing. The more she thrashed, the more he wanted to get close to her. He could not bring himself to let her go at all.

The taste from his memory was a taste that drove him mad. It was extremely familiar. He did not know what it was in the past, but after interacting with Fu Ling, he finally knew that it was a taste that he could not bear to let go of.

Gradually, Fu Ling's struggles began to weaken. She seemed to be accepting him. Upon noticing her change, a surprise look crept into Su Shaoqing's eyes. He deepened the kiss.

He felt like his hollow heart had been filled. Just as he was in a daze, he felt a sharp pain on his lips. Fu Ling abruptly shoved him away and stared at him with cold eyes.

At that moment, Su Shaoqing sobered up. The next thing he registered was the blood on Fu Ling's lips and her frigid gaze. She stared at him coldly for a while before wiping away the blood at the corner of her lips. Then, she sneered, "Mr. Su, are you satisfied with that?"

Fu Ling's tone was completely flat.

Su Shaoqing froze. His gaze was still fixed on her lips, but when he heard her speak, his heart skipped a beat. It was a pang of pain he had never experienced before.

"Ling..." As he kept staring at Fu Ling, he reached out to touch her cheek. She did not move away from him, but the coldness of her gaze remained the same. At that very moment, Su Shaoqing felt as if he was dipped in a pool of icy water. He said, "I know that you still have feelings for me, right? When I kissed you just now—"

"Mr. Su, I have feelings for any man who kisses me," she interrupted. "I'm a normal woman."

"No, Ling," Su Shaoqing hastily said. He did not want to hear her rejection. He was afraid that when he heard it, he would not be able to take it and would lose his mind.

The woman was no longer the same person she used to be. Although she used to be just as calm, the look she had in her eyes when she gazed at him had been one full of love. Yet, it was absent in her gaze the moment. There was nothing but apathy.

He used to fearless, but now, he was fearful. He had grown a soft spot, which eventually became his weak spot. What he found most hilarious was that he actually did not care that she had become his weak spot.

"I know you love me!" he cried out.

"Keep telling yourself that, Mr. Su. I have work to do. I can't be here arguing with you about stuff like that."

With that said, Fu Ling undid her seatbelt and got down from the car. When she held the handle, she paused.

At that, a glint flashed across Su Shaoqing's eyes. He thought she was regretting her decision. However, to his disappointment, she turned to him and said just as coldly, "I'll be going to the Fu residence tonight, so I won't be disturbing you, Mr. Su."

"Ling!" he called out to her. "I'll pick you up tonight!"

Yet, Fu Ling never looked at him again. She turned around and disappeared into the crowd, leaving Su Shaoqing to stare in the direction she had gone. That lasted until a sound came from above the window. When he wound down the window, he was greeted with the sight of a traffic officer looking at him. "Mister, you can't park here. Please leave immediately."

"Okay." He looked away and drove off.

On the other side, Li Heng brought Pei Huan and the others back at night. Aunt Zhang had already tidied up Huo Ling's room. The thoughtful woman had even bought a whole set of toiletries for her.

Once Li Heng and the others returned, Aunt Zhang even made them supper. Although Pei did not have a habit of eating at night, Bao was tempted. Recently, Pei Huan had been restricting Bao's tendency to have supper, but her plan did not seem to be working too well.

Aunt Zhang always doted on the children. It did not help that Bao was Li Heng and Pei Huan's only child. Aunt Zhang did not have any children. At a young age, she had come into the Li clan with Li Heng's mother. Later on, she went abroad to take care of Li Heng. During the many years of the Li clan neglecting Li Heng—Li Heng's parents never showed any concern for him—Aunt Zhang was the only one who loved and doted him. Therefore, Li Heng regarded Aunt Zhang as his parental figure. He always treated he as if she were his biological mother. Hence, it made sense that Bao would be her

grandson. Ever since Bao came into her life, Aunt Zhang shifted her love for Li Heng toward Bao.

"Grandma!"

Upon reaching home, Bao called out to Aunt Zhang in a sweet voice. She had been in the living room, waiting for them to come home. When she heard the boy's voice, she quickly went to lift him into her arms. "Oh, my dear Bao. Are you hungry? I've made you supper!"

"Aunt Zhang!" Pei Huan muttered, a little exasperated. "You're fattening him up like this."

"It's fine. It's all fine. It's better for a kid to be fatter as long as he doesn't become overweight," Aunt Zhang said with a smile. The tender look on her face rendered Pei Huan helpless. She turned to Li Heng.

Li Heng pinched the bridge of his nose and sighed. "He can eat, but not too much, Aunt Zhang."

"All right, all right. I got it," Aunt Zhang replied as she led Bao into the dining room.

Meanwhile, Huo Ling, who was behind Li Heng and Pei Huan, widened her eyes when she heard that supper was available. Immediately, she clapped her hands and exclaimed, "There's food? I want to have supper too! Count me in!"

Huo Ling then joined Aunt Zhang and Bao in the dining room, leaving Li Heng and Pei Huan to exchange helpless glances.

Li Heng stepped over to hold Pei Huan's hand. "You must be tired. Head upstairs for a shower. Rest up."

Pei Huan nodded. "You should rest earlier too."

After that, the married couple went upstairs to wash up and rest. Unlike the quiet upper floor, a food-snatching battle was breaking out in the kitchen.

Even though Huo Ling was already sixteen, she was still a child at heart. The only time she would seem much more mature than her age was when she was around patients. At other times, Huo Ling would behave like a child, because she truly was one. Sometimes, she would even be more childish than the young Bao.

Bao had a few chestnut cakes stuffed in his mouth, but he was still slower than Huo Ling's speedy hands. Bao had some chestnut cakes in his hands as he tried to chew the ones in his mouth, but Huo Ling was taller, had bigger hands, and a bigger mouth.

Like Bao, Huo Ling had a few chestnut cakes stuffed in her mouth too. Despite her puffy cheeks, she gave a taunting look to Bao and gleefully waved the dessert in her hand. "Boy, come after this if you dare to!"

"Grandma, look at her! She's already all grown up, but she's still trying to snatch the chestnut cakes from me!" Bao pouted and whined to Aunt Zhang.

Aunt Zhang only smiled helplessly at the side. "Bao, you can't eat too much at night, or else you won't be able to digest it properly, and you won't feel good, do you understand?" She then handed the boy a cute cartoon cup filled with warm milk. "This girl over here is Heng and Huan's guest, so we have to be polite."

"But... But you made this for me." Bao was still upset about it.

"Look, Bai, isn't this cup cute? Does the milk taste good? These are all for you, Bao. No one gets to have it," Aunt Zhang patiently coaxed him.

At that, Bao blinked and looked at Aunt Zhang before looking at Huo Ling's hands. Finally, he looked at himself and said, "Okay, I think you're right. You're so nice to me, Grandma." After flashing her a sweet smile, the boy climbed back onto his seat and kissed her. "I love you the most, Grandma."

"What a good boy you are."

Huo Ling blinked. Her initially happy mood soon dissipated. It was replaced by a foul one as she stared at the shy boy opposite her. The smile on her face dropped, making her look pale and sad.

Meanwhile, Bao shoved another piece of chestnut cake into his mouth before realizing that the girl opposite him had stopped fighting over food with him. His big eyes blinked. Then, he sneakily took a few more chestnut cakes for himself. However, Huo Ling did not react to that.

The boy rested his head in his palm. Then, he tilted his head. "Big dummy, are you unhappy?"

When Huo Ling heard Bao's boyish voice calling her a big dummy, she looked up and glared at Bao. "Boy, who are you calling a big dummy?"

"You!" Bao blinked rapidly. "Whoever responded is the dummy."

"You—" Huo Ling gritted her teeth. "Brat! You're the dummy. Your entire family are made up of dummies!"

"Hmph! My daddy has an IQ of two hundred, and my mommy's pretty and smart. Moreover, I'm a gifted kid!" Bao patted his chest. "You're the dummy! Your family's made up of dummies! Hmph!"

"You—" Huo Ling waved her hands aggressively as she bared her teeth at Bao. "Don't you think that I won't hit you! I'm telling you now. I'm a menace when I'm mad!"

Despite saying that, Huo Ling did nothing of the sort. Instead, she lay down on the desk and weakly muttered, "Hey, brat, is there anyone at home who doesn't like you?"

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Chapter 559 Requesting For Bao To Become Her Apprentice

In a daze, Bao looked at Huo Ling. "No. My family loves me!" He held out his fingers and counted, "Daddy and Mommy, Grandpa and Grandma, Granddad and Granny, Grandma Zhang…" He finished counting all his fingers, but he had not listed out all the names, making him seem well-liked. Looking at Huo Ling in bewilderment, he asked, "Does your family dislike you?"

Huo Ling's expression gloomed. "No, of course not! It goes without saying that my whole family loves a good, adorable, and charming girl like me. They can't get enough of me!"

She could not stop rambling. On the other hand, Bao made a contemptuous gesture and responded, "Huh? You big dummy. It's normal to be disliked. You don't have to get discouraged by that, and you don't have to lie. I know I'm little, but I'm not dumb!"

"You little brat... You're very unlikeable! How I wish to get my hands on you!" Huo Ling gnashed her teeth.

"Mommy says only those who get irritated because they've been pointed out will want to punish others. Besides, I'm younger than you. You're bullying me!" Bao was not afraid of Huo Ling at all. He even stuck out his tongue at her after he finished speaking. Flying into anger, Huo Ling flashed him a ferocious look and claimed that she would punish him there and then.

Needless to say, she had no intention to do so.

Nevertheless, Huo Ling found Bao to be quite quick-witted in spite of his young age. He could still retain his kindness, even though he was living in such an awful family environment. She could not help but admire and envy him.

Heaving a sigh, Huo Ling stuffed a piece of chestnut cake into her mouth. "Aunt Zhang, your chestnut cake's scrumptious!"

"Oh. If that's the case, you should have more! Wait, no. You shouldn't eat so much since it's late now. I'll make other delicious food for you tomorrow. How's that?"

Aunt Zhang grew fonder of Huo Ling the more they spent time together. She thought Huo Ling was a nice girl with a sweet temperament.

Huo Ling's eyes sparkled when she heard Aunt Zhang's suggestion. "That's great. Aunt Zhang, I want a steamed meat bun. An enormous steamed meat bun!"

"All right. I'll make it for you, Ms. Huo!"

After the meal, Huo Ling went upstairs to her pre-arranged room. Aunt Zhang had cleaned it up beforehand, so it looked much better, unlike the dull and dim room back in her own house. Nevertheless, it still lacked a feminine touch.

Although Huo Ling never dwelled on the details, she was still a maiden at heart. Since she was a high-born lady from the Huo family, everyone in the Huo residence pampered her. However, that kind of lifestyle was not ideal for Huo Ling. She would rather live in Bao's environment and grow up carefree.

After bathing, Huo Ling immediately lunged onto her large and lovely pink bed.

It was then that her phone buzzed beside her ear. She checked her phone, pouted slightly at the notification, and then switched it off.

After Li Heng and Pei Huan went upstairs, the latter went to take a shower while the former headed to the study room, both still mulling over what had happened that night. Li Heng promptly turned on his computer and contacted Pei Jingxiu.

Meanwhile, Pei Jingxiu and Ning Xi had arrived at their mansion. Ning Xi stated that there was something odd with the incident that had taken place. Pei Jingxiu shared the same sentiment. A sleepless night awaited them.

Seeing Pei Jingxiu online, Li Heng hurriedly delivered a message: "I don't think our enemy's targeting Huan."

"Hm, I don't think so too. I think they have their eyes on Ms. Huo!" Pei Jingxiu paused for a moment before adding: "However, I'm not sure if she has gotten on someone's nerves, or..."

Li Heng narrowed his eyes. "The adversary's not trying to eradicate her. I bet it has something to do with Chengyan. Since Huo Ling's with us, Huo Shenxing will come to us very soon."

"Are you saying that our adversary doesn't want the Huo family to intervene?" Pei Jingxiu understood the situation too. Since the Huo family was a prestigious family in

the medical field, they could definitely formulate the antivirus. Even if they failed to develop one, their mere existence posed a threat to the enemy. Hence, the enemy decided to target Huo Ling to prevent her and even the Huo family from interfering with their clandestine scheme.

Both of them instantly fell into silence upon realizing that their opponent had caught wind of most of their secrets.

Li Heng asked: "How's Chengyan's company recently?"

As Fu Chengyan wanted the opponent to let down their guard, he had not been showing up in the company for the time being. Instead, he requested Pei Jingxiu to manage it in his place. Naturally, Pei Jingxiu did not reveal himself too. So, outsiders surmised that Shengyuan Group was facing turmoil. Otherwise, the head of the Fu clan, Fu Chengyan, wouldn't have stayed absent for so long. In truth, they were right about it. Shengyuan Group had been a mess lately.

Pei Jingxiu was only interested to see how everything would go. "We'll wait and see. They haven't caused enough ruckus yet, so they wouldn't go all out at the moment." He paused briefly before adding: "By the way, everything seems peaceful at the moment. I think our opponent will be pulling out the big guns very soon."

"That's right. This is just the calm before the storm." Li Heng, too, had the same idea.

"It's getting late now. You should head to bed soon. I have to bring Ms. Huo to meet Shi Nuan tomorrow." Li Heng turned off his computer, and it was then that Pei Huan opened the door.

Holding a towel, she looked at Li Heng worriedly. "Aren't you going to sleep? You went to the hospital right after getting off the plane. So many things have happened tonight. Can't you do your work tomorrow?"

"All right." Li Heng immediately rose to his feet and took the towel in her hand. He then dragged her to the bedroom. "I'll dry your hair for you!"

"You don't have to. Go take a shower. I'll dry my hair myself!" Pei Huan pushed him away and intoned, "I'm not a child."

"All right!" Li Heng chuckled. However, he could not contain his affection and reached out a hand to caress Pei Huan's cheek. Then, reluctantly, he stepped into the bathroom.

Awoken by a delicious smell, Huo Ling opened her tired eyes sleazily. Unable to resist the temptation, she headed downstairs drowsily without even washing up first. At the sight of the scrumptious breakfast, her eyes twinkled like the shining stars. Fortunately, she stopped herself from drooling all over.

Aunt Zhang came over with a tray of steamed buns that were giving off a delectable scent. "Ms. Huo, you're up?"

"Wow. It smells so good. Aunt Zhang, I want to gobble them up!"

Huo Ling reached out her hand to grab the large, steamed meat bun and stuffed it into her mouth. Right there and then, she snapped open her eyes, which were brimming with exhilaration. "Wow! It's really delicious!" The rich flavor of the meat instantly enwrapped her taste buds. She went wide awake. One was not enough. She reached out to grab another, only to guzzle it down in a few bites. Before Huo Ling could take a third one, Aunt Zhang stopped her. "Ms. Huo, calm down. There's more!"

Huo Ling rubbed her hands excitedly. Her eyes did not look away from Aunt Zhang the entire time. "Aunt Zhang, you're marvelous. I've never eaten such delicious steamed meat buns in my life!"

"Really?" Aunt Zhang was over the moon, for she was rarely complimented. "Ms. Huo, you can eat more later. I've made a lot of yummy food. However, shouldn't you be washing up now?"

It was then that Huo Ling realized she had rushed down right after she had gotten a whiff of the aroma, so she had not washed up or gotten a change of clothes. She would never do that in the Huo residence. In fact, she had eased up somewhat these days, which caused her to forget basic courtesy like this one. "I'm going right now."

When Huo Ling got downstairs again, Li Heng, Pei Huan, and Bao were already sitting at the table. They practiced etiquette, so they would not start eating until everyone had arrived at the table. They had been waiting for Huo Ling when she was getting herself ready.

Gazing at the table filled with wonderful cuisine, Bao pouted pitifully as he was not allowed to dig in yet. "Mommy, when can we eat?"

"I'm coming! I'm coming!"

Huo Ling skipped toward them. Her eyes were beaming with ecstasy when she saw the table of food. "Wow. This tastes so good. This too. And this..."

She did not stop eating throughout breakfast.

Pei Huan had witnessed Huo Ling's appetite last night. Yet, he was still puzzled when he saw Huo Ling relishing all that food. Even after the three had eaten their fill, Huo Ling was still wolfing down the remainings.

Seeing that, Pei Huan smirked mysteriously and glanced at Li Heng. Li Heng rubbed glumly between his brows, took Pei Huan's hand, and led her to the living room.

Huo Ling took half an hour to finish all the food. Rubbing her bloated belly, she yelled, "Great Mr. Li, I really love this place. Your house is a hundred times better than mine!"

"Really?" Pei Huan took the initiative to chat with Huo Ling when Li Heng did not answer.

Huo Ling did not feel awkward despite being ignored by Li Heng. It was then that she remembered something important. "Goddess, I'll go get my tools and perform acupuncture on you!"

With that, Huo Ling darted upstairs to grab her tools before coming back down to treat Pei Huan. At work, Huo Ling was focused and meticulous. Her visage instantly turned solemn when she inserted the needles into Pei Huan's acupoints.

Li Heng watched from the side. Aunt Zhang, who had just finished her duties in the kitchen, came out and saw the needles being poked into Pei Huan's body. She could feel a jabbing pain in her heart. "Isn't that painful, Huan?"

"Not at all!" Pei Huan flashed a smile at Aunt Zhang. "Don't you worry. Ms. Huo's medical skills are outstanding."

Moreover, after Huo Ling's acupuncture therapy yesterday, Pei Huan felt much better. The toxins accumulated in her body seemed to have diminished.

Looking at Pei Huan somberly, Huo Ling admitted her inadequacy, "This method can only ease your condition temporarily. Goddess, please bear with it. I can only treat the root of your illness after I've seen Bao's and your test results. If I can't cure you, I'm afraid we can only wait for Shenxing to arrive."

She paused for a moment before assuring, "However, you don't have to worry a thing. From what I see, I don't think your illness is a serious one. It probably requires some time to get rid of everything!"

"All right. Thank you very much. Please don't pressure yourself!" Since she had been living with the virus for few years ago, Pei Huan was not anxious to get it fixed immediately. "However, Bao..."

"Goddess, rest assured. I'll definitely cure Bao." Huo Ling's eyes were glowing as she spoke. Then, she bit her lips and asked, "Goddess, can I make a request?"

"And what will that be?"

"Can you allow Bao to become my apprentice?"

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Chapter 560 When Will Fu Sijue Let Me Go

"No!" Before Pei Huan could speak up, Bao rejected the idea first. Crossing his arms, Bao glared at Huo Ling angrily. "She's still a kid. Why should she be my master? I don't want that!"

Bao placed his hands on his hips as he kept glaring at Huo Ling. Holding a silver needle in one hand, she blinked at Bao's remark. Suddenly, she burst out laughing. "Bao, you're so cute!"

"You're the cute one. In fact, your whole family is adorable!" he retorted. "Bao, you can't talk to Ms. Huo like that!" Pei Huan broke into a smile, feeling a bit exasperated.

"She's going to be my master anyway. She's still a child herself. Why should she be my master?" Bao made it clear that he was unimpressed by his prospective master.

Pei Huan was bemused by his reaction. She looked up at Li Heng, only to find that he had been staring at herself. With so many people around, Pei Huan feigned a cough before casting Li Heng a meaningful look.

Li Heng arched an eyebrow before turning to look at Bao. He beckoned. "Come here to my side!" Bao ran over to Li Heng and sat orderly beside him. "Daddy!"

"Well, I think it's not bad to have Ms. Huo as your master." "Daddy, what are you talking about? I don't want her!" Bao looked at Li Heng in disbelief. A trace of helplessness flashed across his face. "Why not?"

"I just don't want her to be my master! She's still a child herself. She even stole my food last night," Bao complained, and a pout formed on his tiny lips.

On the contrary, Li Heng chuckled. "Ms. Huo's medical skills are very good. Mommy is sick and Ms. Huo is the only person who can save her. Don't you think she's amazing?"

Li Heng reached out and gently stroked Bao's head. He said sincerely, "Bao, do you love Mommy?"

"Yes, I do! I love Mommy very much!" Bao nodded without hesitation before adding, "I love Daddy too!"

Flashing a gratifying smile, Li Heng reached out to pat Bao's shoulder. "I love Mommy and you too. However, only Ms. Huo can save Mommy now. Bao, what should you do?"

Bao hung his head in response. Despite feeling a little dissatisfied, he began to contemplate seriously. Soon, he nodded and said, "All right. Will Ms. Huo teach me all her skills?"

"You'll have to ask Ms. Huo herself," Li Heng comforted Bao before letting him ask by himself.

Bao hesitated about something for a long time. Nodding, he reluctantly walked to Huo Ling's side. "Ms. Huo, if I agreed to become your apprentice, will you teach me everything?"

"Of course. If you're my apprentice, I'll teach you whatever you want to learn." A cunning look flashed through Huo Ling's eyes as she smiled slyly. "Be a good boy and call me master. Otherwise, I won't cure you."

Bao pouted and muttered something under his breath. He screamed, "Master!"

After accepting an apprentice, Huo Ling was thrilled. Incidentally, she became more productive with her work as she chased around Bao, asking him to call her master.

When Pei Huan tried to stand up from the couch, Li Heng immediately supported her. "Does it hurt?"

Even though Pei Huan denied it, every time the needle poked through her skin, Li Heng felt a stab of pain in his heart. Pei Huan naturally knew what Li Heng was afraid of, so she reached out and gently patted his arm that was supporting her hand. "I'm fine. Do you have a plan in mind when you asked Ms. Huo to become Bao's master?"

Pei Huan knew Li Heng had his ideas, and the latter did not deny it upon hearing the question. "It wouldn't hurt to have more protection." Pei Huan nodded with understanding.

That was indeed the case. If Huo Ling's medical skills were not proficient enough to get rid of the virus on them, it would be another unforeseen variable if Huo Shenxing were to come to their help. In case Huo Shenxing refused to detoxify them, then Bao, as an apprentice of Huo Ling, would at least have an assurance.

Huo Ling played around with Bao for a while. Taking advantage of his exhaustion, she flicked her fingers in front of Bao's nose and some powder entered his airway. Soon, Bao fell asleep.

Glancing at Li Heng and Pei Huan, she explained, "I'm worried that he'll be in pain. That's why I let him pass out first. Don't worry! This stuff isn't harmful to his body." Then, Huo Ling began to poke needles at Bao.

Half an hour later, beads of sweat began to form on Huo Ling's forehead and the tip of her nose. This acupuncture drained her energy.

"Okay. Bao needs to rest now." Once she was done, Huo Ling immediately turned to Li Heng and said, "Great Mr. Li, I'm going to the hospital now." "All right. I'll take you there." Standing up, Li Heng patted Pei Huan's shoulder. "Stay home with Aunt Zhang and rest with Bao, okay?"

Pei Huan nodded. "All right."

Then, Li Heng took Huo Ling out of the Li residence. However, the former stopped in his track once they exited. "Come out!"

Soon, a row of well-trained men in black appeared out of nowhere. They were the guards that were secretly trained by Li Heng's comrades. "Take care of my wife and Bao. If something happens to them, you'll have to answer to me."

"Yes, Mr. Li!"

The group of people disappeared like phantoms again. Their lightning speed was staggering. Even Huo Ling, who had seen a lot, was amazed. She gawked at Li Heng. "Great Mr. Li, you're truly outstanding!"

Li Heng cast a cold glance at Huo Ling. She shivered and giggled awkwardly. "Let's go to the hospital now, shall we? Haha!"

Instantaneously, Li Heng controlled his expression and walked away. Huo Ling instantly followed in his footsteps. "Great Mr. Li, please wait for me!"

After giving Shi Nuan acupuncture treatment at the hospital, Huo Ling was utterly exhausted. Her continuous work from morning until then had taken a toll on her. She was still a teenager. No matter how good her physical condition was, she could not bear it anymore.

Li Heng asked Su Shaoqing to allow Huo Ling to rest in another ward. While the latter was taking a respite, Fu Chengyan and Li Heng did not idle around either. After the incident last night, they did not dare to let their guard down.

"That was a big commotion last night. Even though the surveillance cameras on the road have been destroyed by our people, someone died in the end. Besides, there might be other witnesses on the road. We were in a hurry when we went out yesterday. Someone must have noticed the license plate and the car," Li Heng said gloomily.

Upon hearing that, Fu Chengyan rubbed his temples and fell into uncharacteristic silence. "Someone will surely ask you guys some questions in the future. Do as you deem fit."

After a moment of silence, Li Heng nodded in response. "Okay." "What are you going to do with Shengyuan Group?"

Fu Chengyan's lips curved into a smile, and his eyes gleamed slyly. "I'll take action accordingly."

Shen Qianan had been brought to the mansion by Fu Sijue for almost a week. No matter what Shen Qianan had said during the week, he refused to release her. Fu Sijue seemed to be very busy during these past seven days. Except for the occasional visit during the day, he would not be there for the rest of the time.

Even if Fu Sijue was there, he would get annoyed by Shen Qianan after exchanging a few words. Then, he would storm off to the study.

Shen Qianan had no clue what Fu Sijue was doing. Nevertheless, she knew he was plotting something. Shen Qianan felt scared every time Fu Sijue looked at her.

In the past few days, Shen Qianan had thought about escaping. However, there were guards everywhere outside the mansion, not to mention the housekeepers who watched her like a hawk. Therefore, she had no chance to run away. The chances of me contacting the outside world are likely zero.

In addition to eating and sleeping, Shen Qianan had been trying to win the battle of wits against Fu Sijue these days. Nevertheless, a devious guy like Fu Sijue saw through her with ease. She naturally failed in her attempt to outwit him.

Fu Sijue often came back at night. He wanted to sleep in the same room as her every time. Shen Qianan had rejected Fu Sijue countless times. However, the latter would not take no for an answer. After a while, Shen Qianan realized it was pointless to argue against Fu Sijue. She wanted to take his mask off every night while he was sleeping. Alas, her wish was never granted.

As a result, Shen Qianan felt like a bird in a gilded cage, desperately trying to break free but to no avail.

That night, something happened to Fu Sijue that made him lose his mind. He did not show up all day. However, as soon as he appeared at night, he immediately got handsy with Shen Qianan and pressed her on the bed. Shen Qianan struggled for a while. Nonetheless, her attempts to overpower him were in vain. She stopped squirming and only stared at Fu Sijue emotionlessly.

"When will you let me go?"

"You want to go?" The eyes underneath Fu Sijue's mask flashed with an evil gleam. He lowered his gaze and held Shen Qianan's flailing arms with one hand. Then, he asked the latter to intertwine her arms and placed them above her head to prevent her from struggling. He stroked her cheek with the other free hand.

Fu Sijue could not get enough of her flawless, smooth skin. His eyes darkened while he caressed Shen Qianan's face.

Inching closer, he wanted to kiss Shen Qianan's luscious lips. However, she turned her head to avoid his kiss.

The icy mask was pressed against Shen Qianan's face. She felt a chill run down her spine at that moment. She wanted to break free, only for Fu Sijue to tighten his grip on her hands.

"Are you scared?"

Despite feeling her trembling body, he refused to let her go.

Grabbing Shen Qianan's face, he forced her to meet his gaze. His slightly rough hands rubbed against her soft cheeks, and his piercing eyes were ablaze with passion.

On the other hand, Shen Qianan felt uneasy with his touch. The more she struggled, the harder it was for her to break free. Half of Fu Sijue's warm body was pressed against her. While she was squirming, she felt his bulge between her legs.

Shen Qianan's heart skipped a beat as she felt his excitement. His fiery breathing became heavier at that moment. Shen Qianan was scared of Fu Sijue whenever he behave like that. She had to bear the brunt of his unsolicited passion when they were together a few years ago. She desperately wanted to escape. However, with Fu Sijue grasping her hands like that, she could not move at all.

"Let go of me! Mmph..."