

## Loving 111

### Chapter 111. Glory World Anniversary (2)

Once Manager Fang said this, Xi Xiaye frowned. "Previously, when we were planning things, wasn't it already agreed that media and reporters would be rejected? What's the problem?"

Xi Xiaye understood Liu Peilian's concern. The reason they rejected these people from entering was that they were worried the media would be reckless and simply write their stories. Previously, after organizing the anniversary celebrations for several years, the media had exaggerated about Glory World and that made the old Chairman Mu Yinan very unhappy. After that, the Public Relations Department had canceled all invitations to the media.

"This time it's different. The company has invited several A-list celebrities to support the event. I think that with such an opportunity, we should use it properly," explained Manager Fang.

"Even if we want to use it, we can't do it at this anniversary. You know that Chairman Mu doesn't like media and reporters. If we infuriate him, what's the point of organizing this anniversary?" Manager Fang had just finished when Liu Peilian could not help but speak up to refute.

Xi Xiaye frowned slightly. She thought about it for a moment, then said, "Why don't you choose one or two bigger media houses and let them do an exclusive report? When they're done drafting, let Chairman Mu personally review. If Chairman Mu approves, then they can publish it."

Manager Fang's eyes instantly lit up. "But we have to guarantee that on Chairman Mu's end..."

Before Manager Fang could finish, Xi Xiaye had already interrupted her and turned a blind eye to Liu Peilian's darkened gaze, "Don't worry. You guys just focus on contacting two trustworthy media houses, leave the rest to me." She suddenly turned to leave, making Liu Peilian watch all this with gritted teeth.

She walked around and simply checked the situation at the venue. When she returned to the hall, the seats were already almost filled. Apart from the few tables up front in the middle for the important guests, almost everyone else had arrived.

The Vice Presidents and Directors under Glory World Corporation, and some of the company's backbones including those who had been moved abroad had all rushed back. Some dashing blonde-

haired, blue-eyed, handsome guys were sitting at the few tables in the middle. They were Glory World Corporation's elite think tank.

"Eh, Director Xi, why are you still here? Vice President Liu and Vice President Zhang have been looking all over for you! The guests have mostly arrived! The event is about to begin!"

Xi Xiaye had just returned to the hall when her assistant, Xiao Mei, panted as she rushed over.

"Let's go."

Xi Xiaye already saw Liu Lingyu, Zhang Lan, and the rest chatting away with the upper management of Glory World, so she picked up her pace and walked over.

"Vice President Liu, Vice President Zhang!"

"Director Xi, you're here! We were just waiting for you. Let's take a seat."

Liu Lingyu saw that Xi Xiaye had come over and he immediately smiled kindly with an aura of friendliness. "You've been on leave for quite a few days. How's your health?"

"Thank you for your concern. I'm all good."

Xi Xiaye sat down. Her seat was near Liu Lingyu.

"That's great. You looked quite pale too. I thought it was because you were too busy with work and had fallen ill. That would be bad. Right, the matter about the company entering the showbiz industry..."

Liu Lingyu was someone very passionate about work. At that moment, he did not forget about work.

Xi Xiaye nodded slightly at the waiter who had gone over to serve her water. Then, she turned to Liu Lingyu and smiled. "Don't worry, Vice President Liu. Chairman Mu has informed me about this. Feel free to let me know whenever you need help. I'll definitely do my best."

"Haha, I was frankly waiting to hear this! I was really worried that Chairman Mu wouldn't agree to this. After all, the South River project you're taking on isn't light."

"Didn't you say that we young people should be even more enthusiastic?" Xi Xiaye smiled.

On the side, Vice President Zhang Lan smiled and echoed, "Hearing your words, it really makes me feel like I'm suddenly much younger. Your enthusiasm is infectious, Director Xi."

"VP Zhang, we can't deny that we're old now and we can't compare with these brilliant youngsters. Haha..." Once Liu Lingyu said this, the table full of people instantly laughed along.

"Right, what time is Chairman Mu arriving?" Someone noticed that the main seat up front was still empty, so he could not help but ask.

Glory World's number one person was considered the main highlight of the night, so naturally he attracted attention.

"I've already called Assistant Li Si, but the phone's still switched off. I'm afraid they're still on the flight, but Chairman Mu called earlier to say that once it's time, we should start first. He'll rush over as soon as he can. He wouldn't miss the finale."

...

Once Zhang Lan said this, there were suddenly sounds of people crying out in surprise at the entrance behind them and some joyful cheering. Xi Xiaye and the rest subconsciously turned to look at the entrance of the grand hall.

They saw that walking up front was an amorous woman dressed in a red bareback gown. Xi Xiaye did remember her a little. She was an A-list celebrity who was currently quite popular. Behind her, she was

followed by several other A-list celebrities. When she saw that figure that was as fair as snow coming in last, Xi Xiaye's entire figure was slightly startled at that second!

It was Xi Xinyi!

She saw that she was wearing a fresh, white, long dress with a beautiful, glittering shawl of the same shade. Her light golden, long hair fell down her shoulders and there were even some pink pearls or light-colored little flowers adorning her hair. Her skin was as white as jade and her gorgeous face only had light make up on with a sweet-tempered and generous smile. She wore a chunky pearl necklace around her neck. With her graceful figure wrapped in that simple and elegant white dress, she looked like a gentle angel.

If it were not for the fact that she had experienced all that she had, Xi Xiaye thought that she would probably be moved to see her enter in such a breathtaking way.

When she saw her smile and gently wave to the crowd on both sides, it seemed like the people were like watching a concert as they shrieked delightedly.

At that moment, Xi Xinyi had everyone's attention. Her every gaze and smile made everyone fall for her. This charm was something that she, Xi Xiaye, could not possess.

She suddenly seemed to understand why Han Yifeng would abandon her and fall for Xi Xinyi.

Xi Xinyi was currently the sun that shone ten thousand rays of light. She existed as the most beautiful goddess in everyone's hearts, while she, Xi Xiaye, seemed to be the furthest star in the lonely night sky. She could only watch this planet from afar, flickering with a dim light...

However, it seemed that she and everyone else had already forgotten that the twinkling star in the night sky might actually be even more dazzling than the sun. It was just because it was too far away and hidden too deep, so others always neglected that glimmer that had to travel through many years before it could shine on Earth...

She had not understood this reasoning until much later when a certain someone had whispered into her ear, “Missus, while there are many stars that are more dazzling than the sun in this vast universe, I discovered a star like you.

As she recalled and thought about it, she could not help but realize that tears had welled up in her eyes...

Chapter 112. Glory World Anniversary (3)

Yet, such a moment of radiance was just for a split second. When all of the bright lights vanished, what remained would just be plain. After all, who could possess an eternal splendor?

Xi Xiaye breathed in slightly. Moments after, she returned to her usual indifference. Her calm eyes looked at Xi Xinyi and the other popular artistes quietly as they smiled and walked on the red carpet while waving.

The Public Relations Manager and Project Director, Liu Peilian, had also walked up to greet the several guests. The popular artistes had attended in their best clothes as they contended in beauty and fascination, adding magnificent colors to the banquet.

“Hello!”

“Thank you. We’re very honored to have the chance to join Glory World’s anniversary celebration.”

“You’re welcome. This must be the famous Director Liu!”

“Hello, Manager Fang, Director Liu!”

“Vice President Liu, Vice President Zhang!”

A few of them walked up to Xi Xiaye’s table and very courteously greeted everyone with gentle smiles on their faces.

“Who is this?”

“This is Director Xi of Glory World. Director Xi, this is Miss Kate. I believe you should have some impression of her. Last year, at Young Master Wang’s wedding, the two of you had drinks together. Do you still remember?” Director Liu fervently introduced the sensuous woman who walked ahead in her long red gown.

“Hello, Director Xi. I’m very honored that we meet again!”

Miss Kate smiled and hurled out a hand to Xi Xiaye who also smiled and nodded. She very amiably shook her hand too. “The honor is mine. I hope that we’ll have a happy collaboration.”

“Happy collaborating!”

After Xi Xinyi greeted the several upper management of Glory World, she subconsciously looked over to Xi Xiaye, yet someone had already ushered her to her seat as the banquet was about to begin.

Xi Xinyi looked on with mixed emotions at Xi Xiaye’s table, yet the latter pretended not to see her. She was chatting away with a certain Vice President who had moved away.

She pursed her luscious lips and stared at Xi Xiaye for a long while. There was a faint smile that did not fade on her face. The table she sat at was for all of Glory World Corporation’s invited guests; there were super popular A-list singers or special guests such as partners with Glory World.

Apart from Mu Yuchen’s seat that was still vacant, the entire banquet venue was already filled up. Up front, the host had asked for instructions from the Vice Presidents. The few Vice Presidents exchanged a look and then nodded slightly before the host walked up the stage.

The upbeat and soothing piano music started to turn into a majestic opening symphony. The host held the microphone and begun his opening remarks that stirred everyone’s spirits. Soon, a wave of cheers was heard as he announced the official opening ceremony of Glory World’s anniversary celebration.

First up was a very upbeat violin solo as the opening. The entire banquet atmosphere instantly livened up while everyone’s ears were filled with the sound of a melodious violin piece that lifted one’s spirits. Even Xi Xiaye’s gloomy mood because of the incident earlier vanished.

She was about to have a drink when she suddenly felt the handphone in her pocket buzz. Quickly taking it out to look, she saw that it was a text message from Mu Yuchen. He was rushing over and would reach soon. Xi Xiaye replied with an “mmm” before keeping her phone away.

After the opening violin solo was the company’s Vice President Liu Lingyu’s speech. He roughly summarized Glory World Corporation’s main achievements of the year and expressed his hopes for the next year. In addition to that, he especially introduced Glory World Corporation’s main structure briefly.

“Director Xi’s performance for the year seems pretty outstanding. A few days ago, at the annual meeting, Chairman Mu even personally commended you. Director Xi, are you also looking forward to seeing what award Chairman Mu will hand you later?”

Xi Xiaye was drinking when Vice President Zhang Lan’s friendly and gentle voice suddenly came from the side. She looked up at her and saw her watching her with anticipation.

Had he personally commended her?

Did he seem like the type of person to praise her in front of everyone?

As she listened, Xi Xiaye could not help but raise her brows slightly. She looked a little shocked at Zhang Lang, yet Zhang Lan thought that even Xi Xiaye was very excited to know what award she would get. “The Public Relations Department hit it off pretty well. They wouldn’t let me know no matter how I asked, but you’ve been reaping quite a bit this year. Let’s leave it as a surprise and wait for it to be revealed.”

The name lists of the award winners were derived from the few Vice Presidents’ comprehensive assessments based on the actual situation. They naturally knew everything and were just teasing her right now.

Xi Xiaye looked at Zhang Lan’s friendly and gentle smile, then she nodded gently and smiled. “Thank you. It’s thanks to the company’s cultivation.”

Zhang Lan liked Xi Xiaye. She was low-profile and not brash. When some people looked to her for help, she would almost never reject, especially the Commerce Department. Earlier, because Commerce Director Chu Feng was temporarily relocated, she had practically run both ends of the Planning and Commerce Department. She kept up with both sides of the work and did not let the company down. She persisted for more than a month until the successor was in place and she clearly looked frailer after that.

To say that she was a workaholic was absolutely suitable. It was no wonder that the people that came under Liu Lingyu were almost all workaholics. The phrase “heaven rewards the diligent” had always been one of the words of wisdom they motivated themselves with.

Superiors also liked hardworking and intelligent subordinates just as teachers liked obedient, bright, and diligent students!

A while after that, Liu Lingyu finally finished his speech and the sumptuous dishes of the banquet began to be served. Several famous artistes that had come to support the event began to perform on stage.

The first person to go on stage and perform an emotional song was Miss Kate who had greeted Xi Xiaye earlier. When she sang, a certain department manager behind Xi Xiaye was also talking about her. Xi Xiaye then knew that these few A-list artistes were specially invited by the Public Relations Department as a warm-up for Imperial Sky Entertainment City’s launch that was happening after the New Year.

After a few performances, the atmosphere became even more exuberant. Xi Xiaye had been sitting in her own seat while all the other upper management kept finding opportunities to get closer to her and chat with her. She was easy-mannered and smiled in response, appearing elegant.

Xi Xiaye spoke very little instead as she sat and admired the performances while leisurely sipping on some red wine once in a while or listening to them chat.

Finally, after she finished another glass of wine, she suddenly heard a commotion from behind. What followed after was a sudden silence. The host up on stage also looked incredibly excited. Xi Xiaye seemed to have noticed something as she turned around and followed the crowd’s gaze towards the red carpet behind her.

Chapter 113. Glory World Anniversary (4)



Mu Yuchen appeared in the hall without anyone noticing. He walked over casually as he was talking on the phone. Behind him were Li Si and Ah Mo as well as several handsome guys with blonde hair and blue eyes. They were the elites that had come back with him from abroad.

He looked no different than usual today in his casual white suit. His elegant face emitted a subtle cold aura as usual and he looked humble with indescribable tranquility around him.

He was too complicated to see through.

No one noticed when he came in. It was only when Mu Yuchen's troupe reached the forefront seats when people started to notice them.

Many people did not get the chance to take a glimpse at Chairman Mu's quiet and calm face as he passed by. Everyone felt a slight pang of regret. They hoped to see his face if he were to give a speech on stage later on.

Mu Yuchen ended the call when he arrived at his table.

"Chairman Mu!"

"Master!"

The top brass of the company quickly stood up, unable to hide their excitement and feelings of admiration in their eyes as they looked at Mu Yuchen.

Xi Xiaye actually did not feel like standing up, but she succumbed to peer pressure when everyone else stood up. She glanced at him and noticed that he looked over at her with his mysterious eyes as well.

She was stunned for a moment and averted her gaze away.

"Sit down."

Mu Yuchen's deep and calm voice echoed. Everyone sat down. He took a wet towel from the waiter nearby and wiped his hands. Then, he raised a wine glass, his elegant face softening as he said, "I've made everyone wait for me. This is for everyone!"

"Thank you for your hard work, Chairman Mu!"

Liu Lingyu and the others raised their glasses as well.

Clink!

The wine glasses created a pleasant sound, and in just a moment, everyone emptied their glasses.

The emcee saw what happened and then quickly announced Chairman Mu's arrival on the mic.

The crowd gave a loud cheer. Someone handed Mu Yuchen a mic with a genuine and respectful gesture. "Chairman Mu, please say a few words to the crowd. They've been looking forward to it."

This man was regarded like the existence of God in the eyes of many, especially to the people working in Glory World Corporation. If it were not for his low-profile attitude, he would not be any less popular than the current top male celebrities. In fact, he had always been influential; it was just that he hid well.

Mu Yuchen looked at the podium in the center of the stage quietly. He took the mic from the emcee's hand, but instead of going onto the stage, he just stood up from his seat.

The whole hall was dead silent. Only his viola-like deep voice echoed throughout the venue, calm and solid.

"The Glory World anniversary is organized every year, so I won't talk much. Glory World prioritizes capability and will provide you the stage you deserve. We're able to grow to this scale today all thanks to the results of everyone's hard work. Whether you're satisfied with whatever you've achieved up until now or not, you have to thank yourself for the persistence and hard work you put in."

Mu Yuchen took a pause as he took another glass of wine from a waiter passing by. He raised the glass and then continued, "I hope everyone can keep it going and fight for a chance of a double win. I've taken out a percentage of company's profit as a reward. How much you reap will depend on the work you sow. I look forward to the day everyone is able to make me regret my decision to reward a portion of the company's profit. This one is to thank you and ask you to have high expectations of yourself. Also, an early Happy New Year to everyone!"

Mu Yuchen then raised his glass while the crowd gave him a round of applause along with some roaring cheers.

This man was skilled at reading people's hearts. He knew what they were thinking. Just a simple few words were able to bring the dinner to another level. Everyone felt hot-blooded and believed that they could achieve their dreams by just following him, even to a height that scared them.

The atmosphere heated up, and everyone could feel their fighting spirits emerging. The whole hall was cheering and screaming, mixing together with the noise of wine glasses clinking each other.

"Thank yourselves! Anticipate yourselves! Happy New Year!"

Such an elegant and aloof male figure had made many other men at the scene feel discouraged, yet his existence made most of the females blush for him. Even the female celebrities could not wait to have a toast with Mr. Mu.

Liu Lingyu, Zhang Lan, and the others swiftly went around to have a toast with the employees from different departments. Only Mu Yuchen, Xi Xiaye, and a few other external managers were left at the table.

Xi Xiaye sat right opposite of Mu Yuchen, so she could see him by just raising her head. She saw Ah Mo and two men in black suits block the women trying to get near him. Glancing at him, she murmured, "Social butterfly..."

She then stood up with her wine glass and was about to join Vice President Liu with his rounds of toasts when unexpectedly, the man opposite her smiled and went up to her.

“What bad things were you making up about me just now?” He whispered to her in a calm tone.

Xi Xiaye glanced at his eyes. She did not expect him to find out. “How would I dare say bad things about you? I’m complimenting you for being such a lovable social butterfly...”

Mu Yuchen was stunned when he heard Xi Xiaye’s words. He squinted his eyes as they emitted a dangerous glance. However, as if to correspond with Xi Xiaye, a charming voice reached their ears—

“Chairman Mu...”

It was a familiar, gentle voice.

Xi Xiaye’s lips formed a shallow smile as she glanced at the man meaningfully. Then, she turned around and saw Xi Xinyi in her snow-white dress, looking just like an elegant angel as she stood before them.

Chapter 114. Glory World Anniversary (5)

She was smiling with a glass of wine in her hand, but her eyes froze when she saw Xi Xiaye. Then, smiled. “I see Sis. Director Xi is here as well.”

Xi Xiaye looked at her indifferently with the intent of mocking her. Those eyes made Xi Xinyi feel a little uncomfortable.

“Chairman Mu, I wasn’t able to give you a proper greeting the last time. I’m glad that we get to meet again. I’m also honored to be invited to attend your anniversary. Here’s a toast to you!”

Xi Xinyi quickly averted her gaze towards Mu Yuchen on the side.

Mu Yuchen frowned slightly and looked at her sharply. Apparently, he reacted peculiarly and did not have any impression of her until Li Si came over and introduced, “Master, she’s Ms. Xi Xinyi. Do you still remember? We met once on the ground floor. She’s one of our ambassadors for Imperial Sky Jewellery City, so the PR Department invited her as a guest.”

Suddenly, Liu Lingyu and the others came back. Manager Fang of the Public Relations Department piped up, "That's right, Chairman Mu. Ms. Xi Xinyi is the newest star in the entertainment industry and she's extremely popular, that's why we decided to have her join us."

"Vice President Liu, Manager Fang!" Xi Xinyi went up to them with a beautiful smile, charming the socks off everyone around her.

"I'm really thankful for Manager Fang. I've been looking forward to working with a large organization like Glory World. It's a really great opportunity for me. I also want to thank Chairman Mu for giving me this chance, so here's cheers to you, Chairman Mu!"

Xi Xinyi's eyes looked genuine and thankful as she turned to the distant Mu Yuchen with a wide smile on her face. Her elegance shone and everyone around nodded along.

The quiet Mu Yuchen squinted his eyes and glanced at Xi Xinyi. He turned around and faced Xi Xiaye who had been looking at him before he asked quietly, "Director Xi, if I'm not mistaken, you're the one in charge of the Imperial Sky Entertainment City project, aren't you?"

Xi Xiaye was stunned by his question and she nodded. "Yes, Chairman Mu. I've been overseeing it from the point Director Chu passed it to me until the end of the project together with the recruitment of business partners."

"So, Director Xi is the one who worked the hardest here. Ms. Xi, you should thank our Director Xi instead of me. What does everyone think?"

Mu Yuchen gave Xi Xiaye a meaningful glance, his voice calm, but there was an odd underlying tone in his words.

"That's true, Ms. Xinyi. Director Xi did work her hardest." Liu Peilian went along with Mu Yuchen's words and glanced at Xi Xiaye before looking at Xi Xinyi. Her eyes brightened up as she pointed out, "Director Xi and Ms. Xinyi both have the surname Xi. You two..."

Xi Xinyi seemed shocked when she heard Liu Peilian. Her eyes looked towards Xi Xiaye. The way she seemed to be suppressing her excitement was rather obvious.

Xi Xiaye just smiled. Without even looking at Xi Xinyi and Liu Peilian, she looked at Liu Lingyu instead and in a respectful tone, she asked, "Vice President Liu, you have the surname Liu too. So does our Director Liu. Are you guys related in any way?"

She then gave him a cheeky eye signal. Liu Lingyu smiled back and said, "My family only had a single child for the past five generations. I've never heard of any relatives..."

Liu Peilian and Xi Xinyi were stunned and their expressions froze.

...

After a while, Xi Xinyi came back to her senses and looked at Mu Yuchen who was looking downward at his sleeves. He did not even look at her. However, Xi Xiaye was looking at her expressionlessly.

"D-Director Xi, thank you for your hard work. Cheers!"

Xi Xinyi bit her lip lightly and forced a smile on her face. Then, she returned to her elegant self and raised her glass to Xi Xiaye.

"You're welcome."

Xi Xiaye did not mind. She glanced at Mu Yuchen as she raised her wine glass before emptying it in the next moment.

Mu Yuchen glanced at Ah Mo who nodded as he walked forward. A rare smile appeared on his handsome face, "Master, since it's the time for gratitude, why not get Ms. Xi to sing for Director Xi on stage? I heard that Ms. Xi's voice is absolutely charming..."

Ah Mo's suggestion received nods of agreement from Liu Lingyu and his group. The people behind like Zhang Lan nodded as well.

Mu Yuchen looked over at Xi Xiaye and he spoke quietly, "What do you think, Missus? Remember you owe me one!"

His voice was so hushed that only the two of them could hear what he said.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows as she stared at him. She did not reply.

The man's eyes seemed as if they were smiling, but his face looked indifferent as usual. "I'd take your silence as a default yes then. Will you do it, Ms. Xi?"

His expression softened as a warm smile appeared on his face. Even Xi Xinyi lost focus for a moment.

"Since Chairman Mu said so, it's my honor!" Xi Xinyi grinned. She handed the empty glass in her hand to the waiter beside her and lifted her skirts slightly before walking towards the stage.

With the emcee's passionate introduction, the crowd gave a round of applause as Xi Xinyi went up on stage.

Xi Xinyi took the mic over from the emcee as a tiny smile appeared on her beautiful face. She told the emcee what song was she going to sing, and soon a beautiful melody started playing...

When she noticed how odd things were, Xi Xiaye asked the man beside her quietly, "What are you trying to do?"

The man did not reply. Instead, he threw her an innocent and doubtful look mysteriously.

Xi Xiaye frowned. She sat back down when he already took his seat calmly.

Chapter 115. Glory World Anniversary (6)

One must admit that Xi Xinyi's voice was really amazing. The crowd responded to the love song from her very well. They cheered and screamed for her.

Even though she had seen Xi Xinyi appear on stage before, Xi Xiaye was still impressed by Xi Xinyi's presence on stage. Even the Vice Presidents and Directors were nodding their heads in approval too.

Xi Xiaye's eyes were as clear as the wind. She looked at the radiant Xi Xinyi on stage. After a while, she smiled as she chuckled to herself, then she sighed lightly and emptied her glass again.

Thunderous screams and claps went throughout the hall as Xi Xinyi finished with a song. At the moment she thanked = the crowd with a smile.

When the emcee was trying to say something, Ah Mo received the second eye signal from Mu Yuchen, so he swiftly went towards the stage.

Xi Xinyi was about to pass the mic back to the emcee when Ah Mo's cheerful voice reached her. "Ms. Xi, that's a great song, but it seems that our Director Xi prefers listening to French songs. Please sing a French song for us."

Xi Xinyi was stunned when she heard the request. She looked flusteredly at Ah Mo before she turned towards the direction of Mu Yuchen, but his back was facing her.

"Well..." Xi Xinyi felt awkward and she seemed troubled by the request. A tiny blush appeared on her beautiful face as she bit her red lips and said, "I'm sorry... I... I don't know how to sing French songs, so..."

"I see, then maybe you can sing one that you're familiar with then."

The crowd cheered with Ah Mo's words. Xi Xinyi nodded awkwardly and gave him a smile. "Alright then!"

Along with the gentle music playing, Xi Xinyi performed her second song on stage...

At that second, Xi Xiaye started to feel odd. She looked at Xi Xinyi on stage, and then glanced at the man opposite her.



Who said that she listened to French songs?

There were no French music CDs at her home!

Xi Xinyi's second song was soon finished, and the emcee swiftly shushed the crowd to quiet down. Soon, there was a short silence in the hall.

"Again." A deep voice broke the silence. The cold tone had the aura of an undeniable force and the crowd looked towards the source of the voice. They noticed Chairman Mu looking at Director Xi with a mysterious gaze, his expression calm as usual.

Xi Xiaye noticed something happening when she was sipping her wine. Raising her head, she realized that the man was staring at her intently. The people around her were focused on her as well, and she could feel the atmosphere getting tense.

As she was about to ask Liu Lingyu what happened, Mu Yuchen's deep voice continued, "Let's do it this way, since you're the ambassador of Imperial Sky Jewellery City, if you can keep singing and make Director Xi happy, I'll reward you with \$5 million."

Everyone was stunned when they heard Mu Yuchen. They thought they were hallucinating as they looked back and forth between Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye in disbelief...

\$5 million just to make Director Xi happy? What did he mean?

That was a little too...

Xi Xinyi never expected Mu Yuchen to say that. Her whole body froze up instantly and she stared at Xi Xiaye.

She could sense it slightly...

Mu Yuchen seemed not to like her. Just like when she met him at the entrance of Glory World the last time, he did not seem welcoming at all. She could not understand it. After all, she was pretty good at socializing, and she was never involved with Mu Yuchen before, so why would he...?

Could it be just her imagination?

Xi Xinyi had mixed feelings and her mind was full of doubts.

Mu Yuchen pivoted his body slightly when Xi Xinyi did not give her reply from the stage. He saw a subtle unnatural expression on her face as her eyes darkened slightly while she looked at him and chewed on her lip.

The crowd was silent. Everyone could feel a heavy atmosphere strangling them.

His face was as calm as ever, but it was exactly at this moment that people felt an extreme iciness from him.

“Not happy with it? \$10 million! As long as Director Xi is happy.”

A cold smile appeared on his face as he looked at Xi Xinyi cruelly.

Some people covered their mouths in surprise when his words reached their ears. They were utterly shocked.

Xi Xinyi started to fluster. Anyone could understand that Mu Yuchen was just regarding her as a trivial singer there to perform for him.

She was reminded of that time in the coffee shop.

Xi Xinyi's grip on the mic stiffened and her face started to look pale. Her eyes were getting slightly watery as she looked at Mu Yuchen with a pitiful expression and muttered, “Chairman Mu, I... I've already sung two songs...”

“\$20 million?”

Mu Yuchen grinned. He increased the amount decisively, his tone still cold. “Ms. Xi, I’m very unhappy with your attitude right now. You’ve signed your contract with us, so you have to do your part.”

“Chairman Mu, I... I’m just... I...”

“Glory World cares a lot about attitude and quality. From the perspective of an ambassador, how many points do you think you deserve today, Ms. Xi?” Mu Yuchen continued viciously.

“I’m sorry, Chairman Mu. I... I’ll sing, I’ll sing!”

Xi Xinyi took a deep breath. She looked at Xi Xiaye with a complicated gaze, but she was just looking downwards and sipping her wine as if what happened had nothing to do with her. Xi Xinyi’s face turned even paler than before.

Mu Yuchen’s phone on the table vibrated. He glanced at the screen for a moment, then stood up and walked towards the exit with his phone without even looking at Xi Xinyi. Ah Mo and the others followed him too.

He was always like this. He would never spend a minute extra with any woman even if it was a well-loved celebrity.

The sudden change of atmosphere caught people off-guard. Even the emcee had no idea what to do as the crowd watched Mu Yuchen disappear at the exit and they could not react.

After a while, Chairman Mu’s assistant, Li Si, came back quickly and took the mic from the emcee. He said in an apologetic tone, “Sorry, Chairman Mu has been busy for the whole day and he was feeling a little tired, so he’ll go back now first. Chairman Mu said that Vice President Liu will take over now. Everyone, please enjoy yourself, and as an apology, he has prepared a gift for everyone. Someone will hand it out at the end of the dinner.”

The crowd came back to their senses when they heard Li Si's voice and they cheered loudly.

A materialistic apology was easier to accept. Some people started to feel upset when they saw the pale and awkward-looking Xi Xinyi on stage...

How dare this woman?! Chairman Mu was generous enough to reward her, and Director Xi was her superior in a sense, yet she dared to put on an attitude when she was just asked to sing a few songs! Great, now Chairman Mu had become unhappy!

Chapter 116. Actually, You Can Be A Bit More Mean (1)

The sudden change of events caught Liu Lingyu and the other top brass off-guard. Of course, they did not forget that the reason Chairman Mu caused a fuss was because of their Planning Director, Xi Xiaye.

They all looked at Xi Xiaye when they came back to their senses. Xi Xiaye was sipping her wine and enjoying her food calmly as if she was not involved in the matter.

"Director Xi, Chairman Mu..."

As Liu Lingyu was about to ask her something, Li Si went towards her and stood beside her. He told her quietly, "Director Xi, Master is waiting for you outside."

Xi Xiaye froze and thought about what the message, then she frowned. She replied, "But the dinner isn't over yet. What about the awards ceremony?"

Did he not mention she was going to receive a big prize?

"Master said the PR Department will keep it for you," Li Si whispered.

Xi Xiaye hesitated and glanced at Xi Xinyi who was walking down from the stage with a ghastly face. Along with the odd gaze from everyone, she pressed a finger on her forehead in her thoughts...

After a while, she took a deep breath before standing up. She grabbed her windbreaker from the back of her chair and went outside the hall.

The crowd was shocked as Xi Xiaye left the venue.

Director Xi had left right after Chairman Mu. Something was definitely going on!

However, it was understandable. With someone of Chairman Mu's caliber, it was not unusual for a beautiful woman like Director Xi to be beside him.

Moreover, they look really matching together just now!

People started discussing it. Somehow, gossiping about their superiors peculiarly made them happy.

Soon, all of them forgot about the singing incident that happened just moments ago. To them, it was more fun to gossip about people in their company.

...

As for Xi Xiaye, the moment she walked out the entrance of Imperial Sky Hotel, she saw Mu Yuchen leaning against the Cayenne she had driven over as he was making a phone call.

Mu Yuchen hung up on the call when he heard the terse sound of her high heels clicking on the floor. She walked past the dim streetlights and arrived behind him.

"Why are you so impatient to leave? I haven't eaten much yet. I've been busy for the whole day and I didn't even get to receive my award. You left the whole company behind. You don't really seem to be a proper chairman!" Xi Xiaye stopped before him and looked at him with her eyebrows raised.

Mu Yuchen stared at her. He could not help but ask when he saw her indifferent expression, "What a heartless woman! Who do you think I did it for and who told you to allow the media partners to join in?"

"I just think Manager Fang's proposal made sense, so..." Xi Xiaye stared at him cautiously as she spoke in a quiet tone.

“Don’t be involved with people of the mass media industry anymore. I’ve gotten Ah Mo to remove them already.”

“Why?” Xi Xiaye looked at him in doubt.

“There’s no why.” Mu Yuchen did not give an explanation. He took her car keys and unlocked the car, then he opened the door. “It’s cold outside. We’ll talk in the car.”

He sat in the front passenger seat. She went quiet for a while before going in the car as well.

“You did it on purpose just now, didn’t you?” Xi Xiaye took the keys back from him as she asked him. He was casually resting with his eyes closed.

“On purpose? I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he replied without opening his eyes.

Xi Xiaye glanced at him, then she moved over and strapped the safety seatbelt on for him. “Stop pretending. Your move dragged me down as well. I bet the whole company will think that there’s something between us after what happened tonight.”

“What kind of something?” Mu Yuchen opened his eyes and he looked at Xi Xiaye calmly. “We’re a legally married couple now. What’s wrong with that? Do you still want to ignore our relationship and continue pretending to be an ordinary office lady?”

“I don’t want people to misunderstand that I might be in my current position because of you,” Xi Xiaye gave it some thought before admitting to him in a genuine tone.

Mu Yuchen laughed, his large hand patting her head. “So what if people misunderstand? You have to understand you’d need a great deal of charm to do that. It’s not a bad thing. You have no idea that you’ve achieved something so many women would be jealous of, Missus. Why would you think of it the other way round?”

"I can't win this argument. Anyway, I'm not close to you in the company." Xi Xiaye glared at him as she slapped his hand on her head. She explained, "You've never seen how the employees act when they see you..."

"You're not very close to me at home too. This request is not approved. Rejected," he replied before she could finish her sentence.

"Mu Yuchen!" She put on a stern face as she glared at him, but he just raised his eyebrows calmly. He then closed his eyes and continued to rest.

"I really want to hit you!" She mumbled angrily. Taking a deep breath, she then put on her own safety belt.

Even though she was angry, she knew that he did what he had tonight for her. It would be a lie if she said she did not feel any sense of gratitude. Softening, she glanced beside her. "Mu Yuchen?"

"Mmm?" He replied in a neutral tone.

"To be able to see Xi Xinyi have a hard time tonight... I actually felt pretty good about it. Thanks..." Her voice reached him while genuine emotions of gratitude welled up in her eyes.

"Then, have you thought about how to thank me?" The man opened his eyes again and looked at her cheekily, his deep-sounding voice as charming as ever.

Xi Xiaye buried her forehead in her hands when she saw his smile. "What do you want me to do?"

Mu Yuchen laughed. "Buy me a meal then, Missus."

"Can I settle it with just a meal?"

"I don't mind if you want to do something special, but are you willing to?"

“That’s smart of you. If it weren’t for you I’d still be enjoying my meal inside!”

Chapter 117. Actually, You Can Be A Bit More Mean (2)

Xi Xiaye brought Mu Yuchen over to a hotpot shop near the New Era Plaza.

There was quite a crowd inside the shop. The couple sat in a corner. Looking outside the window beside them, they could see the big public square under the New Era Plaza.

She had quite an appetite that day. Most of the food they ordered went into her stomach while Mu Yuchen did not really eat much. Instead, he kept adding the ingredients into the pot for her.

Xi Xiaye picked up a slice of lotus root and put it into her bowl. She suddenly looked at the man opposite her who lowered his head while drinking some tea. He had hardly touched his chopsticks. “Do you not like it? I didn’t really see you eat anything.”

She scooped up a bunch of food and put them into his bowl.

“You eat yours. I want to see how much of a fight you can put up,” Mu Yuchen stopped her hand and replied, glancing at the empty plate.

Xi Xiaye looked over at what he was staring at. It seemed that her enormous appetite shocked the man.

“It’s not like you’ve never seen it before...” She retracted her hand and lowered her head.

“What expression is that? I’m not dissing you. It’s a blessing to be able to eat. Anyway, you’re too skinny. You might be able to show more of your charming points if you eat a little more.” Mu Yuchen glanced over at her, then he grabbed some tissues and handed them to her.

“Don’t you guys like slender figures?” Xi Xiaye took the tissues from him and wiped her mouth daintily. She raised her glass as she looked at him. “About what happened today, do you think we were being mean?”

Mu Yuchen raised his eyebrows as her words reached his ears. He looked at her without replying.



She frowned and gulped down some alcohol as a cold smile appeared on her face, "Actually, I don't mind being even meaner..."

She suddenly laughed cheekily. "Mr. Mu, I thought you'd cancel the contract with her angrily and kick her out of Glory World."

Mu Yuchen laughed when he saw the glitter in her eyes. He put his glass down and said, "You wish! Do you think I'm a dictator who'd fire people without any reason?"

"You generously used \$20 million to mock her. You probably wouldn't care about paying \$10 million to terminate the contract," Xi Xiaye pointed out.

"That's enough. Your IQ is tough to look at. You're her superior now. Isn't it easy to give her a hard time at any moment?" He said it so easily with a cold light in his eyes. Xi Xiaye was slightly stunned.

Was that the right thing to tell anyone else?

"You... are way meaner!" Xi Xiaye replied after a while. She suddenly had a premonition. Birds of a feather flocked together. Being with this man for long would definitely corrupt her mind...

There was a huge crowd outside when they left the hotpot shop. It was just a few days before the New Year's Eve and large lanterns were hung around the New Era Plaza. The whole place was brimming with festivity.

Xi Xiaye felt a little bloated from all the food she just ate, so Mu Yuchen suggested walking around the plaza. Thinking about it, they had never taken walks together at night before.

In the plaza, Mu Yuchen casually put his arm over Xi Xiaye's shoulder as the two of them slowly walked past the dim streetlights. The wind blew past them and Mu Yuchen's windbreaker was now slung over Xi Xiaye's shoulder.

"The New Year is coming soon. Don't we need to prepare some gifts? The Mu Residence..."

After a while, Xi Xiaye suddenly stopped walking and looked at him doubtfully, she did not forget about the fact that she was married into the Mu family. Wang Hui had even called her this morning and asked her how she was doing.

“We’ll go back for a reunion dinner on New Year’s Eve. We’ll go back to Maple Residence two days after that.”

When Mu Yuchen turned over to see her deep in thought, he laughed. “What now? Are you thinking about how to put up a good image in front of my parents and grandparents?”

“I always have an impressionable image to them, alright?”

Xi Xiaye glanced at him with a light in her eyes. “Moreover, I’m trying so hard to fit in, yet you never even praised me and there’s no reward of any kind either.”

He was really tall, so she still had to raise her head slightly to talk to him comfortably even when she wore heels. Sometimes, she could even feel a slight pressure on her.

Mu Yuchen was a little flustered when he heard her. His grip on her shoulder tightened slightly as he spoke in a gentle tone, “Okay, thank you for your hard work, Missus. How’d you like me to reward you? You’re not a high school girl anymore. Why would you need a reward as an encouragement? Aren’t you a self-proclaimed new era strong woman? Yet, you’re worried about small things like these.”

Mu Yuchen did not know that Xi Xiaye acted that way because she felt that the people from the Mu family were treating her very well, especially Wang Hui. She would call her from time to time to check up on her. Such attention gave her an indescribable sense of warmth.

She wanted to keep this warmth inside her.

For some reason, when Xi Xiaye saw his indifferent eyes, she blurted out a question. “Mu Yuchen, do you rarely communicate with your family? I feel that your relationship with them... is kind of... weak...”

Xi Xiaye's words stunned Mu Yuchen. She was looking at him in the eye and she caught the subtle glimpse of darkness, but it swiftly returned to normal.

"Mmm, I rarely stayed at home the past few years."

As he was talking, his arms over her shoulder pushed her forward slightly. "I went to a boarding school since I was young. My parents were busy with work and we hardly got to chat with each other. They are very strict with their children, including Ling... Lingshi. While our family is quite well-off, I don't exactly have a relaxed life."

"Lingshi?" Xi Xiaye quickly caught the key point and she asked doubtfully.

"Mmm, Lingshi...she'll only return after the New Year. She's sweet. I guess you'll like her," Mu Yuchen replied neutrally.

"Don't your parents... only have one son?" Xi Xiaye asked.

Chapter 118. Going Along!

She remembered that Zhuang Shurong and Mu Tangchuan only had one son, and now...

"Lingshi is my aunt's daughter. She's my cousin," he replied quietly.

"Aunt?"

Xi Xiaye was shocked.

She had never heard about Mu Yinan having a daughter. Did they not just have one son, Mu Tangchuan? Did they have a daughter?

"She's not with us anymore. Don't mention it. My parents took Lingshi in like their real daughter, so Lingshi calls them Father and Mother too since they don't want her to feel different from any other children."

He did not seem very willing to explain any further and stopped talking. Xi Xiaye realized his expression was calm, yet the silence in his eyes was somewhat different than usual.

After giving it some thought, she did not ask anything else. She just pulled the corner of his shirt...

He did not want to think about it, so she would not force it. After all, everyone needed their own space. Take her for example. He had never asked her about her past and she knew that the past did not matter to them. What mattered was the present and the future.

Would they just go through their life plainly?

It was not a bad idea. Was it not usual for all the tumultuous loves and desires return to their initial calmness? Maybe what could stand through the trial of time was not the excitement that once happened; it was the gentle and slow calm of a relationship.

She realized that it was not her appearance, but her inside that starting to get old.

The couple did not say a thing as they walked for a long distance. She could clearly feel the warmth from the man's hand on her shoulder, their shadows on the ground getting longer. At that moment, she suddenly felt that everything was not really important anymore...

When she was deep in thought, there were voices of people laughing in front, snapping her back to her senses. She noticed there was a young couple at the corner of the plaza, kissing each other passionately.

Xi Xiaye saw them, then she halted her steps and dragged Mu Yuchen beside her.

"What's wrong?" Mu Yuchen looked around the plaza. He threw her a doubtful glance as she was dragging him around.

"Mmpph!"

She used too much force and crashed into the streetlight on the roadside. Pain shot up her left shoulder as she let out a moan.

“What a klutz! How is it? Let me take a look!” Mu Yuchen scolded her. Before she could move, he grabbed her in his arms and lifted her coat slightly. He was relieved when he saw the wound had not opened up.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath as he rubbed the spot she bumped. She then glanced over at the young couple and they were still going at it. They were totally oblivious to what was happening around them.

“It’s alright. I’m fine. Let’s... Let’s go back.” Xi Xiaye dragged him away awkwardly, not wanting to interrupt them.

“If they dare to do it, why are you afraid to look? It’s not like you’ve never done it before...”

Mu Yuchen stood right there without moving. His large hand grabbed onto her wrist as she tried to struggle out of his grip but failed.

“It’s immoral to disturb others at a time like this, Mu Yuchen!” She frowned at Mu Yuchen, her thin lips like rosebuds swaying in the wind. Mu Yuchen’s darkened eyes were suddenly filled with glittering light.

“If we do so, then we’re not disturbing and just going along with them, aren’t we?”

His deep voice sounded charming. Before Xi Xiaye could react, he dragged her nearer to him and a cold kiss fell onto her in a tyrannic and irresistible manner...

His scent flooded over her, his exploration bringing with it a faint temperature. After several attempts, he casually explored deeper into her mouth, taking her breath away.

He held her hands tightly and a slightly warm layer of sweat formed between their palms. She was stunned for a moment but did not reject it. She did not say anything and just allowed him to do his thing.

After some time, she could feel herself panting. She raised her other hand and waved it around behind him. In the end, she gently embraced his strong hips.

His hands on her waist tightened to the point that she almost merged into him. His large body covered her whole body and her figure was engulfed into his shadow under the streetlight.

Suddenly, his rationality dragged him back. He pulled himself away from her lips and held her tight as he was panting. "Missus, when will we be able to do what a married couple does? When's your wound going to heal? My self-constraint might not be as good as I thought..."

Xi Xiaye, who just came back to her senses, was gasping as well. She could feel her face getting hot when she heard his words. She guessed that her face was totally red right then. He threw her a glance that flickered with fireworks and she looked away in embarrassment.

"You... It'll be soon. It's been so many days already, hasn't it? And aren't you...?" Xi Xiaye gave him an odd gaze.

They had been married for quite some time and they shared the same bed every night. He always seemed so indifferent, so she thought he was really suffering from frigidity...

"Are you imagining me to be some abnormal man?" As if he could read her mind, Mu Yuchen looked back at her odd glance, a dangerous light kindling in his eyes.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows and looked back at him with a chuckle.

Mu Yuchen's expression darkened slightly. After a while, he laughed instead of getting angry. His voice was calm., "You'll pay for thinking of me that way."

"I'm so scared, Mr. Mu!" Xi Xiaye shrugged and threw him a stare before walking forward.

Chapter 119. Visit

The next day was a Friday. Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye woke up early in the morning.

The whole company would go on holiday starting that afternoon. Just like most other companies, they would take a break until the eighth day of the New Year. Work would resume on the eighth day.

There were some things that needed to be packed in the office. After some consideration, Xi Xiaye decided to go back to the office.

Su Chen and Zhou Zimo were going over in the evening. Sis Wang and the others were on a break too, so they had to prepare dinner for themselves. These things were usually handled by Mu Yuchen who had a rather unusual way of living.

Usually, people like him would have a lot of servants at home as things were in the Mu Residence. There were about a dozen of them including the housekeeper and the maids.

Wang Hui suggested to shift several servants from Mu Residence over, but Mu Yuchen had rejected the notion. Xi Xiaye did not say anything since she was used to staying alone anyway.

The building was somewhat empty when she arrived at the office. Most of the employees had left after they were done packing up their stuff.

Inside the office, Xi Xiaye was reorganizing her documents on the table and putting them into her briefcase. Her assistant Xiao Mei knocked on the door and came in with a gift box.

“Director Xi!” Xiao Mei smiled at her.

Xi Xiaye raised her head and said in a calm tone, “Haven’t you gone back home yet?”

Xiao Mei laughed and then placed the item in her hands onto the table. “Soon! I’ve booked my ticket and will be leaving this afternoon. Director Xi, Manager Fang’s assistant from the PR Department sent this over. It’s a reward for you. Director, your reward has the top amount among all! When Vice President Liu announced your name, everyone was so excited. Director Liu was also stunned!”

Reward?

Xi Xiaye glanced at the gift box on the table. She remembered what Mu Yuchen had told her the day before, so she nodded. "Mmm, I got it. Please thank Manager Fang for me."

"Noted, Director!" Xiao Mei replied with a smile. Suddenly, she glanced at Xi Xiaye and saw she looked just like her usual self, so she asked carefully, "Director Xi, did you take a look at the finance and entertainment papers today?"

"What finance and entertainment papers?" Xi Xiaye looked doubtful, but her hands did not stop working as she tidied all the books on the table into the bookshelf behind.

"Well, it's about what happened last night... It seems to have caused a huge fuss. It took up a whole section and two popular weekly papers did several pages on it," Xiao Mei replied with a frown. She seemed curious and asked, "Director Xi, I think Xi Xinyi was pretty cocky. Chairman Mu asked her to sing and she gave so many excuses. Who does she think she is? Not only did she make Chairman Mu unhappy, but people like her have no right to even talk to him. Everyone knows that he dislikes dealing with models and celebrities, yet she thought she was different!"

Xi Xiaye frowned at Xiao Mei's words. Weekly newspapers? She thought the man said he had chased them away.

What was happening?

After a brief moment of silence, she sort of caught the gist of it, so she looked at Xiao Mei and laughed. "I didn't expect you guys to be so loyal towards Chairman Mu."

"Of course, the one who pays is our boss. Not only is Chairman Mu the boss of Glory World, but he's our Prince Charming. He's so elegant and charismatic. There's a saying..."

"Low-profile, luxurious, a true gentleman?"

Xi Xiaye went along with her when she saw Xiao Mei's besotted expression.



Xiao Mei quickly nodded her head. "That's right! That's it! All the female employees are in love with him. Xi Xinyi was almost killed by the mere sight of everyone after Chairman Mu left! Hmm, Director Xi, are you... related to Chairman Mu? Well, everyone's been saying that he and you..."

As expected, the way people looked at her today was somewhat different.

She gave it some thought and simply said, "Relatives."

Xi Xiaye then continued with what she was working on. Was that wrong? Being a married couple was a type of relative relationship, was it not?

"Relatives?" Xiao Mei looked at Xi Xiaye in shock, she then grinned. "Director, is Chairman Mu your cousin?"

Cousin?

Xi Xiaye was stunned. She stared at Xiao Mei but did not reply. Xiao Mei thought she defaulted her answer by not saying anything. However, when she was about to leave the room, Xi Xiaye's voice reached her. "Don't just guess randomly. Get me the magazines you mentioned just now."

"Okay, Director!" Xiao Mei stuck her tongue out cheekily. After a while, she came back with two newspapers.

"Alright, you should go back now. Happy New Year to you. This is a gift for you. We've worked pretty hard, so go and relax for now. Things will get tougher after the holidays."

"Thank you, Director. You should go back home soon too. Happy New Year!" Xiao Mei thanked her and left the room with a big smile.

Xi Xiaye sat down in her office chair and started reading the papers.

A whole section discussed what happened last night, but it was mostly about how Xi Xinyi put up such an atrocious attitude. There were also several comments from other celebrities revealing some gossip about Xi Xinyi.

At the end, the article also speculated that Glory World Corporation might decide to remove Xi Xinyi as the ambassador for Imperial Sky Jewellery City.

Xi Xiaye could already guess where these negative news about Xi Xinyi came from. If not, why would all of them be targeted towards Xi Xinyi?

There were also mentions of Xi Xinyi and Han Yifeng's matter. Xi Xiaye then remembered that today was their engagement ceremony!

She went silent and threw the papers away into the dustbin. Just as she was about to leave with her briefcase, her office phone rang.

"Hello?" She picked it up swiftly.

It was a call from the receptionist on the first floor.

"Hello? Is this Director Xi?"

"I'm Xi Xiaye."

"Hi, Director Xi. There's a Mr. Xi here asking for you. Would you be able to meet him?"

Chapter 120. Xi Xiaye's Wrath!

When she walked out of the building, she saw a black car parked in the public parking space opposite. Xi Mushan was standing beside his car as he looked upwards at the enormous building.

He averted his gaze away from the building when he noticed Xi Xiaye walking towards him and he looked at her calmly.

“What are you doing here?” Xi Xiaye asked coldly as she arrived before him

There were many people walking in and out of the building at the moment, so she walked to a nearby flowerbed.

“Didn’t we ask you to come back the other day? I was passing by, so I decided to drop by.” Xi Mushan’s voice sounded tranquil, yet his eyes were looking at Xi Xiaye sharply. A strong determination that could not be ignored lied in his eyes, forcing people to succumb to him as usual.

“I’m not going back,” she said indifferently.

“We want to take a full family photo during this occasion. It’s what everyone wishes for. Going back just for a little bit wouldn’t take too much of your time.” Xi Mushan looked at her as he gave it some thought. He then said quietly, “It’s the New Year soon. I have something for your mother too...”

“It’s fine. My mother never wanted anything from you, so you can keep them for your wife and daughter. I just hope that you and the people from the Xi family can stop bothering me and my mother ever again. Can you please let Mother go?” Xi Xiaye looked squarely at Xi Mushan in the eyes.

He almost forgot that although her daughter did not seem very close to her mother, she was actually very protective of Shen Wenna. Every time she was mentioned, she would get oddly worked up.

Xi Mushan suddenly frowned before he asked Xi Xiaye, “Did they go to look for your mother?”

She glanced at him coldly without replying.

His eyes darkened for a brief moment when Xi Xiaye did not reply to him, but they swiftly returned to normal. “Are you sure you’re not coming back with me?”

“What for? To just smile and witness how happy they are, or do you want me to keep Qi Kai’s Master company? Become his lover? And then marry him?” Xi Xiaye laughed coldly as a headstrong aura shrouded her slim body. She took a deep breath and calmed her emotions down. “You’re my father who

gave me life, so I respect you that much, but this doesn't mean I'll always succumb to the Xi family. I'm tired. If you guys are going to treat me this way, don't think that all of you will have it any easier!"

"That's enough, Xiaye! Don't speak that way! You're the same as your mother. Can't you give in?" Xi Mushan frowned with a mixed expression. His deep eyes hid too many secrets. Xi Xiaye had never seen through him just like how she had never seen through what Shen Wenna was thinking.

"Give in? Give in to you marrying Yue Lingsi and letting Xi Xinyi into the Xi family? Have you forgotten how I pulled on your leg and begged you to not let Mother leave? I was forced to be expelled from the military academy. Pray, clarify, how did I beg you to help me again?"

Xi Xiaye laughed at herself and took another deep breath. "You're my father. Please tell me why do I have a father like you? Ever since I was little, Xi Xinyi has taken away everything that should have been mine. What else did you do apart from looking on quietly? Whatever! There's no point talking to you about this anyway. I'm sure I made my point clear. Go back. I really don't want to see you."

"Xiaye!"

Xi Mushan grabbed her and blocked her way when he saw her turn away from him. He looked downwards at her. "I know you hate me as a father, but no matter what, it won't change the fact that you're my daughter."

He stared deeply at Xi Xiaye, his tone of voice suddenly softening as he sighed, "Come back with me. There's something I need you to hand to your mother. If you don't want me to look for her, please deliver it for me. With me there, you don't have to worry about them giving you a hard time."

He then gave his secretary behind him an eye signal, and the secretary quickly opened the car door.

"You're becoming more and more like your mother... I remember that you're already 26, the age at which your mother gave birth to you..."

Xi Mushan's seemed a little absent-minded when he looked at Xi Xiaye. He left her with those words before boarding his car.

Xi Xiaye remained stationary for a long time and did not move. She just watched Xi Mushan in the car.

“Miss, please go back with the Mayor. Ms. Xinyi’s engagement party is going to start soon. The Mayor actually came here just to take a look at you. If he didn’t come, Elder Madam would’ve come instead. Elder Madam was very angry after she found out about what happened to Ms. Xinyi at the Glory World anniversary celebration. The Mayor is leaving City Z this evening and he’s worried that you can’t handle it alone, so...” The secretary, Ah Hui, told her.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows and grinned coldly. “So, Xi Xinyi went and made up a story about how I gave her a hard time? You guys just can’t wait to judge me already!”

“Miss, the Mayor doesn’t mean any malice. He hopes that you can leave City Z with him for a few days, and then settle these matters afterward,” Ah Hui sighed.

Xi Xiaye laughed. “There’s no need. Why don’t you tell me how Xi Xinyi acted delicate and cried about me bullying her? The papers are boosting her popularity now. She should really be thanking me...”

Before Xi Xiaye could finish her sentence, her phone rang in her shirt pocket. She took it out and realized that Shen Wenna was calling her!

“Mother...”

She picked up the call as she glanced over at Xi Mushan in the car.

“Xiaye, it’s me...” Shen Wenna’s cold voice came through the phone. “Yesterday, your grandmother and Xi Xinyi looked for me at the school about the document in your hands. Tell your father about this if he visits you. You don’t have to call him your father ever again if he can’t settle this for you.”

Shen Wenna hung up then.

Xi Xiaye was stunned. The keywords she caught on were that Deng Wenwen and Xi Xinyi had gone to look for Shen Wenna yesterday!

The atmosphere around suddenly turned heavy as she held her phone tightly and her eyes darkened.

Great!

Xi Xinyi, I've been enduring this for a very long time!

She let out a cold laugh and then got into Xi Mushan's car...