

## Loving 101

### Chapter 101. Promise

It was his good friend, Su Chen, on the call.

“I just called Zimo and he wants to hang out too. Why don’t you come over to my place for poker tonight? Or we could go to your house too. We can just stay there overnight. It’s not like we’ve never slept together before. We can even just sleep around on the floor!”

Su Chen was sitting in his large office chair with a cigarette in his mouth.

Mu Yuchen laughed and said, “Don’t you always hang out at Zimo’s place? Why did you suddenly think of me today?”

Su Chen flicked away some cigarette ash as he grinned widely. “I haven’t seen you in such a long time and I miss you! So, my place? Recently, I set a bar counter up at my house. Zimo said it helps set the tone...”

“I’ve been busy with my company’s anniversary lately. We’ll gather again someday. I’ll ask Ah Mo to send you some rare whiskey. Let’s meet in a few days.”

“You think a couple of bottles of whiskey are enough for us to let you off? Give me the red wine in your store room as well. I don’t see you drinking it anyway.”

“Mmm.”

Mu Yuchen hung up on the call after his brief reply. Then, he told Ah Mo behind him, “Ah Mo, get the stuff in the living room, and then get some wine from the storeroom and send it to Su Chen’s house. Invite them to Maple Residence this Friday. Tell them not to come if they haven’t prepared any expensive gifts.”

Ah Mo was stunned for a moment, but he soon came back to his senses and nodded. “Got it, Master!”

He then put the briefcase on the sofa and left quickly.

The sky turned dark and there was only the living room was dimly lit by the light from the kitchen.

He turned the lights in the living room on and scanned the place. He then noticed that the table beside the large window was full of documents. There was also a running laptop and paper was strewn all over the table, some even littering the floor.

As he went over to pick them up, he noticed that all of them were related to the South River project. There were some data analysis and images which all seemed complicated.

Now, her laptop screen was displaying a data chart with one-third of it complete. There were some folders opened as well.

He casually picked up a document and read through it. Moments later, his long fingers started typing on the keyboard swiftly...

Xi Xiaye was surprised to see the lights in the living room turned on when she came out of the kitchen with some dishes. She looked around and saw Mu Yuchen sitting in the place she had sat at some time ago.

“You’re back?”

Xi Xiaye put the dishes on the table and went over to Mu Yuchen, stopping beside him.

“Mmm,” Mu Yuchen replied without averting his gaze away from the laptop. His hand movements did not slow down either as his viola-like voice continued, “You just had to make yourself busy, didn’t you? Why are you like this even when you’re on holiday?”

“Well, it’s pretty boring, so I might as well get some work done. Oh, right, the designs you showed me the last time, can I...?” Xi Xiaye asked.

“It’s in the laptop inside the study room. The password is the same as the one on the card I gave you. They should be in the D drive. Look around.”

After saying that, a completed analysis chart appeared on the laptop. He checked it and then saved it before turning off the laptop. Turning his head around, he looked pointedly at her as she stared at the laptop.

“Regarding Glory World being involved in the showbiz industry, I’ve placed Vice President Liu in charge. He hopes that you can help him out a little. What do you think?” He asked quietly.

Xi Xiaye went silent and gave it some thought. She then nodded. “Sure.”

“Can your frail body handle the workload?” Mu Yuchen looked at her doubtfully.

A gentle smile spread across Xi Xiaye’s beautiful face. “It’s alright, but I might trouble you to help me out a bit on the South River project.”

He was familiar with the South River project anyway. The documents he had given her were analyzed in detail and he could not have done so without spending time studying it.

“You’re really clever at utilizing your resources. By the way, Su Chen and Zhou Zimo are visiting this Friday.” Mu Yuchen casually straightened her crooked shirt as he said.

“Su Chen and Zhou Zimo?” Xiaye was stunned and just looked at him with a gleam in her eyes.

“Don’t worry. The sly foxes took advantage of me. This Friday is an excellent chance to take it all back from them, so don’t be nice to them. If they don’t give you anything good, they can lose everything, but they can never lose face, especially before the woman of their best friend,” Mu Yuchen said in a casual tone as he started grinning.

Xi Xiaye opened her eyes wide. A moment later, she started giggling. “Mr. Mu, I realize you’re pretty mean. How could you ask me to do something like that?”

“I’m teaching you how to maximize the benefits you can reap. I can’t guarantee that they won’t take advantage of you since you’re stupid. You’ll understand once you speak to them.”

Mu Yuchen smiled.

“Then, do we need to prepare anything? Friday... Hmm, we’re already on holiday...”

“Just stay put. I’ll get Sis Wang to prepare something. Also, get ready for the annual meeting on Thursday.” Mu Yuchen stood up and his tall body blocked Xi Xiaye.

“Prepare what? Isn’t it just about receiving an award?”

Xi Xiaye glanced at him, then she went towards the kitchen. “Dinner’s ready. Let’s eat first.”

...

After a while, three dishes and a crockpot of soup were served on the table. The couple sat opposite each other.

After drinking two bowls of soup, Mu Yuchen frowned as he looked at Xi Xiaye. He asked quietly, “Missus, don’t you think the soup tastes a little weird?”

“Does it?”

Xi Xiaye frowned. She spooned the soup into her mouth and did not find it odd, so she looked at him in doubt.

“Try more. Tell me again after drinking two more bowls. Here... Try it...”

Chapter 102. Temperature of The Lips

Xi Xiaye drank two bowls of soup and still did not find anything odd. Just as she was about to voice her doubts out, the man opposite her already started devouring his dinner...

After dinner, Mu Yuchen did the dishes. Xi Xiaye was done bathing after he was finished and she went upstairs. She also applied some medicine on her wound.

“Did you hurt your wound?”

As Xi Xiaye was sitting on the soft sofa, watching TV in the living room, she turned around as she heard Mu Yuchen speaking to her. He wore a dark blue sleeping robe and was walking out of the bedroom as he was tying the sash.

“Hmm?”

Xi Xiaye did not react in time and stared at him in shock. He stopped behind her with a frown on his face as he studied her left shoulder with his sharp eyes.

“I saw the disposed bandage in the bathroom trash bin,” he explained.

“Oh, I accidentally hurt it a little, but the wound did not open up. It just stings a little.”

Xi Xiaye moved aside and opened up some space for him as she was going to pour him a cup of chrysanthemum tea.

As her fingers touched the pot, Mu Yuchen’s big hand swiftly went past her. She felt the spot beside her sink in while he sat down.

“Be careful. I’ll get Uncle Zhong to take a look at it.”

He sipped some tea and then picked up his phone on the table. Xi Xiaye quickly grabbed his arm and insisted, “It’s alright. I’m really fine. It’s late already anyway.”

Mu Yuchen stared at her for quite some time before putting his phone away.

She slowly let go of his arm and looked away from his intense gaze. She curled up on the sofa before grabbing the remote control and started switching the channels randomly...

Thud!

Suddenly, the remote control in her hand slipped from her grip and fell onto the carpet.

Frowning, she quickly bent over to pick it up, but just as her fingers were just about to reach the control, they reached a warm palm instead.

He gently grabbed her hand and sighed. Then, he put the teacup away with his other hand and started picking up the control. His voice sounded magnetic. "Do you think your Mr. Mu looks like a monster?"

Xi Xiaye was shocked and she looked at him seriously for some time before replying, "Not at all."

Mu Yuchen smiled. "Then, why do I always feel that you're afraid of me?"

"I'm not. I think you're a pretty easygoing person." As Xi Xiaye gave her earnest reply, her face started blushing as she threw him odd glances. She gave it some thought before replying, "I just... feel... a little not used to it."

"Hmm?"

Mu Yuchen stared at her longer, then he asked, "Are you being shy now? How old are you already? Do you think you're still a little girl?"

"Of course not! Do you think I'm still a school girl who'll be shy? I've graduated from university many years ago!"

Xi Xiaye would never think of herself as an innocent little girl. She was a modern woman, so why would she be shy?

“Really?”

His dark eyes squinted as he looked at her with an odd smile.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows and nodded. Her little face looked even more charming as they basked under the faint yellow light.

“Do you dare to try?” His deep and sexy voice brought forth an overwhelming charm. The deep vortex in his eyes was inescapable.

Xi Xiaye was a positive girl and her eyes brightened up as she looked at Mr. Mu with determination. “How would you like to try, Mr. Mu?”

She could feel the palm holding her hand start to tighten. While he advanced towards her, his pleasant fragrant was all over her. He lowered his body and their lips became closer to each other. Before she could even react, he left a cold kiss on her similarly chilly lips...

She was shocked at that second.

The man patted her head, the gap between their lips starting to infiltrate her territory. A warm and fresh breath entered her nasal passages, his unique smell feeling very clear and real, unlike his usual behavior. Even though he was nearby, it felt like he was far beyond her reach.

Her eyes blurred and her brain went hazy. She could feel the warmth assaulting her cold hand as the kiss earlier chased the coldness away from her lips.

As she came back to her senses, she tried to struggle but his large hand stopped her.

They could hear each other’s heartbeats. When he felt her struggling, he stopped his movements and just looked at her quietly.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath, her eyes still seeming blurry as she looked into his eyes. She was going to say something, parting her lips a little, yet after a while, she just looked at the TV screen quietly instead.

Her beautiful face turned bright red while she clenched her fists.

Mu Yuchen suddenly laughed and patted her head with his big hand again. He could still taste her fresh scent. It was far better than he imagined...

She shook his hand off her head and narrowed her eyes at him. Angrily, she accused, "You're trying to trap me again!"

"Why don't you just admit that you're stupid?"

Mu Yuchen seemed indifferent now as he sat back normally and his eyes glimmered triumphantly.

This man was a big, mean wolf even though he looked so calm and polite on the outside!

Xi Xiaye frowned and stared at him coldly. Cracking her knuckles, her frown turned into a cold simper. "Mu Yuchen, what did you say just now? I didn't hear it. Why don't you say it again?"

Mu Yuchen seemed shocked. He moved away slightly and squinted at her. "What's the matter, my dear? Are you sure you're going to use violence against me now? You're revealing your ferocious nature..."

How terrifying!

Chapter 103. Splashed All Over Her Face (1)

The next afternoon, the sun was shining brightly high up in the sky.

Xi Xiaye planned to stay at home and continue working on the South River project when suddenly she received a phone call. After giving it thorough consideration, she stopped her work on hand and went out.



The Cayenne soared through the cold wind and surged through fallen leaves as the car headed towards the busy commercial area of the city and parked in front of a rustic cafe.

Xi Xiaye wore a black windbreaker. She let her hair down and pushing a pair of large sunglasses on top of her head, she opened the door and got down. She locked the car and headed into the cafe.

“Miss, do you have a reservation?” A waitress went up to her as Xi Xiaye stepped into the cafe.

Xi Xiaye nodded and replied, “Table 15.”

The waitress smiled. “You must be Ms. Xi Xiaye, aren’t you? Ms. Xi has been waiting for you! Please follow me!”

Xi Xiaye did not say anything. She followed the waitress and went past a huge lounge. Soon, they arrived at a quiet corner.

“Sis, you’re here!”

When she arrived, Xi Xinyi stood up with a smile. Her eyes were filled with genuine joy as she went up to Xi Xiaye to hold her arms, but Xi Xiaye’s icy cold aura forced her back. She was stunned for a moment and bit on her lip before sitting back down with a pained expression.

Xi Xiaye was observing Xi Xinyi carefully.

Dressed in a white spring outfit with beautiful, wavy blonde hair over her shoulders, she had put some light makeup on which made her look gentle and charming. She was the ideal definition of a cute little girl. It was an interesting sight to watch her with the hidden pain in her eyes.

Xi Xiaye’s expression seemed calm as ever without revealing an ounce of her emotions. She sat down opposite Xi Xinyi.

“Do you want anything to drink?” The waitress asked.

“Nope, I’m fine,” Xi Xiaye replied indifferently, but her gaze was fixed onto the frail-looking Xi Xinyi.

The waitress somewhat felt the odd tension, but she did not say much and quickly left.

“Sis, I thought you’d never come. I’m really thrilled that you came!” Xi Xinyi smiled at Xi Xiaye, her smile sweet and innocent like that of a holy angel. It seemed so pure and beautiful that it could make anyone who saw her feel a need to protect that smile.

Xi Xiaye grinned coldly. Under her dark sunglasses were a pair of watchful eyes. Her voice sounded calm. “Why shouldn’t I come? Do you think I’m silly like my mother? Where’s the stuff?”

“Sis, Mother and Grandmother didn’t do it on purpose. It’s just that Yueying is in big trouble and we can only save it by doing that. You know Yueying is really important to Mother and Grandmother. They could never take it if they had to witness the downfall of Yueying! Can’t you try to be more considerate about their feelings?”

Xi Xinyi grabbed Xi Xiaye’s hand on the table. “I really have no intention of fighting with you to gain anything. Our parents’ issues belong to them. Can’t we let it go and face our future together?”

“Future? Then, tell me what I am tomorrow. Will I become the lover of Qi Kai’s master and treat myself as a bargaining chip? Or will I give you and Han Yifeng my wishes with a big smile on my face, and sacrifice everything of my own for the Xi family, for Yueying, for you? Like what my mother did back then?”

Xi Xiaye laughed coldly at Xi Xinyi, her voice devoid of any temperature. “If you were in my shoes, would you be willing to do it? Didn’t you say that you want to compensate me and you’d be willing to do anything to get my forgiveness?”

“Yes! Sis, if you can let go of the past grudges, I’d do anything!” Xi Xinyi was determined.

The smile on her face grew wider. Xi Xiaye finally took her sunglasses off and looked at Xi Xinyi with her icy cold eyes. “Good, then I want you to marry Qi Kai’s master and declare that you’ll give up the right to inherit Yueying. Then, I’ll forgive you. How does that sound?”

Xi Xinyi was stunned as she heard Xi Xiaye's words. She stared at Xi Xiaye with her large doe eyes as she clenched her fists. The tears in her eyes were on the verge of falling.

Xi Xiaye laughed when she saw Xi Xinyi's reaction and she mocked her, "See, even someone as kind and gentle as you can't accept it. How could someone as evil as me accept the terms?"

Xi Xinyi's expression changed and she bit her lip as sadness shrouded her face. "You just want to take revenge on me, don't you? Sis, Yifeng doesn't love you. Don't you understand? He'd never love you even if I let him go. Why can't you just wake up?"

Xi Xiaye smiled. "You're mistaken. I'm wide awake now. Didn't you guys label me as an evil and stubborn person? I just think that I should do something deserving of that label. If I can see you guys being unhappy, then I might be able to feel better."

"Sis! Why did you become like this?" Xi Xinyi looked at Xi Xiaye in despair as more tears welled up in her eyes.

"Why?" Xi Xiaye mumbled quietly, her eyes suddenly turning cold. She stood up and walked to her to say quietly beside her ear, "Xi Xinyi, now it's just the both of us. You don't have to put up an act anymore. When you were 16, I saw you use the lighter to burn the clothes in your wardrobe, including the expensive dress Grandmother bought for you from France... I remember that was your favorite outfit and you always felt it was too precious to wear out. Then, many things happened that summer, including me getting forced out of military school. Do you remember that? Do you want me to tell you one by one and find out exactly how much I remember?"

Xi Xinyi's face turned pale and her eyes were filled with doubts. "Sis... I don't know what you're talking about..."

"Actually, there's something you really impress me with," Xi Xiaye paused, then she continued, "You're a born actress. It'd be unfair not to award you with an Oscar for Best Actress!"

Chapter 104. Splashed All Over Her Face (2)

Xi Xinyi's face went even paler and she almost chewed through her lip. Her tears were on the verge of falling. Comparing her innocent face with Xi Xiaye's cold expression, it seemed as if an angel was facing a witch.

Xi Xiaye was used to this look of hers. She sat back down and looked at her indifferently, her shoulders shaking while she was trying hard to not let her tears fall. Even Xi Xiaye herself thought that she had transformed into an evil witch.

Xi Xinyi blinked her eyes and forced her tears back. Looking at Xi Xiaye, she spoke in her gentle voice, "I don't care how you see me. It doesn't matter what you've misunderstood about me... I just hope that we can go back to how things were before. Can we, please?"

Xi Xiaye was starting to lose interest. She turned away and looked outside the window, not even wanting to look at that woman anymore. "Impossible! Give me the stuff. I'm short on time."

"Sis! I'm already begging you. You... Do you really want me to kneel down? Do you know about Grandfather's condition now? He still forbids us to look for you. He loves you the most! Are you even ignoring Father's words now?" Xi Xinyi clenched her fists tightly.

"You know Father looked for me?" Xi Xiaye stared at Xi Xinyi with her narrowed eyes.

Xi Xinyi bit her lip again and thought for a long time. She then replied, "That day I noticed that Father wasn't in a good mood after he came back. I overheard his conversation with his secretary and I found out that he went to see you, so..."

Xi Xinyi then grabbed her bag and took a folder out. She hesitated for a while and looked at Xi Xiaye, her eyes filled with a laughable guilt and unease.

"Grandmother asked me to give you this. She hopes you can understand what she tried to do. It's not that she doesn't love you, but you're always like this..."

Xi Xiaye stared at Xi Xinyi and did not take the folder immediately. Instead, she asked coldly, "Why isn't she giving this to me herself?"

Xi Xinyi was stunned for a moment before she replied quietly, "Grandmother's been busy lately, and I was the one who offered to send you this. I've been wanting to talk to you, but you never gave me a chance, so I..."

“I don’t think I have anything else left to talk to you about. If it’s about Han Yifeng, I’m pretty sure I’ve told him clearly. I kept my promise and didn’t bother you both. On the other hand, you guys keep bothering me.”

Xi Xiaye took the folder and a chilling light lit up in the depths of her eyes. “Xi Xinyi, actually three years ago, I’ve already decided that I’ll never forgive the both of you the moment Han Yifeng betrayed me to be with you. Even if we aren’t enemies, we can only be strangers. I stepped away and fulfilled your wish, so I hope we’ll mind our own businesses. You’re the one who forced me to say this.”

“No, Sis! You’re Father’s daughter. You can never erase this relationship of yours. Who doesn’t want to have a happy family? Yueying’s problem isn’t solved yet. Father wanted you to come back and have a talk. Mother even went to University A yesterday to have a word with your mother...” Xi Xinyi shook her head and explained.

Xi Xiaye’s body tensed up and her eyes seemed morose. “You guys went to University A to look for Mother? What for? What else do you guys want to take from her? She’s been silent for so many years all because she wants a peaceful quiet life, and you guys still won’t let go of her?”

Xi Xiaye’s hands clenched the folder tightly, her fingernails turning white from the pressure. She stared at Xi Xinyi as several flashbacks appeared in her mind. Her eyes darkened as she put on a bitter smile. “I understand now! It’s about the 20% shares my mother has in Yueying, isn’t it?”

Back then, when Shen Wenna had divorced Xi Mushan, he had transferred 20% of shares in Yueying over to her. Xi Mushan had signed his name on the document before she left, so the 20% of shares would belong to Shen Wenna the moment she signed the document.

However, Shen Wenna was a prideful woman. She took the document but did not sign it right away. Nevertheless, the document was still legally recognized and there were records at the administrative office. Shen Wenna had to let them go willingly, otherwise...

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath. She scoffed and then asked in a bitter tone, “Does Father know about this? Is it Father who wants the 20% shares back, or is it someone else’s idea?”

Xi Xinyi looked downwards uneasily under Xi Xiaye’s sharp glare.

“You can choose to not answer me. I’ll ask Father myself if it was his idea to do so!”

She then took out her phone and was about to call Xi Mushan. However, Xi Xinyi grabbed her shoulder and stopped her!

“Sis, it’s not Father’s idea, it’s Grandmother and...” Xi Xinyi tried to explain.

“It’s her and your mother’s idea?” Xi Xiaye looked at Xi Xinyi threateningly, her voice sounding determined!

“No, it’s not my mother. It’s me. It’s my idea. Yueying’s shares are falling...”

“Are you sure it’s your idea?” Before Xi Xinyi could finish her sentence, Xi Xiaye asked.

“Yes! It’s my idea, not my mother’s...”

Thud!

“Ah!!!”

As Xi Xinyi was still talking, Xi Xiaye slammed the table and stood up. She grabbed the cup of coffee in front of Xi Xinyi and splashed it all over her face. Tossing the cup aside, she turned around and stormed off with the folder.

As if she did not hear Xi Xinyi’s shocked cry, her slender figure swiftly vanished outside.

Chapter 105. Stubborn!

Xi Xinyi freaked out and grabbed some tissue papers on the table to wipe the coffee off her face. The brown liquid had dripped down through her blonde hair. Her makeup was smeared and her white outfit was stained with coffee everywhere. She looked absolutely miserable.

Fortunately, the coffee was not too hot. If not...

She sobbed as she was cleaning herself up. Putting an arm on the table to support herself with the other covering her nose and mouth, her hand on the table clenched into a fist. She stared at the cup that was tossed aside and tears filled her eyes.

After calming herself down, she looked outside the window and saw Xi Xiaye's back.

Xi Xiaye walked past the street and went towards the parking lot but just as she reached her car, a luxurious Rolls Royce was parked in front of it.

What surprised her was not the luxury car, but the man leaning on the car — it was Han Yifeng!

Han Yifeng's expression seemed frigid as he looked at Xi Xiaye with his quiet eyes. There were too many complications between them. As he was focused on her, she still had her usual cold look on her face.

Xi Xiaye halted in her steps and looked at Han Yifeng before turning her head towards Xi Xinyi who was still inside the café crying. She grinned coldly as she continued walking with the folder in her hand.

Xi Xiaye walked past Han Yifeng without slowing down at all. She looked straight ahead at her black Cayenne as she took out the car keys from the pocket of her windbreaker.

"Xiaye, let's talk!"

A cold wind blew as he grabbed Xi Xiaye's arm and dragged her backward. Xi Xiaye did not expect him to seize both her arms and force her to turn around and face him.

"What about? Do you think we still have anything to talk about between us?"

Xi Xiaye did not struggle. She just raised her head and stared defiantly at Han Yifeng with her sheer cold eyes.

“Xiaye, things shouldn’t be like this between us. Do you understand? I hope that we can go back to how it was before. I can be the brother who always protected you, and you can be the old Xiaye who’d stay behind my back. Nothing needs to change. Wouldn’t that be great?”

Han Yifeng seemed disappointed and oddly frustrated while he looked straight at Xi Xiaye and his grip on her arms started to tighten until she felt a slight pain.

Xi Xiaye’s smile grew wider on her beautiful face. Her eyes looked at Han Yifeng sharply and she said between gritted teeth, “Han Yifeng, I gave you a chance three years ago to explain yourself. I’ve also begged you to not leave me. You’re the one who broke all our promises. You betrayed our engagement.”

Xi Xiaye suddenly gave a cold laugh and her eyes turned even scarier. “I admit that I did like you back then and hoped to marry you, but I only have that much feelings for you. They finished once they ran out. I earnestly gave them all to you, but not only did you not want it, you even stepped on them while telling me that you loved someone else. So, why would you think that I can still give you two my blessings with a huge smile? I genuinely wish that I could destroy the both of you!”

She slapped Han Yifeng’s hand off her left shoulder.

She could feel the pain on her wound electrify her when he applied pressure on it. If his vice grip had continued any further, the wound might have opened up.

She took a step back after breaking free of his grip and looked at him calmly with a strong aura of determination around her.

Ignoring Han Yifeng’s silence, Xi Xiaye turned around. She did not want to waste time with him anymore. Her slender figure passed him under the warm sun. “I’ll get away from you guys and let everyone be at peace. If you guys still bother me and my mother, don’t blame me for being vicious. You’ve overestimated yourself. You already meant nothing to me since three years ago...”

She left those words along with the wind, her clear voice echoing in his ear. He was stunned as he watched her walk swiftly towards the Cayenne and got in.



Before he could react, the black Cayenne tore through the streets like a dark tornado.

Han Yifeng frowned, standing where the Cayenne was just now. His mind went blank until Xi Xinyi approaching him from behind and called his name sadly, "Yifeng..."

Han Yifeng came back to his senses when he heard Xi Xinyi's cry behind him. He looked at her and saw her terrible state.

He witnessed the scene where Xi Xiaye slammed the table and poured the coffee all over Xi Xinyi's face...

To be more exact, he had been observing them silently in his car the moment Xi Xiaye stepped into the café. He never expected that Xi Xiaye would...

He wanted to talk to her and hoped that she would not vent out her frustrations on Xi Xinyi while he was the one at fault. Moreover, he felt strange after hearing her words. His chest felt tight and uncomfortable!

"Yifeng!" Xi Xinyi called out to him again when he did not reply. Her usually beautiful and charming face was now left with a frail and sad expression. She seemed extremely pale and her figure seemed like a mimosa as if she would just shut herself out if a wind blew her.

"Are you alright?" Han Yifeng pulled her into his arms and asked.

Xi Xinyi shook her head as she hugged him tightly. She said in a sad tone, "We probably can't go back to how we were before. She said she'll never forgive us... Am I not doing enough? But I feel really exhausted, Yifeng... I don't know what to do anymore..."

Han Yifeng took a deep breath. His cold face softened while he comforted her, "That's enough. Stop overthinking. We've done whatever we need to do. We can only let her be if she insists."

"I'm worried that she won't come to our engagement ceremony..."

“I hope she’ll come too, Xinyi. She’d have probably come if it was back then, but now...”

Chapter 106. Shen Residence In The North

The car went through the broad highways. After passing several busy junctions, it headed towards the north of the city.

She suddenly felt like going back to the Shen Residence. Coincidentally, the gifts for Shen Yue and Shen Wenna that she had taken from the Mu Residence were in her trunk. She gave the Shen Residence a call before heading over.

The Shen Residence was located in the north and taking the train or bus was convenient. Furthermore, there was no need to worry about traffic jams. Based on the estimation that the distance between it and both the Mu Residence and Maple Residence was not really that far away, if one drove quickly, it would only take about 40 minutes to reach the Shen Residence from Maple Residence.

The Shen Residence was hidden inside in a high-class villa neighborhood in the outskirts of City Z. It was a big house, but not many people lived there. Aside from Shen Yue and Shen Wenna, there were the housekeeper Uncle Wang and the cook Aunt Xu, and not many other people. Xi Xiaye would only go back every once in a while.

“Ms. Xi is back!”

Xi Xiaye parked her car in front of the entrance. The first person she saw was the housekeeper, Uncle Wang.

Xi Xiaye nodded with a smile, then she handed the items over to Uncle Wang.

“You’re finally back. Your grandpa and mother really miss you! He even asked me to give you a call just now to see where you are! Hmm? Your husband isn’t with you?” Uncle Wang smiled kindly as he took the things from her and asked in a gentle tone.

The people in the Shen Residence knew she had been married to Mu Yuchen already. Xi Xiaye’s call made everyone think that she was going to bring Mu Yuchen over, so they had gone the extra mile to prepare themselves. Even Shen Yue had left work earlier to return home.

Xi Xiaye laughed. "Mmm, there's some delay on the road. He's working today. Where's Grandpa and Mother?"

"The old CEO just came back and is now drinking tea in the living room. Your mother is cooking in the kitchen. She wanted to make some dishes for you and your husband. She also said that it's been some time since you last tasted her cooking..."

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment when she heard his words. Her eyes softened and she went silent before she nodded. "I got it. You can get the things inside first."

She stopped walking and looked at the crimson red sunset. After moments of hesitation, she took her phone out and quickly found Mr. Mu's number to give him a call.

Mu Yuchen was listening to the PR Department Manager reporting about the progress on the opening ceremony of Imperial Sky Jewellery City when his phone started ringing.

Mu Yuchen frowned as he took a glance at his vibrating phone. His face softened slightly when he saw the word "Missus" on the screen. He signaled to the PR Department Manager for her to pause.

Xi Xiaye was almost going to hang up on the call because she did not expect it would connect. Suddenly, a certain person's deep voice came through the phone.

"Missus?"

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment, but she came back to her senses swiftly. "Mmm, it's me. I'm at the Shen Residence now. I was just thinking that it's about time you got off work. Do you want to go back home to cook or come over to the Shen Residence for a meal? Uncle Wang said Mother is cooking today. By the way, her cooking is really delicious..."

She slowly walked towards the villa.

Mu Yuchen went silent for a moment, then he said, "Send me the address. Please get Mother to prepare an extra pair of chopsticks for me..."

Xi Xiaye laughed. "Mmm, come over here after work then. I'll text you the address in a bit."

She then hung up and swiftly texted him the address. He replied with an 'okay' in just a few seconds. Then, she went into the house.

She glanced over at the sofa when she went into the luxurious living room and saw Shen Yue's figure sitting right beside the coffee table.

"Miss...."

Aunt Xu was holding a teapot when she saw Xi Xiaye. She beamed happily, but just when she was about to call out to her, Xi Xiaye stopped her.

She kept her phone back into her pocket and nodded to Aunt Xu who smiled back at her before taking the tea from her. Then, she walked towards Shen Yue.

Shen Yue was carefully studying a jade Chinese chess set beside the coffee table. He was admiring it as he nodded from time to time, seeming very satisfied.

From the back, Xi Xiaye could recognize that the Chinese chess set was the one Mu Yuchen had gotten Ah Mo to send over and Shen Yue seemed to be very happy with it.

Xi Xiaye's heart warmed up when she saw the smile on Shen Yue's face. She went over and handed him the cup of tea as she smiled. "Grandpa, you seem to be very interested in this Chinese chess set."

Her voice broke Shen Yue's train of thought. His eyes looked lovingly at her when he turned around and saw Xi Xiaye. "You're back!"

He glanced behind Xi Xiaye and did not see Mu Yuchen's figure. "Are you alone?"

Xi Xiaye sat down on the sofa. "I just came here on a whim. He's still in the office and will only come over later."

After replying him, she gently picked a chess piece on the board up. A slight warmth came into contact through her fingertips and her eyes brightened as she looked at Shen Yue in surprise. "Is that warm jade?"

Shen Yue glanced at her and quickly took the chess piece back. "Of course, this set was auctioned in France and I was already interested in it back then. Who knew that that brat from the Mu family would have issued a higher bid? Anyway, it's mine now!"

Xi Xiaye then remembered the man had told her before he was previously somewhat affiliated with Shen Yue. Was this one of their episodes?

Xi Xiaye laughed when she saw Shen Yue's scowl. "Grandpa, you should've given him more of a hard time back then. He might've taken out even more treasures to please you."

Shen Yue stared at her coldly after he heard her words. He said grumpily, "I wonder who's nervous about me giving him a hard time back then. Moreover, what treasure can be more precious than my granddaughter? The Mu family obviously got the better deal here, especially that brat!"

Chapter 107. Unsigned Document (1)

When she heard these words, the curve on Xi Xiaye's beautiful face widened. She quietly watched Shen Yue for quite a while, then she slowly got up. "I'll go take a look in the kitchen."

She had just reached the kitchen entrance when she smelled a tempting aroma filling the air. She raised her head slightly and the view of Shen Wenna's narrow back greeted her.

Even though she had passed 50 years of age, Shen Wenna had maintained herself well and she still looked attractive for an aging woman. Appearing rather young, she looked similar to Xi Xiaye. When the mother and daughter stood together, they looked like sisters.

"You're back!"

When she noticed Xiaye standing right behind her, Shen Wenna suddenly turned around. She studied her carefully and in her cold eyes, something shifted.

“Mmm,” Xi Xiaye softly answered, then she slowly walked over to wash her hands.

“The school’s been on holiday these past few days and your grandpa’s less busy too. If you’re free, you should come home more often to visit and accompany your grandpa. He’s been missing you.” Shen Wenna stirred the vegetables in the wok as she said this.

“Got it,” Xi Xiaye habitually answered.

While when she heard this, Shen Wenna suddenly frowned slightly. She looked at Xi Xiaye who had turned on the tap beside her and was quietly washing her hands. Helplessly, she sighed on the inside.

Her daughter was so much like her, equally apathetic and stubborn without wanting to admit defeat.

She thought it before turning the tap off and suddenly saying softly. “The day before yesterday, he came looking for me.”

“Who?” Shen Wenna retrieved her gaze and asked as she stir-fried the hot and sour shredded potato.

Xi Xiaye straightened up and slowly turned over, quietly staring at Shen Wenna’s slim back. She fell silent for a long while and then said calmly, “Father...”

When she heard her daughter, Shen Wenna’s body momentarily stiffened. Her movements stopped abruptly too as if some kind of motor in her was halted.

“He said that Friday is Xi Xinyi and Han Yifeng’s engagement ceremony, so he wants me to attend and he even said that Grandfather’s health is worsening...”

...

“Whatever you decide, I won’t stop you.”

A while after, Shen Wenna suddenly turned around, her slightly dim eyes gazing at Xi Xiaye. “Xiaye, the thing between your father and I happened only because we didn’t know how to manage our marriage well, but this doesn’t apply to everyone. No matter what, don’t give up the right to fight for your happiness. You’re a smart child. You should know what I mean.”

Xi Xiaye fell silent for quite a while, then she nodded. “I got it.”

Shen Wenna sighed softly and fell silent for a moment. Then, she continued, “I can see that Mu Yuchen’s a pretty kind person. As for Han Yifeng, just forget him. No matter how many storms you’ve gone through together, when a new relationship surfaces, we have to believe in it. As strong as we can be, we’re just women... If there’s a pretty sweet person who’s willing to give you love and care, why don’t we accept it sincerely?”

As she listened, Xi Xiaye suddenly felt a mix of emotions swell in her chest and she looked at Shen Wenna. She longed to ask her since she knew this principle, why had she been all by herself all these years?

When those words were about to rush out, she stifled them. Now that things were like this, why would she want to open up old wounds again?

She quietly watched Shen Wenna. Hesitating momentarily, she did not pursue this topic anymore. Instead, she remembered the reason why Xi Xinyi had looked for her earlier.

“Mother, back then when you got a divorce with Father, he gave 20% of his Yueying shares to you... That document... Is it still with you?”

Once Xi Xiaye finished, Shen Wenna was startled. She abruptly turned to look at Xi Xiaye in surprise. “Why would you suddenly ask about this?”

She had almost forgotten all about it!

“Is it still with you?” Xi Xiaye softly asked again, her gaze had an unfathomable flicker which made it hard to guess her thoughts.

Shen Wenna looked at her for quite a while, then she nodded. “It’s still with me.”

“Mother, I want the 20% of shares. Can you... sign it?” Xi Xiaye’s twinkling eyes glimmered with some anticipation as she silently looked at Shen Wenna.

Shen Wenna paused, her eyes flashing with a darkness, yet her expression remained indifferent. She looked at Xi Xiaye and seemed to have understood something. “Did they go looking for you too?”

“Mother, you know about that?” Xi Xiaye asked.

Shen Wenna tossed the vegetables while her voice was calm. “If they didn’t go looking for you, you wouldn’t have suddenly asked me about this.”

“Finish washing the vegetables first. Come to my study room after dinner,” Shen Wenna plainly said, then the conversation between mother and daughter ended just like that.

She assisted Shen Wenna and was busy in the kitchen for close to an hour. Finally, they finished preparing dinner. In fact, it looked pretty sumptuous.

When Xi Xiaye walked out of the kitchen to serve the food, she could hear Shen Yue’s joyful laughter from afar.

“Ah Chen, your chess is definitely much better than those two old fellows in the Mu family. How rare! I didn’t expect you to know Chinese chess too. Not many young people do. Even Xiaye doesn’t! I’ve taught her many times, but every time she’d withdraw her move halfway. In fact, her manners in chess aren’t great, but that girl’s game of Go is pretty decent. She’s a master with some tricks up her sleeves. Even I’m no match for her...”

“Does she always play chess with you, Grandpa?” Mu Yuchen’s deep and calm voice was heard, then the crisp sound of the chess piece falling onto the board echoed. “Your turn, Grandpa.”



“Oh, okay, let me see... I don’t have many hobbies. Just like your grandmother and them, I’ll play chess sometimes. The last time when your grandma was still around, I still had someone to play with, but when she left, I had no one, so Xiaye became my chess buddy...” Shen Yue said as he stared down at the chessboard.

“When you’re free, you can go play cards or chess, and pass the time with Grandfather and Grandmother. Now that they’ve retired, they don’t have many programmes to pass time at home either.”

...

“Pack it up. Get ready for dinner!” Xi Xiaye put the dishes on the table and called out to the duo playing chess on the coffee table.

When he heard her voice, Mu Yuchen slowly turned to take a look at her and he smiled calmly at her. Then, he extended a hand to help Shen Yue up. “Let’s have dinner first, Grandpa.”

“Okay, we’ll continue again after dinner. Ah, no need to pack it up, no need!” Shen Yue said to Aunt Xu who was about to tidy up before he walked to the dining table.

A while after, the whole family sat down together.

Seeing Shen Yue beaming and getting Mu Yuchen to drink up like two buddies, Xi Xiaye could not help but lean to her side and said in a lowered voice into his ear, “Grandpa seems to really like you. You’re really good at pleasing people.”

Chapter 108. Unsigned Document (2)

Her clear voice brushed past his ears. When Mu Yuchen turned to look at her, she was holding up her chopsticks and raising her brows as she looked at him, bemused.

“Does it make my Missus feel threatened?” His calm voice was softly heard and it came with a sensitive depth.

Xi Xiaye looked at him from the side, her calm expression flashing with disregard. Then, she continued to eat her food while across her, Shen Yue had already continued to get Mu Yuchen to drink up.

After dinner, Xi Xiaye tidied up and then went to Shen Wenna's study room while Mu Yuchen played chess with Shen Yue.

Knock knock!

The rhythmic sound of the door being rapped was heard. Immediately from the study room came Shen Wenna's clear voice. "Come in!"

Xi Xiaye reached out to push open the door, walked in, and then looked up to see Shen Wenna who was currently sitting before the spacious and tidy study desk. She was currently looking down and writing at a tremendous speed. It looked like she was marking assignments...

"Mother..." Xi Xiaye stood at the door and called out softly.

Shen Wenna lifted her head unhurriedly to see Xi Xiaye who stood at the door. Quite a while after that, she set aside the pen in her hand and nodded to indicate for her to walk over. As she turned to pull a file out from the shelf, she took the document inside out.

Xi Xiaye walked over and stopped by Shen Wenna's side, then she followed her mother's gaze and looked at the document in her hand. It was right. It was that document that Xi Mushen had given Shen Wenna back then...

"If you didn't bring this up, I would've forgotten all about it."

Shen Wenna casually flipped the document in her hand, then looked up at Xi Xiaye. Her gaze was calm. "Actually this should be yours. After all, I'm not good in business. In fact, I hope that you won't be taken advantage of too."

Then, she picked up her pen and quickly signed her name on the inscription. She put it back into the folder and handed it to Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye slowly accepted it as she quietly watched her. She did not know what to say. She thought about it for a long time before finally finding a topic. "Is the school about to go on break?"

"Mmm, there aren't many classes recently either. I'm only taking on two classes, so it's much easier-going than the years before. Sit and have some tea." Shen Wenna arranged the stack of documents on her desk and put them onto the shelf behind her. Then, she got up and walked towards the sofa.

Xi Xiaye fell silent for quite a while before following her. Shen Wenna had already very quickly brewed some tea. She picked a cup up and carefully took a sip. "Fresh Pu Er?"

"Mmm, take some back later. I don't like tea," Shen Wenna plainly responded. After a moment of silent thought, she continued, "Are you planning to stay in Glory World forever? Your grandpa's spirits aren't like the years before. A few months ago, he mentioned to me that he was planning to let you go abroad to advance your studies. You should know what he means."

Xi Xiaye paused and lowered her eyes to stare at the swaying tea in her hands. Suddenly, she did not know what to say.

"Because of your father and me, we ruined your childhood. All these years we've given you too little care. Xiaye, do you think that as your mother, I feel like a stranger to you?"

Shen Wenna's eyes suddenly revealed a hint of darkness. Her hands slowly gripped the teacup tightly as she looked up at Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye was dazed for a moment, then she gently shook her head. "No..."

In her impression, her mother, Shen Wenna, was actually a very cold person. She always maintained her elegant and calm demeanor. Even if Father had cruelly betrayed her, she kept her sadness and disappointment to herself. After being dispirited for a while, she picked herself back up. Xiaye wanted to say that her mother had actually always been a very healthy role model to her.

When she heard Xi Xiaye say that, Shen Wenna suddenly chuckled elegantly. Despite her age, her attractive face revealed a rare smile filled with warmth. "When I look at you, I always think about my

younger self. In the blink of an eye, I'm old now. As beautiful as the memories were, they can't resist the fleeting time that passes by abundantly. In a flash, everything has become unadulterated."

She could vaguely feel the bleakness in Shen Wenna's words, so Xi Xiaye softly called out to her, "Mother..."

Still, Shen Wenna just calmly inhaled and lifted a hand to massage the fatigued space in between her brows and said with waning interest, "Okay, it's very late now. I'm worried you guys aren't used to being out so late either, so it's best to go back earlier. Does Ah Chen still have to go to work tomorrow?"

Shen Wenna had always kept a lot to herself and was not willing to talk about anything with anyone. Even if it were her daughter, Xi Xiaye, she would never complain in front of her.

When Xi Xiaye saw that she seemed a little down, she consoled her, but noticing that she continued to keep silent, she left.

Xi Xiaye drove back to Maple Residence. Mu Yuchen had drunk quite a bit with Shen Yue, so once he got into the car, he immediately leaned back to rest with his eyes closed.

The car was very quiet. In fact, they could vaguely feel an out-of-the-ordinary stifled sort of quiet.

After he felt more at ease, Mu Yuchen opened his eyes to look at the petite woman driving beside him. When he saw her calm expression and her intense focus on the road ahead with a cold aura all around her, he pondered for a moment, then said softly, "What's wrong? Weren't you just fine earlier? Did your mother criticize you?"

His sudden voice startled the driving Xi Xiaye. She looked at him from the side then shook her head. "No, I just don't know whether what I'm doing is right or wrong. She didn't even ask me what I wanted to do. I thought she wouldn't give it to me..."

When he heard her, Mu Yuchen's eyes revealed that he was puzzled.

Xi Xiaye could only sigh to herself. Holding the steering wheel steadily with one hand, she took the two files beside her to hand them to Mu Yuchen. "Look for yourself."

Mu Yuchen took it and opened the first file. It was that document that Shen Wenna had signed while the second file was the copy of the document that Xi Xiaye had signed in West Park the other day, attached with a cheque for \$5 million.

His eyes suddenly revealed a cold light. It was hard to read emotions in his gaze as his expression remained very calm. His long fingers held onto the cheque and he turned to fix his eyes on Xi Xiaye. "What does this mean?"

"This is the so-called 'compensation' that they're giving me. Xi Xinyi called me this afternoon to ask me out," she answered plainly.

"So, did you go?"

Mu Yuchen frowned and subconsciously looked at her. He did not notice anything odd, so he said, "You know that they will do this to you, yet you still went. Xi Xiaye, should I be praising you for your bravery?"

"Why wouldn't I have the guts to go? The person who's in the wrong isn't me. Do they think I'm Mother? I'll take however much the compensation is! I'd be a fool if I didn't!"

Chapter 109. Good Person and Profiteer

Screech!

Feeling her heart weighed down, she drove the car to the side and stepped on the brake. She looked indignantly at the man beside her, the emotions that she had repressed for a long time finally urging to be vented.

She raised her voice that was clearly filled with an endurance of pain and anger as it entered his ears. In that instance, he frowned slightly as well. He put the document aside and then looked at her calmly. To her surprise, he was not unhappy about her fury that burst out without a warning at all.

Seeing her chest heaving and that tensed little face of hers, without saying anything, he just watched her like that. Her expression was very calm as he just let her afflicted, starry eyes glare at him.

The two pairs of eyes looked at each other. Xi Xiaye's eyes were filled with an irritation and heaviness from enduring her pain that could not be concealed while his eyes remained unaffected, calm and distant. His gaze seemed to be admiring her anger, making it hard for her to vent the feelings she had repressed in her chest.

She glared at him for a very long time, then finally furiously turned her head away and did not look at him.

When he saw this, the frown on Mu Yuchen deepened. Indeed, as the legend went, women were always such unfathomable mysteries when they got angry...

A while after that, he helplessly held his forehead and said softly, "Okay, didn't I not say anything about you? I was just worried that getting in touch with them would make them take advantage of you. Look at how every time you encounter them, the one who loses out is you."

"This time I didn't lose out. I was just a little mad that they're always racking their brains to plot to take Mother's 20% of shares. Initially, everyone should be taking a step back. Then, we can live a peaceful life. What's so bad about that?"

"So?" Mu Yuche raised his handsome brows and looked at her.

"So, I splashed her face with coffee. It felt awesome! I even said some mean things." Xi Xiaye inhaled, then she turned her line of sight to the file on the side. She reached out to pick up the document that Shen Wenna had signed and handed to her. "The company wants to take over Yueying, doesn't it? With this, wouldn't it be much simpler? I've already thought of the reason. It's I who sold all of these shares to Glory World. Then, Glory World can enter Yueying with the identity of a shareholder. With your capabilities, once you've got in, it shouldn't be too hard for you to purchase the other scattered shares in the dark."

Her gaze was as clear as autumn waters as she fixed her gaze on him.

Mu Yuchen's gaze instantly became incredibly distant as he silently studied the document she handed him, yet he did not immediately take it. He looked up and locked his sights onto that fair, delicate face and did not say anything for a long time.

When she saw him not making a move, Xi Xiaye sighed softly and explained calmly, "I just don't want to cower. Blindly backing down doesn't seem to get me what I want. Maybe changing my methods and controlling some things that they care for could hold them back instead."

She did not want to explain too much either. These past few days, she had been reflecting on herself. Perhaps, right from the start, the method she had chosen was wrong. People always said that compromise would make a conflict much easier to resolve, but when these words were applied to her, it might not be applicable.

"Do you want Yueying?" He looked into her beautiful eyes and asked stoically.

When he saw that his deep eyes were gathered with a dark whirlpool, she instantly became dazed. She lowered her eyes and muttered to herself momentarily, then met with his unwavering gaze. With a determined look, she shook her head. "I don't want it, but maybe having it would make me live a little better."

Hearing this, Mu Yuchen nodded knowingly and smiled. "It looks like your IQ isn't so low that it's embarrassing after all. Since that is so, let's consider it a newlywed gift. What do you think?"

As she listened, Xiaye raised her brows a little suspiciously as she looked at him.

Mu Yuchen's honorable and handsome face had already been covered with a dark cloud. He squinted his dark eyes dangerously and said coldly between gritted teeth, "Wanting to threaten Mu Yuchen's Missus with just \$5 million? They really looked down on you! As your husband, I'll have to swing my fists in their face and fight them!"

Xiaye was amused by his demeanor and could not help but purse her lips and laugh. She shot him an amused look. "Mr. Mu, your thoughts are very dangerous."

Mu Yuchen smiled, then he leaned over and took the document in her hand. His hand lightly held her by the shoulders and gently pulled her into his embrace. "What nonsense are you thinking about? I'm a good person that robs the rich and gives to the poor..."

"Does your face say that you're a good person? You're

a good person? I take one look at you and just think that you're a huge profiteer through and through. With one ancient jade chess set and those awful chess skills, you could already amuse Grandpa." She glared at him unhappily, then started the car.

Mr. Mu objected, his handsome brows raised as he said softly, "I don't see the words 'profiteer' written on my face either. How did your discerning eyes just declare that I am one?"

"You look like a profiteer because I say so. You even want to fight with me over these words. You're no gentleman at all."

"Are you saying that I should yield to you and silently accept it?"

"Profiteer is a word of positive connotations, Mr. Mu!"

"Even if it comes with positive connotations, what does this have to do with being a gentleman?"

Mr. Mu was suddenly a little shocked by Xiaye's leaping thought process. Were all women like this?

...

It was already late at night when they returned to Maple Residence. Mu Yuchen had just walked out from the bathroom when he saw Xi Xiaye arranging the clothes in the wardrobe. She had just brought some of her clothing over from the Shen residence.

Mu Yuchen suddenly thought of something, so he reminded her, "Tomorrow, I'll tell Sis Wang to accompany you to Imperial Sky to choose some clothes that you like. The day after tomorrow is the company anniversary celebration."



Xi Xiaye stopped what she was doing and shot him a look. She subconsciously looked over at the wardrobe that was filled with rows of clothes and finally, her gaze fell onto the black professional suit that she always wore. "It's not some grand event. Can't I just dress as usual?"

The meetings that the company had organized in the past were all coordinated by the Public Relations department. Because she usually did not appear before the public, naturally she would not care about these things.

"In fact, I'm not quite suited to wear any gown right now..."

When she thought about how her shoulder had not yet recovered completely, Xi Xiaye could only laugh bitterly.

Mu Yuchen's eyes sank for a moment. He stared at her for quite a while, then walked over. "When it's better, we'll go to the hospital and see if the scars can fade."

"It's fine. The wound isn't considered too huge, so it'll be fine after some time," Xi Xiaye answered calmly, then she continued to tidy her things, yet Mu Yuchen's initially still expression had become stormy. He watched her lower her head and continue to be busy. Internally, his heart could not hold back the faint feelings of pity for her.

Chapter 110. Glory World Anniversary (1)

From Wednesday onwards, Glory World Corporation's break had almost come to an end and the whole company was anticipating the anniversary celebration on Thursday. The Public Relations Department was busy running around coordinating the event.

Glory World's anniversary banquet was located at Imperial Sky Hall on the seventh floor of Imperial Sky Hotel.

This grand hall in Imperial Sky Hotel was especially used to organize grand banquets.

On Thursday morning, after Mu Yuchen left the house, she drove to the company as well.

The anniversary even would only begin at 7 in the evening. Mu Yuchen had rushed to City B early in the morning. She heard that it was to discuss negotiating the development of a new movie city with the partner company. It was probably the same as the other day and he would only be able to rush back in the afternoon.

...

It was a splendid afternoon. The warm sun scattered its dazzling golden rays throughout the blue sky. Bathing in the soft light, Glory World Corporation appeared even more extraordinary in grandeur.

Inside the simple and elegant office, the Planning Director, Xi Xiaye, was sitting before her desk and reading the documents that the Commerce Department had sent over. At that moment, there was suddenly a light knocking on the door.

She frowned slightly, yet she did not look up and just answered, "Come in!"

Her assistant, Xiao Mei, then walked lightly over and bowed to say, "Director Xi, Manager Fang from the Public Relations Department just called to say that the Imperial Sky Hotel preparations are almost done. They asked if you'd like to go over and take a look."

"Mmm, tell them that I'll be there right away."

Xi Xiaye closed the document in her hand and got up to put the things on her desk into the folder. Then, she turned around to put on the windbreaker on the clothes rack. On the side, Xiao Mei had quickly walked up to take her briefcase too. The two of them then took huge strides out of the door.

When walking through the company's long corridor and waiting for the elevator, Xiao Mei suddenly carefully said to Xi Xiaye, "Director Xi, I heard that Director Liu has gone over too. Her performance this year seemed pretty outstanding. I wonder if she'd be as lucky as last year and get the race car again."

The Director Liu she was talking about was Liu Peilian, Xi Xiaye's rival. The fact that someone of Xi Xiaye's age could climb up to this position caused many people to be unconvinced and Liu Peilian was one of the skeptics. The previous Chairman had even taken some of her previous projects to appoint Xi Xiaye in-charge. Naturally, having her projects snatched away by Xi Xiaye, she disliked her.

“Didn’t the company get her to make arrangements for the anniversary with the Public Relations Department?” Xi Xiaye indifferently looked at the moving numbers displayed at the elevator while she put one of her hands in her windbreaker pocket as she asked casually.

Xiao Mei nodded and carefully looked at Xi Xiaye who did not show any emotions on her face. Softly, she informed her, “Director, earlier, Manager Fang called to ask you to go over. It seemed like because they are in disagreement with Director Liu, they probably want you to go over earlier and get your opinion. In the past, Public Relations has been going along with your insights. This year, if it were not for the new Chairman Mu taking office, Director Zhang wouldn’t have let Director Liu help out.”

“Does that mean that Public Relations is planning to do a welcoming party for Chairman Mu at the same time?” Xi Xiaye was a little surprised as she raised her brows.

“Yes, Director. In fact, I heard that Public Relations has invited quite a few celebrities to join the banquet. They’re all artistes signed on with Glory World such as that very popular new perfect female idol, the ambassador of public goodwill, Xi Xinyi. She even has the same surname as you, Director! It seems like Public Relations has invited her!”

Once Xiao Mei said this, Xi Xiaye instantly frowned. In shock, she turned to Xiao Mei. “What did you say? Xi Xinyi? Does she have any collaboration with Glory World?”

Xiao Mei smiled and nodded, her eyes filled with anticipation. “Yes! She and Glory World have agreed for her to be Imperial Sky Jewellery City’s spokesperson. She looks great and we’re all very excited about it. When the Public Relations Department went looking for her, we knew that she would definitely agree. Based on Glory World’s capabilities, so many artistes want to collaborate with us. Right, Director, I heard that Xi Xinyi will be expanding in the country...”

While her ears kept hearing Xiao Mei ramble on about matters related to Xi Xinyi, just like when she heard about her and Han Yifeng’s engagement, Xi Xiaye’s twinkling eyes flashed with a coldness.

When she saw the elevator door open, her apathetic figure walked in.

Xiao Mei, who had always been an expert at reading body language, could vaguely feel that Xi Xiaye did not seem pleased, so she did not continue.

When the Cayenne drove into the Imperial Sky Hotel, it was already past 6 p.m. in the evening. She had just walked to the hotel entrance when she saw the festively decorated flower arch. The entire hotel had also closed for business temporarily because that night would just be to serve Glory World.

Many guards and bodyguards were arranged in front of the entrance. Everyone needed to have the company identity card or a guest invitation to enter. All reporters had been rejected at the door and security was very tight.

The Imperial Sky Hall on the seventh floor of Imperial Sky Hotel was currently decorated impressively and lavishly. Inside the hall that could fit up to thousands of people, hundreds of tables had been neatly arranged with fruits and exquisite desserts. There were even all sorts of drinks, and up front, right in the middle was a huge stage. Clearly, it was set up for performances.

All around the hall one could see the busy figures of the waiters and Glory World staff. The lively and relaxing banquet music filled the entire space. Listening to it made one feel an inevitable sense of anticipation.

“Director Xi, you’re finally here! Manager Fang’s waiting for you backstage. He’s been anxious!”

Xi Xiaye had just stepped into the hall when the assistant to Manager Fang of the Public Relations Department went to her, seeming quite worried.

“What’s wrong?” Xi Xiaye frowned at her. She took a cup of water that the waiter had brought and handed it to her, indicating for her to calm down.

“Thank you, Director Xi! Director Xi, it’s best if you go over and take a look.”

...

She had just walked to the lounge backstage when she immediately heard a commotion. As she approached, she noticed that Manager Fang seemed to be arguing about something with the Project Director, Liu Peilian. The two of them looked extremely agitated.

“What’s happening?” Xi Xiaye’s calm voice was heard, interrupting their argument. Both of them stopped at the same time and looked towards the door.

“Director Xi, it’s great that you’re here. There’s something that I’d like your opinion on.” Manager Fang took a look at Liu Peilian, then walked over to Xi Xiaye.

“What is it?” Xi Xiaye looked puzzledly at the two of them. When Liu Peilian saw Xi Xiaye, her face sank.

“There’s a group of reporters surrounding the place outside. I’m thinking to let the media in to achieve some publicity. Imperial Sky Entertainment City is going to launch right after the New Year, so seizing the enthusiasm this time, maybe we could even add on to some of its popularity, but Director Liu thinks it’s not too appropriate...”