

Loving 1171

Chapter 1171. Bitterness, Aggrieved? (3)

Qi Lei took a deep breath after Gu Lingsha left his office. He stared quietly at the document she left behind.

He bent over and picked it up.

Then, he grinned after glancing through the content.

“Master Qi, what’s in it?” Yang Sheng asked when he noticed that something was not right.

Qi Lei’s eyes darkened. “What else could it be? They are trying to get me out of the way after Qi Feng joined the company. I just didn’t expect her to agree too.”

“What do you mean, Master Qi?” Yang Sheng was confused.

“Shasha suggested for me to be transferred to City B, with the reason being the development of a new market,” Qi Lei gave a simple explanation.

Yang Sheng’s expression froze. “Do you mean that it’s Manager Gu’s idea? But things are fine as they are now in City B, aren’t they? There’s no point transferring there now. Are they trying to remove you?”

Yang Sheng seemed troubled. He felt sorry for Manager Gu about what happened just now, but he did not expect her to do something like this either. It seemed as if she was blaming Master Qi for being cold-blooded, when in fact, she was the one acting ruthlessly.

Yang Sheng gave Qi Lei an odd expression. “Master Qi, then what should we do now? Maybe she wants you out because of your relationship with Chairman Mu. Does she want you to stay neutral?”

Qi Lei scoffed as he tossed the document onto the table and continued drinking his tea. “Stay neutral? Does she think I’m a fool? Qi Qiming is just trying to limit my influence. Qi Feng and her want to render

me powerless. I'd have no say in important matters at all after being transferred externally for one or two years."

"That's true, Master Qi. It took us so long to change the stakeholders' perspective. Our efforts will be wasted if we leave right now. If you take charge of things in City B, we'll rarely return here, unlike normal work abroad." Yang Sheng sounded uneasy.

Qi Lei's eyes darkened.

"We were careless. If we could travel between both places, that would give us an advantage, but now..."

Qi Lei felt a headache coming on. He also felt bitter because he was reminded about how Gu Lingsha acted just now.

"What should we do?" Worried, Yang Sheng hoped that Qi Lei would be able to stand on his own within Qi Kai.

Chenye Movies and Television was slowly getting on track. Furthermore, it was a crucial time period at the moment...

Qi Lei paused as he put down his cup and stood up. "I won't just take this as it is. I'll take a risk."

He would ask for Qi Qiming's opinion. He could not just allow himself to be manipulated by Qi Feng. At least, he had to fight for his freedom to travel between two cities. South River Project No. 1 was going smoothly whereas operations within Glory World were settling down too, so...

"Master Qi, we..."

"September...Don't overthink it. Have you made the arrangements at the hotel? And someone to pick them up?" Qi Lei did not want to continue on this conversation, so he shifted his attention to the client.

"I've made the appropriate arrangements. Don't worry," Yang Sheng replied.

“Do not tell anyone about it first. I’ll go talk to my father when I’m less busy.”

Qi Lei was against it, but there was no other way for him as he had no choice.

“Yes, Master Qi!” Yang Sheng noticed that Qi Lei was not in a good mood, so he left the room quietly.

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The media soon caught onto the matter between Gu Qiwu and Doris, so many people started gossiping about them. Doris accumulated evidence and handed them to the court, but they did not reach an agreement within a week. Finally, Gu Qiwu received a summon. Their case was set for the 10th of September.

This matter was getting out of hand with even Gu Lingsha being targeted by the reporters. Mu Lingshi was troubled as well, but fortunately, she was staying in the Mu residence and was hardly affected.

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye went on with their lives as usual. They had their peaceful days compared to the chaos Gu Lingsha was facing.

It was the weekend. Xi Xiaye brought out the breakfast she made and saw the man enjoying some tea while reading the papers.

Xi Xiaye took a glance at the papers to see news updates on Gu Qiwu and Doris.

“Have breakfast first. Didn’t you promise Father to play golf today?”

At midnight, Mu Tangchuan had suddenly invited him to play a game of golf that day, thus Xi Xiaye guessed that they would like to have some time for themselves.

“Aren’t you coming?” Mu Yuchen asked without even lifting his head.

“Mother invited me to visit the temple with her.”

The safety charm she got for him had disappeared for some reason. Since things were getting less peaceful lately, she decided to follow Zhuang Shurong to the temple. After all, these matters had been handled by Wang Hui when she was still alive.

To her, she was not being superstitious. She just wanted a peace of mind.

“Remember to bring the bodyguards. Tell Mother I won’t be going back to the Mu residence tonight, so let our son stay there. You’ve also been quite busy lately. Just let my parents take care of him.”

Mu Yuchen put the papers down and walked over.

“Mother told me about it. By the way, Gu Qiwu and Doris’s divorce case is going to court on the 10th of next month. Mother told me to notify you.”

“I saw it in the papers. Don’t worry and let them fight between themselves. Grandpa and the others should be back in a few days.” Mu Yuchen did not seem to care about Gu Qiwu and Doris though they did make him a little uneasy before this.

“They are coming back tomorrow evening. It’s time for Xiao Rui to go back to school again after a few days of rest. With the students returning to school, my parents also need time to prepare.”

Chapter 1172. Take Care (1)

They went their separate ways after a simple breakfast.

Mu Tangchuan was not really a big fan of sports. He only occasionally joined his friends for some casual golf and tennis sessions. With both Su Chen’s and Zhou Zimo’s fathers as his good friends, they often hung out together.

Mu Yuchen drove there with Li Si.

Mu Tangchuan and Su Zhengxun were chatting when he arrived at the venue. They were just talking about some fun topics instead of serious topics like politics. They had an unspoken agreement with each other, and that was that they would not talk about politics-related matters when they gathered for entertainment.

Both men took their coats off and suddenly arm-wrestled with each other. Their faces turned red and they started sweating after a while.

Thud—

Mu Tangchuan took a deep breath and quickly defeated Su Zhengxun.

The waiter soon handed them wet towels, which they gratefully accepted, and wiped off their sweat.

Mu Tangchuan handed the towel back as she spoke to Su Zhengxun, “Your stamina is as great as ever. It’s tough for me to win against you again.”

“I can give you a handicap.” Su Zhengxun smiled as he drank the water the waiter offered.

“Is Su Chen going back to study lately? I saw him at school yesterday.”

“I heard he’s been taking up some courses. Well, at least, it’s educational.”

Su Zhengxun was pretty lax when it came to his son as long as he did not do anything too terrible.

Mu Tangchuan, Su Zhengxun, and Zhou Zimo’s father were good friends. While Mu Tangchuan was gentle and kind, Su Zhengxun was serious and tactful whereas Zhou Zimo’s father was the witty and humorous one. The trio was well known within the community.

1“Su Chen is a good kid. I’d say he’s on par with you during your prime. Ah Rong mentioned that Ah Chen would probably be more mature now if he had stayed in the military back then unlike now.”

“Tangchuan, since when did we get so hung up on the past? Our children know how to handle themselves. Ah Chen is doing well, I suppose. Politics and business are warzones, so it’s inevitable to face some trouble every now and then.”

Su Zhengxun smiled. “I hardly limit what Su Chen does. Only his grandfather and mother are worried about him. You should learn from me sometimes. I heard about what happened. After Mu Zi has passed away for so many years, there’s no point in doing those things. What matters are those who are left alive.”

“It’s true that she passed away, but there’re still important things that need to be done,” Mu Tangchuan stared at the green grass field as he said.

Su Zhengxun was stupefied for a moment. He patted Mu Tangchuan’s back before getting up to grab his golf club.

“Father, Uncle Su!” Mu Yuchen’s voice reached them from behind. They turned around and noticed Mu Yuchen standing right behind them.

“You’re here!” Mu Tangchuan looked at Mu Yuchen with his kind, loving gaze.

“Ah Chen, come and have a round with me!” Su Zhengxun quickly invited him over.

Smiling, Mu Yuchen took off his coat and followed him while Li Si just waited aside.

“I haven’t been seeing Zimo and you visiting lately. Grandfather Su missed you two.”

“Zimo went to New York some time ago. I doubt he’ll be back so soon. The three of us do gather quite often, but we hardly visit each other’s place. I’ll be visiting with Xiao Rui and Xiaye in a few days.”

“Great, you youngsters should hang out more often.”

“Uncle Su, you aren’t old. How’re Grandfather Su and Aunt Su?” Mu Yuchen asked.

“Same old, same old. I had some free time today, so I invited your father out. I just wanted to know how you guys are doing, and to know a bit more about your aunt. Grandfather Su was pretty fond of your aunt last time, and he had a hard time getting over it. Now that your grandmother has passed away...” Su Zhengxun said quietly as he swung his club.

“Thank you for your concern. We’re fine.” Mu Yuchen was not sure what else he could say.

“That’s great then. I went to school yesterday. Su Chen told me to hand you something. It’s in the file on the table just now.”

“Aren’t you curious?”

Mu Yuchen grabbed a golf club for himself as he shot Su Zhengxun a curious glance.

“What’s there to be curious about? Among the three of you, I trust you the most. I can somewhat guess what’s inside, but I’m not going to expose you. Just be careful.”

Su Zhengxun was pretty concerned about Mu Yuchen and Zhou Zimo since he thought of them like his half-sons.

“I will.” Mu Yuchen revealed a humble smile before swinging his club.

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They went back to their seats after several swings.

Mu Tangchuan called Mu Yuchen over. Naturally, it was about Gu Qiwu.

“Gu Qiwu asked me to meet him, but I rejected him. He sent me an email with very simple content. He told me that he got the summon from the court, and they want us to work with him,” Mu Tangchuan informed coldly.

“How? He really is shameless.” Su Zhengxun’s tone turned chilly as well.

“There’s no need to comply with his requests. Just sit aside and watch.”

“I agree with Ah Chen. There’s no point helping him.”

As Mu Yuchen was about to say something else, Li Si’s voice reached him from behind. “Master!” His footsteps sounded panicky.

Mu Yuchen frowned and looked over to see that Li Si’s expression seemed worried.

Chapter 1173. Take Care (2)

While Mu Yuchen’s eyes darkened, he got up slowly and went to the side path the moment he noticed Li Si was hesitant to talk.

“Speak.”

Li Si took a deep breath before he continued, “Master, something bad has happened!”

He caught his breath before saying quietly, “Something happened to Master Mo in New York.”

Mu Yuchen’s expression darkened. He squinted his eyes as he darted Li Si a dangerous glance. “What happened?”

“The new company was found hiding something. There seemed to be a fight as well. He got injured and was brought away by the police. Ah Bo did his best to keep the news from spreading, so no one else knows about it yet. Master Mo wants you to head over. I’m afraid he can’t handle this alone.” Li Si’s tone sounded full of concern.

Mu Yuchen’s expression changed and his gaze turned cool. “Are the managers there useless pieces of trash?”

“Master, things are complicated at the moment. We’re not exactly sure what happened, and Ah Bo was only able to suppress the news at the moment since it’s an emergency. We still need your orders to take action. What should we do?” Li Si’s expression was grim.

Mu Yuchen clenched his fists before turning around.

“Book a flight ticket to leave today right away. Inform Vice President Zhang Lan and Vice President Wen to come to Maple Residence. I have work for them. Don’t tell anyone about what happened first,” he gave his orders before returning.

“Yes, Master! I’ll get it done right away!” Li Si took a deep breath and went on his way.

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“What’s wrong, Ah Chen? Why do you look uneasy?” Su Zhengxun instantly noticed that something was wrong when he saw Mu Yuchen’s expression.

“Father, Uncle Su, something has happened at the company. I might have to leave first.”

“Company matters?”

Mu Tangchuan and Su Zhengxun traded glances at each other before nodding.

“Sure.”

“Go ahead. Please come and visit my house when you have the time.”

“Alright.”

...

Mu Yuchen hurried back to Maple Residence where Zhang Lan and Wen Haiming were already waiting outside the door as he arrived. Mu Yuchen brought them into the living room and assigned them their tasks briefly.

It was nearly afternoon when they left. Xi Xiaye was not home yet, and Mu Xiaocheng was still at the Mu residence, so Maple Residence was pretty much empty at the moment.

Mu Yuchen packed up some stuff. Although he wanted to wait for Xi Xiaye to return before leaving, it did not seem like she could make it back soon. Even when he gave Xi Xiaye a call, she did not pick up after several tries.

Li Si grabbed the black briefcase and frowned a little as he gave Mu Yuchen a reminder, "Master, it's about time. The plane is taking off in an hour. There probably isn't any traffic jam at this hour, but it'll still take us about half an hour to get there."

Mu Yuchen took a deep breath before he took a pen and paper out to quickly scribble a note. He left the pen on the table and casually put on a coat over his shoulders.

"Let's go!"

He then started walking towards the door.

"Yes, Master!" Li Si followed suit.

Things could be troublesome this time. Ah Bo's tone sounded like it was pretty severe. Otherwise, Zhou Zimo would not have mentioned that this should be kept a secret for now. He also wanted Mu Yuchen to be there as soon as possible...

Mu Yuchen quickly headed to the airport.

As they were on their way to the airport, Li Si noticed Mu Yuchen frowned throughout the journey.

“Master, should I ask Vice President Zhang Lan to inform Missus?”

“There’s no need. I’ve left a note for her. How’s Zimo doing?”

Mu Yuchen’s top priority now was Zhou Zimo.

“I just heard from Ah Mo. He suffered a fracture in his left arm and is currently unconscious, and from his blood samples...the police...Ah Bo said that there might be a traitor...” Li Si sounded hesitant as his expression looked worse by the minute. He eventually stopped talking as Mu Yuchen understood what he did not say.

Mu Yuchen seemed exhausted. He took a deep breath as his expression turned cold and his eyes darkened.

“Master...” Li Si looked at Mu Yuchen through the rear-view mirror. He was worried about the changes in Mu Yuchen’s expression.

“Idiot! I’ve told him to be careful and not to put anyone he doesn’t trust around him! Just who does he think he is? Arrogant! His alertness is way too low. I have no words to describe his low IQ!” Mu Yuchen’s voice was angry and cold. Evidently, Li Si could sense the uneasiness and anxiety in his voice. It was his first time seeing Mu Yuchen behaving like this.

As he was about to say something, Mu Yuchen’s phone started ringing.

Mu Yuchen noticed that he was acting a little wild, so he closed his eyes to calm down for a moment before picking up the call. It was his woman calling.

Xi Xiaye had just bid farewell to Zhuang Shurong and was about to head home. She did not bring her phone along into the temple. After all, she did not expect Mu Yuchen to call her a dozen times. She felt uneasy and quickly called him back.

“What’s wrong? I didn’t bring my phone in just now.” Xi Xiaye’s voice reached him.

His anger toned down a little the moment he heard her voice. “Xiaye, I don’t have much time to explain, but I have an emergency to deal with in New York. Take care of yourself and our son. I’ll explain to you what happened later on.”

Chapter 1174. Take Care (3)

Mu Yuchen’s voice was filled with anxiety and helplessness.

“You’re heading to New York right now?” Xi Xiaye’s heart sank a little. It must have been really urgent if he did not even have the time to explain.

“Where are you now?” Xi Xiaye asked as she slowed her car down.

“I’m on the way to the airport. Don’t worry. I’ll give you a call once I arrive. Discuss with Ah Mo if you face any issues. I’ll tell Su Chen to help out as well. It might take me some time before returning...”

“Wait at the airport. I’m heading over!” Xi Xiaye hung up on the call and quickly made a U-turn—

Mu Yuchen looked at his darkened phone screen as a warm smile appeared on his face and he gently gripped on his phone. “Hurry.”

“Yes, Master,” the chauffeur replied and sped up.

The airport was not very far away from the Grand Waves Villa Area, so it would only take half an hour to arrive if there was no traffic jam.

It was 15 minutes before the flight took off. Mu Yuchen was waiting inside the VIP waiting area. Li Si had taken care of all the procedures and was waiting for Xi Xiaye to arrive as well. The gate had already been opened for boarding.

“Master, it’s time to board. I guess Missus isn’t going to make it. Should I tell the staff here? You can give her a call once we arrive there,” Li Si suggested.

Mu Yuchen took a glance at the time. His eyes darkened as he put away the magazine in his hands.

The group walked towards the boarding gate.

Xi Xiaye rushed into the airport the moment she got out of her car. She ran towards the boarding gate via the VIP tunnel...

Panting, she grabbed onto the safety charm she just received from the temple and ran across the airport. Her hair was a mess and she caught a lot of attention from the bypassers.

“Mr. Mu! Wait!”

There was no one else left at the boarding gate, and she was disappointed for a moment before staring at the boarding tunnel. She noticed his figure amidst the crowd, so she quickly ran towards him, and even disregarded the “do not cross” sign.

Mu Yuchen seemed more relaxed when he saw her.

“I made it. Take this with you and don’t lose it again. I won’t ask any questions since it’s an emergency. Be careful and take good care of yourself there. Remember to call me often.”

Xi Xiaye was really sweaty as she gasped the reminders and passed him the safety charm. For some reason, she always felt uneasy during moments like this, especially this time. Maybe it was because she could not get used to not having him by her side.

Mu Yuchen smiled gently when he saw what she gave him. He ran his fingers through her beautiful long hair and helped her fix it a little.

“Don’t worry. I’ll take care of myself though it might take a month or two before I return. Will you be fine?” he asked.

Xi Xiaye wrapped her arms around his waist. "Mmm."

"Don't get too close to strangers, especially the people I specifically mentioned. Just ignore whatever they say. If someone else gives you flowers again, I assume you know what to do, don't you?" he lowered his head and whispered beside her ear.

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment. She pursed her lips and chuckled, laughing at the fact that he still remembered Qi Feng's flowers the other day. She turned her head over and beamed. "Didn't you say I should take whatever I could get?"

"However, you shouldn't drag your standards down by accepting that petty stuff. If he's as generous as Qi Lei to give you roses made of gold, of course, you should accept it then." He smiled too.

Xi Xiaye's smile grew wider as she rolled her eyes at him. "Yes, yes, I know. You too. If I find out you've been staring at ladies, I'll gouge your eyes out..."

"I can't even handle you. How am I supposed to handle other women?! Alright, it's time for me to go now." He smiled and patted her head before leaving.

Xi Xiaye nodded and looked at him for another moment. She did not wear high heels today as she had to climb a steep flight of stairs just now, so she looked much smaller when compared next to Mu Yuchen at the moment.

She tip-toed and left a kiss on his face. "Goodbye."

Blushing slightly, he smiled and patted her shoulder before turning around and boarding the plane.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath, her sight never straying from him.

He advanced slowly and even stopped before entering to take a glance at her. He noticed that her eyes were slowly turning red...

Unfortunately, he still had to leave.

Xi Xiaye stayed there until the plane took off. She sniffled and thought that she was being too emotional.

1For some reason, she was worried that she could not get used to being separated from him for too long, especially when he had to leave in a hurry. She felt really nervous about his trip this time...

Chapter 1175. Debt (1)

The plane turned into a tiny black dot as it soared into the sky, disappearing into the horizon...

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and left quietly. She drove back to Maple Residence. She planned to relax and reunite with Shen Yue and the others the next day, but Mu Yuchen just had to leave at this time.

Xi Xiaye had no idea what happened, but from Mu Yuchen's reaction, it seemed like it was extremely important. Li Si appeared uneasy as well. After some thought, she called Ah Mo.

Ah Mo was on the way back from Hospital T after sending Mu Lingshi for her checkup there.

"Sister-in-law?" Ah Mo slowed down the car and looked at his phone screen in doubt.

"Answer it. It might be something important," Mu Lingshi said from the front passenger seat.

Ah Mo parked the car by the roadside and picked up the call. "Hello, Sister-in-law?"

"Ah Mo, did your brother call you just now?" Xi Xiaye asked.

"Brother? What call?" Ah Mo was a little confused.

Xi Xiaye supposed he did not know what happened. "It's alright now. How's Lingshi's checkup?"

“We’re just on our way home from the check-up. Are you two coming back for dinner?”

“He went abroad for work and said that he will be giving you a call soon. That’s all for now. We’ll talk later.”

She hung up after a brief conversation.

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“What’s the matter?” Mu Lingshi asked.

“Nothing much. She asked me if Brother called me, and it seems like Brother has gone to New York. I never heard about him going abroad. Wasn’t he playing golf with Father this morning? Why did he suddenly go off like that? Could something have happened?” Ah Mo looked worried.

“Brother went abroad?” Mu Lingshi frowned in surprise.

Ah Mo nodded. “Let’s go back and ask around what happened. Sister-in-law doesn’t sound alright. I think you should leave yourself out of this. After all, the doctor said you should stay relaxed, rest well, and have a smooth delivery.”

Mu Lingshi caressed her baby bump. “I understand. By the way...”

Before she could finish her sentence, her phone started ringing. It was an unknown number, but she answered it nevertheless.

“Hello?” Mu Lingshi’s voice reached the other end.

“Lingshi,” a deep and familiar voice replied to her, and Mu Lingshi recognized it in the first instance...

Who else could it be aside from Gu Qiwu?

Her eyes darkened as a cold aura surrounded her. Even Ah Mo could sense it clearly.

“Lingshi, please don’t hang up. Let’s talk.” Gu Qiwu could sense that Mu Lingshi was about to hang up, so he encouraged, “We’re not going to solve the problem by running away. Let’s have a talk, alright?”

Gu Qiwu was practically begging her which Mu Lingshi found ironic. “We’re not really that close. We have nothing to talk about.”

“No, Lingshi, we have a lot to talk about...about your mother, Mu Zi, about your brother, Lingtian, about us, and even the Mu family. I know Mu Yuchen is helping you with these issues at the moment, but I guess you wouldn’t want him to shoulder all the burdens, would you? There’s a lot that we need to talk about, don’t you think?”

Mu Lingshi’s expression darkened. “So, I’m your daughter now? Don’t you only have Ms. Gu Lingsha as your only daughter? I’m not interested in the Gu family at all.”

“You can decline me, but you know very well we can’t run away forever. Lingshi, I know I’m heavily indebted to you, but I didn’t do it out of my own will. Let’s meet at Bamboo Teahouse at 2 p.m. the day after tomorrow. That’s Xi Xiaye’s place. I’ll be waiting for you. I’ll tell you about your mother and me, and about Lingtian. I hope you can come.”

Sounding exhausted, Gu Qiwu hung up before Mu Lingshi could reply.

Mu Lingshi’s eyes clouded over after the call ended.

“What’s the matter? Did Gu Qiwu call you?” Ah Mo noticed something amiss.

Mu Lingshi put her phone away. “He wants to meet me at Sister-in-law’s teahouse the day after tomorrow. He wants to talk to me. What else is there to talk about?”

Mu Lingshi turned towards Ah Mo and asked coldly, “What does he want?”

“You know very well if you need to talk to him or not. No matter what, I’m fine with it as long as you’re happy.”

He then started the car again.

...

In the CEO’s office in Qi Kai Corporation, it was right after lunchtime. Qi Qiming had been absent for the last two days, but he came in for a meeting today, and then he went back to his office for some rest after having lunch.

Qi Lei did not want to come, but he still came over after some thought.

He clenched the documents in his hand and he took a deep breath before knocking on the door.

Rat-a-tat.

Qi Qiming replied without even raising his head, “Come in!”

To Qi Qiming’s surprise, Qi Lei entered. However, he did not say anything and just watched as Qi Lei walked in.

Qi Lei closed the door and walked towards the table. Then, he grabbed a chair and sat down casually before Qi Qiming could utter anything.

Chapter 1176. Debt (2)

Qi Qiming looked at Qi Lei, expecting him to say something, so he put his pen down.

“What’s the matter?” Qi Qiming asked quietly and calmly, unlike his attitude before. He seemed to have changed his impression of Qi Lei. At least, he did not find him annoying right away.

Qi Qiming had been thinking about Wang Qin ever since she passed away. Even now, he still unconsciously reached out for the other side of the bed. He would sometimes wake up in shock as he could not sense anyone beside him.

It happened to him numerous times. Qi Qiming started to think that Wang Qin was haunting him due to all his hatred towards her when she was still alive. His assistant offered to get him a safety charm, but he declined.

For some reason, he was not afraid of Wang Qin haunting him. He was actually afraid that she would not do so anymore.

He suddenly looked much older in the span of a few months. Lately, he always appeared tired and exhausted.

He did not have the spirit and motivation to manage his company anymore, hence he wanted Qi Feng to transition and take over soon. He would then complete his mission by letting Qi Feng succeed Qi Kai.

Qi Lei looked at Qi Qiming as he took a deep breath and put a document in front of him. "Did you personally agree to this? Do you want to transfer me externally?" He went straight to the point.

With a frown, Qi Qiming quickly took a glance at the document Qi Lei handed him. His eyes darkened slightly before he looked at Qi Lei. "That's right. Lingsha suggested for you to go. Your brother didn't seem to agree, but I want you to be trained in another city for a year or two."

"You know that I have an important project to follow up with Glory World, and I doubt that City B will need a Vice President to go over and monitor the market over there. There's no need for me to go! I need a reason for this external transfer!" Qi Lei stared at Qi Qiming with a cold expression.

Qi Qiming calmed himself down and closed the document before him. "I've given you the reason. I want you to experience and train yourself. There's a need for Qi Kai to develop externally. This is a great opportunity for you to display your talents. Lingsha is right. There's no reason for you to decline. I'm very happy with your performance lately. Moreover, the Gu family will help you out in City B," he explained as he took a sip from the glass of water on the table before he continued, "You know how I've been doing lately. I don't really have the mental capacity to handle the company anymore, and I'm really pleased about your performance lately. I'm glad that you've grown."

“You don’t need to praise me. I won’t accept this decision. If you think that this is a great opportunity, I can be generous and give it to Qi Feng instead. There’s no need to thank me.” Qi Lei smirked.

Qi Qiming’s expression froze for a moment as he looked into Qi Lei’s eyes and noticed the sarcasm in his eyes.

“Xiao Lei, I hope you can get over this. You’re still being immature. This external transfer gives you nothing but benefits. Your brother needs to stay here in order to learn more about the operations in the company while you’ve been staying in the company all these years, so you should know almost everything already. Isn’t this a challenge for yourself? Don’t youngsters love opportunities to display their abilities? The South River project is already on track now. Your brother and Lingsha will take care of it from now on,” Qi Qiming tried to convince Qi Lei.

“I’ve told you I don’t mind giving this opportunity to Qi Feng instead. You know that I don’t care about that. I won’t be leaving City Z. My mother is right here. If you think that I’m a threat to Qi Feng, then you can remove me. I will bring my mother’s possessions and leave Qi Kai, and we can go our separate ways,” Qi Lei put on a stiff smile as he said coldly.

Qi Qiming’s expression changed and his gaze seemed complicated.

Just when their relationship was getting slightly better, Qi Qiming did not want their relationship to become like before.

He had given it some thought when Gu Lingsha first suggested it. He thought the brothers would have less conflict if Qi Lei left City Z and if Qi Lei could also maintain a neutral attitude.

Qi Lei’s relationship with Mu Yuchen was odd at the moment, but he definitely hated Qi Feng. He just wanted Qi Lei to avoid conflict.

“Xiao Lei, this is for your own good. Part of Qi Kai belongs to you no matter what, but can you really take everything upon yourself right now if you stay here?” Qi Qiming asked.

“Why not?” Qi Leng asked right back. “I won’t leave City Z. You’d better find someone else if you’re seriously considering someone to explore the market over there. I have my mother’s shares, and I have the power to remain here. If you’re worried that I might be an obstacle to your son, suit yourself! Don’t complain that I didn’t warn you first.”

“Can you just listen to me once? I won’t mistreat my son no matter what!” Qi Qiming felt terrible listening to his words.

“No, your son is Qi Feng! You insist that you did it for my own good. Do you think I’m a fool? Transferring me externally for several years...Will I still have a place here even if I actually got a chance to return? New market development? Even if I actually make an impact there, anyone of you can take the labor of my work for yourself! I’m an honest man. You shouldn’t be scamming me like this!”

Chapter 1177. Debt (3)

Qi Lei gave a chilly smile as if he was looking at Qi Qiming like a funny clown.

“How long are you going to keep thinking of me as a fool? My mother is dead, but do you think I’d just do whatever you say without my mother protecting me?” Qi Lei asked.

Qi Qiming’s eyes darkened instantly when Wang Qin was mentioned. “Qi Lei, I don’t mean that.”

“Stop pretending already. Since we’re talking about our family, let’s discuss things between us.”

Qi Lei felt disappointed. No matter how he acted like he did not care, he still could not help but feel sorrowful. He always knew that he was not important to Qi Qiming, and he felt like escaping every time he had to face this issue.

Sometimes, he even doubted if he was actually Qi Qiming’s son. He then demanded as he gave Qi Qiming a sharp glance, “Am I really your son?”

Qi Qiming’s heart sank when he heard the question, and he nodded. “Of course, your mother has only been with me, so who else could be your father?”

He knew that although Wang Qin had someone she fancied before, her pride would not allow her to keep in contact with that person after she was married to Qi Qiming, and the only man she had ever been with was only Qi Qiming.

Qi Qiming was afraid to tell Qi Lei that Wang Qin got pregnant with him because Qi Qiming had forced her...

Perhaps, from then onwards, he felt a little different towards both of them.

If Wang Qin had been slightly gentler to him or at least respected him as a man, he might still have been able to treat her kindly, and maybe she would not have passed away so early.

However, she had never prioritized Qi Qiming because her heart was already dead from the day she married him.

Why would Qi Qiming care about a woman who did not love him?

“Do you hate my mother? And is that why you hate me too?” Qi Lei continued with his questions.

“Of course not—” Qi Qiming answered instantly.

“No? But everything you did was enough for us to hate you. Why do you have to push your wife and son into a corner? Do you know that I really don’t like you? I thoroughly hate you. I’m a realist who will treat you however you treat me.”

Qi Qiming took a deep breath and went to the pantry corner to grab himself a glass of water. He took several sips before sitting down again.

“You weren’t even there when my mother died. She was your wife and your son’s mother, yet you didn’t even see her for the very last time. You’ve never given her happiness. My mother was worried that no one else would help me when she was on the verge of dying, so she grabbed Xi Xiaye’s hands and asked her to take care of me. Xi Xiaye promised my mother that Mu Yuchen and her would treat me like their younger brother, and until today, they’re keeping their promise.”

Qi Qiming had no idea about that, so he was not sure what to say at this moment.

“I don’t know what’s family kinship, but I know what’s good, and they look good to me. Compared to my so-called family who is always plotting something behind my back, I feel much superior to all of you. I can understand why you’d want to transfer me externally, but I’m telling you now that I won’t leave this city—”

Qi Lei slowly got up. He put his palms on the table and stared at Qi Qiming right in the eyes. “Because I’ll have nothing left once I leave here. I’ll lose everything that I care about. I have nothing to lose anymore. I don’t want to lose these feelings and memories too. I don’t think I have a family anymore, so I don’t want to lose my friendship. If you’re forcing me to make a choice, I’d choose them over you right away!”

Qi Qiming’s expression looked terrible and his face darkened instantly.

“What did you say?” His breath got shorter as he clenched his fists.

Qi Lei stood up straight and flipped through the document again before throwing it back onto Qi Qiming’s table. “Did I not make myself clear enough? I won’t leave City Z. If you’re forcing me to make a choice, I’ll choose to stand on Mu Yuchen’s side. I’ll do so even if you force me out of Qi Kai. Getting angry now? I don’t care how you look at me. At least, with them, I can feel the warmth that you’ll never be able to give me.”

Qi Lei took a deep breath as he pushed the chair behind him away.

“This document is invalid from this point onwards. I’ll leave it to you.” He then walked towards the door—

“Come back here! I’m your father. It’s not up to you to decide whether we’re related or not! If you really do that, I won’t call you my son ever again!” Qi Qiming yelled at him.

Qi Lei halted his steps instantly with a bitter smile on his face. He took a deep breath and replied without even turning over, “Finally, you said it. You must’ve been longing for this moment, haven’t you?”

“Whatever! I always knew that I wasn’t important to you. Do you understand about friends who’ve been through a lot with you? Or about kinship? You don’t understand any of them! Without me, you still have your other amazing son with you, but if I lose these, I’ll have nothing left!”

Qi Lei soon disappeared out of the door.

Chapter 1178. Debt (4)

Thud—

Qi Lei did not slam the door, but Qi Qiming felt a huge impact inside him as his body froze involuntarily. He always knew that Qi Lei behaved similarly to his mother.

Wang Qin had always been like that. She would go over without any intention of having a peaceful discussion.

If it were in the past, Qi Qiming would have been enraged, but he experienced an odd feeling inside him when he watched Qi Lei leave his office on a sour note. It was not as if he did not care about his son; he was just not sure how he should face him.

Qi Qiming felt deeply indebted to Wang Qin.

Just like Qi Lei said, he had been giving Wang Qin nothing but trouble...

He had forced her and plotted against her.

However, Wang Qin was dead, so he held the final say in Qi Kai, but why did he feel like it was meaningless now?

Qi Qiming was dazed.

He came back to his senses after a long time. Then, he looked at the document Qi Lei brought over and quietly flipped through it. Then, he took a deep breath.

He suddenly tore the document into pieces before he opened his drawer to take out a lighter and burn it.

The blue flames engulfed the paper scraps very quickly.

Rat-a-tat!

There was a knock on the door when Qi Qiming was deep in his thoughts. The door was already open when he came back to his senses.

Morrison pushed Qi Feng inside the room.

“CEO Qi!”

Morrison wheeled Qi Feng right in front of Qi Qiming’s table. Then, he bowed to Qi Qiming and left some documents on his table before leaving.

“What’s wrong, Father? Are you feeling unwell?” Qi Feng was extremely observant, so he instantly noticed the uneasiness on Qi Qiming’s face.

Qi Qiming grabbed the documents Morrison left and said, “I’m fine. Are you done with the tasks I gave you?”

“Almost. Things are getting on track and I don’t really face many difficulties. You can hand me the information on South River Project No. 1 so that I can learn more about it before visiting.” Qi Feng’s quiet voice was a stark contrast to Qi Lei’s rash words. Qi Qiming felt he would be more at peace if Qi Lei could act this way...

“Put that on hold for now. We’ll find another suitable candidate to handle the market development in City B. Let Qi Lei stay here and continue monitoring the project he’s working on for now,” Qi Qiming carefully put forth his words.

Qi Feng paused as a cold light flashed in his eyes. He did not ask anything and just nodded. "Noted. I'll get them to find another suitable candidate soon."

With a dip of his head, Qi Qiming took a glance at Qi Feng. "Xiao Lei is just like your mother. You have to take care of him as his big brother. He's been working alongside your mother ever since he returned from abroad, and there was some conflict between us, but I don't want to see our family breaking apart."

"Don't worry, Father. I know what to do. He's my only brother after all. I won't hurt him." Qi Feng sounded gentle and humble. "He's always been like this, so I've gotten used to it already. It's not the first day that he has a bias against me. Things would have escalated a long time ago if I were to mind him, so there's nothing to worry about."

Qi Qiming calmed down after listening to those words. "You've been calling Wang Qin your mother for the past 20 years. Although she doesn't like you, she has never tried to hurt you. I have to admit that I favor you more among my two sons. Your biological mother passed away too early, and I was worried that Wang Qin might mistreat you, hence I put a lot of focus on you. I feel sorry for your mother too, so...

"Xiao Lei is a good kid. He has a bias against you because I've owed him too many things. He has the love of his mother. I...Ah Feng, I don't care how you want to deal with Mu Yuchen, but after I pass Qi Kai over to you, you have to take care of Qi Lei. Can you do that?" Qi Qiming threw Qi Feng a sharp glance.

Qi Feng lowered his eyes to hide the faint light in them as he nodded. "If you're worried, I won't complain if you give Qi Kai to him. It rightfully belongs to him anyway. I'd appreciate it if there's a place for me to stay." His voice was calm and he did not display any emotions externally.

"Don't say that. I feel much more at ease handing Qi Kai over to you. While Qi Lei is performing well lately, he lacks experience. Initially, I agreed with Lingsha's suggestion to transfer him externally for some training, but after giving it some thought, things might not work out well for him. Having him nearby could be easier to keep an eye on him."

Qi Qiming grabbed a pen and signed his name on the documents. "Alright, you can head back now if there's nothing else. I'll leave the South River Project in your hands."

Qi Feng nodded and slowly moved his wheelchair towards the door.

Qi Qiming knew there was some conflict between Qi Feng and Qi Lei, but he had not thought much about it before. Now, he just hoped that they could accept each other peacefully...

Chapter 1179. Plotting

Morrison waited outside the door as Qi Feng left the office.

“Master!”

Because he noticed that something was not right, Morrison carefully probed, “Did something happen?” He then went behind him and started pushing his wheelchair.

“Go and find out if Qi Lei met my father today. Try to find out what happened between them,” Qi Feng said.

“CEO Qi and Qi Lei?”

Morrison seemed surprised, but he did not ask any further questions when he saw Qi Feng’s expression. “Yes, I’ll find out soon!”

...

Qi Feng was no fool. Qi Qiming’s sudden change in attitude was too obvious. Even he felt shocked by the drastic change, so he guessed that something must have happened between Qi Qiming and Qi Lei.

Qi Qiming initially agreed for Qi Lei to take over the market development in City B. However, something must have influenced him to change his mind. What was it?

Qi Feng felt a little uneasy.

Qi Qiming had been odd lately. He frequently changed his mind.

Previously, he had been extremely against Qi Lei, but he changed his mind now. While Gu Lingsha's suggestion was good, Qi Feng was in disagreement as he feared that Qi Qiming might notice that something was not right if they just transferred Qi Lei away so suddenly.

Hopefully, Qi Qiming would not overthink it.

Qi Lei was getting more and more important to Qi Qiming who felt sorry for Qi Lei, especially since Wang Qin's death. There should not be any more issues after Wang Qin died, but it felt like things were getting worse.

Even though Qi Lei looked like he did not care about his mother on the surface, Qi Feng could tell that Qi Lei was very protective of her. He thought that Qi Lei would just give up and eventually mess up his relationship with Qi Qiming just like before.

However, things turned out differently than he expected.

Mu Yuchen was providing Qi Lei cover, thus things might not be as easy as he thought. Even if he gained full control of Qi Kai, it might become another long battle like the one between Qi Qiming and Wang Qin.

Qi Feng would hate to see that happen.

Soon after he returned to the office, Morrison was back after asking around. He whispered beside Qi Feng's ear, "I've found out what happened!"

"What's the matter?" Qi Feng looked at Morrison coldly.

"Just before you entered CEO Qi's room, someone saw Second Master leaving his office. It seems like they just had a fight. It must've been about transferring him over to City B," Morrison stated his speculation.

Qi Feng nodded as he smiled coldly. "That explains it. That does sound like Qi Lei being the idiot that he is. Why is he trying to act all high and mighty?"

"Master, doesn't CEO Qi want Second Master Qi to go now? Wasn't the proposal passed? I remember Manager Gu delivering it personally."

"Shasha underestimated Qi Lei. Does she still think he's the same person as before? Since my father mentioned it, we'll put this on hold at the moment and do what he says. What does Qi Lei think he can do by staying here? He'll only be the loser if he tries to play mind tricks on me!" A cold light flashed past Qi Lei's eyes as he revealed an eerie smile.

"What are you planning?" Morrison somehow knew that he had a plan already.

Qi Feng slowly leaned against the back of his chair. He gave it some thought before saying, "Go to the HR Department. Qi Lei is hiring an assistant, isn't he? Coincidentally, Xi Xinyi is finishing her current task soon. Shasha wants to test her out and take her in as a subordinate. Tell Xi Xinyi to help Qi Lei out. He needs someone for the project in City B, and Xi Xinyi is the perfect candidate to do so!"

Qi Feng's eyes gleamed intensely as if he was imagining something interesting unfolding before his eyes.

Morrison smiled, seeming impressed. "That's a great move. Not only can we test Xi Xinyi and take control of Yue Hai, but there's also Xi Xinyi's relationship with Xi Xiaye. That will surely affect the friendship between Qi Lei and Xi Xiaye. It's not impossible to destroy their bond! Even if it fails, we lose nothing!"

Qi Feng grinned. "I'm glad that you realize that. Give Shasha a call and tell her about my idea. I'm sure she'll understand. By the way, give me Doris's address. It's about time I visited her."

"Yes! Doris? Master, she called you twice before, but she stopped calling after you rejected her. I suppose she might be waiting for you to visit her as well. You also promised Manager Gu to have a talk with Mr. Gu as well, didn't you?" Morrison gave him a confused glance.

Qi Feng smiled mysteriously. "Morrison, it's only a few days away from them going to court. Who do you think will be worried between the two of them?" he raised his eyebrows and asked.

Morrison gave it some serious thought before replying, "Naturally, it'll be Mr. Gu. Doris was the one who wanted the divorce. I think he doesn't want to give her his assets even though they are getting a divorce. Moreover, I heard that Doris has the share transfer contract signed by Mr. Gu, so he's at a serious disadvantage here..."

Qi Feng smiled and shook his head. "Not really. He's an old, sly fox. I don't think he'd put himself at such a disadvantage. Why else do you think Doris would want to see me?"

Chapter 1180. Battered, But Not Ashamed! (1)

Morrison gave it some thought, then he asked, "So, do you mean that Doris isn't totally confident?"

As Qi Feng took a deep breath, he straightened up and replied, "She's a powerful character. She wouldn't just let this go. I'm looking forward to the chaos that's about to come."

"We'll wait and see. By the way, Master, should we keep an eye on Second Master?" Morrison asked.

"There's no need. I doubt he can do much in City Z. You can leave for now," Qi Feng said.

"Yes, Master!"

Morrison quietly left the room.

...

The sky slowly turned dark. As the darkness slowly engulfed the very last rays of the sun, the whole world seemed to fall quiet.

The night came with silence.

At midnight in Imperial Sky Entertainment City, Xi Xiaye drove over and parked her car.

“Director Xi!” the manager greeted her the moment she showed up.

Xi Xiaye nodded and went inside while Xiao Mei followed right behind her.

Xi Xiaye had just been passing by when Yang Sheng gave her a call and said that Qi Lei was meeting a client there and had drunk quite a lot that night. He also mentioned that Qi Lei had a fight with Qi Qiming, so he was in a pretty bad mood. Therefore, Yang Sheng asked if she could go over to take a look at him.

As Xi Xiaye entered the corridor to the room, she saw Yang Sheng outside the door.

He was relieved to see Xi Xiaye and he quickly went up to her. “Ms. Xiaye!”

“What happened? What’s the matter? What happened to Qi Lei?” Xi Xiaye halted her steps and looked at Yang Sheng.

Yang Sheng sighed. “I forgot to mention it to you and Chairman Mu. Manager Gu suggested to the stakeholders and CEO Qi to transfer Master Qi over to City B and stay there. However, Master Qi is unwilling to comply, and he had a fight with CEO Qi today. He’s since been a bad mood for the rest of the day. Manager Gu came to look for him and she’s inside with him right now. Please take a look inside. I’m really worried about Master Qi!”

Xi Xiaye frowned.

Gu Lingsha?

“How kind of her!”

Xi Xiaye found it ironic. She was not a fool, so it was easy to guess Gu Lingsha’s intentions.

On one hand, she said that their friendship was irreplaceable, but on the other hand, she stabbed him in the back. What a friend!

She knew how bad the relationship between Qi Feng and Qi Lei was, yet she used the excuse of love to hurt Qi Lei, and Qi Qiming did the same as well!

Anger suddenly filled Xi Xiaye!

A cold light glimmered in her eyes before she headed inside.

It was midnight, and the guests were sent back under Yang Sheng's arrangements, so only Qi Lei was left drinking inside the room alone. He felt annoyed especially with Gu Lingsha in the room with him.

"Go away! I don't want to see you," Qi Lei frowned as he emptied a glass and said coldly to Gu Lingsha.

She wanted to take his glass away, but he avoided her.

Gu Lingsha stared at him for a while. She gave up stopping him and grabbed an empty glass for herself instead before filling it up with liquor and chugging it down. She coughed and then looked at Qi Lei.

"I know you must be blaming me right now, but what can I do? What else can I do?"

"I told you that I hope for you to stand on my side, or to be neutral. Do you want me to watch you and your brother become enemies while you make friends with Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye? With what's happening to my parents, the Mu family and I will have never-ending conflicts from now on. Qi Lei, I don't want you to become my enemy. Do you understand?" Gu Lingsha sounded angry and anxious.

"I know what you and Qi Feng are thinking. I'm just a bother, aren't I?" Qi Lei's tone was chilly while his black eyes were cool as ice. "Gu Lingsha, you'd better stop challenging my limits!"

"I can't help it if you think of me that way. No matter what, I hope you can follow the arrangements made as that's the best for everyone! They wouldn't have dragged you into this mess if they really cared about you. Wouldn't it be great if you could leave the vortex of conflict from now on?" Gu Lingsha replied firmly.

“You have no right to say those words to me anymore, Gu Lingsha! What right do you have to order me around? Even Qi Qiming wouldn’t talk to me like that. How dare you?!”

“In the end, you just want Qi Kai, don’t you? Let me tell you, Qi Lei. Qi Kai will surely fall into Qi Feng’s hands, and there’s nothing you can do about it. I’m giving you a chance to create your own world in City B with the help of Hui Gu Corporation, yet you’re rejecting my kindness! I’m very disappointed in you! Just what do you want me to do?”

Gu Lingsha was telling the truth. From Qi Lei’s standpoint, leaving City Z and starting a new career in City B could be a breakthrough for him, but did she really mean what she said?

“Stop being a busybody! You’re Qi Feng’s woman. Your job is just to look after him. Who are you to me? I don’t need you to worry about me.”

As Qi Lei smashed the glass onto the table, alcohol and blood spilled everywhere.

Shocked by Qi Lei’s behavior, Gu Lingsha’s eyes widened as she gaped at Qi Lei. She then bit her lip and revealed a bitter smile. “I see. What if Xi Xiaye was the one who told you what I just said? Would you still be acting this way?”

“Don’t drag another person into things between us!”