Loving 1011

Chapter 1011. Defend (1)

Gu Lingsha panicked, unable to mask the anxiety in her eyes as she quickly shook her head. "I don't know. He was already gone when I woke up this morning. I asked his subordinates, but they don't know where he went either! And with Morrison's incident, I think he..."

"How can these things keep happening?! Utter nonsense!" Qi Qiming was irate. "Can't the reporters report something else? Lingsha, this sort of news won't come by if no flames fan them. I hope you can be more careful in the future. Your identity is different now as you've become the Qi family's daughter-in-law. I don't want to know about your relationship with Mu Yuchen in the past, and I don't want anyone else to know about it as well. Look at these pictures and write-ups. Even if they aren't real, it'll be a problem if it keeps spreading!"

As Qi Qiming sounded really miserable, Gu Lingsha felt guilty too. "I'm sorry for making you worry, Uncle Qi! I'll ask my father to help suppress the news. Between Mu Yuchen and me, there's nothing between us. Please believe me." Her tone was shaky as she felt aggrieved.

"It's alright. I don't mean to blame you. Our top priority now is to settle this issue. It's not the time for blame. I've asked Qi Lei to come over and help out with this mess. Meanwhile, you should stay at home. I'm sure we'll get over this very soon, so don't worry about it. By the way, you should probably explain this to Ah Feng. I don't want him to overthink," Qi Qiming replied worriedly.

"Yes, Uncle Qi, I will. Ah Feng will believe me."

"This whole incident is ridiculous. Someone might be setting you up. We'll have to investigate this. Do you think Mu Yuchen might be behind this?" Qi Qiming instantly suspected Mu Yuchen.

Gu Lingsha was stunned for a moment, but she gave it some thought. "Mu Yuchen? Why?"

Although she could not believe it, Xi Xiaye's cold expression appeared in her mind almost immediately after her sentence. Their clash the other day ended with her giving Xi Xiaye a harsh warning. Could Xi Xiaye have asked Mu Yuchen to take revenge for her?

Gu Lingsha's expression darkened as fury tinted her eyes. "It's Xi Xiaye, Uncle Qi! The other day, I had a tiff with Xi Xiaye in Weiwei's school. She probably told Mu Yuchen and that's why he must have wanted to embarrass me! That must be it! It must be that low-life woman's work!"

A faint, wicked chuckle came from behind them abruptly before a bemused voice said, "If that's really the case, the doctor's report didn't indicate any sign of intoxication or drugs like you said. Moreover, Mu Yuchen doesn't get anything out of being involved in news like this, does he? Do you think you're charming enough for Mu Yuchen to sacrifice himself in order to seduce you? Or maybe I should rephrase. Is it because you've never forgotten about Mu Yuchen, and that's why you were seduced so easily?"

Both Qi Qiming and Gu Lingsha were shocked as they quickly turned around to see Qi Lei with both his hands in his pockets as he stood near the door.

"Lei, you're back!" Gu Lingsha smiled, trading glances with Qi Qiming before greeting Qi Lei.

Qi Lei walked over slowly and glanced at her. In truth, he was surprised that she would speak like this!

Low-life? Was Xi Xiaye really one?

He did not think so though.

Qi Lei was actually upset that Gu Lingsha humiliated Xi Xiaye, so his expression darkened.

While Qi Qiming's expression relaxed slightly when he saw Qi Lei, his eyes clouded over when he heard his words.

Qi Lei looked at them quietly for a little while before sitting down. Gu Lingsha's expression froze when he did not answer her greeting, but she recovered in a moment and quickly got him a glass of water.

"Why did you call me back?" Qi Lei asked directly.

Qi Qiming was really taking advantage of the situation. He actually seemed to be taking charge after Qi Lei gave him some leeway. He had been giving orders to Qi Lei in the past few days. Previously, Qi Lei would never have obeyed him, but things were different now. He had to endure it for the sake of his future plans!

Qi Lei took a deep breath and told himself that. In the end, he managed to be humble and cooperate with Qi Qiming temporarily.

"I'm sure you've seen the news today. Don't you have any thoughts?" Qi Qiming looked at Qi Lei and asked.

Naturally, Qi Lei could not see any hint of fatherly love from his eyes. They still looked icy cold. The only difference was that Qi Qiming was slightly more patient with him, but that was it.

Of course, Qi Lei did not expect Qi Qiming to suddenly treat him like his actual son. How could their decades-long strained relationship be resolved in an instant? Only in his dreams!

"What can I say? It's none of my business, is it? Even if I have any thoughts, I've voiced them just now, haven't I?" Qi Lei replied.

Gu Lingsha's expression changed, and she tried to explain, "Lei, you know me very well. I wouldn't do something like that. It's obvious that someone set me up, and like you said just now, if it's not Mu Yuchen behind it since he doesn't gain anything from it, maybe someone is trying to create a rift between Mu Yuchen and me, or someone's trying to destroy the relationship between Qi Kai and Glory World, so..."

"No, Shasha, I don't think I know you that well. I'm no longer familiar with who you are right now, since you've changed, so I can't really speak for you."

Chapter 1012. Defend (2)

Qi Lei was already creating a clear border between them!

Gu Lingsha's face turned pale as she shot him a disappointed glance. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath before she turned her head away, not knowing what else to say to him.

Qi Qiming observed their exchange. Unable to bear seeing Gu Lingsha like this, he frowned and reprimanded, "How could you say that, Qi Lei?"

Qi Lei did not want to waste any more time. "Some truths are difficult to hear. Don't always blame others for everything. Just tell me what you want to say since I don't have much time. I have an appointment later!"

"Qi Lei, I know you're very unhappy with me, but don't you think that you're very defensive about Xi Xiaye now? I hope you can explain yourself in front of Uncle Qi today! Just what did Xi Xiaye do to make you defend her?! Don't you know about the conflict between us?"

It was not difficult to notice that Qi Lei was defending Xi Xiaye and Mu Yuchen, thus Gu Lingsha was very annoyed. Her eyes were filled with dissatisfaction and disappointment.

Qi Qiming's expression darkened even further and he threw Qi Lei a sharp glance. "I don't care about your relationship with them. Be it Xi Xiaye or Mu Yuchen, you have to make your boundaries clear and recognize who your friends and your foes are!" His deep voice was filled with disapproval as well.

"I know very well who my friends and my foes are, and I definitely know what I'm doing. There are traces and evidence that will lead us to the truth. You may think that I'm trying to be defiant right now, but you know very well the consequences if this conversation were to be exposed."

Qi Lei did not want to expose his cover after enduring things for so long. In the end, endurance was the key!

Qi Qiming's strained face softened slightly, but Gu Lingsha could not suppress her anger. She firmly believed that Xi Xiaye and Mu Yuchen must be involved in this, and she hated herself for having said those things to Mu Yuchen! Those were words she had buried deep within herself. How could she ever face that stone-hearted man again!? She could already imagine his sarcastic expression towards her!

Gu Lingsha was not a nobody. At the very least, she was the daughter of the Hui Gu Corporation's President and her mother was a British royal descendant. How could she allow a man to humiliate and look down on her like a clown!?

This sudden realization made Gu Lingsha even madder and her anger amplified when she thought about Xi Xiaye!

Qi Weier had reverted to her shut-down state when she just came back. She stopped talking to Gu Lingsha and her eyes were filled with fear whenever she looked at her!

Gu Lingsha was anxious, but she could not do anything about it. She only blamed herself for not being able to exercise self-control!

"I had a conflict with her the other day at Weiwei's school. I don't think she'll just let it go!" Gu Lingsha looked at Qi Lei and complained, "No matter who did this, they are definitely coming for me. If I find out who's behind this..."

"I thought your priority now is to suppress the news. After all, you just announced your marriage with Qi Feng. Are you trying to embarrass him now?" Qi Lei spoke without an ounce of emotion on his face as if he did not care at all.

"Uncle Qi..." Gu Lingsha seemed really worried and exhausted.

Qi Qiming was buried in long, deep thoughts. He then turned to Qi Lei, "If that's the case, I'll leave this to you."

"You might want to leave this to the almighty Qi Feng instead. I have no idea what I can do. Moreover, I didn't create this mess. He should solve his own issue. I was made to do the same back then, wasn't I? Moreover, you know very well what kind of relationship we have. Do not overstep the boundaries as my patience is limited, or else, you can take the same advice you gave me: leave City Z for some time and only come back when the rumors go away. They can't do anything without you around anyway, so they'll stop caring after some time."

Qi Lei then stood up decisively. "Alright, I have some matters to attend to. That's all from me. Take it or leave it."

As he was about to leave, he heard some voices from outside.

"First Master, you're back!" It was the butler's voice!

Qi Lei's eyes darkened as he was reminded about the information he got from Xi Xiaye!

Qi Feng and Mu Yuchen had met that morning. He could tell from Xi Xiaye's eyes that Mu Yuchen was not in the best condition. As for Qi Feng...

"Ah Feng, where have you been? Uncle Qi and I were worried sick!" Gu Lingsha went up to Qi Feng and exclaimed. Qi Lei looked over and saw Qi Feng entering with his bodyguards pushing his wheelchair.

Qi Feng's expression was extremely unfriendly. He glanced at Gu Lingsha before taking off his slightly wet coat which she took and handed to a nearby servant.

"Where have you been? You weren't picking up my calls!" Gu Lingsha went on really worriedly. She did not miss the papers he held in his hand. Huge photos from the incident last night were printed on the front page. As she looked at Qi Feng helplessly, she was getting anxious. "Ah Feng, this is..."

When Qi Feng signaled his bodyguard behind him, the bodyguard quickly pushed him to the sofa and helped him onto the sofa while Gu Lingsha followed behind quietly.

Chapter 1013. Defend (3)

"I know what happened, but I'm surprised about the incident."

Qi Feng left the papers on the table as he glanced at Qi Qiming and Qi Lei. "What's wrong? Are you going to leave as soon as I come back?"

Qi Feng was not portraying any particular emotions, but Qi Lei just felt like punching him in the face! Xi Xiaye's hands were still bandaged all thanks to him!

Morrisons' accident should teach Qi Feng a lesson.

Qi Lei looked at him coldly. Gu Lingsha could sense the sparks in the air when their eyes met, so she quickly traded glances with Qi Qiming before handing a cup of tea to Qi Feng. "Have some tea!"

"Sit down, Qi Lei!" Qi Qiming told him.

However, Qi Lei did not move an inch while Qi Feng enjoyed the tea Gu Lingsha served him. He put on a smile. "Are you still angry about what happened the other day?"

Qi Lei's eyes darkened, but he remained silent.

"If you had willingly cooperated, Xi Xiaye wouldn't have gotten hurt, but with Morrison in the hospital now, I suppose you're satisfied. You don't have to be mad. Morrison is a little rash. I'm pretty sure Xi Xiaye is fine as well."

"Ah Feng, Morrison's foot was broken, you..." Gu Lingsha frowned.

"At this moment, I just hope that we don't have any infighting. I know how the whole thing unfolded, but there's no use pointing fingers right now," Qi Feng interrupted Gu Lingsha before she could finish her sentence.

Her expression clouded over, but she did not say any further as she noticed that Qi Feng was getting annoyed.

"I'll investigate this incident thoroughly. Once I find out who's behind it, I won't let that person go so easily. Xiao Lei, if you're still unhappy about what happened the other day, I don't know what to say. Still, no matter what, your father will always be your father, and I'll always be your elder brother as well. We won't do anything to harm you," Qi Feng said firmly as he threw him some sharp glances. Qi Qiming had always been impressed by his charisma. Even Gu Lingsha could feel the weight of his words.

However, it was very different for Qi Lei. He had always been carefree, and the only reaction he got was just a smile.

"I don't want to pick a fight here. You know very well what happened the last time. I'm not going to bug you about it, but don't take me as a fool! I can still communicate on work matters, but don't come to me for anything else other than that!"

Qi Lei calmed down as he looked at Gu Lingsha. "I don't really want to say this, but I feel like I should. Shasha, you once told me that you wouldn't stoop so low as to give another woman a hard time. What happened to that prideful Gu Lingsha? Lingtian is already dead, so in exchange for his death you only have endless hatred for Mu Yuchen, and now you're even involving innocent people? If that's how it is, maybe he shouldn't have saved you. Maybe you should've died instead!"

"Shut up!"
Thud!
"Ah!"
Gu Lingsha was about to slap Qi Lei before he even finished his sentence, but Qi Lei was quick enough to stop her hand. As he grabbed her arm, she cried in pain!
"Do you think it'll be the same as last time?" Qi Lei's eyes darkened. "I've already repaid everything. Don't think of yourself too highly, Gu Lingsha!"He finally got angry at her egoistic nature. She assumed that she was still important to him because of the past. How much more disgusted could he feel towards this woman right now?
Her face turned pale when Qi Lei yelled at her, and her whole body trembled slightly.
"What right do you have to hit me? You're neither my mother nor my woman. You're nothing to me! Why aren't you guys saying anything right now? What right does she have to hit me? Don't make yourself such jokes!" Qi Lei flung Gu Lingsha's arm away, so she almost fell down, but thanks to Qi Feng holding her waist, she managed to avoid stumbling.

"That's enough. Stop! Stop this nonsense at once!" Qi Qiming could not bear to see this any longer.

"Qi Lei, you..." Gu Lingsha could not believe what Qi Lei just did. Her lips shuddered, but she was not

able to complete her sentence.

Qi Lei took a deep breath and turned around. "I don't want to fight here. The conflict between Mu Yuchen and you guys have nothing to do with me, so don't get me involved right now. I have a very simple method of discerning friend and foe. I'm friends with anyone who can provide me with benefits! Those who are in my way will be my foe! Mu Yuchen is working on projects with Qi Kai right now, you should know what to do!"

Qi Lei then left. He never turned back no matter how much Gu Lingsha and the butler called out to him.

Qi Feng was able to keep his calm the whole time. He closed his eyes when Qi Lei left, hiding the bitterness in his gaze. The living room fell into a depressing silence.

While Qi Qiming's expression darkened, he did not get mad like last time. This round, he listened to Qi Lei.

"Tell Vice President Yue to do everything to suppress the spread of the news. Lingsha, avoid going to the company these few days. I'll discuss how to dispel these rumors with your father. If necessary, we might have to publicize your life with Ah Feng. We'll let them know about Weiwei's existence and have some media to cover a story about the three of you. It's about time for Ah Feng to get public recognition as well. I don't know how long my body can last. You'll still be the one to bear my burden if that happens!"

Chapter 1014. Father and Son

One could hear the hint of fatigue in Qi Qiming's voice.

As Qi Feng listened, his expression froze slightly, but he did not say anything.

Gu Lingsha thought about it, then nodded. "Uncle Qi, we'll go with your arrangements. I don't have any thoughts about it. I'm sorry. I don't know how things turned out like this. I'm sorry, I..."

"It's okay. Just be more careful next time and remember what I said to you," Qi Qiming said, then got up wearily before he walked up the stairs with the help of a walking stick.

In the living room, only Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha were left. In that instant, neither of them said anything. The silence made Gu Lingsha feel a little stifled, so she turned to look at Qi Feng, and upon seeing his expression being as calm as water while his eyes were cold, she suddenly felt uneasy.

After some struggle, she finally moved anyway to sit next to him. She gently held Qi Feng's cold hand while her blue eyes could not help but flash with vulnerability and anxiety. "Ah Feng, I'm sorry. Believe me. Things weren't the way they wrote. I'm sorry for causing trouble for you. I'm really sorry! Can you..." As she spoke in a raspy voice, the corner of her eyes could not help but tear up.

Qi Feng only lifted a hand to pat the back of her hand as his exceptionally handsome face flashed with tenderness. His coarse voice held faint concern and warmth as he responded, "No need to blame yourself. Of course, I believe you. Just take a break for a few days. You've been quite worn out lately. Plus, it'll be a good time to accompany Weiwei too."

Gu Lingsha then nodded gently. "What about you?"

"I'm fine. After all, we've gone through the worst, so would I be afraid of this little wave?" Qi Feng said calmly.

"I just feel like I've disappointed you. Not only did I fail to persuade Qi Lei, but I even..."

When Gu Lingsha said this, she could not help but sound sorrowful. Holding Qi Feng's hands and putting them onto her face, she said sadly, "It seems like things are quite bad. Ah Feng, can we always stay like this?"

Qi Feng's deep eyes seemed to become brighter. Eventually, he nudged Gu Lingsha's hand away and gently held her face to examine her exceptionally beautiful features. Moments later, he slowly reached out to circle her slender waist and pull her into his embrace.

"Of course, we'll definitely be even better in time to come. Have faith in yourself for Weiwei and for our future. We haven't just persevered for a day or two. No matter what happens and as stormy as it gets, I'll protect the two of you. If Mu Yuchen can do it, so can I." Qi Feng's hoarse voice was filled with certainty. At the final part of his determined answer, a sharp light shone in his eyes.

Gu Lingsha went along with him and leaned into his embrace. She sniffled. "Sometimes, I really resent God for being unfair to us. He let us and Weiwei suffer through so much, yet the person who caused us all this gets to do well!"

"What's the point in resenting God? I don't trust fate. Do you regret giving up on him and coming with me?"QI Feng asked, suddenly peering down at Gu Lingsha. She felt like she had nowhere to hide.

Stunned for a while, she lowered her gaze to hide the mixed emotions in her eyes. Then, she shook her head and moved closer to his warm chest. As she listened to his heartbeat, she took a deep breath and responded in a raspy voice, "I've never thought of that, so there's no such thing as regretting it or not. Since I've chosen you, I'll stay with you till the end without a doubt."

Upon hearing that, Qi Feng's calm face slowly softened with a hint of warmth. He pulled her from his embrace and looked down at her. "I'll remember what you said today."

Gu Lingsha paused and looked up close at his extremely charming face. She was suddenly entranced by him. Moments after that, she could not help but close in. With her head lifted, her soft lips met with his cold and seductive lips.

Qi Feng did not reject her as he held her tighter...

•••

The rain kept falling as the sky gradually turned dark amidst the gloomy, hazy shower.

In the bedroom on the second floor of Maple Residence in the Grand Waves Villa area.

Mu Yuchen slowly opened his eyes. When he heard the sound of the rain, he subconsciously turned to look out of the window, and then realized it was already dark outside. The dim light inside the bedroom came from the wall lamp by the window.

Mu Yuchen propped himself up in bed, yet he had just moved when he suddenly felt like something was pulling at his shirt. Quickly, he lowered his gaze, and indeed, his son was lying on the bed, pointing his little legs and pulling at his shirt. He murmured some alien language while clenching his little fists. By that manner of his, he probably wanted to get up but was still too little, so he was not strong enough. As a result, he was now getting anxious.

When he saw Mu Yuchen looking at him, the little guy suddenly became very excited. He waved his little arms as if he was asking his father to come over and help out. His gem-like eyes were filled with an active light. As Mu Yuchen watched him, he suddenly felt like his son's eyes looked very much like his mother's!

His heart suddenly became as soft as cotton. He quickly reached out to carry him up and let him sit on his belly before he gently pinched his little face and said softly, "Little guy, how did you get here? Where's your mother? Hmm?"

Mu Xiaocheng obviously did not understand what he said. He waved his hands clumsily. With a smack, he touched Mu Yuchen's handsome face and fell forward. His soft little body clearly had no sense of sitting steadily, so he rolled over to his side.

Surprised, Mu Yuchen subconsciously reached out to carry him up. "Son! Are you trying to scare your father?"

Oblivious to the dangers of the world, Mu Xiaocheng's little chuckles filled the air. He flashed a dazzling smile at Mu Yuchen as saliva slid down the corner of his mouth.

Mu Yuchen helped him wipe his mouth, then he got up and lowered his head to kiss the little cheeks. "Looks like you're going to be a foodie in the future too, eh? Open up your mouth. Let me see if you've got teeth!"

He was about to switch on the lights when there was a movement from the doorway, then the bedroom was instantly bright.

"You're awake!"

Xi Xiaye walked in and saw the father and son sitting on the bed. To her relief, he looked much better, unlike the way he seemed worn out earlier.

Chapter 1015. Fury! (1)

Mu Yuchen nodded as he held his son's little hand to wave at Xi Xiaye. "Son, call your mother!"

Mu Xiaocheng became excited when he saw Xi Xiaye, so he reached out to her.

"He'll probably only be talking in a few more months. Come, son, let me give you a kiss!" Xi Xiaye walked over with a smile and planted a kiss on Mu Xiaocheng's little face. She then picked him up and looked down at the man sitting on the bed. "Take a good shower. I've made some soup for you, and dinner will be ready soon. I've already prepared your clothes for you in the bathroom. You've slept for more than five hours. Do you feel better?"

He pulled the thin blanket on him away and slowly got down from the bed. "I'm feeling much better. What delicious things did you cook? Wait, you cooked?" he said as he subconsciously looked at her hand.

"I was just making some soup. I couldn't make the other dishes, so I let Sis Wang take over. Grandfather and Grandmother called earlier to say they won't be coming over tonight. Right, your phone kept ringing, so I redirected it to voicemail."

"Who called?"

"Ah Mo and a few unknown numbers. Take a look for yourself! I'll go to give him a bath." She tossed the phone to him, then brought Mu Xiaocheng out of the room.

Mu Yuchen switched on his phone. Indeed, he had many missed calls. There were calls from Ah Mo, the office, and Ah Bao. He took a look but did not respond. Instead, he just put his phone on his bedside table, then slowly got up and walked to the window.

...

Gu Lingsha was quite affected by this issue. Due to the pressure, she and Qi Feng had to accept Qi Qiming's arrangements and let the reporters interview them about their lives. Of course, it did not include Qi Weier.

Mu Yuchen's office also received many calls from the press, no doubt wanting to look into finding out the truth. He ignored all of them and let them make wild guesses.

However, because of this, the initially radiant Gu Lingsha seemed to be shrouded by a layer of gray which was not a great thing. No matter where she went, she could hear the sound of everyone's discussions and doubts.

Since this incident was blown up, Gu Qiwu heard about it too. In the afternoon, after Gu Lingsha and Qi Feng's interview, he called her over.

At this moment, in the backyard of the Gu family's private manor in the suburbs of City Z, Gu Qiwu was leisurely trimming the potted plants while Ah Yong stood aside.

"Boss, there's no evidence to prove that Mu Yuchen did it. He didn't leave the banquet venue either. In fact, according to the CCTV, he didn't have any intention of getting close to Miss Lingsha. According to Miss Lingsha's blood test results at the hospital the other day, there wasn't anything out of the ordinary, much less any signs of hallucinogens. In regard to this, Master Qi Feng has already given up on investigating. Also, about Morrison's incident, we couldn't find the people involved according to what he told us either," Ah Yong said in a deep voice while his expression seemed solemn.

As Gu Qiwu listened, he paused what he was doing, turned around, and squinted at Ah Yong. His cold gaze made Ah Yong tremble involuntarily, so he could only lower his head and say apologetically, "I'm sorry, Boss! We didn't handle this well!"

Abruptly, a smile widened at the corner of Gu Qiwu's mouth. He lifted a hand to stop Ah Yong, then said, "It's okay. The more you can't find out, the more it means that this person is good at what they do. With a simple deduction, there aren't many such people left. Mu Yuchen's always been good at this and he never leaves any traces behind. Even if you keep looking into it, you probably won't get much results. I'm really admiring him more and more by the day!" Although Gu Qiwu sounded like he spoke with a faint smile, Ah Yong picked up a hint of coldness.

"Boss, do you mean that we don't have to continue investigating this?" Ah Yong probed.

"There's no need. Tell everyone to stop." Gu Qiwu looked away and continued to trim the pot before him.

"Yes, Boss! Got it!" Ah Yong then responded softly.

"I told you to follow up on Mu Lingshi's end. How's the progress with that?" Gu Qiwu suddenly asked smoothly.

"Oh, Boss, nothing's up on Mu Lingshi's end. It's the same as before, but it seems like she's pregnant. Mu Yinan and Wang Hui have been going over to her place quite often. Oh, right, Mu Lingmo might have realized our existence, so he hired a personal bodyguard for her. As a result, it's harder for our people to get close."

Earlier, Ah Yong did not quite understand why his boss was so interested in Mu Lingshi. His concern seemed to even exceed the way he was with Miss Lingsha. For instance, with the incident these past few days, even when such a thing had happened, he had just frowned and watched the way things progressed, then gave Miss Lingsha a call after that.

Meanwhile, with Mu Lingshi, she was constantly under their surveillance and they tracked her down. Their boss would never waste time on such things. Could it really be that...?

When Ah Yong was investigating Mu Yuchen and Mu Lingshi, he actually found out about Mu Lingshi's background. According to the way his boss had been acting oddly recently and the odd way he interacted with Mu Yuchen, Ah Yong could more or less guess what was going on.

Before this, the boss would frequently go to the Imperial Sky Entertainment Club with a low profile. Later on, Ah Yong found out that Mu Lingshi had previously been a manager there! He could feel that Gu Qiwu seemed to pause at this moment before he continued what he was doing.

"Are you very familiar with Mu Lingmo?" Gu Qiwu asked in deep voice.

Ah Yong shook his head. "Not quite familiar, but most people know about him in the streets. He was previously a skilled expert that Mu Yinan cultivated. With lots of talent, he's got influence in the circle, definitely no less than me. In fact, he's been by Mu Yuchen's side for many years. The way he handled things was clearly picked up from Mu Yuchen since he paid particular attention to being swift and clean with his work without leaving a trace behind. He's not an easy person to go against."

"Looks like you perceive him quite highly." Gu Qiwu squinted at Ah Yong.

Ah Yong lowered his head respectfully and said, "Boss, I'd never dare underestimate the opponent. Just based on the way he's viewed highly by Mu Yuchen, and the fact that the Mu family would let Mu Lingshi marry him, he must be quite a capable person."

As Gu Qiwu listened, he nodded and stopped what he was doing. He pondered for a moment before saying, "Find a chance for me to meet him. Quickly gather more information on him!"

"Yes, Boss!" Ah Yong responded respectfully.

"How are things on Madam's end?"

"Boss, she probably already knows about Miss Lingsha and Master Qi Feng, but she hasn't made a move."

Chapter 1016. Fury! (2)

When Ah Yong said that, Gu Qiwu's calm face froze for a while as his sharp and deep eyes dimmed.

"Boss, do we want to give Madam a call? If we don't discuss such a huge thing with her, I'm worried that she'll still be angry, and that's why she's ignoring it. Even if Master Qi Feng and Miss Lingsha's matter is settled while Miss Weiwei's all grown up, Madam is still quite vague about this marriage. She doesn't seem too happy with Master Qi Feng either. Nonetheless, she still fancies Mu Yuchen. In fact, with Miss Weiwei..."

As Ah Yong spoke, his voice became softer towards the end because he noticed that Gu Qiwu's expression had darkened and was not as calm as before.

"Keep talking," Gu Qiwu instructed.

Ah Yong trembled a bit before he bowed and continued softly, "Especially when it comes to something as important as a marriage, Madam found out from other channels. She definitely won't feel great about it. Furthermore, because of Miss Weiwei, Miss Lingsha and Madam fought. I'm worried that after this incident, Miss Lingsha and Madam's relationship will worsen. Even though Madam usually dotes on Miss Lingsha, everyone knows that when it comes to certain matters, she has her principles."

"She's just too principled! Even her daughter can't stand it either." Gu Qiwu just sighed deeply, lamenting as he stopped what he was doing again. He thought about it for a long time, then said, "Tell Butler Fang to tidy up the place and buy some things that Madam likes to decorate the place with. Also, prepare more clothes and shoes in the styles that she likes."

When he heard the orders, Ah Yong was stunned. He stammered in confusion, "B-boss, are we preparing these things because Madam is coming over? S-she's still in England though!"

Gu Qiwu continued to use the cutter in his hand as he lowered his gaze. "Knowing her, she'll be back soon. In fact, she'll come here right away, so it's best to prepare these things earlier."

Ah Yong obviously knew what Doris liked since he had been by Gu Qiwu's side all these years. He knew how Gu Qiwu doted on Doris. Anything she wanted, he would do his best to fulfill her. To other people, it all seemed like he was displaying his loyal love for her, but Ah Yong could vaguely feel that the husband and wife had an abnormal relationship.

Of course, Ah Yong had not personally witnessed anything odd between them. He just felt like something was weird.

"Yes, I got it, Boss!" Ah Yong lowered his head and responded. He was about to retreat when there was the sound of rhythmic footsteps.

Click-clack, click-clack.

It was the sound of high-heeled shoes against the floor. Gu Lingsha was back!

The two of them exchanged a glance, then looked towards the sound. Indeed, they saw Gu Lingsha marching towards them.

"You can go first," Gu Qiwu said calmly.

"Yes, Boss!" Ah Yong replied before he quickly retreated to the corridor on the other side.

"Father!" Gu Lingsha quickly walked to Gu Qiwu, and looked puzzledly at the departing Ah Yong.

Gu Qiwu was still working on the money tree as he replied calmly, "You're back!"

With a nod, she set aside her handbag on the table, then quietly went up to him. "Father, you've asked me to rush home b-because..." Gu Lingsha stammered and did not finish what she was saying. She just looked at Gu Qiwu silently while her blue eyes were filled with a faint light. At the same time, her beautiful and moving face showed a hint of unease.

Gu Qiwu then put down the scissors in his hand and looked around at the trimmed pots of plants. Generally satisfied, he took the towel from the side to wipe his hands as he turned to Gu Lingsha behind him.

"What else could it be? The entire City Z is reporting about this, so I'd like to hear you explain it."

Gu Lingsha could not tell how he was feeling, but when she faced that question, she subconsciously trembled and could not help but feel wronged. "Father, I don't know what happened either! But I think someone must have framed me! I suspect that it was Mu Yuchen. However, I couldn't find any evidence!"

Gu Qiwu's dark eyes squinted as he examined her, then turned slowly to sit down on the rattan chair. "Suspicions remain suspicions. If you want to prove whether he did it, you need evidence. To suddenly make a move on you isn't Mu Yuchen's style. What else have you been doing behind my back?" His voice started to sound stern.

Her expression turned pale, and she subconsciously pursed her lips, not daring to make a sound.

"Tell me!" His deep voice had an imposing manner that did not allow resistance.

Taken by surprise, Gu Lingsha breathed in and said, "I don't know if it counts as something! A few days ago, Weiwei had a minor incident at school. Coincidentally, it was that adopted son of Xi Xiaye's, so I gave Xi Xiaye a little lesson. I don't know if it was because of that..."

"Fool!" Before she could finish, Gu Qiwu's crisp reprimand was heard. "I already told you before that Mu Yuchen isn't someone to easily provoke. Did you not hear me?"

When he harshly scolded her, Gu Lingsha's face turned even paler. She explained sadly, "Father, you can't blame me for that! That was because Xi Xiaye kept trying to provoke me! I can't keep letting her step all over me. Even her son's bullying Weiwei!"

As she complained, her little face was instantly colored with anger.

"Lingsha, when have you become so inconsiderate about the bigger picture?" he criticized her, "You know very well the kind of person Mu Yuchen is. I've warned you once before this, but you just won't listen! I've even had to help you cover up the last time. This time, you still won't repent after being hit with the muzzle! Lingsha, you've really let me down!"

Gu Lingsha's expression changed and her blue eyes teared up. She sighed deeply. "Father, do you want me to just keep watching on helplessly while that slut Xi Xiaye provokes me? I've already been very patient with her! If she keeps being this arrogant, I definitely wouldn't mind..."

"Enough!" Without waiting for her to finish, Gu Qiwu coldly cut her off.

Chapter 1017. Fury! (3)

Shocked, Gu Lingsha bit her lower lip lightly as her eyes were filled with dissatisfaction when she looked at Gu Qiwu who squinted at her angrily. "Have you forgotten what I told you?"

"Father, Xi Xiaye provoked me! You just didn't see her. She left no room for me to breathe. I thought she'd learn her lesson after her arms were hurt! We should get rid of her first. Mu Yuchen is really concerned about her. If we create some kind of accident..." Gu Lingsha was desperately searching for an excuse for herself.

"That's enough, Lingsha! I don't know how you became so stubborn. I already told you not to mess with them. Did you actually listen to me!" Gu Qiwu was annoyed. "It's a critical period right now. Qi Kai has just only stabilized, and your marriage with Qi Feng has barely been announced, yet you've stirred up this mess right now. Have you ever thought about the consequences of your actions? You know very well what could happen."

"But, Father, I can't just let her..."

"I don't know what kind of person Xi Xiaye is, but I do know you very well. You promised me you wouldn't do anything without consulting me. You must know what's important to us right now. What's the point of getting involved with them at this point in time?!" He shot her a disapproving glance.

Although Gu Lingsha could not accept it, she knew she was at fault, so she lowered her head and took a deep breath. Noticing that her father was so worked up, she apologized, "I'm sorry. I acted recklessly."

Gu Qiwu looked away and drank some tea from the cup beside him. "You've not been looking very well recently. Don't forget your purpose here! You guys don't even have the resources to fight Mu Yuchen right now. Qi Qiming is a cautious man as well. What do you think he's thinking now that this has happened?"

Gu Qiwu's tone was grim. He put the teacup down before looking at Gu Lingsha. "I've reminded you that Qi Feng is getting impatient as well. You understand your relationship with Mu Yuchen the best. It'll be horrible if the reporters manage to find out about the past. Why would you even be alone with Mu Yuchen?"

"Father, I didn't know he was on the veranda at the time. I felt a little dizzy after having slightly too much to drink, so I went out to get some fresh air and didn't expect to see him there...It's already too late to say anything now. Don't be too worried about it, Father. Uncle Qi invited some media portals to cover some news on my life with Ah Feng. Those rumors will go away on its own when people see how happy we are together!" Gu Lingsha explained.

"Do you take everyone as idiots? Only Qi Qiming could think of stupid ideas like that." Gu Qiwu was not impressed.

"What should I do then?" Gu Lingsha frowned and asked for advice.

Gu Qiwu leaned back in his chair. "Register your marriage with Qi Feng right away and get your marriage certificate earlier. Try to leak the news to the media. You should also go to work as usual. They won't be able to get anything if you're innocent."

His thoughts were the polar opposite of Qi Qiming's!

"But Uncle Qi told me to stay at home for now, and Ah Feng agreed as well. Moreover, Weiwei hasn't been doing very well lately. I'm worried..." Gu Lingsha frowned.

"You're making yourself seem guilty if you try to hide. It's a critical period for South River Project No. 2 right now and people will take advantage of your incident, especially Qi Lei. You need to be constantly on your toes around him, understand?"

"Qi Lei? Beware of him?" Gu Lingsha was puzzled. "He doesn't seem suspicious, does he?"

Gu Qiwu chuckled. "Not suspicious? You should be vigilant of him simply with the fact that he's getting closer to Mu Yuchen."

"Aren't you overthinking this? Qi Lei's forces have reduced significantly ever since Wang Qin's death. He's just a little project manager in the company right now who carries the empty title of Vice President. Uncle Qi doesn't really trust him, so it'll be very difficult for him to get an important position. Uncle Qi also mentioned letting Qi Feng get used to the company's operations. He should be handing Qi Kai over to him soon."

Gu Lingsha did not think Qi Lei was a threat at the moment since Qi Qiming was probably very disappointed in him right now.

"Is what you said true?" Gu Qiwu squinted at Gu Lingsha. "How come I heard that Qi Lei landed a big project?"

A big project?

Gu Lingsha suddenly remembered the project in City B. "That's thanks to Wang Qin's subordinates. He was lucky that he didn't screw up." She did not seem very happy because she remembered very well that Qi Lei had been pushing her into a corner, especially after saying those words to her the other day.

"Anything can happen before Qi Feng successfully takes over Qi Kai. Qi Qiming's attitude towards Qi Lei is the key. I heard that they've been getting along lately. What happened?"

Gu Lingsha gave it some thought before answering, "They are being a little odd recently. Actually, I can sense that Uncle Qi has been treating Qi Lei a little differently ever since he was discharged from the hospital."

Gu Qiwu's eyes darkened.

Chapter 1018. Incoming Issues?

They both kept quiet while the air around them became harder to breathe in.

"Qi Qiming should've realized they can't afford to have any infighting right now, but do you really believe that Qi Qiming and Qi Lei could come to an agreement?" Gu Qiwu turned to Gu Lingsha and asked.

Gu Lingsha closed her eyes and imagined it, but she shook her head soon after that. "I don't know. I've tried to convince Qi Lei to reconcile with Uncle Qi, but he always reacts intensely every time I mentioned it. He's also been blaming Uncle Qi about what happened to Wang Qin. Ah Feng tried to force him to go to the hospital with his bodyguards, but it didn't work as well."

"Wang Qin posed as an uncrossable realm between the two of them, but like what you just said, Qi Qiming has changed his attitude towards Qi Lei. Exactly what was different?"

"I feel that Uncle Qi has been quite defensive of Qi Lei during company meetings. Ever since he was discharged from the hospital, I don't quite understand why he's changed. The two of them would usually argue during meetings, but it didn't happen this time! Uncle Qi was oddly patient with him as well," Gu Lingsha recalled.

"They must have some kind of deal with each other." Gu Qiwu pointed out very quickly as understanding flashed in his eyes, "Qi Lei is Qi Qiming's son after all. There's no way he could just give up on him so easily, no matter how much he favors Qi Feng."

Gu Qiwu's eyes suddenly darkened. As he suddenly thought of something, his hands shuddered slightly. Then, he raised his head and looked far ahead.

Gu Lingsha felt a little awkward in the quiet situation. She then noticed that her father seemed dazed. As she was hesitating to speak, his voice reached her. "You have to remember, you can forget about him once you're sure he's lost the ability to reach that position. You guys should agree with whatever methods Qi Qiming thought of compensating him with." Gu Qiwu was surprised that he would come up with this, but it was even more surprising to Gu Lingsha who had been thought to be ruthless! For some reason, Gu Qiwu started to think about Mu Lingshi, his other daughter, the one that he had never given any care for. He could not imagine the storm that would explode if this was exposed one day! Mu Yuchen must have realized it, hence his decision to compromise, but Gu Qiwu had no idea how he could face the storm. He also did not know how he should face Mu Lingshi. He should have had a son as well, but he had died... Who should he blame that accident on? Mu Yuchen? Gu Lingsha?

All of this could not be sorted out clearly. In order to make himself feel better, he chose to believe that everything happened because of Mu Yuchen's cruelty. He did not want to see the sisters fighting between each other, but he knew that the chances of having a peaceful day were extremely low once the truth was exposed.

Or Qi Feng?

Or himself?

"Father, what's wrong?" Gu Lingsha noticed that something was not right.

Gu Qiwu quickly came back to his senses when he heard her voice.

"Just do what I tell you. I'll be heading back to City B these few days. A lot of work has piled up back at the company, so I can only return in a few days. By then, I hope this crisis will be already left in the past when I come back. Qi Feng and you will become a registered couple. You have my blessings." Gu Qiwu's voice was filled with happiness and he seemed to be looking forward to it.

"Yes, Father!" Gu Lingsha nodded.

Gu Qiwu stood up from the rattan chair. "Let's go. Stay here for dinner tonight. I'll have the chef cook some of your favorite dishes."

"Let me cook for you. I'll go and take a look at the ingredients in the kitchen." With a smile, she grabbed her handbag and clung onto Gu Qiwu's arm as they both walked into the house.

...

The evening afterglow covered Maple Residence in peace and serenity. The whole place felt really tranquil.

In the study room on the second floor of Maple Residence, Xi Xiaye was reading through the documents before her with several other documents spread out on the table. She typed on the keyboard from time to time, keying in some data and creating a chart.

As she was busy working, the man was sitting on the rattan chair with his eyes closed. He was bathing in the afterglow of the evening sunset.

Xi Xiaye looked through and did not find the data, so she asked the man beside the window, "Didn't the Commerce Department hand in the data for New Era Plaza? Why do I only have the data for Imperial Sky Entertainment City?"

"I left it in the office. I'll ask Li Si to deliver it later." His eyes were still closed when he replied.

Frowning, she glanced at the time at the corner of the laptop screen. "It's past working hours now. Never mind, I'll call him." She had already picked up her phone and called Li Si before he could say anything.

In the past two days, Xi Xiaye forbade Mr. Mu from doing any work and told him to just rest. She did not even let him touch any documents. She used some of her free time to help him do anything she could. At night, they would just stay at home for a movie or go out for a short walk after dinner.

Chapter 1019. Warm Night (1)

Mu Xiaocheng was brought back to the Mu residence since Zhuang Shurong had called and said it had been a few days since she last saw her precious grandson. Wang Hui and Mu Yinan missed their plants as well, thus they all went back for several days.

Xi Xiaye agreed. Mu Xiaocheng was more comfortable around strangers now since many different people took care of him.

"You've completed all my work scheduled for next Monday, Mrs. Mu. I have to say you're not all that stupid! You're really efficient at handling work."

"I'm giving you the experience of being a Master at home as I'll be personally serving you," she teased him with a smile on her face. Then, she lowered her head and started arranging the documents.

While she still needed to bandage her arms, her condition was well taken care of and the pain had reduced significantly compared to two days ago. She could type now, and a scab had formed on her forehead wound which she covered up with her bangs.

"Master?"

He opened his eyes instantly when he heard the phrase. With a smile, he said mischievously, "Dear, why don't we play a game of Master and his little servant tonight?"

She rolled her eyes at him. "Why don't we play the lady and her butler, or the queen and her servant? Doesn't that sound better?"

"I've decided. We will settle which game to play by playing cards." He stared at her intently.

"I'm not playing cards with you. I always lose. What's the point?" She frowned.

"Isn't there a bonfire dancing event tonight? I sponsored half of it. Let's go and take a look."

He knew that she would definitely be bored after being stuck at home for several days. When he saw the advertisement yesterday on their walk, he quickly called the organizers and provided sponsorship.

The residential area would organize these sorts of events from time to time since most people staying in the area were people with high social status and liked to mingle around, but the two of them had not participated in any of these events before.

They were pretty busy at work and usually spent their weekends resting at home or were busy working on something else. In conclusion, they did not know a lot about their neighbors.

"A bonfire dancing event?" Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows. She then remembered the advertisement they had seen yesterday. No wonder he made a quick phone call then!

"Since when were you interested in such events?" She looked at him in surprise as he stared back at her and walked towards the door.

"Why not? Go and change now. It'd be great to get to know our neighbors." He then disappeared out of the door. She shrugged and quickly cleaned up the table before leaving the study room.

The man had already changed into a suit when she entered the bedroom. There was a long purple dress on the bed. His intention was obvious.

"What are you looking at? Get changed quickly! I guess it has already started," he reminded as he straightened his sleeves when she just stood by the door quietly.

Xi Xiaye looked outside the window and noticed that the sky had already turned dark. The streetlamps started to be turned on as well. With a nod, she went into the bathroom with the dress.

When they were ready to leave, it was 8 p.m. The event was being held at the Grand Waves Villa center plaza and had already started when they head over.

The huge bonfire was burning brightly while joyful sounds of cheer and laughter came from all around as everyone was having fun. Xi Xiaye was affected by the atmosphere immediately and seemed to be enjoying it.

It was a dance and buffet party. Because Mu Yuchen was pretty famous in the neighborhood, many people came over to greet them, so they smiled and made conversation with them.

Xi Xiaye felt a little tipsy after having some drinks. As she wanted to drag him aside to take a short break, the slow music suddenly changed into a fast-paced tango, exciting her slightly when she heard the gentle melody.

The crowd quickly joined the dance floor in twos.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows when she saw people dancing around freely. She carefully glanced at the man beside her, and unexpectedly, he was looking at her too.

She smiled and emptied her glass of wine. Then, she carelessly threw the glass into the bonfire and extended her arm towards Mu Yuchen as the bonfire burned brilliantly behind her. Her smile just looked so sweet and seductive to him, making him fall for her again...

He grabbed her hand without any hesitation, pulling her close and smiling as he whispered beside her ear, "I've forgotten the last time we shared a dance. If you can give me a merry dance tonight, I'll reward you!"

"How so?"

Xi Xiaye danced along to the music, spinning around and executing a tricky move as she stayed perfectly in sync with him.

Chapter 1020. Warm Night (2)

"I'll see if you can satisfy me, hmm?" He chuckled gently as his hand slid down her arm to her waist...

"Mr. Mu, this suddenly makes me think of when we planned our wedding on the West Coast of America. When we first went over, Aunt Susan welcomed us with a similar scene."

He pulled at her, and when he leaned against her, he said softly by her ear, "Of course, I remember. We were a little younger then, and things were a little simpler."

"It's been over a year now. Actually, I always think of those times...the way you were, the way we were, and our wedding—"

"Do you want me to marry you again?" He held her slender waist, and with a fluid dance step, she turned. Her skirt made one beautifully elegant curve after another. The two of them seemed to be one in that instant. Anyone could see that the husband and wife complimented each other harmoniously with pure chemistry!

"One wedding is enough. I only wanted to have a wedding like that in my lifetime, and you've already given it to me. We still have a long way to go from here. We just need to reminisce it, appreciate it, and cherish every moment we have," she said calmly.

In that instant, he hugged her tightly by the waist and leaned her backward. With one long leg hooked around him, she threw him a seductive look with her charming eyes. "What do you think, Mr. Mu?"

"My Missus is really easily contented. I'm so lucky!"

He chuckled and his arms that were around her waist tightened. Xi Xiaye was practically on his chest. As his calm lips brushed past her ears, he inhaled her wonderful scent again. In his deep voice, he chided, "But, Missus, you're too easily contented. This puts me at a loss."

"That's your male chauvinistic side talking!" Her pink lips pursed as she smiled and reprimanded him slightly. She wanted to struggle out of his embrace, yet he already stopped what he was doing and carried her up by the waist.

"Hey, put me down!"

"In your dreams! Do you think you'll be able to get away with teasing me like that?"

He was already in the negatives when it came to being immune to her, not just when it came to that look of hers. Even if it was just getting a whiff of her faint fragrance and her elegant demeanor, he was already certain that he was a beast that wanted to gobble her up.

He carried her all the way back to Maple Residence. The husband and wife made their way upstairs in a frenzy...

Thankfully, there was no one else at home apart from Sis Wang. In fact, without the permission of them, Sis Wang would not enter their room. Otherwise, Xi Xiaye would die of embarrassment.

The husband and wife's clothes were tossed all over the place from the door to their bedroom...

After a few rounds of tussling under the sheets, Xi Xiaye panted as she held the blanket to her chest. She breathed heavily and turned to look at the man beside her. She noticed that he was lying down calmly with his eyes gently shut. His noble and handsome face had regained its tranquility as if he was not that beast-like person earlier. Xi Xiaye was annoyed at this sight, so she quickly kicked him.

He then half-opened his eyes and squinted at her before he reached out to pull her in his arms again as he comforted her, "I couldn't control myself. Alright, let's sleep then since we're tired."

"But I want to wash up..."

"Tomorrow..." he said softly, then hugged her tighter.

The next morning, when Xi Xiaye woke up, it was already past 9 a.m. and he was gone from her side, but faint traces of his warmth remained in between the sheets.
When she was done washing up, she went downstairs and saw that a few men were seated in the living room.
They were Mu Yuchen, Ah Mo, Li Si, and Zhou Zimo!
Xi Xiaye subconsciously trodded gently, yet the people on the sofa noticed her.
"Good morning, Sis-in-law!"
"Good morning!"
"Good morning, Missus!"
The few of them greeted Xi Xiaye almost at the same time, so she smiled and said, "Good morning. Why are you all so early?"
"We have some urgent matters we rushed over to discuss," Ah Mo answered.
Xi Xiaye nodded calmly. She looked to her man who responded with a calm gaze. He said in his deep voice, "Go to the kitchen and see if Sis Wang's done with the breakfast."

"Mmm, sit around then. I'll go take a look." Xi Xiaye did not disturb them as she picked up her steps and

walked towards the kitchen.

•••

"Bro, I just received Chief Chen's message. Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha have just registered for their marriage this morning. Right now, the two of them are considered husband and wife. In fact, they seemed to have been caught by the reporters. I've already verified that the news is true," Ah Mo updated.

Upon hearing that, Li Si exhaled in regret. "It wasn't easy to pull Gu Lingsha down. Are we just going to let her go? When I think about that woman, I just..."

Ah Mo felt a little sullen about it too. Xi Xiaye's hands were still recovering, and it was all thanks to that woman!

"Enough, no more complaining. That just shows that Qi Feng and the rest aren't dumb either. We'll just have to see what happens after this. Nevertheless, the incident this time has really shown Qi Feng and Qi Qiming something. Next time, let your Master do a few things himself. Let him exhibit his Prince Charming tricks, and Gu Lingsha will be pinned down for sure. I think that she's admired you for a long while now, eh?" Zhou Zimo smiled faintly and looked at Mu Yuchen.

When he finished, he immediately got a cold glare from Mu Yuchen, so he subconsciously shrunk and shrugged. He covered his mouth and looked innocently at Mu Yuchen, indicating that he had nothing else to say.

Li Si fell silent for a while, then said, "Master, I do think Master Mo's idea's not bad. If you want to drive a wedge between Gu Qiwu and Qi Qiming, you have to let them doubt each other, and we might have a way of getting in between them."

Without responding to Li Si, Mu Yuchen said, "I'm looking forward to seeing what Doris thinks about the marriage between the Qis and the Gus."

"Doris? Gu Lingsha's mother?" Zhou Zimo's handsome brows were raised as he muttered out loud.