

## Loving 1071

Chapter 1071. Too Weak!

1071 Too Weak!

Qi Lei was not affected by her attitude at all as he started eating the grilled fish.

“Put your work aside for now. I’ll give you back your equipment later, alright? Am I not handsome enough? You’re the first woman that has no reaction when you see me for the first time. You should at least show some appreciation for my looks, hmm?”

Qi Lei felt defeated. Had his attractiveness declined?

That could not be the case because several women had actually turned around and taken a peek at him just now!

Dongfang Liuyun raised her head and looked at him as if she was examining him seriously, “If you were less narcissistic and low-profile, you could barely qualify as a handsome guy to me.” She closed her notebook and kept it back in her backpack.

Qi Lei smiled. “You don’t seem surprised that I came to see you.”

“Surprise only lasts for a moment. It’s not permanent. Why did you come and see me? Isn’t it just nice to see each other in the game? The nature of things might change if you try to pursue it too hard,” she replied bluntly. Then, she grabbed her can of beer and moved it closer to him in an elegant and fluid motion.

Qi Lei raised his can in response, then she quickly gulped her drink down.

“You’re right. Everything has two sides to it. I don’t believe that my luck is that bad. After all, having someone to spend time with you isn’t so bad,” he said.

“Qi Lei? You’re Qi Lei?” Dongfang Liuyun caught his name for the first time.

Qi Lei nodded. "Indeed, I am."

"No wonder you're like this. Just as expected of you." Dongfang Liuyun actually grinned. Her smile was like the moon in the dark sky. She paused for a moment before saying, "It's hard to rely on luck, and that's why you need to keep working hard, even harder than everyone else. Having this attitude might help you change your luck somehow."

"You received a doctorate degree at 27 years old. Isn't that because you're luckier than others? I know you've been called a genius since you were a child."

"A genius?" Dongfang Liuyun smiled. "From what I can remember, apart from eating, sleeping, and going to the bathroom, I spent almost all my time studying. My mother is an extremely strict and headstrong woman who wouldn't allow her daughter to be an idiot."

She grabbed a pair of chopsticks and started eating too. "This tastes pretty good. Give this a try. I'll be considerate of your gentlemanliness and let you get the bill tonight."

They did not feel awkward at all talking to each other. In fact, they were hitting it off pretty well.

"How nice of you to bring me here for a meal too." Qi Lei glanced around as he put on a smile.

"What's wrong about this place? The food here is on par with cuisine at a high-class hotel. I'm a poor person, so this place is already a luxury for me," Dongfang Liuyun claimed.

She had spent all her money to get antiques. Most of the items in her store held a high research value, and she was unwilling to sell them because those treasures were like her own children!

She paid nearly \$10 million at the auction a few days ago in City C, which was most of her savings. Recently, she had no plans to sell her treasures and had not gone home for the past few months, so she was pretty broke right now!

She was poor? Qi Lei rolled his eyes at her.

She was just like her in-game avatar, always pretending to be broke! She would become filthy rich if she sold all her antiques in the store! However, she did not look like those who typically came from a wealthy family, always insisting on wearing branded items. Instead, she was much more low-profile. She was the odd one here!

“If you promise me I can get the bill, I’ll cover all your living expenses, not just this meal.” Qi Lei gave her a long, seductive glance.

“Swift Snowy won’t follow anyone’s orders. She’s a lone soldier,” Dongfang Liuyun replied stoically before she emptied another can of beer and threw it aside.

“Who are you kidding? Your fantastic beast legion is ferocious. We’ll be able to fight back if we work together,” Qi Lei suggested as he raised his can of beer.

“We’ve been working together all this while, haven’t we? Alright, let’s raid the underground castle tomorrow night again. I have a feeling that there are still a lot of treasures lying around.”

“I have the same thought as well!”

“Do you have enough to eat? We can order more. Remember to return my equipment tomorrow.”

“Don’t worry. I always keep my promises.”

“Why did you come to visit me anyway?”

“I just wanted to get to know you. I wanted to see the face of the person I’ve been partnering with for so long.”

“Maybe I should’ve used a male avatar, but female players can be annoying too.”

“I’m a nice guy. You won’t regret knowing me.”

...

Qi Lei finally collapsed after two hours of drinking with her.

“Hey, wake up!” Dongfang Liuyun frowned when she saw Qi Lei sleeping on the table. She looked around to count. They just finished around 40 cans. Was that all he could take?

What a weakling!

She took a deep breath and shook her head. Then, she waved at the owner to order more, “Give me five more beers!” She was still up and ready to go since drinking this much was nothing to her.

By the roadside, Yang Sheng and the chauffeur were standing by in the car. They just watched what happened. When they saw Dongfang Liuyun continuing to drink even after Qi Lei went down, Yang Sheng had nothing but respect for her!

What a fearsome woman!

Not only was she pretty, but Master Qi was also fond of her and she came from a respectable family.

However, could Master Qi handle her?

Chapter 1072. Abrupt Change 1

1072 Abrupt Change 1

However, Yang Sheng dared not walk over to disturb them either because they were all thinking about how this was a good opportunity. They hoped that their Master Qi would seize this chance properly!

Dongfang Liuyun was a fantastic catch. Even if he could get her in the end, she probably would not be an easy one.

Yang Sheng could only silently mourn for Qi Lei in his heart.

...

After a while, another three bottles were emptied, yet Dongfang Liuyun did not look drunk. On the contrary, she seemed quite clear-headed while a faint light gathered in her calm eyes as she stared at Qi Lei who had gone to sleep on the table beside her. She started to scrutinize him.

While Qi Lei felt like his head was heavy, when the refreshing night breeze blew, he felt cold and subconsciously shrank.

Dongfang Liuyun finished the last two bottles of beer, then waved for the boss to come over. Quickly, she paid up.

“Hey, it’s late. It’s time to go home. Wake up.” She put her wallet away and picked up her black bag to knock Qi Lei’s head, yet he just swatted her hand away, as if he was annoyed that his sleep was being disrupted.

Upon seeing that, Dongfang Liuyun frowned. She swept her long hair aside and thumped the table in front of him. “I’m leaving even if you’re not leaving. It’s not my problem if you sleep on the streets tonight.”

Qi Lei did not respond at all.

Dongfang Liuyun pondered for a moment, then called the boss over.

“Yes, Miss Dongfang?”

Dongfang Liuyun was a regular customer here and had quite a friendly relationship with the boss. She took a few notes out to pass to him and pointed at Qi Lei who was drunk silly. “Later, help this guy to a nearby guesthouse to rest. I have something to do now. When he wakes up tomorrow, just give me a call to let me know.” Then, she handed him her name card.

The boss nodded zealously. "Okay, Miss Dongfang. Don't worry. I'll get it done."

With a nod, Dongfang Liuyun turned around and her slender figure swiftly vanished underneath the dim streetlights.

At this moment, Yang Sheng, who had been watching, finally got down from the car. He walked over in huge steps and shook Qi Lei. "Master Qi! Master Qi, wake up! She's gone!"

"Who are you?"

The boss looked vigilantly at Yang Sheng. Qi Lei did not look like a nobody either. Since Miss Dongfang had entrusted the guy to him, he would need to help watch over him. Therefore, when Yang Sheng appeared out of nowhere, he was clearly alarmed.

"Oh, this is my Master. I'm Yang Sheng and I'm here to pick him up," Yang Sheng quickly explained and even showed his ID. Only then did the boss let down his guard.

"I'll just bring him home. Um, just pass me Miss Dongfang's contact number, please!"

Yang Sheng and the chauffeur helped Qi Lei up. Before leaving, Yang Sheng smiled as he reached out to take the name card from the boss's hand.

...

Detective Zhang was not slow with his work, but Xi Xiaye was getting impatient from waiting. When she received Detective Zhang's call at noon, she finally felt relieved.

They met in the same field as the last time. When Xi Xiaye went over, Detective Zhang was already waiting.

"Look at this. It should contain the things you want." When Detective Zhang saw her, he handed the thick folder over.

Xi Xiaye took it quickly. She flipped it open and indeed, it was all about what happened decades ago. In fact, if this information was released, it could shake up the entire city!

“There a CD with a recording inside. It has all the information that I’ve collected. Take a look at it yourself,” Detective Zhang said in a deep voice.

Xi Xiaye flipped through the documents for a bit, then immediately kept the folder away. She looked gratefully at him. “Thank you, Detective Zhang. You’ve worked hard!”

Detective Zhang waved his hand. “I’m fine, but what do you want to do with these things? Are you trying to go against Gu Qiwu or Doris? Oh, I forgot to tell you that Doris’s flight will be landing this evening.”

“This evening’s flight? She’s coming to City Z?” Xi Xiaye frowned.

Detective Zhang nodded. “Yeah, when I was investigating Gu Qiwu, I accidentally found out. You need to be careful yourselves. They’re all not easy to handle.”

“I got it. Thank you, Detective Zhang. I’ve already banked in the remaining amount into your account, so monitor it.”

“Okay, I’m leaving now!” Detective Zhang waved and left.

Xi Xiaye’s hand tightened its grip on the folder and she quickly left too.

Inside the office of Glory World’s Chairman, while Mu Yuchen was flipping through some documents, Li Si suddenly entered to announce, “Master, the Elder Chairman is here!”

Upon hearing that, Mu Yuchen stopped what he was doing and then quickly signed his name on the document before closing it and setting it aside.

“Bring two cups of flower tea in.” Mu Yuchen’s tone was very calm, and as he spoke, he got up slowly to walk towards the bookshelf beside him.

Li Si responded knowingly, then there was the sound of footsteps from the entrance of the office. When he looked up, Mu Yinan was walking in with a stormy expression. The cold aura from all over him scared Li Si who quickly bowed and greeted him before carefully retreating and closing the door.

“What’s up with Lingshi’s matter? I heard some things from your father. You’ve been investigating this for a while now, so I’m sure you already have the results. All of you actually kept your grandmother and me in the dark! Ah Chen, you’re doing things your way now, huh?!”

Mu Yinan’s tone was filled with anger and gloom as a dangerous light flashed in his aged eyes. His gaze was fixated on Mu Yuchen who was standing underneath the bookshelf with his calm, handsome face.

Without defending himself, Mu Yuchen looked at the angry Mu Yinan and then pointed at the sofa. “Grandfather, have a seat first. Don’t be angry. I told Father to tell you first, but I want to tell you about it myself.” Then, he turned around and took a document from the shelf before walking over towards his grandfather.

Mu Yinan watched him for a while. Then, he walked over to sit down.

Li Si hastily brought the tea in. “Elder Chairman, don’t be angry first. Master...”

Before he could finish, Mu Yuchen calmly said, “Get out.”

Chapter 1073. Abrupt Change 2

1073 Abrupt Change 2

Upon hearing that, Li Si dared not say much, so he quietly retreated.

“What’s the deal? Tell me everything!”



There was a sharpness in Mu Yinan's eyes. He did not want to think about those things anymore and just wanted to go with the flow since it was not a bad thing to have more peaceful days, but if the truth was laid out right in front of them, he would not reject finding out about it.

Despite Mu Yinan's sharp tone, Mu Yuchen remained calm and cool as he flipped open the document in his hand unhurriedly, and looked through it as he asked, "Didn't my father tell you?"

"Your father only told me that the investigation into Lingshi's background is almost done. He didn't tell me what was up. He just told me to come over and let you explain it to me. Who's that person?" Mu Yinan's aged hands suddenly clenched as he fixed his gaze on Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen then handed the document to him. "Take a look at this."

Mu Yinan took it and flipped through it. "A DNA test report?" He squinted at Mu Yuchen in puzzlement, then he continued to study the report.

"I already got this DNA report long ago, but I haven't been willing to mention it. I didn't mean to hide it, but sometimes, some things are better left unsaid. However, the truth is the truth and will come out eventually. That's why I told Lingshi about it not too long ago, and Ah Mo patiently enlightened her, so she's now finally calmed down about it. I'm worried about you and Grandmother instead," Mu Yuchen said in a deep and calm tone as his line of sight fell on Mu Yinan's face.

"This document is the DNA report for Lingshi and Gu Qiwu. The results are at the back."

When Mu Yuchen said that, Mu Yinan quickly flipped to the last page of that document. The second he saw the results, he was stunned. He widened his eyes in shock, unable to react. After a while, he looked up at Mu Yuchen. "What did you just say? Lingshi and whose DNA report? Whose?"

"Gu Qiwu. Gu Qiwu from the Gu family of City B. It proves that they are father and daughter," Mu Yuchen answered calmly as his eyes were filled with concern.

"It's Gu Qiwu...it's him...it's actually him! That means..." Shocked, Mu Yinan looked at him in surprise, his tone trembling slightly.

“That means he’s the person who was with Aunt. He’s Lingtian and Lingshi’s biological father. In fact, I’ve met him personally before when I looked for him. He admitted all of this to me, so this is the truth. That’s why I...”

Bam!

Mu Yuchen had not finished when suddenly there was a harsh knock on the door. Then came the sound of a worried cry, “Grandmother! Grandmother! Are you okay!?”

It was Xi Xiaye’s anxious voice!

When he heard this, Mu Yuchen’s expression instantly turned tense. He quickly got up and rushed to the door while Mu Yinan followed in panic.

Outside the door, Wang Hui had already fallen into Xi Xiaye’s arms, and no matter how many times Xi Xiaye called out to her, she did not respond.

“Grandmother! Wake up! How are you?” Xi Xiaye panicked and shook Wang Hui as she called out to her anxiously.

“What’s wrong?!”

The sound of rushed footsteps came as Mu Yuchen hurried over and took Wang Hui from Xi Xiaye’s arms.

“I don’t know. I just came over and saw her fall! What did you all say!? Why don’t you quickly send her to the hospital?” Xi Xiaye explained anxiously.

Worry brushed across Mu Yuchen’s handsome face as he quickly got up and rushed forward with Wang Hui in his arms. Xi Xiaye followed them in confusion.

“Ah Chen! What happened to your grandmother?” Mu Yinan, who trailed after him, asked in unease as he looked shaken.

Li Si rushed up worriedly. “Elder Chairman, don’t worry. Be careful. Elder Madam will be fine.”

“Quick, follow them! Go to the hospital!” Mu Yinan could not say more. He just felt a suppressed pain in his heart and he could barely catch his breath.

...

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye sped all the way towards the hospital.

Bam!

The door to the operating theatre shut quickly. Meanwhile, Mu Yuchen felt a heaviness in his heart like a heavy hammer had struck his heart. Extreme turmoil engulfed him as he silently watched the closed door to the operating theatre and felt instantly dazed.

After a while, he suddenly felt a faint warmth on his palm. When he turned to look, he realized that Xi Xiaye was looking at him with worry written on her face.

“Don’t worry, it’ll be fine. It’ll be fine.”

While Xi Xiaye said that, Mu Yuchen could clearly feel her hand trembling. He struggled free and held her hand gently, consoling her silently.

He worked hard to steady the strong uneasiness in his heart as he said to her, “Give Father and Mother a call. Tell them to come right away.”

Nodding, Xi Xiaye quickly took her phone out from her pocket and quickly called Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong.

“How’s it? How is it? How’s your grandmother?” Mu Yinan, who rushed over, could barely catch his breath as he asked in a panic.

Xi Xiaye kept away her phone and quickly helped Mu Yinan to a bench to sit down. “Don’t worry, Grandfather. The doctor’s doing what he can inside. Grandmother will be fine. Don’t worry. Sit down and wait with us.”

“It’s all my fault. I came over without telling her, and I didn’t realize she was following me. I know that your aunt’s incident has been baggage to her. All these years, she’s never let go of it,” Mu Yinan said worriedly.

Mu Yuchen leaned back slightly against the cold wall behind him. There was a dim light in his dark eyes, but he still remained calm. “Grandfather, don’t blame yourself. We can’t hide what should be known. Grandmother will be fine. Don’t worry. Let Li Si send you home first.”

“I’m not going back! I have to wait for her here. Your grandmother’s never been somewhere like this. I have to wait until she wakes up so that I’ll be the first person she sees. Otherwise, she’ll feel uneasy and afraid...” Mu Yinan had begun to speak incoherently.

Wang Hui suddenly plunging into this situation made him feel like he had lost something important. He felt like he was weightless and could not find a landing point. He was more than a little afraid. In so many years, it was the first time he felt this deeply terrified...

Chapter 1074. Abrupt Change 3

1074 Abrupt Change 3

Xi Xiaye looked at how worried Mu Yinan was. It was as if he could not find his way home!

It was exactly the same as how Shen Yue had looked when Liang Fuhua left them. Xi Xiaye became even more uneasy now as she looked anxiously at Mu Yuchen while the latter stared at the tightly shut operating theatre doors with a silent expression.

Mu Tangchuan practically rushed over as quickly as he could when Xi Xiaye called. He had been in a meeting at the provincial government department office. “How’s your grandmother now? What did the doctor say?” he asked worriedly as he stopped by Mu Yuchen’s side.

“She’s still inside right now. She probably overheard my conversation with Grandfather. Otherwise...”  
Mu Yuchen replied gloomily.

Mu Tangchuan’s brows furrowed into a knot as he looked worriedly at the operating theatre. He lifted a hand to pat Mu Yuchen on the shoulders. “Don’t think so much about it. Have a seat first. Your grandmother’s always been quite healthy, so she’ll be fine.”

“Your mother’s recently been having headaches and palpitations. She’s been unwell, but she was afraid that you’d all be worried, so she didn’t tell you. Otherwise, we wouldn’t have returned to the old residence. She’s been busy going in and out recently as well. I’ve been worried that her body wouldn’t be able to take it. I was planning to bring her for a checkup at the hospital over the weekend,” Mu Yinan said regretfully.

“Doesn’t Dr. Zhong do health checkups for the both of you from time to time?” Mu Yuchen’s eyes darkened as he turned to look at Mu Yinan.

“Your grandmother thought it was troublesome, so I’ve been the only one doing it the past few times. She said that she was tougher than me, so there was no need to get checked. You know how your grandmother’s temper is. She sticks to her word.”

Mu Yinan began to feel like this was his fault, and he kept praying for everything to be fine.

...

Time slowly passed as everyone was terribly anxious. Xi Xiaye’s heart also wrenched bit by bit during this long wait. Gradually, the corridor was engulfed in a gloomy haze. Even Li Si and the other bodyguards who waited on the side looked tense as they felt very uneasy.

Some time had passed when the lights outside the operating theatre finally dimmed and the doors quickly opened. When the doctor walked out, Mu Yuchen went up to him right away.

“How’s my grandmother?” His deep voice contained a thick uneasiness.

At this moment, the doctor slowly took his mask off and his expression looked solemn as he looked at everyone who surrounded him. He shook his head helplessly. "The patient had a sudden heart attack. She was sent in too late. I'm sorry. We've done our best..."

Before he could finish, Mu Yuchen shoved the doctor aside as he rushed in!

"What did you say? What did you say? What do you mean you've done your best? Ah Hui..."

"Father! Father!"

Mu Tangchuan watched as Mu Yinan's body fell limp. He quickly held him up while the doctor quickly went up to him too.

Xi Xiaye was stupefied and she struggled for a while before she slowly came back to her senses. She looked at them with a pale expression before she rushed into the operating theatre too.

The nurse was about to cover Wang Hui's body with a white cloth, but Mu Yuchen rushed in and stopped her. Wang Hui had already lost all signs of vitality on the operating theatre table. The blood was gone from her face and even her remaining warmth was gradually turning cold.

Mu Yuchen knelt down on one knee and held Wang Hui's hand, clearly feeling her warmth fading. "Grandmother, wake up!"

As he held onto her limp hand tightly, his soft and raspy voice was mixed with thick sadness. Xi Xiaye watched him helplessly. In the next instant, large drops of tears fell, and she quickly reached up to cover her face as she silently knelt down next to Mu Yuchen and put her hand gently on his.

That was incredibly sudden!

She was clearly just fine, but now she was gone!

Mu Yuchen shut his eyes quietly and took a deep breath. When he opened them again, Xi Xiaye could clearly see the redness through his tears, but she did not know what she could do right now and how to console him. Therefore, she just silently held his hand that gripped Wang Hui's tightly.

...

From the outside, there was suddenly the paster of panicked footsteps. In her daze, Xi Xiaye seemed to hear Mu Lingshi and Zhuang Shurong's voices. They sobbed so heart-wrenchingly that they seemed to have lost their voices.

After a while, they rushed in too.

"Grandmother!"

"Mother!"

A few figures came in, and with just a single look at the lifeless Wang Hui, their eyes turned red. Mu Lingshi rushed up, choked with sobs.

Mu Yuchen slowly let go of Wang Hui's hands and stood up. He turned to look at Mu Yinan and the rest wordlessly. With his head lowered, he walked out silently.

"Master—" At the entrance, when he saw Mu Yuchen come out, Li Si's eyes immediately welled up as he walked up to him. "Elder Madam..."

Mu Yuchen's expression had darkened while his depth-filled eyes concealed and controlled his pain and sadness. He walked to a bench and slumped onto it weakly as he closed his eyes and fell silent for a long while. After that, his raspy voice came through. "She's gone."

"Master..." Li Si's eyes filled with even more tears. "I don't believe that Elder Madam would have gone just like that!"

There was a heaviness in the air and they could barely breathe. After Mu Yuchen took in a few deep breaths, he managed to quell the immense pain in his chest and found a sliver of rationality as he spoke raspily, "Suppress this piece of news. Don't let the news of Grandmother's passing get out first. Also, arrange for Grandmother's funeral. Get someone to watch things on Qi Feng's end. Be wary of them as they might take advantage of the situation to cause chaos."

When Li Si heard Mu Yuchen's hoarse voice, he could not help but ask in concern, "Master, are you okay?"

"I'm fine. Quickly get it done. Tell Su Chen and Zhou Zimo, but warn them not to make it known to the public."

Mu Yuchen forced himself to settle everything with whatever strength that was left in him.

"Yes, Master! I'll go get it done right away. My heartfelt condolences. Elder Madam will reach the Pure Land of Ultimate Bliss soon, Master. Please don't be too sad!"

Mu Yuchen nodded numbly.

After a while, Mu Lingshi and Zhuang Shurong were teary as they were guided out. Mu Tangchuan's eyes were red with tears too. Clearly, they were all in grief.

"Ah Chen..."

"Everyone, don't be too sad. I've already arranged for Grandmother's funeral. Father, Mother, take good care of Grandfather."

Chapter 1075. Abrupt Change 4

1075 Abrupt Change 4

Mu Yuchen spoke up before Mu Tangchuan could say anything.

Mu Lingshi sobbed as she looked at him with her teary eyes, "Brother, I..."



“Send them back first.”

“Yes, Master!”

...

Xi Xiaye’s eyes were swollen as well. She helped Mu Yinan out of the operating room.

The old man seemed to be beyond himself. With his eyes hollow, he looked like he had suddenly aged and was on the brink of collapsing.

“Don’t drag me away. I’m not going back. I’m staying here with your grandmother. She’ll be worried if she doesn’t see me when she wakes up. I’m not going back, I’m not going back...”

Mu Yinan struggled. He had totally lost himself as Wang Hui had passed away and he no longer had a sense of direction. He could not see anything else clearly.

Xi Xiaye helped him to stand as she tried to convince him, “Grandfather, please don’t be like this. Grandmother, she...”

Mu Yuchen came over and helped Mu Yinan to stand as well because he seemed like he was about to collapse at any moment. “Grandfather, are you alright?”

“Father!”

“Send Grandfather home for now and call Dr. Zhong to give him a check-up, I’ll handle things over here.”

...

After some time, Mu Tangchuan finally managed to bring Mu Yinan away, so only Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye were left in the corridor.

Xi Xiaye's eyes darkened as she looked at the man beside her. There was pain in his eyes. "I know you're sad. So am I, but..."

She could not continue her sentence. Her suppressed feelings finally came out as she looked into his dark, painful gaze. In their grief, they hugged each other tightly. He hugged her so hard, but she did not struggle at all. No words would match this hug at that moment. At least, that was how she felt.

Wang Hui was very kind to her, maybe even better than Mu Yuchen. The pain she felt from Wang Hui's sudden death was no lesser than the others because—

After she had been receiving warmth and care from Wang Hui, the sudden loss of her was indeed painful and heartbreaking. She still could not believe it was real.

...

Both Su Chen and Zhou Zimo were stunned to find out that Wang Hui had passed away. They instantly left their work and went straight to Maple Residence.

It was very quiet inside Maple Residence, and the sky turned dark when the sun went down.

In the backyard of Maple Residence, Mu Yuchen just sat there quietly while Su Chen and Zhou Zimo sat beside him and traded glances. They looked worried and anxious as Mu Yuchen frowned and emptied a glass of wine. Although they wanted to say something, they had no idea what they should say.

Mu Yuchen put the glass onto the table and grabbed his cigarettes. He took a stick out and lit it up, then he tossed the lighter aside. "It might just be fate. I didn't want to tell them the news because I was worried that they couldn't take it, but today...life will give you what you fear the most."

"My condolences, Ah Chen. We're sad that your grandmother has passed away. I hope you'll hang in there."

Su Chen looked worried sick while Zhou Zimo nodded in agreement. "Su Chen is right. Chen, I don't think your grandmother would want to see you guys being so sad too. It happened so quickly. I don't think it has quite sunk in for us yet..."

"Grandmother has always been a strict person all her life. What happened to Aunt was a huge impact on her, something that she could not forget. Grandmother really doted on Aunt when she was younger. No one expected Aunt to disappoint her and bring her despair," Mu Yuchen let out a puff as he said.

"Your grandmother would have never guessed your aunt had been protecting Gu Qiwu, huh?" Zhou Zimo sighed.

"It has always been a taboo to talk about my aunt in the family. I thought it would be better to tell them earlier so that they could be prepared when the whole thing is exposed. I underestimated the impact of this matter on Grandmother."

"Ah Chen, you can't bring a person back to life, so you should clear your thoughts now. I've arranged some people to take care of your grandmother's funeral. She was a military leader back then, so a memorial service is going to be unavoidable. I believe the media will find out about it very soon. I heard that you told Li Si to lock down the news for now. Do you have any plan in mind?" Su Chen asked Mu Yuchen who was pouring himself another glass of wine.

"It just happened so quickly. I wanted to settle everything and avoid the rumors from spreading. After the arrangements are done, people will know Grandmother passed away due to sudden cardiac arrest. I hope she can rest in peace soon."

Mu Yuchen frowned, and his freshly refilled glass was emptied once again.

"Don't drink too much. You don't look very well. Stay sober to handle your grandmother's funeral. Is your grandfather alright?" Zhou Zimo asked.

"He almost broke down when Grandmother passed away," Mu Yuchen said quietly.

The two of them threw him worried glances.

“They were so in love with each other. It must be tough for him to accept her death. Zimo and I will head over and visit him later. The memorial service will probably be the day after tomorrow, so get some good rest and leave everything else to Zimo and me.” Su Chen was concerned as he looked at Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen put the cigarette into the ashtray, then he refilled his glass again as he said, “I’m fine. We can’t avoid what’s about to come anyway.”

“But you shouldn’t just take it as it is. This is all because of Gu Qiwu!” Zhou Zimo growled.

Chapter 1076. Kinship and Loyalty 1

Su Chen’s expression darkened as he heard Zhou Zimo’s words. “I don’t think that was the sole reason...I suppose a big part of it was because she could not stand that your aunt hid it from her, and Gu Qiwu knew about Lingtian and Lingshi all these years, but he acted as if they didn’t exist.”

He took a pause as he looked at Mu Yuchen. “Your grandmother is a very wise lady under my impression. Your aunt’s matter must’ve taken a huge toll on her, so she probably passed away with regrets too. I can’t take this. Is there any way we can make Gu Qiwu kneel before her body and apologize?”

“Is he even worthy? He’s the last person she’d have wanted to see right now! That irresponsible scum! Your aunt was blind to fall in love with a man like that!” Zhou Zimo looked at Su Chen in disagreement and his tone was a little harsh. “This scum knew about Lingtian and Lingshi, and he still wanted Gu Lingsha to marry Ah Chen? I’d be furious if I were your grandmother! Just who does he think the Mu family is? A stepping stone? Or something else?”

“And there’s Lingtian as well. These people just made your life so horrible. Their mistakes even indirectly caused your grandmother’s death! I’m beginning to feel resentment towards your aunt. Things wouldn’t have turned out this way if she didn’t hide her past with Gu Qiwu! You treated Lingtian as a brother, but did he treat you the same way? Working with outsiders and lying to his own brother, he betrayed you, and now this information has killed your grandmother...”

Zhou Zimo looked furious, and his choice of words was harsh. However, he suddenly stopped talking because he noticed that Mu Yuchen’s expression had darkened!

Mu Yuchen held the glass tightly as he glanced at him. Then, he averted his gaze to a streetlamp while his expression was cold.

Immediately, Zhou Zimo shut up. He knew Mu Yuchen very well. Although he seemed cold and distant, he cared about his family very much. There was a restricted area inside his heart that could not be touched. Mu Zi, Lingtian, Xi Xiaye, Su Chen, and Zhou Zimo were inside that taboo area.

Su Chen did not say anything as he gave Zhou Zimo a warning glance. Right away, Zhou Zimo regretted his rash words.

Mu Yuchen lowered his head and closed his eyes before taking a deep breath. "Whether it be my aunt or Lingtian, they are both my family. You guys are my brothers, so I'll pretend I didn't hear what you just said, and I hope I won't hear it from any of you again."

His voice was filled with immense pressure to the extent that Zhou Zimo felt pushed back from his words alone. He then explained, "I'm sorry, Chen. I don't mean it that way. I just feel angry on behalf of you and your grandmother!"

"Fate has decided that Lingtian and I would be brothers from the moment my aunt gave birth to him. We could never be enemies. Zimo, your understanding is fundamentally wrong," Mu Yuchen warned. Zhou Zimo was really scared as he looked at Su Chen, seeking for help.

Su Chen then tried to lighten the atmosphere. "Alright, let's stop right here. Ah Chen, Zimo is just worried about you. You know he's much closer to you than to me. He's always at the frontline defending you, so don't blame him anymore. Zimo, what were you thinking? Is Aunt Zixi just anyone? She looked after you since you were a child, and she never forgot to get you gifts every time she bought some for Ah Chen too! You heartless brat, you're such an embarrassment!"

He glared at Zhou Zimo as he gave him a good scolding, "How could you blame the dead? You're becoming more and more like a woman. Can you have a broader mindset? Useless!"

Zhou Zimo's expression darkened, but he did not say anything.

“There, I’ve given him a lecture. Don’t mind him. We’re all brothers here. I’m sure Zimo is devastated that your grandmother passed away too. Let him run his mouth this once,” Su Chen spoke gently.

Mu Yuchen took a deep breath as he grabbed the wine bottle and refilled his glass again. “I’m partly responsible for what happened. I don’t want to talk about it again. Grandmother...she left us too quickly. Horrible times are coming. I hope she’ll rest in peace.”

“Grandmother Mu...why did you leave so suddenly? I can’t believe it’s real! She even made me some of my favorite dishes just a few days ago. How could she just be gone like that?” Zhou Zimo let out a long sigh.

“Everyone’s shocked too. I just hope that your family and you can get through this. You shouldn’t drink so much, especially right now. You need to stay sober.” Su Chen was worried.

“I said I’m fine. You guys should head back now. I want to be alone for a while.” Mu Yuchen sounded tired. His expression was gloomy and his eyes had dark circles around them. Su Chen and Zhou Zimo could sense the sadness radiating from him. Of course, they could not just leave him alone like this.

“Go take a look at my grandfather and Lingshi. They are probably having it worse. I’m fine,” Mu Yuchen said coldly as he emptied his glass. He got up and walked towards the corridor, his figure disappearing in the lonely, cold tunnel.

Su Chen and Zhou Zimo traded glances as they both sighed.

Chapter 1077. Kinship and Loyalty 2

The sky was getting dark and the streetlamps started to light up throughout City Z.

At this moment, at the end of the VIP tunnel in City Z airport, Gu Lingsha and Qi Feng were heading towards the lounge under the protection of several bodyguards.

Gu Lingsha wore a white dress today. Her long, silky hair together with her angelic face was extremely attractive. She looked really good with a handsome man like Qi Feng beside her, so everyone turned to them naturally!

However, she was not in the mood to notice these trivial matters. Nervously, she looked at the arrival door and she seemed uneasy as she shot Qi Feng a glance.

“Ah Feng, what should I do if my mother is still angry?” Gu Lingsha took several deep breaths and asked Qi Feng anxiously.

Qi Feng was calm as he comforted her, “It’s inevitable that she’ll be angry. Let’s hope that she’ll try to be considerate towards us.”

He knew very well what kind of woman Doris was. She was not just anybody. Even a man like Gu Qiwu had to do as she said. Qi Feng noticed that Gu Qiwu had been trying really hard to treat her well. Their relationship seemed odd.

Morrison also found out something interesting some time ago, so Qi Feng was just going to wait and see what happened.

Gu Lingsha’s worry did not go away as she mumbled, “I hoped she could return later so that she wouldn’t give us any trouble! As you know, she’s really against Weiwei. She’s never held her before even though Weiwei is this old already. We even got into the fight when I mentioned Weiwei. This time, I really wish that she’ll accept Weiwei. She’s my only daughter! Ah Feng...”

She felt heartbroken as she spoke. If it were not for the accident, she would not have lost her other child and Weiwei would not have been this physically weak too. Above all, she would not have lost her ability to get pregnant in the future.

That was one of the reasons why she could not let go of Qi Feng, or else her life would be ruined. She did not mind how much she had to sacrifice for him. She was willing to do anything in order to make him stay!

“Weiwei will get better. We’ve found her a psychiatrist. As long as we’re patient and she cooperates with the treatment, she’ll be fine. She’s recovering well now, isn’t she?” Qi Feng frowned.

He always knew that Doris was not fond of Qi Weier. Doris was a typical prideful woman. As a royal descendant, she only wanted the best, so she was already in disagreement when Qi Feng got together with Gu Lingsha because she preferred Mu Yuchen over him.

Qi Feng never forgot about it, but he just never mentioned it. He was still pretty courteous towards Doris. Nonetheless, he kept this to himself. Although he did not have a good impression of Doris, he had to be nice due to the circumstances at the moment.

Gu Lingsha was Doris's only daughter and Doris was pretty proud of her, especially when Gu Lingsha inherited her outstanding appearance and turned out to be pretty smart. Qi Feng had to respect Doris for Gu Lingsha's sake as well.

Gu Lingsha took a deep breath. "I'm afraid it'll take a long time for Weiwei to recover. I've asked the doctor about it before."

"As long as there's hope, we can hang in there if we're hopeful. I believe my daughter isn't defective. Stop worrying. Haven't we gone through so much all these years? You should stay calm. We've already gotten registered, so what is there to worry about?"

Qi Feng's voice felt like it was filled with magic as he calmed Gu Lingsha's anxious heart down. She moved over and grabbed his hand which was resting on his knee. "Ah Feng, I'll make sure to convince my mother to accept Weiwei no matter what. She'll give us her blessings! You have to perform well later. Although she never mentions it, she thinks highly of you."

As he just put on a smile, Gu Lingsha did not notice the tint of darkness in his eyes, and she had no idea what he was thinking about.

"We'll see, I know what to do."

As Qi Feng replied, Secretary Qin's voice reached them. "Manager Gu, First Master, look! Someone's coming out! Madam should be here already!"



They stopped their conversation and looked at the gate. As expected, someone was walking out, so Gu Lingsha quickly went forward nervously. Qi Feng gave Morrison a signal, and he quickly wheeled him forward.

There were some noises at the front. Moments later, Secretary Qin voiced out again, "Manager Gu, First Master, look! Madam is here!"

Everyone looked ahead to see a slender figure soon appear within their sight.

In a long, gold-lined dress, with her blonde hair casually tied into a bun, her movements were elegant and mature. Although she was already past 50 years old, she looked just like a young lady. Many people would have guessed her age to be around 30 years old as they turned around just to look at her.

Who else could it be if not for Doris?

Secretary Qin could not take his eyes off her outstanding beauty. Certainly, Gu Lingsha inherited most of her beauty from this lady!

There were several bodyguards following behind Doris.

"Mother!" Gu Lingsha went forward and called out to her.

Doris looked over when she heard Gu Lingsha, but she did not give any reaction. She was very stiff as she walked forward without slowing down.

Gu Lingsha arrived before Doris and gently held her hands. "Mother, you're back!"

Chapter 1078. Kinship and Loyalty 3

Doris stopped walking when Gu Lingsha held her hands. Her blue eyes subconsciously surveyed her surroundings. When her gaze brushed past Qi Feng, it paused for a bit, then it moved away and she began to frown. "Where's your father?" Her voice was cold and there was a hint of unhappiness.

“Father had to make a trip back to City B. He’ll only be back in a day or two, so I came to get you with Ah Feng!”

“Mother, you must be tired. We’ve prepared food and drinks at home. There are too many people around. Let’s talk at home,” Qi Feng spoke up at the right time. His tone was neither servile nor overbearing.

Doris just looked coldly at him. “I’m tired. Let’s go straight to the mansion.” She was not speaking to Gu Lingsha and Qi Feng. Instead, she was instructing the black-clothed bodyguards behind her as she walked away.

“Mother, Ah Feng and Uncle Qi were especially welcoming you...”

It was obvious that her mother was still angry. Gu Lingsha could hear the coldness in her tone which frightened her. She could only helplessly follow after her.

However, Doris did not stop walking and the bodyguards behind her could only quickly follow her.

“I can’t accept it. You don’t respect me as your mother anymore, so I don’t need to bring contempt upon myself,” Doris said coldly, then very quickly walked towards the door.

“Mother!” Gu Lingsha’s expression changed slightly as she called out to her anxiously, yet Doris’s figure had already vanished out through the entrance.

“Ah Feng!” Gu Lingsha turned to look helplessly at Qi Feng, yet his expression was gloomy. You could not tell what emotions hid in those dark eyes as he fixed his gaze in the direction that Doris had left in.

When she saw his odd expression, Gu Lingsha helplessly tried to explain, “Ah Feng, Mother has nothing against you. Maybe we just went too far this time, and that made her angry! Don’t take it personally. Father will help us explain. Mother’s always been quite willing to hear him out. As long as he speaks up, Mother won’t make things difficult for us.”

Qi Feng's eyes dimmed. In an instant, they returned to normal. "It's fine. I thought as much. Go over and take a look," he said, and then he signaled to Morisson who slowly wheeled him to the entrance.

"Ah Feng!"

Gu Lingsha's expression turned sour as she bit her lip and followed after him.

...

It was late at night. Su Chen and Zhou Zimo had both left, and the entire Maple Residence seemed cold and quiet as if something was missing.

Mu Xiaocheng was crying extra hard tonight. Perhaps he knew that something was different, so he kept looking around. No matter how much Aunt Fang and the rest tried to console him, he would not sleep. In the end, Xi Xiaye had spent a lot of effort to coax him to sleep.

When she returned to the room, the lights were not switched on. Vaguely, she could see the light coming from the study room through the cracks of the door...

As she stopped walking, she felt her chest be attacked by waves of pain. Soon, the lump in her throat was instantly pushed down and she recovered although she felt like her chest was heavy and her breath was short. She inhaled deeply a few times before she managed to steady herself. After some thought, she walked into the study room.

After she pushed open the door gently, her blurry eyes subconsciously looked around the study room. Soon, she noticed the man who sat on the floor underneath the curtains. Only that light was switched on in the study room, so the whole room was dark. Xi Xiaye stood at the entrance, feeling that air of heaviness.

Xi Xiaye watched him like that. Looking at his bleak and lonely shadow, she suddenly felt sad. She was silent for a moment before she walked over. Quietly, she reached him and then slowly sat down by his side.

When he noticed her by his side, he looked away from the window and turned to look at her. His deep tone had a hint of self-blame, yet it contained a hint of concern. "The floor's cold. Get up."

"Don't you mind it?" She turned to look calmly at him, her clear gaze containing a concerned light as well.

He did not answer her question. Instead, he reached out to take a cushion for her as he asked, "Has our son fallen asleep?"

Xi Xiaye took it and nodded gently. When she looked over, she saw the bottles of alcohol on the coffee table. She thought for a moment, then took one of them. "If you're not feeling great, let me have a glass or two with you. I won't limit your alcohol intake today, Mr. Mu."

"Drinks don't cure real problems. I'll only feel worse when I wake up later." Mu Yuchen's tone was gloomy and sounded stifled. Xi Xiaye could clearly tell that there was a sadness in his eyes that he could not conceal.

"Grandmother will reach the Pure Land of Ultimate Bliss soon. I heard that when someone passes on, they become stars in the sky. Even though I know those are just what the fairytales say, I still want to console you that way. I'm very sad too, Mr. Mu..."

When she said this, she had already passed the drink she poured to him and her starry eyes began to look blurry.

Mu Yuchen watched her quietly for a while, then he reached out to take the drink from her and had a sip. "Even if you're sad, Grandmother won't come back. Sometimes, we just have to accept that they're gone. If we knew that things would have turned out this way, it might've been better not to have known all those so-called answers."

"The truth would have to be revealed sooner or later. This is something we cannot change. It's just sad that Grandmother left us in such a rush. A few days ago, she was even talking about knitting a little wool sweater for Xiaocheng. Who would have thought that today, she would be gone from us?" Xi Xiaye spoke sadly as bitterness rose from her chest to the point that she could barely breathe.

“This is life. There’s nothing that lasts forever. In this world, nothing is eternal. The only eternal thing is time.” Mu Yuchen’s gloomy voice was heard while his gaze fell on her wan and sallow face. “Alright now, I’m fine.”

“Don’t say that you’re fine. Whenever you’re sad you’ll say that you’re fine, but you wouldn’t dare look at me in the eye.”

When she heard him, her heart felt an ache again. She then turned around and reached out to gently hold his shoulders. Her clear gaze silently locked onto that handsome face of his as she stared into the depths of his eyes.

Chapter 1079. Affection and Loyalty 4

While they looked eye to eye, the stifled air seemed to experience another faint sliver of warmth.

Moments after that, he silently lowered his gaze. His dim eyes looked out of the window, and when Xi Xiaye followed his gaze, he realized that the night sky outside was a little gloomy. Over the vast and still horizon hung a very dull moon.

Xi Xiaye waited for a long while, but he did not say anything. She was stunned for a moment. Then, she looked up and fixed her eyes on him. After a while, he looked at her again and said in a low voice, “What should I do then?”

When she heard that, the pain from the bottom of her heart was even more intense. She sat down close to him and put an arm over him.

Mu Yuchen paused but did not reject her as he laid down with his head on her thigh. “I’ll be fine after a while. Grandmother used to love me the most. A lot of my thoughts from over the years were influenced by her. She’s not just a grandmother to me.” His tone sounded very gloomy and wrought with sadness.

“Grandmother was really good to me. Apart from Grandpa, she’s the second elder who cared the most about me. I’m shakened and saddened by her sudden departure. Perhaps this is just the will of Heaven. Maybe she was rushing to find an answer too, so she went to look for Aunt. Alright, let’s not talk about it anymore. You look tired. Just get a good night’s sleep. All will be better when you wake up.”

Mu Yuchen did not answer after that and just silently shut his eyes.

Xi Xiaye supported him up with all her might and let him sleep comfortably in her arms as she pulled a thin blanket from the side to cover him with.

...

“Master Qi, big news!”

Inside Qi Lei’s villa in the Grand Lake Villa area, Qi Lei had just kept away all the documents and was about to fall asleep when Yang Sheng suddenly rushed over anxiously.

“What is it? You look disorderly.” Qi Lei’s head was still heavy right now. Dongfang Liuyun was just marvelous! How could a woman’s tolerance for drinks be so high?!

Yang Sheng took a few deep breaths and walked up in huge strides. His expression looked solemn as he said in a lowered voice, “Master Qi, something happened on Master Mu’s end! Elder Madam Mu has passed away!”

“What did you say? Who passed away?” Qi Lei immediately frowned as he looked at Yang Sheng in shock, thinking that he had heard wrongly.

“Elder Madam Mu! Master Mu and Miss Xiaye’s grandmother! She suddenly passed away this afternoon!” Yang Sheng repeated.

A momentary blankness flashed in Qi Lei’s head and he was in a daze for a long while before he sat down on the sofa behind him in bewilderment. Soon, he looked up at Yang Sheng. “What happened? Is this true?”

Yang Sheng quickly nodded. “It’s true. It definitely is, Master Qi! Elder Madam Mu had a sudden heart attack this afternoon. When she was sent to the hospital, it was already too late and they couldn’t save her. Master Mu already informed Li Si and the rest to lock down this news for now to avoid unnecessary

panic. It was when Li Si called me earlier that I found out about it. In fact, even Su Chen and Zhou Zimo rushed over to the Maple Residence in the evening, so it must be true!”

When Qi Lei heard that, his expression darkened. “How did that happen? How come it happened so suddenly? How did she suddenly get a heart attack? Hasn’t Elder Madam Mu always been quite healthy?”

Yang Sheng shook his head. “I’m not too sure about it either, but I think that the people at the Mu family must be heartbroken. I heard that Elder Chairman Mu fell. The Sus and the Zhous rushed over too I think by tomorrow, news about this will leak, so Li Si is busy making the funeral arrangements.”

Qi Lei fell quiet for a long while. Finally, he breathed in and then nodded. “Got it. I’ll go to visit Maple Residence tomorrow. You go over and help out. See if there’s anything Li Si needs.”

Life was impermanent. Who would have thought that the healthy and talkative Wang Hui would leave them that day?

Qi Lei still found it hard to wrap his head around it. His mind seemed to blank out. He wanted to call Mu Yuchen to confirm it, but when he picked up his phone to take a look, he realized that it was already late at night. In fact, it might not be a good time to call him then, so he could only wait until tomorrow morning when he went over a visit.

Yang Sheng thought about it, then continued to tell Qi Lei, “Alright, Master Qi! Oh, right, a few hours ago we received news that Miss Gu’s mother, Doris, has come to City Z. Miss Gu and Master Feng went to fetch her themselves. CEO Qi even prepared dinner at home, but Doris rejected it and went back straight to the old mansion with her bodyguards without giving Qi Feng any face.”

“Doris?” Qi Lei muttered softly. He nodded. “She should be back already. After all, it’s going to be Qi Feng and Lingsha’s wedding soon. As Lingsha’s mother, she should be attending, but why wasn’t it Gu Qiwu who picked her up?”

Qi Lei knew that Gu Qiwu had been staying in City Z. Sometimes, he would also help Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha with the wedding. Since it was a huge occasion for the Qis and the Gus to be connected by marriage, it would probably cause quite a stir in City Z. Were they not getting Xi Xinyi to do some high-

profile promotion of their wedding? Even the guest list consisted mostly of big shots, so you could tell that Qi Qiming had really gone all in this time.

“Gu Qiwu seems to have returned to City B two days ago, probably to handle some company matters.”

“Mmm, get someone to watch out for them. Go home first. Tomorrow we’ll go and see how things are like on Li Si’s end.” Qi Lei then got up a little wearily.

“Alright. Well, Master Qi, get some rest too,” Yang Sheng said before leaving.

...

The next morning, Mu Yuchen woke up on Xi Xiaye’s lap, his head feeling like a ton of bricks. After a while, he relaxed, then carried Xi Xiaye, who was still asleep, back to the room and onto their bed before he washed up.

When he went downstairs, Ah Mo and Zhou Zimo were there. Su Chen and Ji Zitong were at the old Mu residence instead.

“Bro!”

“Chen!”

When they saw Mu Yuchen’s figure appearing at the top of the staircase, the two of them immediately got up and looked worriedly at him.

Mu Yuchen picked up his steps and walked over as he pointed to the sofa. “Have a seat. Why are you two here so early?” As he spoke, he was already at the bottom of the stairs and walking over to the sofa.

“Bro, are you okay?” Ah Mo and Zhou Zimo exchanged a look and asked worriedly.



Mu Yuchen sat down slowly on the sofa. Behind him, Sis Wang was bringing over freshly steeped tea.

Chapter 1080. Kinship and Loyalty 5

“How are things at home?” Mu Yuchen immediately asked, lowering his gaze so that Ah Mo could not read his eyes.

“Grandfather’s not too great. Yesterday he locked himself in the study room as soon as we got home. He didn’t say a word or let us in. Father was worried that something might happen, so he pried open the door and saw that he had just been flipping through Grandmother’s old pictures. He seemed out of it. They got the doctor to give him a sedative before he fell asleep. When I went over today, he was still asleep,” Ah Mo said with a solemn tone.

“Lingshi’s crumbled. She keeps shouting about wanting to look for Gu Qiwu to settle the score, but...Father’s been holding back his pain and consoling them. I’m afraid that the funeral arrangements...”

“I’ve already gotten Li Si to settle the funeral arrangements. See if we can just skip the memorial service. Grandmother was indifferent to worldly rewards her whole life. I think if it wouldn’t be nice to have it so large-scale. Let’s just let her leave quietly. Zimo, help me oversee this. Ah Mo, you take good care of Lingshi. This thing has nothing to do with her, so tell her not to overthink it.”

Mu Yuchen obviously knew Mu Lingshi well. She would probably be blaming herself for what happened even if was not her fault. After all, who could have thought that Gu Qiwu and Mu Zi were indeed her biological parents?

Ah Mo obviously knew what Mu Yuchen was thinking, so he quickly nodded. “Don’t worry, Bro. Miss Ji is with her at Mother’s place. I’ve been sharing the burden in hopes that it will make her feel better.”

Mu Yuchen set down the teacup in hand as he responded, “Go over and take a look at the situation on Li Si’s end.”

Ah Mo thought about it for a while before he said, “Yes, Bro! But I think that it won’t be possible to skip the memorial service, I’ll do my best to keep it within controlled parameters, so don’t worry. I’ll get this done properly.”

“Chen, just let me and Ah Mo worry about this. I don’t think you’re doing too well, so just rest. I think the memorial service will probably be tomorrow. Li Si’s already in contact with the people from the military district, and they’ll get into an agreement soon. As for the news about Grandmother’s passing, we can announce that this afternoon,” Zhou Zimo spoke carefully in a lowered tone.

Mu Yuchen lifted a hand to massage the space between his brows as he breathed in. “I’ll let you work it out.”

“Okay. Right, Doris landed in City Z at about 7 p.m. last night. Right now, she’s at the Gu family’s mansion. Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha went to pick her up themselves. In fact, Qi Qiming prepared dinner at home, but Doris didn’t go over. I think she must still be unhappy about the wedding.”

“Doris? She’s really here?” Ah Mo said as Zhou Zimo frowned and turned to look at Mu Yuchen. “I almost forgot that their wedding should be coming up quite soon.”

“It’s this weekend. In fact, by the looks of their invitation, it’s going to be quite grand. I think they’re set on something. Bro, I’ve already gotten someone to watch over them. I’ll immediately update you if anything happens.” A hint of tensed sternness and gloominess gathered on Ah Mo’s handsome face.

Mu Yuchen held up his heavy head and shut his eyes gently. “These are troubled times. We’ll have to be more careful. It’s of utmost importance that we don’t slack. Settle grandmother’s funeral as soon as possible. Calming Grandfather and our parents are key.”

“Got it!” Ah Mo responded, then left instantly. Only Mu Yuchen and Zhou Zimo were left in the spacious living room.

...

Zhou Zimo squinted at Mu Yuchen for a long time, and finally could not help but speak out, “What are you planning to do after this? Your grandmother already couldn’t handle it at just the first step of this matter, we can’t be sure of what else will happen. Chen, there are some things that I know you don’t want to hear, but as your buddy, I have to, even if you’ll beat me up!”

Mu Yuchen, who sat quietly unmoving, only gave him a cold gaze just like he did last night. His eyes held a hint of warning.

Nevertheless, Zhou Zimo could not care less. He continued, "That's enough. How much more are you going to hurt yourself for all of these trivial matters? I really think that it was so unworthy on behalf of your grandmother, on behalf of you, and even the entire Mu family!"

"Alright, Zimo, stop talking. I told you that I don't want to hear these things again." Mu Yuchen's tone was cold and filled with certainty when he instantly stopped Zhou Zimo. "Mu Zi is my aunt and my grandparents' only daughter. I respected her as my elder, and I did the best I could for her. This was all for kinship, for blood relations. Lingtian should have been my cousin, but he became my brother. I protect him for loyalty. Shouldn't there be loyalty between brothers?"

"So, whether it's worth it or not has nothing to do with that. All of these are things that ought to be done. They let us down, but...if one day, you stood in my shoes, you would make the same choices."

Upon hearing these words, Zhou Zimo suddenly felt that he was speechless. After a long while, he forced a smile and patted Mu Yuchen's shoulders. "It's not easy to be someone who values kinship and loyalty. That's why you exist! Forget it. I'm not hoping that you'll change your mind about it. You are someone who's kind to others but cruel to himself."

"Master, Master Qi's here!"

Zhou Zimo had just finished when Sis Wang's voice called out from outside.

Before she finished, Qi Lei's tall figure had already walked in. When he saw Zhou Zimo there, he was stunned for a moment. He walked up in a few huge steps with concern and uneasiness that could not be concealed in his eyes.

"What happened? Why did I suddenly hear that Grandmother Mu...Is it true?" As Qi Lei asked this, he instantly felt like he should not have because just as he moved closer, he could already feel the stifled air coming from the two people sitting on the sofa.

“Yang Sheng found out about it from Li Si. How did she get a heart attack? Hasn’t Grandmother always been quite healthy? Did something happen?” Qi Lei asked in concern.

As he finished, Zhou Zimo gave him a brief rundown. By the time he reached the end, Qi Lei’s handsome face was colored with disbelief. “What did you say? Mu Lingshi...she and Lingsha are...Gu Qiwu is Lingshi’s biological father? How could this be? How could it be?”

This was so outrageous!

Qi Lei had roughly heard about this, but now that he got the confirmation from the people themselves and restored the truth, he found it quite hard to believe! He had been in touch with Gu Qiwu before, and everyone could see his loyalty for Doris. How did Mu Zi end up getting involved with him?