

Loving 1131

Chapter 1131. Old Illness (2)

When Gu Lingsha said that, Gu Qiwu's expression froze, but he did not flip out.

"I told you to get out." His low and raspy voice did not allow for objection.

"Father! Why are you like Mother? If not because of Mu Zi but because of Mother's miscarriage, I'm willing to have the two of you hit me and scold me! I already said that I didn't do it on purpose! It's all my fault! Just don't blame Mother for it, alright? You're wrong about some of these things too. If it weren't for your scandal with Mu Zi, Mu Lingshi wouldn't have come looking for trouble, and Mother wouldn't have fallen down the stairs and have a miscarriage!" Gu Lingsha started to lose control and shout! Her blue eyes contained tears from being wronged.

"I lost my little brother. If both of you want to blame someone, just blame me. Don't treat me like this because it makes me sad! Right now, you should be by Mother's side and not be grounding her. You know how Mother is like! No one's sadder than her about losing Little Brother—"

"Enough! Stop talking! Stop talking! If you say another word, I'll kill you!"

Gu Lingsha had not finished when suddenly she felt a breeze. Before she could react, she felt a dark figure on her, then her slender neck was being gripped in a chokehold! With her eyes wide open, when she saw Gu Qiwu with his eyes red with murderous rage, she could not help but feel terrified!

"Father...Father..."

She could barely breathe as she widened her eyes in terror and stared at Gu Qiwu. She struggled hard and could not finish her sentence.

Still, Gu Qiwu did not loosen his grip. He held her tighter instead, and there was almost no doubt that if he used more force in the next second, he could break Gu Lingsha's neck. Her blue eyes were filled with horror and she trembled as she looked at him.

Gu Qiwu's eyes were scarlet, and a cold and gloomy aura emanated from all over him!

“Brother? Where did you get a brother? Don’t bring that b*stard up to me! Do you hear me?! Where are you getting a brother from?! Where? Huh?” Gu Qiwu’s incensed bellow was filled with furious gunpowder as if it could instantly incinerate Gu Lingsha!

Because of the issue with Doris, Gu Qiwu was already mad and on the verge of breaking down. He had been cheated on by a woman he loved while she had done it so confidently without any regard for Gu Qiwu and stepped all over him. On top of that, she had racked her brains, thinking of ways to scheme against him, so how good of a mood could Gu Qiwu be in?

He wished he could just kill Doris right now!

When Gu Lingsha brought the child up, it clearly hit Gu Qiwu’s sore spot.

He gripped her tightly in a chokehold to the point that she could not breathe as she struggled in pain. Her pale little face was all red now while she was terrified and struggled hard as she hit Gu Qiwu, unable to utter a word.

After a while, Gu Qiwu found a sliver of rationality from his dazed self and suddenly let go of Gu Lingsha!

Bam!

Gu Lingsha fell to the ground all limply. As she took in huge breaths, there was still a terror in her eyes. She stared in fear at Gu Qiwu who emitted a chilly aura. Her frail body trembled as she breathed in hard. “Father...Father, what’s wrong? Little Brother—”

Bam, bam!

Pa!

As if a storm had landed, she immediately heard the sound of things shattering on the ground. In an instant, the teapot crashed to the floor!

“I told you to shut up! What brother? Your mother, that witch, betrayed me. Did you already know about this? And you keep calling him your little brother! All these years I’ve been so good to her, tolerating her, and this is how she treats me?”

Gu Qiwu kicked the chair aside angrily. The loud crash made Gu Lingsha instantly fall into a daze!

Her eyes widened as she looked at Gu Qiwu in shock.

What did he just say?

Betrayal?

Had her mother, Gu Lingsha, betrayed her father, Gu Qiwu?

Gu Lingsha could not immediately understand this news! Her mind buzzed and she subconsciously shook her head as she looked at him with wide-open eyes.

“What are you saying...b-betray...betrayed? How could this be? No way! Father, you’ve misunderstood Mother! There must be some kind of misunderstanding here. Father, calm down. I’m sure it’s not what you think...” Gu Lingsha started to explain incoherently.

“Not what I think?” Gu Qiwu’s expression darkened and his fists clenched tight. His red eyes glimmered with a cold light as he forced a laugh. “She already admitted it herself. There’s no need for me to imagine it. Do you think I wouldn’t have known if it were my child? That b*stard’s not even two months into term. I’ve been in City Z for the past few months! Tell me, how could it be mine? Could it be? Haven’t I been good enough to her? Haven’t I been good to the two of you? How dare she cheat on me so publicly and even think of scheming against me?! Tell me! You tell me!” Gu Qiwu shouted violently at the top of his lungs. He was close to breaking down dejectedly. He no longer looked stern and prideful as he did in the past. Only bitter resentment was left, and there was a murderous aura radiating from him. Even Gu Lingsha was afraid by this sight!

“Father! Father! Calm down! Please calm down. Maybe it’s not what you think! Don’t be angry first, let’s all calm down, we can’t solve anything by being impulsive, cough, cough, cough—” Gu Lingsha rushed over frantically and quickly held him back!

“Let go of me! I want to kill that witch now!” Gu Qiwu’s fury was ablaze and he had gone mad now. All that crossed his mind was Doris’s nonchalant expression.

“Father, don’t! Calm down!”

“Let go of me! Go away!” Gu Qiwu struggled hard, and because he was too strong, he pushed her to the side while he rushed to the door.

Bam!

“Arghh!”

A shriek rang out as Gu Lingsha cried out in pain. She could not care about the pain that came from her wrist as she quickly reached out to hold Gu Qiwu and called out, “Father!”

However, before she could speak and hold onto Gu Qiwu’s sleeve, she suddenly saw his tall figure waver, and then—

“Pfft! Cough, cough, cough!”

There was the sound of profuse coughing, then came the strong smell of blood with the wind. Before she could react, Gu Qiwu was already holding his belly as he fell flat forward.

Chapter 1132. Old Illness (3)

The strong coppery smell of blood assailed her nostrils!

Before Gu Lingsha could react, Gu Qiwu could feel a piercing pain in his belly then came a dark whirlpool as his vision blacked out before he fell limp and fell flat forward!

“Father! Father! Are you okay, Father!?”

When she heard him fall hard to the ground, Gu Lingsha then panicked and shouted, s. She ran over frantically and helped Gu Qiwu up. Then, she realized that Gu Qiwu had one hand over his mouth while the other held his belly. There were already dark red seeping through his fingers from the hand over his mouth.

When Gu Lingsha saw that, her expression changed and she quickly cried out, “Father, Father, are you okay? What’s wrong? Someone, come quickly!”

At the sound of Gu Lingsha’s panicked voice, Ah Yong, who stood guard at the door, immediately rushed in. When he saw the situation, he was shocked and hurried over to his boss!

“Boss! Boss! Are you okay?”

Gu Qiwu could still stay semi-conscious, but his stern face was as pale as a sheet. He tried to get up as he gritted his teeth and pushed Gu Lingsha away. He did his best but could not muster the strength. As he could barely stand the piercing pain from his stomach, he fell limp again and lost consciousness!

Then, Ah Yong carried him up in a panic before rushing out!

Gu Lingsha followed behind him helter-skelter.

...

Gu Qiwu was sent straight to Hospital T while this news immediately reached Mu Yuchen.

In the corridor by the stairs at the South River Bridge, Mu Yuchen was inspecting the progress of the project with VP Zhang Lan. He had just come up from the work site when Li Si walked over quickly and whispered into his ear, “Master, big news! Gu Qiwu just vomited blood and was sent to the emergency ward. He’s still not out yet!”

Upon hearing that, Mu Yuchen stopped what he was doing and frowned at Li Si before he said, "What happened?"

Li Si shook his head as he responded softly, "We don't know what happened for now, but I heard that Gu Qiwu's always been a little sick. He has bad gastric problems. It's probably an old illness flaring up. When the hospital has more news, I'll inform you right away, Master!"

Mu Yuchen nodded gently. "Don't let this get out first. Let's observe the situation first."

Before Mu Yuchen continued to open the blueprint in his hand and study the worksite before him, he turned to Zhang Lan. "Make a copy of this blueprint and send it to CEO Xi of Fuhua." Then, he handed the blueprint over.

"Got it, Chairman Mu!"

Zhang Lan reached out to take it and bowed slightly. "Chairman Mu, the musical fountain is already halfway done and will probably take form at the end of next year or the year after that. The work progress is smooth. Thankfully, we have Master Qi's prompt supervision. He often comes over to inspect it personally."

"See if he needs any more help and do your best to provide it. Also, next week, the people from the government might be coming over for inspection, so you all have to be prepared to receive them."

"Yes, Chairman Mu, understood!" Zhang Lan responded humbly, then looked up at the sky. She realized that it was noon now. While she was hesitating about whether to have lunch with Mu Yuchen, he had already walked ahead.

"It's noon, VP Zhang. Let's have lunch together," he invited smoothly.

Zhang Lan then smiled and nodded. "Alright, it's great to have the honor to have lunch with you, Chairman Mu."

"You've been back to the headquarters for a while now, but I haven't had a meal with you, VP Zhang."

“Chairman Mu, you’re busy with many affairs every day, so we haven’t had the chance. Coincidentally, we can chat about the South River Project too.”

...

After lunch, Mu Yuchen went straight to the provincial hall building.

Indeed, he was going to look for Mu Tangchuan. When he was at lunch, he received a call from Mu Tangchuan to go over.

By the time he reached Mu Tangchuan’s office, Mu Tangchuan was returning from lunch as well, but what surprised him was that Zhuang Shurong was there too. She was by Mu Tangchuan’s side, and the husband and wife walked back to the office side by side.

“Father, Mother.” Mu Yuchen’s handsome face revealed tenderness as he called out to the two of them.

“Chen Er!” Zhuang Shurong looked at Mu Yuchen lovingly too.

“You’re here. Come in!” Mu Tangchuan smiled and took out his key to the office door. It was not time to get back to work yet, so it was quiet all around.

Mu Yuchen nodded, then followed them in.

Zhuang Shurong took out the tea leaves from Mu Tangchuan’s tea cupboard habitually and steeped some tea for the father and son.

“Mother, why are you here too?” Mu Yuchen sat down on the sofa and asked, puzzled.

“I happened to be nearby. Your father sent me a message, so we had lunch together. Things are more relaxed these few days, so I came over to visit, and I still need to get some things from his colleague

later. I've been running about here quite a few times, so I always come to visit your father," Zhuang Shurong said as she steeped the tea.

Mu Tangchuan took off his tie and sat across Mu Yuchen. "Play a game of chess with me. We'll talk as we play," he said while he began to set up the game. It was the game of Go.

"Father, I'm surprised that you're in such a mood." Mu Yuchen did not reject him and picked up a black piece to position it. "Father, you called me over about Aunt's matter, didn't you?" He did not have to guess.

"That's right. Your wife, Xiaye's been running to both houses these past two days. Your grandfather's much better now, but about your aunt and Gu Qiwu...I'm still worried. I don't want to ask too much about what you're planning on doing, but I hope you won't make things too difficult for Lingshi. I know that you're trying to investigate the accident from six years ago again."

"The accident from six years ago? Haven't we checked a few times and determined that it was an accident?" Zhuang Shurong piped up. Because it involved Mu Yuchen and Mu Lingtian, Zhuang Shurong had paid a lot of attention to this case too, so she knew about the case details very well. They had checked it over many times and the results were always the same. It had indeed been an accident!

"Mother, my instincts tell me that things aren't that simple, so I'd like to investigate it once more. Of course, I don't want the police to be involved. I'll let some trusted people take over. I'm just hoping that when the time comes, both of you can be accommodating."

"For your mother and I, as long as it's not an issue with principles, we'll do our best to help," Mu Tangchuan quickly answered softly while he placed the white chess piece in his hand on the board.

Chapter 1133. Old Illness (4)

Mu Yuchen paused, then nodded. "Thank you, Father, Mother!"

They could hear the gloominess in his tone. Mu Tangchuan then looked up at him and smiled. "Alright, these are our responsibilities after all. You shouldn't be the one who takes it all on."

Then, he turned to his wife, Zhuang Shurong, who was steeping tea. "Ah Rong, go get that case file from the middle drawer at my work desk."

Zhuang Shurong served the two of them tea before walking over and bringing the file over to hand to him.

Mu Tangchuan glanced at Mu Yuchen and indicated for him to take it. Mu Yuchen played the black chess piece in hand before taking it. After he opened it and had a look, his handsome face flushed with tenderness.

Mu Tangchuan sighed slightly before he said, "Your mother and I can only do so much. These old cases are considered confidential. There are too few clues, so if you want to investigate again, it won't be easy. I understand what you're trying to do, so I don't want to alert anyone else either. You've got to play your own cards well."

"Don't worry, Father, Mother. I'll do my best, and the two of you don't need to interfere as well."

"Mmm, thank you for your hard work. For Doris and Gu Qiwu's matter, your mother and I know about it. That child isn't Gu Qiwu's, is it?"

Mu Tangchuan was not a fool either. He knew some things, so it was no surprise that he could detect that something was fishy.

Mu Yuchen nodded and answered calmly, "Mmm, it's not. Because of this, Gu Qiwu and Doris had a fallout. Doris wants to use Gu Qiwu and Aunt's matter to get ahead. With both your wits, I think you can figure out her reason, so I won't explain anymore."

Upon hearing that, Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong exchanged a look. After a while, the husband and wife nodded knowingly.

"With your hints, we get it."

"Ah Chen, I know that you have your own way of dealing with things, but I hope you can take care of yourself. I'm worried that Doris will go after you. You should know that she isn't a nice one. She might act out in anger. She's not a woman that plays by the rules, and her tricks are vicious too. Since she

dares to go against Gu Qiwu, she must have something up her sleeve, and if she escapes abroad, it will be hard for us to work with.”

At this point, Mu Tangchuan could not help but frown worriedly. He picked his tea up to take a sip while his eyes remained on the chessboard before him. “In fact, I’ve roughly looked through her background. I realize that most of her networks are abroad. You should know that we’ve got limited capabilities. Given a situation like hers, it’s not easy to handle.”

“Your father’s right, so you have to be careful. Also, even if you want to investigate because you have doubts about the incident from six years ago, you have to be careful. Don’t alert anyone else. Got it?” Zhuang Shurong said earnestly, her eyes filled with concern.

“Don’t worry, Father, Mother. It’s not the first time I’m doing these things. I’ll take good care of myself, Xiaye, and the rest.” Mu Yuchen laughed softly while the smile on his face was slightly strained as he played the next move.

Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong exchanged a look, nodded, and then felt more relieved.

He thought about it before deciding to tell Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong about this news, “Gu Qiwu’s not in great health this morning. He was sent to the hospital. Li Si’s waiting for news at the hospital.”

“For someone like him, even if he’s gotten some kind of chronic illness, he doesn’t deserve pity. Not only did he ruin Zixi’s life, but Lingtian and Lingshi were also implicated. He wouldn’t even acknowledge his own daughter, so how can he call himself a man?!” Zhuang Shurong’s cold voice was sharp and unkind.

Mu Tangchuan thought about it before he said, “I think that he’s just worried about the whole thing being exposed. From another perspective, even if he acknowledged Lingshi, it may not be a good thing.”

“Do you still pity him? Think about how Zixi...I’ll never forget that scene. You won’t understand how cruel it was for Mother who had to witness it personally!”

“Alright, Ah Yong. Let’s not bring this up anymore.” Mu Tangchuan dared not recall that scene. It was too tragic!

"I've witnessed Doris's capabilities. She's a handful. Back when Gu Lingsha vanished after the car accident, she came to look for your grandmother once, but she wasn't home, so I entertained her. She doesn't like me, so you'll have to be more vigilant." Mu Yuchen nodded with some thoughts of his own.

He did not stay too long, so they could not finish the chess game. Mu Tangchuan's secretary came over to remind him about a meeting, so he left.

...

When Mu Yuchen called Xi Xiaye to wrap up with work, she thought it was weird.

It was close to the evening at the moment. The warm, golden light engulfed the whole place while the evening breeze blew gently.

"Why did you finish work so early? I wasn't done with some documents yet!" Xi Xiaye had just gotten into the car when Mu Yuchen, who sat in the driver's seat, leaned over to help her put on the safety belt.

"It was almost time. You can just finish them tomorrow. I have something to talk to you about."

"What is it? You're being all mysterious!" Xi Xiaye shot him a look while he already picked up a thick file to hand to her. His profound gaze was filled with gloominess as he said, "Take a look at this first. What you'll have to do later is related to this." Then, he closed the car window.

Stunned, she opened it and took out those thick documents before beginning to browse through them while Mu Yuchen started the car very quickly.

They were details of the car accident six years ago. There were even detailed notes from some of the people involved, a survey of the crime scene, and many photos of the scene!

When she saw photos of the dripping blood and mutilated body, Xi Xiaye's beautiful face immediately turned pale. Her starry eyes could not hide how frightened she was!

Those terrifying photos...

They were photos of when Mu Lingtian had been carried out after he died.

Xi Xiaye looked at them and could not help but shudder. She did not quite dare to keep on looking, so she took quick breaths and turned to look at the man who was silently driving.

“Don’t be afraid. That’s Lingtian.” His lowered voice had a hint of comfort.

Chapter 1134. Old Illness (5)

Xi Xiaye kept the photos and report back into the file while the horror that gathered on her little face remained. She watched him silently without a word.

The side profile of Mu Yuchen’s face looked calm and cool. After a while, he spoke and drove steadily on the wide road ahead before continuing in a lowered voice, “Haven’t you always wanted to know about the accident? It’s written clearly there. I’m sure you roughly know how it all started and ended after reading it.”

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and put the file back where it came from. She held a hand to her thumping chest and said, “Lingtian...he must have passed away painfully. I...”

He reached out to gently hold her slightly frozen fingertips as he asked softly, “Do you remember what I talked to you about a few days ago?”

Xi Xiaye thought about it for a while, then what he mentioned to her flashed in her mind.

“You want Detective Zhang to help out?” She turned to look at him.

One of his hands held the steering wheel steadily as the other held her hand before letting go. “I might not be able to always be vigilant against Doris. I think that if I let you help with this, it might be...”

Before he finished, Xi Xiaye already lifted a hand to stop him. "Got it. There's no need to say more. I understand. I'll contact Detective Zhang tomorrow. Don't worry. I'll get this done well."

He was glad and grateful for her understanding, so he did not say anymore. Tenderness flitted across his calm and smiling face.

Xi Xiaye quietly kept it away too. "I hope that this time, we'll find out something more. Even though you won't say much, I know that you've been feeling guilty over this. I can understand how that feels. Mr. Mu, we can't control life and death. Humans are actually diminutive before life. It's not up to us to decide on the kind of suffering, difficulties, or hardships we'll face."

At this point, she suddenly turned to quietly watch the side of his cool face. She could not help but sigh. "I feel like we have the fate of being worriers our entire lifetime. We have endless things to worry about. Maybe, if we could be a little more selfish, we'd live more peacefully."

"But everyone has their own way of living life. We're living based on the principles that make us feel like we're living more authentically," she said, then laughed gently before turning to lean on his shoulder.

"Madam Mu, that's not the way to console someone. You're having a realization, not consoling me." He squinted at her, then pursed his lips as he smiled while his arm circled her frail shoulders.

"I'm getting tired of consoling you since you won't listen anyway, so I might as well do something more substantial. You can't teach an old dog new tricks. You are always like that. If I still didn't understand you by now, I would've obviously put in a few words of consolation, but after knowing you, I'll just share some of your burdens."

Xi Xiaye did not want to think too much about it or console him. Instead, no matter what he did, she would support him unconditionally and go along with him. "Despite not having your reflection for a long while, your self-awareness hasn't deteriorated. It's something that truly makes me happy."

"I'm just doing this because you're pretty good to me. I told you, as long as you're good to me, I'll do anything."

She squinted her cold eyes at him while her gaze was sincere and gentle. "You'd do anything? What about murder and arson?"

"Sure, but before that, I'll definitely tell them that I was doing it on behalf of you!"

"Traitor!"

He did not whether to laugh or cry as he looked at her.

"I don't want to go to jail because of this, and then watch you get together with some other young girl. I'm not dumb."

At this second, Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered Gu Qiwu. She straightened up slightly and looked at him. "Hey, Mr. Mu, tell me, even with the feelings Gu Qiwu has for Doris, why would Doris still...?"

"Do you think everyone's like you? Doris is an ambitious woman. Even though Gu Qiwu's loyal towards her, he has a bottom line," Mu Yuchen explained.

"Mmm, Doris wants to swallow the entire Gu family's assets. It turns out that when some feelings are placed before benefits, they still weaken. All the love couldn't even stand the test? Mr. Mu, if one day I wanted to swallow Glory World too, would you be the same as Gu Qiwu?"

"You want Glory World? Would you want it if I gave it to you now? With your IQ, can you handle the whole of Glory World? If you were a truly capable career woman, I don't mind living off a woman. I'd stay home raising our son and make dinner while waiting for you to get home, living the easy life of a glutton."

"In your dreams! How spineless! If you really became a man that lives off women, then you'll depreciate in value, Mr. Mu!" She shot him a look of disdain.

"I don't think so. I'm a man with a wife and son. So what if I depreciate in value? Other people's opinions have nothing to do with me. Besides, even if I don't do anything right now and eat away our fortunes, it'd be enough to last us till the next lifetime. In another year or two, let's not tire ourselves. I've already

stopped expanding into markets recently, stabilizing all my existing properties and making steady progress. As for the next 10 or 20 years, however Glory World may grow will be up to our sons," Mu Yuchen said matter-of-factly.

"10, 20 years? Do you know how old Xiao Rui and Xiao Cheng are?!"

"Xiao Rui would be 25 or 26, so he'd already be able to take on a lot. After all, I was also at that age when grandfather handed Glory World to me. We'll hustle for another 10 to 20 years. By that time, you'll be over 40, and I'll be 50. It'd be time for us to retire. Whatever it is, I'm done. If you want to continue going for it, I won't stop you."

"Our sons are so pitiful having a father like you!"

"A loving mother spoils her sons! Do you think they came into this world to live comfortably?"

"Wouldn't that be too harsh to the children?"

"Let's find a time to slowly discuss how to educate our children."

...

At Hospital T.

Gu Qiwu had gone in for quite a few hours now. It was only in the evening that he was wheeled out of the operating theatre and put into a ward for observation.

"The patient drank too much and it caused gastrointestinal bleeding. In fact, he has gastric problems all year round. If he doesn't take care of his health, it might get worse. I've already explained all that's needed. The nurse will come later to repeat everything that you need to pay attention to. The patient needs rest now, so it's best if all of you don't disturb him," the doctor said before he left.

Gu Lingsha's expression was tense as she looked worriedly at Gu Qiwu who was sound asleep on the sickbed without an ounce of anger. There were mixed emotions in her blue eyes.

Chapter 1135. Divorce? (1)

Ah Yong, who had been standing beside her, saw Gu Lingsha's gloomy's expression. He thought about it before deciding to lower his voice and speak up, "Miss Lingsha, go home first. I'm here. The boss probably won't wake up so soon, and the Madam still needs you to care for her, so you should take care of yourself."

Gu Lingsha sighed as she took a look at Gu Qiwu on the sickbed, then she nodded at Ah Yong. "I'll leave Father to you then. When he wakes up, call me right away!"

Gu Lingsha could not care less now. Knowing that Gu Qiwu was alright for now made her relieved, but her mind kept replaying the things that he had said to her earlier. Right then, there was a burning pain at her neck. Earlier, when she had gone to the washroom, she noticed that there were bruises on her neck!

Gu Qiwu had always been a person with strong self-restraint, and Gu Lingsha had never seen him this angry before. You could tell that the incident this time had had quite an impact on him. However, how could her mother, Doris, someone whom she had always thought was elegant and appropriate, have done such a thing?

Gu Lingsha had also seen the way Gu Qiwu doted on Doris. She could tell that Gu Qiwu truly loved Doris. If Doris really did it, how could he not have felt bitterly disappointed and angry?

Now that she thought about it, if it were true, she probably would not have been able to bear it too!

She still did not quite want to believe it! She had always admired Gu Qiwu and Doris's relationship. How could she believe such a thing so easily?

Thus, she was impatient to ask Doris about whether it was all true for herself!

Doris's ward was in Hospital T too. In fact, Doris was being grounded by Gu Qiwu right now.

When Gu Lingsha went over, she could see the four bodyguards that stood guard outside the ward, watching it carefully. Gu Qiwu had ordered them not to let Doris step out of the room at all!

However, when Gu Lingsha went over, the bodyguards obviously let her through. As she pushed the door open, what greeted her sight was the empty bed. She looked around, then noticed Doris who was by the window and watching the sunset outside.

Gu Lingsha stopped and watched her silently for a while, before she called out softly, "Mother—"

Upon hearing Gu Lingsha's voice, Doris, who was enjoying the scenery outside, looked back and then lowered her gaze. "What are you doing here? Didn't I tell you that I don't want to see anyone right now?" Her cold voice showed no hints of warmth at all.

Gu Lingsha struggled for a bit before she said, "Mother, you haven't recovered. Why did you get down from the bed? Let me help you back to bed to rest."

Doris did not answer.

Stunned, Gu Lingsha walked over and stopped by Doris's side. When she looked at her mother's exquisite yet indifferent face, she sighed. "Mother, Father got drunk and was sent to the hospital because of gastrointestinal bleeding. Right now, he's in a ward under observation. He said that you...Was what he said all real?" Gu Lingsha found it hard to ask.

Upon hearing that Gu Qiwu was hospitalized, Doris paused and asked, "What? What did he say about me?"

"Mother, she said that the child you had...wasn't his. Mother, did you cheat on Father?" Gu Lingsha asked softly.

When she heard that, Doris smiled calmly, and then reached out to caress her flat belly, a while after she sneered and said, "What did you think?"

“Mother, I don’t believe it! I don’t believe that you’d betray Father! Father’s so good to you. You wouldn’t do something like that, right?” Gu Lingsha frantically pulled at Doris’s loose sleeve as she said in a rush.

“Good to me? Betray?”

When Doris heard these words, it was as if she heard a joke. She laughed. “He had two children with Mu Zi behind my back. Is that what you call being good to me? Betray? Isn’t what he did a betrayal to me? I’m just giving him a taste of his own medicine! I told him that I’m never weak. When Gu Qiwu married me, he should understand that one day, the person who’d control him would be me! And not him controlling me!” she sneered and turned to look at the miserable Gu Lingsha.

“Do you think he’s such a good person? He’s good to me on the outside, but he’s still vigilant against me in secret. To me, he’s just a hypocritical person. Why is he allowed to betray me with such gusto? If Qi Feng did that to you too, could you accept it? Shasha, don’t act impulsively. Men can’t be trusted. Do you think that Qi Feng will always be good to you just because he is now? Learn from my mistakes. Women should always have a hold on something!” Doris turned to look at Gu Lingsha. Her eyes were as sharp as knives as they flickered with a cold light, one that was cold and penetrating.

“Qi Qiming could not get rid of Wang Qin because she was a smart woman! She knew how to manage authority. Otherwise, Wang Qin wouldn’t have stood tall in the Qi family with the way Qi Qiming treated her. Shasha, you’ve gone through quite a bit of hardship too. You’ve been wondering about these relationships. Do you still not get it?”

“Once Gu Qiwu acknowledges Mu Lingshi, you won’t be the only heiress in the Gu family.” Doris forced a laugh and averted her gaze apathetically before looking out of the window. The warmth of the setting sun could not chase away the coldness that she emitted.

“You’re my daughter. No matter what, I wouldn’t hurt you, but you’re always disagreeing with me. You missed out on Mu Yuchen, and now you’re caught up with someone like Qi Feng. How could you beat Qi Feng? I’m just worried that when the time comes, you were just paving the way for him.”

“Mother, whatever happens, Ah Feng is someone who’s been through a lot with me, and we’re married now. We even have a daughter, Weiwei. Ah Feng wouldn’t do that to me. I trust him! You’re too paranoid. Father and Mu Zi’s incident was many years ago. In fact, Mu Zi’s dead! So what if Mu Lingshi’s still around? As long as Father doesn’t give the green light, she’s nothing! Father loves you so much, yet you did such a thing. He must be bitterly disappointed. Otherwise, take advantage of the guilt that

Father feels so that he will treat you and us even better! Mother, from the way I see it, you're the confused one! In fact, your actions have made me incredibly disappointed! How could you betray Father?"

Chapter 1136. Divorce? (2)

Gu Lingsha started to frown as she did not agree with Doris.

"Enough! I don't need you to tell me what to do! Stay out of things between him and me. Just take care of yourself!" Doris's expression instantly darkened and she closed her eyes.

"He was disloyal to me first. Why should I have to stay loyal to him? Guilt? Do you think he'd feel that? Even if he does feel guilty, it's only towards Mu Zi and Mu Lingshi, not us!"

"Shasha, you're too naive! Don't tell me that this is all you learned from studying psychology!"

Seeing Doris like this, Gu Lingsha could not help but raise her voice. Now, she began to feel bad for Gu Qiwu. "Mother! Why are you still acting all justified even now?! Father's going mad from anger. He's breaking down! Can't you feel sorry for him? You know very well how he's treated you all these years!"

"Lingsha, are you here to reprimand me? Why don't you do the same to your father? He did me wrong first!" Doris pulled away the blanket on her and stood up. She glared at Gu Lingsha in an imposing manner. "Isn't the child gone just as the two of you wished? What more do you want? The two of you are quite united, aren't you? What about me? Do I deserve it so I should just suffer in silence?"

She laughed grimly. "Divorce! I already thought of this. Since we've come to this point, it can only end like this."

"What? Divorce?" Gu Lingsha was shocked by Doris's words! She widened her eyes at her mother. "Mother! Do you want to divorce Father?"

"What other ways do you think there could be for this to end peacefully? I've been done for years now. I think that ending it like this is best," Doris said nonchalantly. There was no shift in her blues at all, and they were as calm as water. It was as if the word 'divorce' was just another common term!

Frightened by Doris's words, she held onto her mother and spoke in a panic, "No! Mother, don't be impulsive! As long as you talk to Father, he'll still forgive you! Mother, don't get a divorce with Father. You know that..."

Doris wriggled free of her hold as she snorted coldly. "There's nothing else to discuss at this stage. Do you think that with your father's nature, he would tolerate me? He's just a useless coward to me. He's got a huge ego and is headstrong. Even if he's willing to forgive me, he'll definitely keep bringing it up to use against me. I know him too well. I'll never surrender to a man like this, so divorce is my best option!"

Her eyes were filled with determination. She was not sloppy at all, and there was not a hint of hesitance or reluctance!

"Mother, there's no way Father will get a divorce with you unless you leave the marriage with nothing!"

"No way? I'll make it all possible!"

"Mother! How could you do this to him?"

"How do you think I should be to him then? Divorce is the only way to resolve this. It's also been something that I've always wanted to do. Your father and I aren't compatible. I've long been over it these past few years. Why do you think I've lasted so long?" Doris looked at Gu Lingsha coldly, not hiding her intentions at all.

"I'll get my lawyer to write up the divorce papers as soon as possible. When the time comes, just persuade your father. It's best if he signs it quickly. Of course, I'll still be taking the things that should be mine. By the looks of the current situation, the court might not stand on his side. After all, Mu Lingshi was hard evidence."

A sneer flashed across Doris's lips. Even though this was not exactly what she wanted, they had been married for many years, and she did have some feelings for Gu Qiwu. Nevertheless, Doris had always known what she wanted.

The truth was that Doris had always been like this. She had always been this headstrong and unwilling to surrender to anyone. Having been raised in an environment like that, she always did everything with a clear goal in mind.

Since things had played out the way they did, she could only continue this journey.

In fact, based on the current situation, even if they brought it to the court, she would not be on the losing end. Gu Qiwu would probably need to silently accept this end that cut the knot as smoothly as it was tied.

“Enough, get out!” Doris coldly chased her out. She admitted that she was still a little angry at Gu Lingsha for causing the miscarriage, but that was her daughter after all. Even if she was angry, what could she do?

“Mother...”

“Get out!” Doris said walked to the bedside without any illness showing on her face.

Gu Lingsha’s eyes darkened as she watched Doris quietly for a while. In the end, she left. When it came to being apathetic, no one would be better at it than her mother. Gu Lingsha only truly understood it now!

How could she so calmly mention divorce? It seemed like Doris did not have much love left for Gu Qiwu!

When she left the ward, Gu Lingsha could not help but laugh bitterly. She never thought that such a day would come. A family that she had always thought was harmonious had turned into nothing in the blink of an eye. Still, all of this could also have returned to calm!

However, the more you wanted peace, the more some people would wreck it!

How could she just watch helplessly as all this happiness turn into nothing? She barely had anything left. Was she going to lose this too?

Gu Lingsha did not understand why things had to turn out like this.

This time, upon returning, a friend that had once been close, Qi Lei, was slowly becoming distant. Her relationship with her mother was becoming strained too. Besides that, she was now losing even the last piece of kinship...

Mu Zi?

Mu Lingshi?

If all of these had happened because of these people, what should she do?

Was she going to watch all of this end badly without doing anything?

The answer was: no way!

Gu Lingsha leaned against the cold wall. She fell silent for a long, long time before she came back to her senses. Dazed, she suddenly felt her eyes getting misty until a piece of tissue was handed to her before she snapped back.

She quickly looked up and followed the hand that handed her the tissue. Xi Xinyi's beautiful little face instantly greeted her sight.

"For you, Manager Gu. The reporters might appear at any time!" Xi Xinyi said softly.

Chapter 1137. Divorce? (3)

Gu Lingsha sniffled, then took the tissue that Xi Xinyi handed her to wipe away the tears at the corner of her eyes.

"Manager Xi, what are you doing here?"

As someone who could control her emotions well, after a while, Gu Lingsha returned to normal and breathed in as she looked at Xi Xinyi.

“I came to the hospital for some medication. I’ve been having a cold for the past two days.”

She could hear that Xi Xinyi’s voice was slightly raspy and nasally.

“Manager Xi, you’ve been working too hard for the South River Project as of late. You should watch out for your health,” Gu Lingsha said with considerate concern.

When Xi Xinyi heard that, a bitter smile spread across her face. “It’s fine. It’s just how things are.”

Then, she turned to look outside the corridor and realized that it was getting dark. She thought about it and said, “It’s getting late. Manager Gu, you should get home soon. I saw reports at the entrance earlier. I think you should go down to the second floor and walk out via the stairs,” Xi Xinyi mentioned kindly.

Recently, Gu Qiwu and Doris’s incident had caused quite a buzz that did not stop these past few days. In fact, it seemed to be increasing in trend, especially since the news of Gu Qiwu’s hospitalization leaked out. It had indirectly caused another wave. If the whole thing with Doris happened...

Upon hearing that, Gu Lingsha turned to look out at the sky. She thought about it and then said, “Since we bumped into each other, how about we have dinner together? You’ve been working hard for the South River Project since I was busy with the wedding a while ago, and I should thank you properly.”

“Manager Gu, you’re too courteous. That’s just part of my duties,” Xi Xinyi said humbly.

Gu Lingsha smiled. “Unless you’re not willing to give me the honor, Manager Xi?”

Stunned, Xi Xinyi nodded. “Since you’ve invited me, I’d obviously be happy to go along with you!”

“Let’s go then!” Gu Lingsha quickly returned to normal and turned around to walk towards the elevator.

...

Gu Qiwu was too tired, so he slept all the way till the next day. When he woke up with a heaviness in his body, the pain that came from his stomach made him frown involuntarily. He was about to sit up when Ah Yong, who had been guarding at the side, went up to him.

“Boss! You’re awake!” His concerned tone had a hint of a pleasant surprise as he went up to help Gu Qiwu sit up. Ah Yong had been worried for a whole night!

Gu Qiwu leaned back against the bedhead weakly. He looked frail, and there was a sickly pale on his face, making him look wan and sallow.

“What happened to me? Why am I here?” His raspy voice was heard. When he looked up and saw that his hands were needles in his hand, he frowned.

“Boss, you drank too much and had internal bleeding. Thankfully, we sent you to the hospital in time. The doctor says you should be more careful. You can’t do that anymore. Otherwise, the situation will get worse. Your gastric has always been bad. Whatever it is, you have to watch out for your health,” Ah Yong advised worriedly as he poured Gu Qiwu a cup of warm water.

Upon hearing that, Gu Qiwu shut his eyes tiredly and took a deep breath. He calmed himself down for a while before opening his eyes. He remembered the things he had said to Gu Lingsha.

“Miss Lingsha came earlier, but she’s gone back now. She’ll come over tomorrow morning. You’re still very weak. The doctor said that you need to stay in the hospital for treatment before you can be discharged. I’ve done my best to lock down the news, so, Boss, please recuperate at ease. Nothing’s more important than your health. If you collapse, there’ll be nothing else.”

He knew that Gu Qiwu had been in a poor state recently, so Ah Yong tried his best to enlighten him. Even though Gu Qiwu was usually a man of few words and was extremely stern, he carried a lot of weight in his heart. However, Ah Yong could see that his boss had not had it easy, especially with Madam.

Right now with the latest incident, how could he not feel bitterly disappointed?

Gu Qiwu did not say anything. He just silently lowered his gaze and drank a few sips. Soon, some radiance returned to his pale lips. He returned the glass and reached out to hold his faintly aching stomach. Suddenly, he fell silent and did not move. You could not guess what he was thinking about.

Ah Yong thought about it, before he responded, "Boss, recover in peace. I know that recent incidents have caused a lot of frustrations for you. As long as we don't respond, they can't do anything about it."

Gu Qiwu sighed. There was a faint sneer on his stern face as he looked up at Ah Yong. "How's the company doing? Bring me my laptop!" He had already thought that if things out the way they were right now, the company would definitely be affected, so he executed some precautions.

"Don't worry, Boss. The company's alright for now. Even though there were inevitable effects in the stock market, it's all within controlled parameters. It's just that...Boss, yesterday Miss Lingshi went looking for Madam. According to the subordinates, Madam seems to have mentioned 'divorce'. Boss, Madam might be thinking of getting a divorce with you."

When he said the last few words, Ah Yong looked hesitant and concern colored his eyes.

Indeed, as Ah Yong said that, Gu Qiwu's handsome face immediately sank!

"Divorce? In her dreams!" Gu Qiwu's cold voice did not have a hint of warmth as he smirked coldly. "I've been so good to her all these years, yet she cheated on me! This witch! Did she think I'd let her off so easily?" When he said this, a cold light flashed in his eyes.

"But, Boss, if you persist, Madam might use the route of the courts. After all, if Miss Mu Lingshi...that's hard evidence right there, and it wouldn't be great for us. When the time comes for the court to decide, we might lose out big time. Boss, we'll have to think this through," Ah Yong pondered over the reasons and said softly.

Upon hearing that, Gu Qiwu laughed grimly. "Does it make sense even when Doris has cheated on me? You know very well how I've treated her all these years! Even if it's because of Lingshi...so what? That illegitimate child that she bore wasn't mine! The other day, I told you to do a DNA comparison of that illegitimate child and Lingsha. When will the results be out?"

Gu Qiwu looked up coldly, his sharp gaze landing straight on Ah Yong.

Chapter 1138. Divorce? (4)

Gu Qiwu was no fool. When Doris had a miscarriage, he had already ordered Ah Yong to get this settled.

With his intelligence, he already had a backup move. Perhaps it was in the midst of their fighting with each other that he was used to having a backup plan. As he thought about this, he was not sure whether he should be grateful for his keen vigilance or be sad about this unpredictable relationship.

Nonetheless, Gu Qiwu could not care less now. Because of a woman like Doris, he only felt sad and ludicrous for his situation.

“There are no results for now. I’ve done as you ordered with a few hospitals doing the comparisons, Boss. If it can be used as evidence, it’ll definitely be more powerful. Boss, I didn’t know why you wanted to do that before this, but now I know that you were doing it as a backup, it was great foresight!”

Ah Yong could not help but admire Gu Qiwu for ordering him to do that so calmly. If it had been another man, he would probably have been driven mad by Doris.

He was clear that Gu Qiwu did have some feelings for Doris. However, he did not understand why Doris would do such a thing behind Gu Qiwu’s back. Now, as a subordinate, even he found it unworthy for Gu Qiwu’s sake. At the same time, he felt bad for Mu Zi and Mu Lingtian, who had passed away, and Mu Lingshi as well.

Gu Qiwu laughed grimly and his eyes suddenly darkened as he inhaled sharply. “This won’t pass so soon. Ah Yong, find a way to investigate Doris and find out who the man is. Even if we go to court, Doris won’t be able to shed all the responsibility!”

“This time, Mu Yuchen’s move was truly vicious, but he managed to find out Doris’s secret. I don’t know whether to thank him or to resent him.”

A bitterness flashed across Gu Qiwu’s face. His mind suddenly recalled Mu Lingshi’s indifferent expression, and he felt a heaviness in his chest that made it hard to breathe. He took in a few laborious breaths before he calmed down.

“Boss, are you sure that Mu Yuchen did this?” Ah Yong asked.

“Who else could have such capabilities? Even I don’t know about Doris cheating on me, but he seemed to know it like the back of his hand. In fact, a while back, when he asked me out, he did warn me. Elder Madam Mu’s passing might have moved him to act. He was warning me. I’m sure that right now he’s waiting for me to go to him.” Gu Qiwu suddenly laughed bitterly and helplessly.

“Boss, what should we do now? Mu Yuchen did it on purpose. Not only did he expose these, but he even made you and Madam break up like this. Also, I’m afraid that Miss Lingshi...Boss, are you planning never to acknowledge Miss Lingshi?” Ah Yong could not help but ask.

He knew that Gu Qiwu had not let go of Mu Lingshi and the rest. Whether it was out of guilt or his conscience, the boss still had them on his mind. Otherwise, he would not have visited Mu Zi every year.

The Ghost Festival [1] was around the corner. Was the boss still going to Qingshan Cemetery to pay his respects?

However, they were gone, so what was the meaning of doing all this?

Furthermore, Elder Madam Mu had just passed away too.

When Ah Yong asked that question, Gu Qiwu did not immediately have an answer. His expression only froze and his eyes darkened.

Even if he wanted to acknowledge her, he probably...

In the end, Gu Qiwu did not answer the question. He sighed and turned to look at Ah Yong. “Quickly get the thing done. Also, ask Mu Yuchen out. In three days, I want to meet him for a chat!”

“Boss, you want to meet Chairman Mu? What about Miss Lingshi?”

Gu Qiwu slowly shut his eyes and breathed in. "It's best not to meet her for now since it won't be a happy meeting."

"Yes, I got it, Boss!"

...

In the evening, the glow of the sunset colored half the sky red.

In Maple Residence in the Grand Waves Villa area, when he received Li Si's call, Mu Yuchen was in the kitchen preparing dinner.

"Master, Gu Qiwu's awake. He asked to meet you in three days in the pastures of the western suburbs. He says he's got something to talk to you about." Li Si's respectful voice was heard through the phone.

Mu Yuchen paused what he was doing for a while as his profound eyes flashed with shifting light. After he hesitated momentarily, he responded, "I don't want to meet him."

"Master, I think it might be about Miss Lingshi. Do we want to...?"

"Just respond that way." Mu Yuchen clearly did not want to say more, so he then hung up right away before he continued busying himself again.

He had just put in the marinated fish to cook when he suddenly felt something tugging at his pant leg. Mu Yuchen was surprised as he looked down and saw his son crawling to sit by his leg. The little guy was pulling at his pant leg as he mumbled and smiled at him. His hands balled into little fists that were put into his mouth.

Mu Yuchen's heart instantly melted at his cute demeanor. He kept his phone away and bent down to pick his son up. "Little guy, are you crawling around again? How naughty of you! Mmm?" he said as he pinched the little guy's cheeks.

Nevertheless, Mu Xiaocheng's hands flailed and smacked his old man's handsome face. When he heard the loud sound, he even began giggling.

"Little fool, why's your laughter so silly? Tell me, what are you laughing about? Hmm?"

Mu Xiaocheng's movements were swifter now, especially since he had been growing and was less restless recently. Ever since he could clutch onto things to stand, he no longer liked being carried, so he would struggle and then crawl everywhere.

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye would usually find him under the shelf in the study room or behind the living room sofa, and even in all the corners of the house. Of course, they would not limit his movements.

Consequently, Mu Yuchen covered the floor with an expensive layer of slip-resistant carpet. That way, it could keep the little guy from getting cold and make it convenient for him to move around. They just let him play himself, but Sis Wang's cleaning became a bit harder because the restless little one would always topple many things. He sure was destructive!

Chapter 1139. Divorce? (5)

The books on the lowest shelves in the study room had already been torn up by the little guy. Xi Xiaye had to install a door for the shelves so that they could stop the little thing from continuing his destruction.

Mu Xiaocheng usually liked staying close to his father.

Perhaps because of the chemistry between father and son, every time the little guy was with Mu Yuchen, he would always have so much fun. Especially now that he could recognize people, he would stick to Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye all day.

What made Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye glad was that even though the little guy was very mischievous, he rarely had crying fits. He would merely cry a little when he was hungry, and once they fed him, he would immediately stop. Even Sis Wang and the rest said that Mu Xiaocheng was the easiest child to take care of though he was just mischievous.

With one hand carrying his son and the other stirring the food in the wok, Master Mu called out towards the door, "Xiaye, come and bring our son out. The kitchen's too oily."

When she heard that, Xi Xiaye rushed in. Seeing Mu Xiaocheng in Mu Yuchen's arms, she was relieved. She walked over to carry him and could not help but pat the little guy's butt with two mini spansks.

"Naughty kid! I'll manage you! He crawled over just as I was in the washroom. I was looking all over for him! He's quite quick, isn't he?!" Xi Xiaye complained with a headache.

Mu Yuchen chuckled as he reached out to pinch Mu Xiaocheng's little face. "You deserve it, you mini devil! Let's visit the old residence tomorrow, grandfather misses him."

"Mmm, bring him over tomorrow. I'm meeting Detective Zhang."

"Alright, go on out then. It's oily in here. Don't come in."

As long as he was home, Mu Yuchen would not usually let Xi Xiaye into the kitchen since it was too oily and smoky. Based on what Su Chen said, women would age easily if they were always in touch with such things.

Ever since Su Chen got married to Ji Zitong, he had practically become a loyal dog to his wife in Zhou Zimo's words!

Zhou Zimo had asked him out quite a few times, but he did not go. As a result, Zhou Zimo was so angry that he cursed Su Chen for prioritizing his wife over friends. He would always complain to Mu Yuchen. Right then, dinner had just been prepared when there was a sound from outside the door, and Mu Yuchen could hear Sis Wang greeting someone.

"Hello, Master Mo!"

That was right!

Zhou Zimo was there to leech at dinner!

“Good evening! I’m guessing that dinner’s just been prepared?”

Zhou Zimo had just walked in when he saw the dishes ready on the dining table. He sat down and took a wet towel to wipe his hand as he excitedly picked up the chopsticks.

When Mu Yuchen brought the last dish out, he shot him a side look. “Why are you here?”

“Why can’t I come? Bring another set of cutlery. I’m starving!” Zhou Zimo said as he shouted into the kitchen, “Xiaye, bring me another set of cutlery!”

Mu Yuchen glared at him, then sat down on a chair while Xi Xiaye quickly brought a set of cutlery over.

“I was just going to ask you out for a drink. Su Chen’s not coming and Qi Lei seems to be quite busy recently. I’m the only lonely one, so I can only come to your place to leech at dinner.” Zhou Zimo got up and walked to the drinks cupboard. He took out a bottle of whiskey and poured some for himself and Mu Yuchen.

“I think you’re just hiding from your family here. I know that Mother Zhou’s been nagging you recently.” Mu Yuchen carelessly pinpointed what was on Zhou Zimo’s mind.

Zhou Zimo looked up at him and replied unhappily, “There really is nothing I can hide from you. My old man’s already said that if I still don’t get anyone by the end of this year, I’m not allowed to go home. Why is it that elders now love to threaten us so easily? How annoying!”

As he finished the drink in his glass, he said gloomily, “They even signed me up for some car club and a comic exhibition meetup. How about you talk to my parents for me?”

“I can’t help you out with this. You aren’t young anymore, and you’re the only one left among the three buddies. I understand how Mother Zhou feels.”

“Right now, I kind of regret being so content when we were studying. Otherwise, I could’ve had a girlfriend to go through many years of hardships. That kind of love is one that I envy,” Zhou Zimo cleared his throat and lamented sadly.

Upon hearing that, Xi Xiaye instantly laughed gently as she handed the chopsticks to the man beside her. "Zimo, the depth of a relationship has nothing to do with the length of time actually. Chen always tells me about you, and I do think that among the three buddies, you're the most genuine one."

"Xiaye, you're my friend! I think so too! No one loves a man who's overly genuine!" Zhou Zimo beamed at her.

"Your head's full of tricks. If you were really genuine, then there's no such thing as innocence in this world anymore," Mu Yuchen objected.

"Chen, that's pure slander! To act on those thoughts is true sincerity. I'm being outwardly flirtatious, not like you, cold on the outside but passionate on the inside! I must express it. I'm destined to be flirtatious!"

"Can you keep quiet while eating? With the way you act, even good women would be frightened away. Could you be more chivalrous? Did you really think she was complimenting you?"

Then, the few of them smirked at one another before holding up their drinks for a toast.

After dinner, Xi Xiaye brought their son to shower while Mu Yuchen and Zhou Zimo went to the study room.

...

The next morning, Mu Yuchen woke up early. After packing up, he was planning to return straight the old Mu residence, but Mu Yinan had already gone over, and Ah Mo and Mu Lingshi were with him too.

Xi Xiaye left early that day because she had a morning meeting. Breakfast was also rushed as she ate a little before going straight to work. In the afternoon, she was meeting Detective Zhang.

Compared to a few days ago, Mu Yinan was now in a much better state.

When he saw Mu Xiaocheng, he could not help but carry him up to play with him while Mu Lingshi went to the backyard with Mu Yuchen.

“Gu Qiwu’s hospitalized because of gastrointestinal bleeding. He didn’t respond to this either. Do you blame me for leaking out this news on my own accord?”

At the table in the pavilion in the backyard, Mu Yuchen leaned slightly against the handrail behind him as he watched the slightly pale Mu Lingshi.

Mu Lingshi still looked a little weak right now. Despite having faced such a huge blow, Mu Yuchen actually admired her for being strong and not breaking down. He could understand her anguish.

She had always been a strong sister that he quietly protected. After the incident with Mu Lingtian, he seemed to have compensated all of his guilt towards her.

Chapter 1140. Reject (1)

Upon hearing that, Mu Lingshi suddenly gripped the teacup in hand a little tighter. She thought about it, then shook her head. “No, Brother, I know you’re doing it for me and the Mu family. No matter what, it’s actually us who owe you too much. This whole thing should’ve had nothing to do with you. Sometimes, I wonder what would I do if I didn’t have you.” Her voice bore some bitterness.

“Why are you saying such silly things? We’re siblings. Who else would I protect if not you? I don’t deny that feeling guilty about you and Lingtian all these years. A mistake remains a mistake. The harm that has been done can never be reconciled just like how Grandmother’s sudden passing didn’t give us a chance to make it up to her,” Mu Yuchen spoke in a lowered voice as faint sorrow showed in his eyes, “I’m grateful that you’ve never blamed me.”

“Brother, you take too much upon yourself. These things were never even your fault. We did wrong by you first. When we were younger, you gave us lots of care and consideration, and we saw all of it. Our parents treated the three of us better than they did towards you. I always tell Ah Mo that I shouldn’t need to feel any regret. After all, what did the other children have that I didn’t?”

Mu Lingshi felt strongly about this. She breathed in, then sighed. “Brother, some things really go beyond blood relations, not just in romantic relationships but in kinships too. I’m grateful that I could grow up in the Mu family. I’m thankful that I didn’t fall into having a warped mindset because of everything. I’m

grateful for all the positive energy that you all brought me, to allow me to grow in a space with optimism and peace as I face this world.”

“Lingshi, you’ve changed a lot in the past two years. It makes me feel like you’ve really grown up, you’re no longer the little girl that needs your brother’s protection.” Mu Yuchen’s handsome face flushed with gladness.

Upon hearing that, Mu Lingshi chuckled. “It’s been a while since I’ve grown up, Brother! I know that everyone hasn’t been doing well these past few years, and it all revolves around the incidents with my mother and Lingtian. We claim that these things are in the past, but actually everyone’s been holding onto them to the point that they’ve become a scar in our hearts that can reopen anytime and bleed once again just like how it was with Grandmother.”

She sighed and suddenly looked up at Mu Yuchen’s handsome face. Then, she slowly held his hand that had fallen by his side. “Brother, these nightmares should leave us now. I trust that you feel the same. After Grandmother left us, our hearts have since been empty. I’ve been thinking these days that perhaps we should think about it from a different perspective.”

Mu Yuchen looked up silently at her, waiting for her to continue.

“Lingtian may not have left without any guilt towards you. Even though there was a misunderstanding between Lingtian and you, I feel like he wasn’t all that bad. Whatever Qi Feng told you, it doesn’t matter if they are real or not. Whatever it is, Lingtian did let you down. At this point, you should just forgive him in your heart. I trust that he’s hoping for your forgiveness from the other side too.”

“How do you know that he’s hoping for my forgiveness and not resenting me for making him lose his life because of my insensitivity? Lingshi, guilt comes from the heart. There’s a reason for every outcome, I am the reason, and Lingtian had suffered the consequences. I admit, that all these years I’ve been plagued by nightmares because of this incident, it was only after I married your sister-in-law, that the situation improved.” Mu Yuchen silently drew his hand away and turned to his side to gaze out at the bright skies.

“I’ve always been looking for an excuse to relieve myself, Lingshi. I’m not as strong as you think I am. I’ve been looking for an outlet to release what I’ve been holding on to, to let my weak self be free of it. You might not understand how I feel. Until you stop asking why, there’s no need to advise me to be relieved of it.

“If it were in the past, I may still have been holding on to it, but right now, at least, I can face things with a calm heart.” This was the first time Mu Yuchen had expressed how he really felt. He had not been willing to face reality, but today he finally could do so calmly.

“If one day, Gu Qiwu asked you to forgive him, what would you do?” He suddenly changed the topic as his profound gaze looked straight at Mu Lingshi.

Instantly, she froze, yet it was only a momentary thought before she shook her head. “Nothing much would change. The way we are is pretty good. I don’t need another father. After all, I’m someone who holds onto grudges. If he wants me to forgive him and accept him, what would that make me? What about Mother, Lingtian, and Grandmother?”

Mu Lingshi chuckled. “Someone who has sinned as much as him doesn’t deserve forgiveness.”

“There are three reasons he did that. Firstly, for the Gu family’s assets. Secondly, for Doris, whom he loves. Perhaps this has never changed. Aunt was only a...Thirdly, to protect you.”

No matter what, Mu Yuchen felt the need to tell Mu Lingshi about this.

“It’s not important anymore, Brother. All that isn’t important. From the moment I found out that Gu Qiwu was my father, nothing mattered anymore. Whatever happens, I’ll forever be Mu Lingshi, and I’ll always guard the Mu family.”

Mu Lingshi’s tone was so determined that Mu Yuchen could only laugh and nod at her. “Got it.”

“Brother—” Then, Mu Lingshi fell weakly into Mu Yuchen’s arms. “Thank you for all your concern. Ah Mo and I are so lucky to have you in this lifetime!”

Mu Yuchen laughed softly without a word as he patted Mu Lingshi’s shoulders softly.

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In the afternoon at the stairs by the South River, Xi Xiaye did not expect to bump into Qi Feng again.

Previously, Mu Yuchen had told VP Zhang Lan to send over the blueprint. Coincidentally, she was having lunch with a business partner nearby, so she went over to take a look. She did not expect Qi Feng to be there too. It seemed like he was there to inspect the site.

South River Project No. 2 was on the other side of Project No. 1's worksite that Glory World was in charge of. Standing on the stairs here gave one an overall view of the situation over there.

Qi Feng seemed quite surprised to see Xi Xiaye. His charming face had a warm smile that gave one the feeling of being bathed in the spring breeze.