

Loving 1241

Chapter 1241. As If A Century 5

1241 As If A Century 5

As Xi Xiaye sat down on a bench, she wiped away her tears and sniffed. She took out her phone moments later and called her man's number.

Mu Yuchen was on his way out of the elevator when his phone started ringing. He was heading toward Ruan Heng's room.

"Xiaye?" Mu Yuchen picked up her call as he got out of the elevator.

"Mr. Mu, when are you coming back? Guess what? Ruan Heng woke up! He woke up!" Xi Xiaye shared the news with him with excitement filling her tone. She continued without waiting for his reply, "He finally woke up! Su Nan cried, and I was at a loss of what to do when I saw them..." Xi Xiaye was more than a little ecstatic.

Mu Yuchen had a smile on his face.

What great news!

He hastened and saw her sitting on the bench from afar, speaking into the phone, but he could already hear her as he went near.

"Mr. Mu...why aren't you talking?" Xi Xiaye found it odd that he had been quiet.

The call suddenly ended, so she frowned and was about to call him again when suddenly she heard the sound of footsteps coming near along with a familiar scent, so she quickly looked over.

When she noticed a pair of shiny leather shoes, she raised her head and noticed the man right before her.

“You’re back!” Xi Xiaye was surprised and her eyes were still teary.

“Did you cry?” He looked at her from above as he put his hands into his pockets.

Xi Xiaye rubbed her eyes and still felt a little dampness around her cheeks. “No...”

“Your face is telling me that you did,” he teased her with a warm smile on his face.

“I didn’t. I just felt...a little touched...” She did not want to admit it.

“Stop denying it. You’ve been a crybaby lately. It’s bad. People might think that I’m bullying you. I promised your parents that I wouldn’t make you cry.” Although he sounded like he was criticizing her, his tone was gentle.

Even so, Xi Xiaye felt the urge to cry even more when he talked like this. She got up and hugged him as she took a deep breath. “Thank you, Mr. Mu...I remember everything you’ve done for me. Ruan Heng wouldn’t have woken up so quickly if it weren’t for you, and my parents and the Xi family...I think that I’d have collapsed if I had taken all of those on alone. Luckily, you’ve always been there for me...Why are you so good to me?”

He had always been kind to her. Each and every deed he did left a bit of warmth in her heart. When she looked back at it all, she realized there was a sun rising behind her, a sun that belonged only to her, accompanying her silently.

He patted her head. “Who knows if you might abandon me one day if I’m not good to you? I’m pretty much an idiot when it comes to relationships if you didn’t already know. I don’t know how else to make you love me.”

“I never knew you cared so much about me.” Her heart melted, then she gave him a tight hug.

“Who should I care about if not you?” He rolled his eyes and gently tidied her hair for her.

“I’ll be sticking right next to you!” She then made funny faces at him.

In response, he frowned and said, “How ugly!”

“I’m still your wife no matter how ugly I become,” she spoke with a straight face.

He chuckled. “You’re really taking advantage of me now, aren’t you? Too bad that’s all that you can do.”

“You just said that I’m a nice little woman just a few days ago. You said that I never ask much from you and you couldn’t get the satisfaction of being a man from me, yet you’re telling me this now. It’s so hard to figure men out. You’re like the microorganisms under the sea.” She squinted her eyes at him.

“Did I say that?” He did not seem to remember.

“Of course. Don’t deny it.”

“Whatever you say then. You win. Alright, let’s head inside.” He backed off and just let her win the argument as long as she was happy.

Inside Ruan Heng’s ward, Ruan Heng and Su Nan had a long talk with each other before she then helped him sit up and got him a glass of warm water. She supported him up slowly to sip the water.

Ruan Heng leaned his back against the headboard. He still looked weak, but he seemed to be in a good mood.

Xi Xiaye dragged Mu Yuchen inside and called out to him when she saw that he was already sitting up, “Ruan Heng!”

Ruan Heng and Su Nan looked over. They were both happy and grateful when they saw Xi Xiaye and Mu Yuchen coming in. They traded glances with each other before Ruan Heng greeted them, “Xiaye, Chairman Mu!”

He wanted to get up, but Xi Xiaye stopped him. "You just woke up. Stay put and rest for now."

"I'm fine. Nan Nan gave me a brief overview of what happened during the time when I was in a coma. I'm really thankful for both of you, Xiaye and Chairman Mu!" Ruan Heng offered his sincere gratitude as he glanced at Xi Xiaye as well as Mu Yuchen behind her.

Chapter 1242. Showdown!

1242 Showdown! 1

Mu Yuchen smiled when he received the grateful glances from Ruan Heng. He nodded before turning towards Xi Xiaye. "Get the doctor over to take a look at him."

Su Nan took a deep breath and cleaned up the mess on her face. "Look at me. I totally forgot about it! I'll get the doctor to come right now!" She quickly pressed a button beside the bed.

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye went closer to Ruan Heng's bed.

"How are you feeling?" Mu Yuchen greeted Ruan Heng who was still on the bed.

Ruan Heng straightened up and replied weakly, "I'm fine. I just can't really muster up strength at the moment, but thank you so much for your help during this period of time. I didn't expect I'd be in a coma for so long..."

"As long as you wake up, take your time to recover. Don't worry about troubling us. It's no big deal. I'm afraid that Nan Nan might have broken down sooner if you were still in a coma," Xi Xiaye spoke as she looked at Su Nan who was drowning in happiness and excitement at the moment.

With a nod, Ruan Heng looked at Su Nan and gave her an apologetic grin. "I'm sorry, Nan Nan..."

"It's all good that you've woken up. You'd be disappointing everyone if you were still unconscious even after Xiaye and Chairman Mu came to visit you. Everyone has been a part of the journey. Fortunately, you've finally woken up," Su Nan grabbed Ruan Heng's hand and said.

Ruan Heng sensed that Su Nan had changed compared to before. She seemed to have been tamed, and there was a quiet, gentle strength radiating from within her...

The doctor arrived before he could truly savor this moment.

Professor Harry came over personally to Ruan Heng's room. He smiled and greeted Mu Yuchen the moment he entered the room. Then, he quickly performed a checkup for Ruan Heng. The results were satisfactory for everyone.

"His bodily functions are normal. He's just a little weak now due to a long period of inactivity. Take note of his nutrient intake and exercise more often. I believe he'll recover very soon," Professor Harry said.

"When can he be discharged?" Mu Yuchen asked.

"It's recommended to stay for a few more days for observation, but I've been following Mr. Ruan's condition, and his wife has been taking good care of him. I'll do a full body checkup on him tomorrow, and I can discharge him if all's good. I would suggest he do a checkup every month for at least half a year. He can only be considered fully recovered after that," Professor Harry explained.

Su Nan and Xi Xiaye were delighted. They traded glances at each other as they were brimming with excitement.

"That's great! Xiaye, this is really great! Ruan Heng, did you hear that? The doctor says you can leave tomorrow! We can finally go home!" Su Nan shook Xi Xiaye's arm as she said.

Xi Xiaye smiled. "Let's go out somewhere then. There are some nice spots nearby, and it'll be good exercise for him. Professor Harry, is it alright if we visit the grasslands nearby?"

"Of course, but take note that he can't over-exhaust himself right now," Professor Harry replied. He gave several other pointers before leaving the room. Mu Yuchen followed him out to find out more about Ruan Heng's condition.

The room turned quiet again with just Xi Xiaye, Su Nan, and Ruan Heng in the room.

“Ruan Heng, Su Nan has gone through a hard time for your sake. You should really think about how to make it up to her. Mu Yuchen planned to bring me around anyway. It’s been a long time since we last traveled together. We should travel together before heading back to City Z,” Xi Xiaye suggested.

Su Nan was startled for a moment, and she gave Ruan Heng an indecisive glance.

Ruan Heng then asked, “Won’t we be bothering you and Chairman Mu?”

Xi Xiaye smiled. “Of course not. He’s nice enough. You guys just haven’t spent enough time with him. Since the two of you are my best friends, I hope for all of you to get closer.”

“Alright then, we’ll take up on your offer.”

“Mmm, I’ll get him to arrange something.”

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Ruan Heng waking up was great news, and he was mostly recovered after two days of rest.

Mu Yuchen arranged for them to stay in the hotel they were staying at after Ruan Heng was discharged, so it was easier to contact them.

On the third day, the group went to the western grasslands.

Mu Yuchen drove while Xi Xiaye sat on the front passenger seat. The two of them took turns to drive while Ruan Heng and Su Nan sat in the back, relaxing. Fast-paced music was being played from the player in the car, and they chatted along the way.

It was mostly Xi Xiaye and the two passengers in the back talking. Mr. Mu just played the role of a quiet, responsible driver who would give a brief reply once in a while. Overall, the atmosphere during the trip was harmonious.

The west felt huge. They were just in time for the most beautiful moments in America as the beautiful, extensive grasslands were on display. The cool autumn temperature was also comfortable for traveling. Xi Xiaye felt like they were here just at the right time.

After five hours of driving into the deeper grasslands, they passed a lively little town and went on for another half an hour before a large path of tranquil, beautiful blue appeared before their eyes!

Su Nan instantly screamed the moment she saw the little villa bathed under the golden sun, "Xiaye! Xiaye! Look! How beautiful! Look, there's an upside-down view of the scenery over the lake! That's a church there. Oh, gosh, Chairman Mu, how did you find this place? It's so beautiful!"

Chapter 1243. Showdown!

Su Nan had always been a fan of traveling. Before she married Ruan Heng, she frequently traveled to places alone and nearly traveled through all of Europe, but she hardly visited America.

Xi Xiaye had always been fond of the American culture. People here were wild and individualistic, and she felt much more open when she thought about it as she wanted to experience such a life.

Xi Xiaye looked around the villa. It was a typical western-style villa that was tranquil and warm. They would be staying there for the next two days.

The car slowly stopped beside the villa.

Mu Yuchen switched off the engine. Su Nan already could not wait to get down. She excitedly lay down on the grasslands, making Xi Xiaye smile. Xi Xiaye turned towards her man who slowly got out of the car and let the bodyguards take care of the luggage.

The sky turned dark after they settled down.

"Xiaye, when do you find a man most charming?" Su Nan captured Xi Xiaye's gaze and asked.

Startled, Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows and tried to avoid answering. "What do you think?"

Su Nan coughed and pointed her finger at Mu Yuchen. "It's during a time like this! When he was willing to take off his coat and cook for you, I knew that you'd be happy when I saw Mu Yuchen and you standing like this together for the first time."

"You're saying you have sharp eyes now, huh?" Xi Xiaye grinned. "Ruan Heng and you are a great pair too."

"Mmm, it's not something to be envious of. We have to appreciate what we have. I hope that things will stay peaceful forever after this." Su Nan gave it some thought before turning towards Xi Xiaye again. "Xiaye, do you think Mu Yuchen loves you more, or do you love him more?"

Xi Xiaye was stunned once more. After a while, she smiled. "I have no idea, but I don't really care as long as I have a place in his heart, and I love him, that's enough. There's no point finding out who loves who more."

Su Nan nodded in agreement before she took a deep breath. "I used to complain that Ruan Heng didn't love me enough. Now, I realize that the feelings are always the same although subjective experiences might make it feel different."

"Just appreciate what you have already. I actually have a hard time imagining a quiet guy like Ruan Heng falling in love with someone with your wild and hot tempered personality. I feel bad for him sometimes, to be honest."

"Screw you! That's where my charm is! I love him very much too, okay?" Su Nan pursed her lips and retorted.

Xi Xiaye smiled as she looked at the setting sun over the lake. "You should say those words to Ruan Heng. I'm sure he'll be happy."

"No way. I've been with him for over ten years. Saying those words feels...we're not like Mu Yuchen and you, acting like it's your honeymoon every day."

...

Compared to the tranquil life Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye were having here, there was a storm brewing in City Z.

Night fell after a busy day.

Inside Qi Lei's residence in the Grand Lake Villa, Qi Lei put away a document. Just as he was considering having dinner outside, someone rang his doorbell.

Qi Lei went down slowly to open the door and a slight drizzle welcomed him. He suddenly felt a chill.

"Second Master!"

A familiar voice reached him. Qi Lei raised his head and saw Qi Qiming with his assistant beside him.

Qi Lei squinted, obviously surprised.

Moments later, he looked into Qi Qiming's eyes and asked, "Why are you here?"

"Since you're not coming back, the only option is for me to come to you then." Qi Qiming glanced at him and walked past him before he could react. He went in and sat down on the sofa.

Qi Lei's eyes darkened before he went over.

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"What's the matter?" Qi Lei prepared a cup of tea and put it before Qi Qiming, his tone sounding distant.

Qi Qiming took a sip before looking at Qi Lei. There were complicated emotions in his eyes. "I had people come to look for you over and over again. You're this bold now, aren't you? Why don't you go to the office? Or home?"

Qi Lei smiled. "CEO Qi, if you're here to discuss responsibilities, I remember applying for leave from the HR Department. I've not been feeling well and that's why I stayed home. I followed the procedures, didn't I?"

"As a top brass of the company, shouldn't you share the burden with us when there's a crisis?" Qi Qiming raised his head and stared at Qi Lei intently.

"Share the burden? You overestimate me. You guys can take care of it. There's nothing I can do."

"Is Mu Yuchen behind this?" Qi Qiming stared at Qi Lei as his tone turned cold.

Qi Lei put on a cold smile. "That's the question you should ask Mu Yuchen directly. Of course, you can just assume he did it. Putting the blame on others is what you do best anyway, so please do if that makes you feel better."

"Qi Lei, I'm not here to argue with you today. I just want to have a chat. Why can't you just speak properly?" Qi Qiming was exhausted from talking to Qi Lei.

"I've been talking to you reasonably and politely. Let's get straight to the point. I'm meeting friends later." Qi Lei's expression was calm. He leaned back against the sofa as he looked at Qi Qiming.

Chapter 1244. Showdown!

1244 Showdown! 3

Qi Qiming's eyes darkened. His hand movement halted as he stared at Qi Lei.

"Do you still hate me?"

Although things looked better for the father and son lately, Qi Qiming could sense the rebellious attitude from Qi Lei, especially since their conversation at his office the last time. Their relationship quickly turned cold again and Qi Feng was unwilling to even see his father.

“What’s the point of hating you? What do you want?” Qi Lei was alerted.

“Are there really no familial bonds between us as father and son?” Qi Qiming suddenly asked.

Qi Lei was stunned for a moment and he just looked at him without saying anything.

“I know you’ve always been unhappy with me, especially about your mother and about what happened before. I’m afraid you’ve formed a huge grudge against me since long ago.” Qi Qiming lowered his voice and took a deep breath. “Even so, you can’t deny the fact that you share my blood. I’m willing to make it up to you if you’re unhappy with me, but please don’t act selfishly.”

“Make it up to me? Do you intend to? Are you leaving the CEO’s position to me and letting Qi Feng stay at home?” Qi Lei put on a cold grin as he spoke.

As Qi Qiming’s expression darkened, he seemed strained.

“If that’s the case, I might consider forgiving you and be your nice Second Master Qi.”

“Qi Lei, you’re rash. Unlike Ah Feng’s calm and careful manner, you might not be suitable to handle Qi Kai. Moreover, you’ve always been the unrestricted type. I doubt you’ll be truly happy if you have to handle the company. I can divide the shares into two, so both Ah Feng and you will have the same amount of Qi Kai’s shares,” Qi Qiming said.

The same amount of shares?

Qi Lei’s grin grew wider as he looked at Qi Qiming. “Do you mean you’re going to divide the shares on your hands into two, or are you letting me and Qi Feng have the same amount of shares?”

“It’s the latter...” Qi Qiming answered.

Qi Lei let out a cold burst of laughter. "Say, why are you compromising? I'd look at you differently if you were to choose the former. I have a large number of shares from my mother anyway. If you're really treating us fairly, I should be the one in your seat right now, and not Qi Feng."

Qi Qiming's expression was grim.

"Ever since I was a child, you've never appreciated no matter what I did. I thought it was because of my mother. I thought that because she decided to marry you and you were forced to marry her although the two of you weren't in love but were stuck together for over 30 years, it must've been tough on you.

"Do you think my mother really wanted to marry you? You're a shameless monster. You shouldn't have touched her if you didn't love her. Mother thought about finding a reason to divorce you after the company's crisis was over, but what did you do? I despise a man who says he doesn't love a woman but then forces her to comply. My mother wasn't your mistress. It's the woman the Qi family officially offered a marriage contract to. You should not have done that to her." Qi Lei suddenly felt a headache. He took several deep breaths as he looked at Qi Qiming who turned pale.

"Whatever, I don't want to talk about the past right now. However, Qi Feng and I can't be brothers." Qi Lei paused before putting on a cold smile. "You should know that better than anyone else, so why are you lying to yourself? You probably know what's going to happen from here onwards too. Qi Kai can only exist with one of us. Well, I don't really want to have anything to do with you anyway."

Qi Lei's words made Qi Qiming's face turn red. He voiced his doubts in the end. "So, are you going to take everything you can from Qi Kai and start anew on your own?"

Qi Lei was stunned for a moment. He was on guard as he looked at Qi Qiming whose anger brimmed in his eyes...

The two of them stared at each other for a while before Qi Qiming summoned his secretary over. The secretary quickly handed him a document, and he glanced through it before throwing it before Qi Lei. His tone sounded stern and cold as he said, "This is the information I got from the Finance Department last month, as well as the information I got from the private detective this morning. Shouldn't you explain what's happening to me? What are these? I want explanations!"

Qi Lei squinted his eyes at Qi Qiming as he grabbed the documents and casually looked through them. He closed the file moments later, not seeming surprised at all.

“What explanation would you like to hear? Isn’t it written clearly enough already?” Qi Lei did not even bother to hide his intentions anymore. Nearly everything was on the right track now and he did not have much to worry about. It was time for a showdown.

“Why are you doing this? Do you know that your behavior is equal to betraying Qi Kai?” Qi Qiming asked coldly.

Qi Lei smiled and threw the documents back to Qi Qiming as he sighed. “Don’t act like it’s all unbelievable. I’d think that you’d be angry if I were still the same as before. I’m just taking whatever belongs to me right now. What’s wrong about that? You wanted to retire and hand Qi Kai over to Qi Feng, didn’t you? I can’t stand having someone ordering me around, so what’s wrong with trying out something new on my own?”

“You shouldn’t do that to Qi Kai! How much did you take away from Qi Kai? Qi Lei, you’re trying to destroy us, aren’t you?” Qi Qiming clenched his fist and said coldly.

“How should I treat Qi Kai then? I’m just taking what rightfully belongs to me. The connections are mine, and so are the resources. Those old employees willingly followed me too. I think I’m nice enough to not go against Qi Kai for now. What else do you think I should do?” Qi Lei’s voice suddenly turned stern!

Chapter 1245. Showdown!

1245 Showdown! 4

It was rare to see Qi Lei being this aggressive.

Qi Qiming actually knew that he had been underestimating Qi Lei. Especially ever since Wang Qin passed away, his performance was way above average.

Qi Qiming thought it was a good thing. If Qi Feng and Qi Lei could work together, Qi Kai would surely reach new heights, but it was impossible for the two of them to work together.

It was just like Wang Qin and him!

He thought that if only he could have been more generous in the past, things might not have turned out like this!

He noticed that he liked to reminisce of the past as he got older. He realized that he regretted what he did. Perhaps he had been too strict with her. She had still been his woman after all. Only Wang Qin could call herself Qi Qiming's woman, and naturally, Qi Lei was his son, so why did he fight with her until the bitter end?

What if...?

Unfortunately, one could not redo life.

Qi Qiming suddenly turned quiet and his cold eyes darkened as well. "Qi Kai is your mother's work as well. I don't want to see Qi Kai fall like this."

"How can you be so sure that Qi Kai will fall if I take charge? If you already have this bias from the very beginning, it'll be pointless no matter what I do," Qi Lei said calmly with an expressionless face.

Qi Qiming was stunned for a moment before answering, "You have a bias against Qi Feng too, don't you? Must the two of you really go against each other?"

Although he knew the brothers were not on good terms, Qi Qiming thought...

"You should ask Qi Feng about that! You knew what Qi Feng did to me, but you act like you didn't see anything. I suppose I'm dispensable to you. Do you think a father like you deserves my gratitude?" Qi Lei put on a cold smile as he pointed at the documents before Qi Qiming. "If I don't do this, you know very well what will happen to me once Qi Feng takes over your position. I'll probably be transferred externally or get into an ugly dogfight like my mother and you. Who knows if I might die of an odd incident like my mother?"

“That’s enough, Qi Lei! Qi Feng wouldn’t do that. I can assure you that no one will challenge your position in the company with me being around, but Qi Feng is more suitable to be Qi Kai’s CEO than you are. Aside from that, I can fulfill any conditions you want. Give up on working with the outsiders and cooperate with your brother!” Qi Qiming grabbed onto the teacup tightly as he stared straight at Qi Lei.

“What if I insist on the CEO position? Didn’t you say that Qi Feng doesn’t care? I care about that. Why don’t you tell him to quit and let me handle it? He can be the tactician and work under me since that’s what he’s supposed to be. Who says that I don’t care about power and fame? I care! I care about them a lot! Why are you trying to stop me from putting in effort when you can’t give me what I want? Those things belong to my mother, so what’s wrong with me taking those back? If you think that you’re not in the wrong, then shut up and learn to ignore it!”

“That’s enough! You’re unbelievable. Don’t forget that I’m your biological father! Why can’t you speak nicely for once?” Qi Qiming coughed several times.

However, Qi Lei did not seem to bother. He let out a cold laugh and enjoyed his tea leisurely.

“Just when did you band together with Mu Yuchen? Why would he hand Chenye Movies and Television to you? Did you promise him something? What does he want you to do?” Qi Qiming asked.

“That’s none of your business.”

“You’re trying to go against Qi Kai by working with him, aren’t you?”

“If you don’t try to fight him, I can guarantee with my life that he won’t do anything against you.”

Qi Qiming’s eyes darkened. “But he’s the one that caused that accident! Your brother Qi Feng turned out like this because of him.”

“Because of Mu Yuchen? Do you think he’d have done that if Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha didn’t do what they did? Has he ever bothered any of you? I once thought it was actually his fault, but after I found out what exactly happened, I realized that wasn’t the full truth.”

Qi Lei took a deep breath. "I thought about staying in Qi Kai for a while longer, but it seems like it's not my place to be anymore. If you're unhappy, you can just fire me tomorrow." His tone of voice was calm and cold, and Qi Qiming did not like it.

It took Qi Qiming some time to find back his voice again. "So, you've decided to betray Qi Kai for real and band together with Mu Yuchen?"

"Where is the betrayal when I've never sworn loyalty? Do you even understand how betrayal works? Moreover, I'm not working under Mu Yuchen. We're working together. Don't assume everyone just wants to be like your dear son.'

"Qi Lei, you watch your mouth!" Qi Qiming stood up with a stormy expression.

"You heard what I said. Do you need any further explanation?" Qi Lei's expression remained unchanged as he stood up as well and glared at Qi Qiming.

"Do you really have to go this far? You and Qi Feng are brothers!"

"You were my mother's husband. Were you ever kind to her?"

Chapter 1246. Wine Tastes Better With A Friend

1246 Wine Tastes Better With A Friend 1

Qi Lei was not giving Qi Qiming any room for negotiation at all, so the latter finally understood that there was nothing he could do to rectify his past mistakes.

Whether he admitted it or not, he knew it full well. He owed Wang Qin a lot, and she was still the only woman who bore the title of his wife.

Regarding what Qi Lei mentioned about a divorce, while he might never have planned to spend the rest of his life with Wang Qin initially, he did not think about divorcing her later on. Wang Qin hardly mentioned her intentions of divorce afterward as well.

While the two of them had not been in love and had always been plotting against each other, they were cautious on the matter of marriage and family. It was hard to believe that they hardly considered a divorce.

He never thought about having anyone to replace Wang Qin, even if it was Qi Feng's mother with whom he had been in love once...

Qi Qiming was reminded about how he officially married Wang Qin up until the moment he forced himself upon her.

Wang Qin was headstrong, so her reaction during that moment was cold. No matter how much of a beast he was acting as, she did not let even a tear drop. She had put on her dress again and gone to serve tea to her parents-in-law.

After that she had played the role of a good wife and daughter-in-law, but she never wanted to speak to him or ask about his day at all.

He still loved to force her however because he felt satisfied from forcing her to succumb. Her hatred against him grew stronger by day until she was pregnant with Qi Lei.

Qi Qiming suddenly felt regretful as there were not many memorable events with her. If only he cared for her more and knew more about her, maybe he would have more pleasant memories. This emptiness inside him was suffocating.

Perhaps because his stamina had gotten worse or maybe he was just getting old, he felt easily exhausted after Wang Qin passed away. Somehow, he felt that he would not be as tired if she had still been alive.

"Xiao Lei, your mother and I..."

After some time, Qi Qiming suddenly spoke again, "It's not like I wanted to treat her like that. I know I owe her a lot. Both Ah Feng and you are my sons. I just don't wish to see the both of you become enemies."

“It’s too late. It’s not that I want to cause trouble, but there’s no way Qi Feng is just going to leave me alone. Perhaps, I wouldn’t even be here today if I didn’t make that little protest, would I?”

Qi Lei was tone was full of irony as he put on a bitter smile. “Now that you know, I suppose I can’t stay in Qi Kai any longer. Chenye Movies and Television will transform into my own company after this year. Don’t blame me for what I would do if you try to stop me.”

Qi Lei got up and grabbed his car keys before heading over the door.

“Also, there’s no way to resolve the conflict between Qi Feng and me. He won’t just leave me alone like this, and I won’t give him an easy time as well. If you really think of me as a son, just sit tight and watch what’s about to happen between us and not interfere, or else, our relationship will just end right away.”

As Qi Feng sounded extremely determined, Qi Qiming’s body froze.

“I’m going out for dinner. Remember to lock the door when you leave.” Qi Lei then disappeared out of the doorway.

Qi Qiming could not react for a while. He turned over and stared at the empty entrance. Moments later, he put on a bitter smile...

Autumn had arrived. The weather was rainy and the temperature in City Z had plummeted.

The weather was not great today. The sky was dark and gloomy, and it looked like it was about to rain soon.

Qi Lei was driving towards the north of the city. He was hungry and felt like drinking, but suddenly he could not find anyone to call and have a drink with, so he started laughing at himself.

It suddenly started raining as he passed by a busy street. Then, he remembered that there was a decent restaurant nearby and decided to head there.

...

Inside a pleasant-looking restaurant in the north of the city.

“One curried fried rice, and give me two of your popular seafood dishes, plus a bottle of Chongyang wine.”

Inside the quiet restaurant, Dongfang Liuyun sat down at a spot beside the window. She put several thick books aside and took off her black bag as she ordered from the waiter.

“Noted. Please wait for a moment, Teacher Dongfang!”

This place was close to University A. Dongfang Liuyun just came over from her antique shop and had not eaten dinner yet. She still needed to go for a lecture for a common course until 10p.m.

It had been some time since she started being a lecturer in University A and she had a busy schedule, but she felt like her life was fulfilling.

This restaurant was near University A, and the food here was great, so she came here frequently.

Dongfang Liuyun picked up a textbook and started flipping through it. She never prepared for her class, but she had made some notes in the textbook as she memorized most of the knowledge in her head.

The common courses in university were not a big deal. Some of them did not even have textbooks. She just needed to discuss based on the given topic because knowledge and experience was more important.

The dishes were served moments later. Dongfang Liuyun kept her textbook and was about to enjoy her meal when she suddenly heard loud noises from outside and realized that the rain was getting heavier.

Chapter 1247. Wine Tastes Better With A Friend

Dongfang Liuyun was about to continue with her meal when she suddenly noticed a familiar figure outside.

Just right outside the window where she was sitting, there was a man drenched under the rain without an umbrella.

Qi Lei was surprised to see Dongfang Liuyun too, and he suddenly put on a grin. No wonder he found the restaurant familiar. He had come by here to have a drink with Dongfang Liuyun before.

Qi Lei?

Dongfang Liuyun was surprised as well, BUT she smiled when she saw Qi Lei looking at her. she pointed at the seat opposite her and invited him to come inside.

Qi Lei went in naturally. He took off his wet coat and sat down across her as she quickly ordered two more dishes from the waiter.

“Why are you here this late?” Dongfang Liuyun asked, not sounding distant at all while she also poured him some liquor.

Qi Lei took the cup as he glanced at the books beside her seat. “I was just around for a bit. I haven’t had dinner yet, so I came over here to take a look, but I didn’t expect to see you here. Are you going to teach later?”

Dongfang Liuyun took a sip of her wine and frowned. “Yeap, from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.”

“How have you been lately?” Qi Lei asked.

“Not too good but not too bad either. How about you? Seems like something’s troubling you.” Dongfang Liuyun raised her head and looked at him. She easily noticed the trouble between his brows. Although he always had a smile on his face, she managed to capture the tiny tint of darkness in his eyes.

As another person keeping a lot to himself, who did not have some kind of backstory?

Dongfang Liuyun felt that she should not have asked. After all, she was never the kind of person who meddled in other people's business, or else, there would not be that many people talking behind her back and saying that she was cold-hearted.

Qi Lei was stunned for a moment. He was shocked by Dongfang Liuyun's concerned tone, but he replied, "Just some mess at home."

"Each family has their own issues, I suppose. You have to get used to it." Dongfang Liuyun refilled his cup. "Try the Chongyang wine here. The owner of this place is from the Miao race and she brewed this herself. It tastes great but has low alcohol content, so it's good for your health to have it in moderation."

Qi Lei took another sip. "Not bad. I didn't expect you to be a fan of alcohol too."

Dongfang Liuyun chuckled. "Drinking helps me to be bolder. Alcohol is great. A few years ago, I happened to come across this Chongyang wine during one of my archeology trips in Miao Jiang, and I've been missing it ever since. Although I know it's available on the market, I couldn't find any that tastes like the original until the owner here introduced it to me again a few days ago. I'm so glad to have the opportunity to taste it again."

She then poured herself another glass. After several drinks, Dongfang Liuyun's face had turned red.

"Miao Jiang?" Qi Lei mumbled, "I don't know geography, Teacher Dongfang."

"It's the settlement of the Miao race in the East. My subject has something to do Miao Jiang's culture, but you can research on your own if you like. These cultural classes are pretty fun," she said.

"I'm not exactly in the mood right now. Give me some time. I was pretty interested in the culture of other races when I was studying too, especially in their unique architecture design."

Dongfang Liuyun raised her eyebrows. "It slipped past my mind that you're a genius when it comes to architecture."

"Genius isn't meant to describe me." Qi Lei lowered his head and took another drink.

“But being disappointed doesn’t fit you either,” she squinted her eyes at her as she said.

He froze for a moment before smiling. “Am I that obvious?”

She nodded without hesitation. “Yes, obviously. Your eyes and expression are comparable with the weather right now.”

He chuckled before suddenly raising his head to look at her. “You have sharp eyes. Then, what do you think happened to me?”

“I’m not an oracle.” Dongfang Liuyun noticed his expression was getting grimmer. “However, if you’re willing to talk, I don’t mind lending an ear.”

Qi Lei felt calm. After thinking about it for some time, he refilled her glass. “It’s not a big deal. Just have some drinks with me.”

Dongfang Liuyun smiled. “Spare me the drinking, but let’s have dinner together. Eat something.” She then picked up a pair of chopsticks and started enjoying her food.

Qi Lei quietly looked at her. “I thought you’d continue asking.”

Dongfang Liuyun did not look at him, but her movements did pause for a moment. “There’s no need for me to ask if you want to talk, but if you think it’s better to keep it to yourself, I won’t force you. However...sometimes being too stubborn can be detrimental. Being straightforward can make your life easier.”

“Why do you say so?” Qi Lei asked. He somehow knew that Dongfang Liuyun was a pretty cold person. At times, he felt she was mysterious, so he was not sure what she actually cared about.

Power?

It probably would not be a problem for her at all, especially given her powerful family background.

Wealth?

That was impossible. She generously gifted a set of expensive vases to a friendly scholar without even batting an eyelid.

Chapter 1248. Wine Tastes Better With A Friend

Dongfang Liuyun seemed hesitant. She took a deep breath as her expression remained calm. "Everyone has a scale within them. Each side you put weight on will lead to different consequences, so don't regret it if you've made a choice. I think the past should only take on a small part of your heart."

Qi Lei paused as he listened to Dongfang Liuyun's words. He understood what she meant after moments of pondering.

"However, not everything can just be let go easily. It's not as simple as just saying 'I'll forget about it'."

He was reminded of the scene when he had left his home just now. As he thought about what Qi Qiming told him, he felt really bitter. He grabbed the glass and emptied it instantly.

"You can't let go because you can't find a reason to do so yet," Dongfang Liuyun said after a while as she refilled Qi Lei's glass again, "Let's stop talking about such heavy topics. Since we bumped into each other tonight, we should enjoy ourselves."

Qi Lei chuckled and nodded, "Wine sure tastes better with a friend. Thank you, Liuyun. I feel relaxed every time I talk to you, so here's to you."

Dongfang Liuyun clinked glasses with him and emptied the glass.

They took their time to enjoy their meal. It was nearly 7 p.m. when Dongfang Liuyun realized it was about time for her class, so she got up and was ready to leave.

However, the rain was still pouring heavily and it was cold outside as well.

“Time to go. Goodbye!” She thought that it might be too late to wait for the rain to stop, so she was about to run under the rain.

“Didn’t you drive?” Qi Lei looked at her and noticed a frown on her face.

“It was peak traffic when I came out, so I took the subway,” Dongfang Liuyun replied.

He acted quickly and covered her with his coat. “Let’s go. I’ll send you there. My car is just right over there.” He dragged her along without waiting for her response.

Dongfang Liuyun was slightly shocked, but she did not decline his help. Naturally, she would accept help now that someone had offered it, so she followed him to his car.

Thud!

The two of them quickly got into the car.

“Want to listen to music? Pick one yourself,” Qi Lei handed her some tissue as he asked.

She thanked him and wiped the water off her face. Then, she looked around and put a CD into the music player. Qi Lei was surprised when he heard the sound of instrumental melody. It was one of his favorites.

“‘A Faraway Journey’?” Dongfang Liuyun quietly read. Her eyes turned quiet as she was reminded of something, but she grinned as she looked out of the window.

Qi Lei thought she was about to say something, but she just remained silent thereafter. He took a glance at her and just saw her side profile.

“This song tells us about the origin of Japanese, many stories were incorporated into this song, just like ‘The Palace’s Memory’, and ‘Conquering Heaven’.”

“Do you like music with a majestic vibe?” Qi Lei caught something in her words as he asked.

Dongfang Liuyun gave it some thought before replying, “I like songs that are full of historical value, but of course, the genre is important too. Music like this can be mind-opening.”

“It sounds like you’re really obsessed with history and archeology.”

“Everything passed down from the ancient era was a huge treasure to us, so it’s meaningful for me to investigate these things. However, the essence of these things isn’t appreciated by people of the modern era. What were the four greatest ancient inventions? What were the names of each era in ancient China? I doubt many people can answer that.”

“You sound like a teacher right there. You sure are a nationalist.” Qi Lei laughed as his curiosity towards Dongfang Liuyun increased.

What a mysterious woman!

While she was that same high-level player she met in the game, with her little speech now, it was obvious to see that she was extremely knowledgeable and hard to fathom.

Dongfang Liuyun did not deny his words as she just smiled.

...

Unlike the heavy rain over City Z, it was all sunny on Xi Xiaye’s end.

Xi Xiaye woke up as she heard the birds chirping. Her man was nowhere to be seen, but she could still sense his warmth beside her and his scent was still lingering in the air too.

She blinked and sat up on the bed as she looked outside the window. The golden sunshine graced upon her. She looked aside and noticed that her outfit had been prepared for her.

Xi Xiaye scratched her head a little and went to get ready. It was a simple equestrian outfit and a cap.

Were they going to ride some horses today?

Surprised, she suddenly heard some laughter in the next moment. That should be Su Nan's voice.

Xi Xiaye smiled and went outside to the balcony.

As expected, she saw Su Nan playing tennis with one of the bodyguards while Ruan Heng was resting under an umbrella. The scene looked so beautiful and tranquil, especially Su Nan's laughter. It had been forever since she looked this happy.

However, Xi Xiaye could not find her man anywhere.

Where did he go?

She frowned and started to walk down the stairs.

Chapter 1249. Together Forever

1249 Together Forever 1

The morning sun was welcoming and it provided a refreshing warmth for anyone who passed under it.

Just when Xi Xiaye was going down the staircase, something suddenly flew across her line of sight. She noticed a tennis ball right beside her feet...

She smiled and picked it up. Su Nan saw her at this moment. "Xiaye! You're up! Come and play with me!"

Xi Xiaye declined her invitation and handed the ball to the bodyguard. "I'll have something to eat first."

"I almost forgot that you haven't had breakfast yet. Mu Yuchen prepared breakfast for you. He told us to make sure that you eat. Ruan Heng's eating breakfast now too. Go eat and come play with me afterward. By the way, your man is really good. His cooking is awesome! Ruan Heng and I saw him busy cooking in the kitchen early in the morning. Ruan Heng only had praises for his cooking. You're so blessed!" Su Nan smiled before teasing Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye pursed her lips and smiled as well. "You got something out of it too, didn't you?"

"All thanks to you!" Su Nan patted her shoulder. "I'll go and have another round. Go and have your breakfast."

Xi Xiaye then walked towards Ruan Heng.

"Morning, Xiaye!" Ruan Heng greeted Xi Xiaye and poured her a cup of tea.

"Morning, you look great today. How are you feeling?"

"I feel much better now. I'm really thankful for your help during this period of time." Ruan Heng felt really fortunate to have met them.

"That's great then. Just relax for now. I'm sure everyone will be happy to see you again back in City Z. You've been unconscious for so long and it was really hard on Su Nan. She's changed a lot since then, so you must treat her right, okay?"

Xi Xiaye felt sorry for Su Nan. She had been a carefree girl since she was a little girl, but Ruan Heng's sudden accident had taken such a huge impact on her, yet she still faced it headstrong and held on.

Ruan Heng raised his head and looked at Su Nan who was having fun at the moment. His eyes seemed a little broken. "She's lost a lot of weight, and it's all my fault...Don't worry, Xiaye. She's equivalent to my own life from the moment I decided to marry her."

Xi Xiaye smiled and looked at Su Nan as well. "Actually, I've always been envious of Su Nan and you. You guys have a decade-long relationship, and you two were each other's first love. I'm sure it's a unique experience. However, I realized soon after that that relationships aren't meant to be envied."

"Yes, just like Mu Yuchen and you, as well as Teacher Shen and Uncle Xi...Xiaye, I can feel that Mu Yuchen truly loves you." Ruan Heng smiled.

In just a few days, he could easily capture the little moments when Mu Yuchen only had eyes for Xi Xiaye, and she was all that he could see. As a man, he knew very well what those eyes meant.

"Well, it's the same for Su Nan and you too, right?" Xi Xiaye took a sip of some tea. "Rose tea?"

Ruan Heng nodded. "Mmm, Mu Yuchen brewed it. Flower tea is great for a season like this."

"Where's he?" Xi Xiaye asked as she looked around.

"He said he'll be out for a bit and will be back soon. He told us to have breakfast first," Ruan Heng replied.

Xi Xiaye frowned. "What is he up to?"

Their conversation came to a stop and they continued to have breakfast.

After Xi Xiaye and Su Nan finished having breakfast, they sat down under the umbrella and chatted. Suddenly, they heard the sound of horses coming near, so they looked over and noticed Mu Yuchen coming toward them on a horse with several more horses behind him.

The horses came near and finally stopped before them.

Xi Xiaye raised her head and looked at Mu Yuchen on the horse. The whole scene felt slightly unreal.

“What are you waiting for? Get on the horse. We’re having a picnic in the wild today. Everything has been prepared,” Mu Yuchen said as he noticed the surprised expression on the three of their faces. He put the hunting rifle back into the slot beside the saddle.

Su Nan seemed really excited. “Are we going out for hunting?”

Mu Yuchen smiled as he laid his eyes on Xi Xiaye and waved his hand. “Come over!”

Frowning, Xi Xiaye turned towards the horse beside him as she seemed hesitant. “Can’t I…”

Mu Yuchen moved forward a little and dragged her up with an arm. “You guys should get on as well.” Xi Xiaye was sitting behind him and she had her arms wrapped around his waist as the horse went off.

Su Nan and Ruan Heng glanced at each other and smiled. Then, they got up one after another and got onto a horse.

The sound of the horses running broke the silence across the field. The weather was windy and sunny today.

He took out the hunting rifle and handed it to her. “I’ve been meaning to bring you out since spring, I was worried that you’d be too exhausted taking care of our sons, but I haven’t had the chance to do so. Didn’t you mention that you wanted to try hunting? I’ll fulfill your wish today.”

Xi Xiaye laughed as she looked at him. “You still remember what I said, huh?”

“Of course, I always keep your wishes in my heart.”

She felt a warmth inside her heart while she grabbed the hunting rifle. “Thank you, Mr. Mu.”

Chapter 1250. Together Forever

1250 Together Forever 2

He just smiled as he slowed down the horse and gently held her cold hands.

“Mr. Mu?” she called out to him when he kept quiet.

“Hmm?”

“Nothing, I just wanted to say your name,” she replied.

“I like it better when you call my name directly,” he laughed and said suddenly.

In his impression, she hardly called him by his name. Instead, she always called him Mr. Mu.

She raised her eyebrows and gently called his name, “Mu Yuchen?”

He grinned happily before raising her arm and aimed at a point. “Good, I’ll reward you with some game meat today. Hold still. The recoil of this rifle is pretty strong.”

“Speaking of which, I heard you’re a skilled marksman, hmm?” Xi Xiaye held the rifle steadily as she asked.

“Not as good as professional snipers. I’m alright,” he said humbly.

Xi Xiaye smiled. Without any further questions, she looked at the position he was aiming at. Then, she noticed a furry ball in the midst of the bushes.

Was that a wild rabbit?

Xi Xiaye’s eyes brightened as she heard the sound of Su Nan’s chuckles from behind...

...

The man was pretty skilled, but Xi Xiaye did not want to actually hunt animals. They found somewhere vast and empty and set up some wood and aluminum cans and targets. After several practice shots, Xi Xiaye's arm started feeling numb.

"How long will we be staying over here? Is Li Si asking you to return to New York soon after the phone call last night?" She looked over at him who was busy loading up the gun.

He did not stop his movements. "We'll stay here for several more days. You'll return with Ruan Heng and Su Nan after three days. I'll arrange the flight tickets."

"What about you?" she asked.

"I'll still be in LA for a little while before returning to New York. It'll take some time. Don't worry. It won't take too long. I guess everything will be solved by the time I go back to City Z."

Mu Yuchen's expression softened. "Be careful when you're on your own. I suppose you're starting to miss our sons right now. You dreamt about them last night, didn't you?"

Her face blushed slightly and she sighed, "Of course, I miss them. There was nothing much for me to care about in the past. I wouldn't have minded traveling far away at all, but now..."

Suddenly, she looked at him quietly. "I miss you and our sons...I feel empty when I don't have all of you by my side..."

"It'll all be over soon. That day isn't too far away. Trust me," he said.

"As far as the situation goes..."

"Qi Lei called me this morning. Qi Qiming has found out what he's going to do. From what I know about Qi Feng, Qi Lei is going to have a hard time. I'll rush back as soon as I'm done helping Zimo," Mu Yuchen said calmly.

“You have to be careful as well. Morrison’s sudden appearance here is likely not a coincidence. As for Zhou Zimo’s matter, I suppose I won’t ask too much about it, but tell me about it once it’s all over, okay?”

He put down the rifle and wrapped her with his arms. “I don’t mind telling you now to be honest. From the looks of what happened, it seems like Doris was involved. Adding the fact that Morrison showed up here, Qi Feng might be involved as well. And one other thing I mentioned before...Wang Qin’s death is very unlikely to be an accident.”

“What did you say? Wang Qin’s death?” She almost forgot about it since it happened a long time ago because the police had not been able to find the perpetrator, but it had been weighing on Qi Lei ever since.

Mu Yuchen’s expression darkened. “The investigation of the matter never stopped. You should at least know that, don’t you?”

Xi Xiaye nodded. “Of course, Mother told me about it in private. I know Father has been applying pressure on the police, but didn’t they say the perpetrator ran off to Australia? And we’ve got no news about him since, hence the matter got delayed?”

“That’s right. The murderer did run off to Australia, but recently someone found tracks of him in LA. This reminds me that Qi Feng stayed in Australia before,” Mu Yuchen said quietly.

Xi Xiaye’s expression turned pale suddenly. She could not believe the thought that just flashed across her mind. “Australia? Qi Feng? Do you mean that Qi Feng might be behind Wang Qin’s death? What about Gu Qiwu? Wasn’t he the one trying to frame you back then?”

“While he is a ruthless person, I doubt he’d do that. I don’t think he’d like to see Qi Feng biting him in the back, and I still have no idea what exactly happened to that killer. We can only find out once we catch that person.”

“If that’s the case, why would the killer appear here? And it just so happens that Morrison is here as well.” Xi Xiaye frowned uneasily. “Does he have some kind of plan in mind? Towards Ah Bo or...”

“Ah Bo is tough. He knows that Morrison is here,” Mu Yuchen comforted her.

“No matter what, you need to be careful. We don’t know what he’s trying to do.”

“I know. Don’t worry about it.” His voice sounded firm, and she felt much calmer after looking into his eyes.

“Alright, I won’t comment anything on it then.”

“Mmm, here, let me teach you. Aim right there...”

They stopped talking about the problems as Mu Yuchen released her from his arms and put the rifle into her hands.

...

It had been a long time since they had fun together with Ruan Heng.

When Su Nan felt Ruan Heng right behind her, she suddenly thought that she would not mind for times like this to continue forever.

“I almost forgot how this feels. Ruan Heng, will we be able to stay like this forever?” Su Nan asked.

“Of course, Nan Nan...”