

Loving 1291

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tomorrow afternoon Ah Bao held the pen and swiftly marked out a few spots on the map as he spoke with a lowered voice.

The black-clothed man followed the pen with his eyes and imprinted every location into his mind as he nodded from time to time.

“Especially these blind spots, check them thoroughly. Once you notice anything, report it to me right away. More than a day has passed now, and with the continuous rain, many small traces can easily be neglected. Tell everyone to be sharper,” Ah Bao said as he suddenly turned to look out at the downpour. The rain poured along the car window. It was a heavy shower.

Ah Bao frowned, then said, “Forget it. The rain’s too heavy right now. Tell the brothers to rest in the car first and search again when the sun’s up.”

“Yes, Bro Bao!” that person responded, then swiftly took out his phone to call a number. After some quick orders, the other end understood, so he hung up.

“Bro Bao, on Master’s end...”

“Master’s rushing over right away,. He’ll reach City B on the direct flight tomorrow afternoon. Before that, I’m hoping to find some valuable clues.”

When he thought about how Master was coming over the next day, Ah Bao began to worry. The rain was so heavy. Even if there were any traces left behind, it would mostly have been washed away by the rain, and they would not find anything useful.

“Bro Ba, we can get the CCTV recordings. Perhaps they didn’t come from this road, or maybe, they never even left City B.”

“Do you think Master wouldn’t have thought of that? Master Su’s already thinking of ways to get the CCTV footage. Right now, it’s best to just rest first. You’ll be busy again once the skies brighten up. Stay

in contact with the people that Missus and Chairman Mu have delegated over and work together. That way, you can be more efficient.”

“Yes, Bro Bao! Don’t worry. I’ve already sent the word. They’ll keep searching once it stops raining. With this weather now, I’m sure that even if they were kidnapped, the kidnappers wouldn’t be so dumb to move them away. As long as we watch every exit, perhaps...”

“Perhaps, your a*s. Looking over here, there are mountains there. It’s an area with villages scattered all over. If they want to hide a person or two, wouldn’t that be easy? Be more alert!” Ah Bao shot that man an angry glance as he kept the map with a frown.

That man dared not say anymore and just kept quiet...

...

The next day, Xi Xiaye still woke up quite early. The whole night, she actually did not get any shut-eye because she had been worried about Qi Lei and Ah Mo. Up till midnight, she still could not sleep, so she started to work.

After an all-nighter, she gained some eyebags and looked quite wan and sallow, so she put on some makeup and managed to conceal it.

Inside the CEO office of Fuhua Real Estate building, Xi Xiaye handed a document that she had browsed through to Xiao Mei before she ordered, “Deliver this document to VP Liang, and then called Assistant Lan over.”

“Got it, CEO Xi!”

Xiao Mei quickly left the room. After a while, there was a knock on the door.

Xi Xiaye had just set aside the documents, so she responded, “Come in!”

Lan Zilang's figure soon appeared before her.

"What is it? Uncle Lan? Is there any news?" Xi Xiaye asked anxiously.

Lan Zilang's expression was solemn as he responded in a lowered voice, "The weather's not too good over there. We've sent people out but haven't found anything useful yet. They've been looking for an entire night."

"It's been two days. How can there be no news at all? Can we still get through the phone lines?" Xi Xiaye's face could not help but flash a hint of frustration as her brows furrowed into a knot.

"The calls can't get through. Now, the less information we have on them, it might actually be better for them. Hopefully, nothing's happened to them," Lan Zilang said.

"What about the Qi family? How did they react? Hasn't Qi Qiming noticed yet?" Xi Xiaye looked up at Lan Zilang.

"Qi Qiming's not been in City Z these few days, it seems. He didn't go home for dinner on the day Gu Lingsha was released either. Because of this, Gu Lingsha's not too happy about it. Right, Gu Lingsha knows that her daughter, Qi Weier, has been hospitalized. She fought with Qi Feng again, so he's been staying in Qi Kai till very late at night these past two days," Lan Zilang quickly reported the general situation of the Qi family to her.

With a sigh, Xi Xiaye slowly propped herself up with the desk, and then massaged between her brows with the other hand. "Uncle Lan, who do you think is most likely behind this?"

Upon hearing that, Lan Zilang gave it some serious thought, and then responded, "That's hard to say because right now there's no news of them being kidnapped. There are many types of motives. The Qi family does have some background in the underground. Even if they're clean now, they used to have many enemies. Besides, Qi Qiming's recent ways have put Qi Lei in the media limelight. If Qi Lei were to be kidnapped, that would've been normal. As for Ah Mo, I can't think of anything immediately.

"This situation is a little tricky, but, Xiaye, you have to take good care of yourself too. You didn't sleep at all last night, did you? You don't look too well."

Xi Xiaye sighed softly and helplessly. “How can I sleep well knowing that this has happened? Okay, Uncle Lan, you go settle your things first. Just let me know if there’s any news from over there.”

“Okay, right, I heard that you’re going back to the Shen residence tonight, aren’t you?” Lan Zilang was about to leave when he remembered this.

Xi Xiaye paused, then answered, “Yeah, Grandpa’s gotten a slight cold recently and he’s not in a great mood, so I wanted to go home to visit.”

“That’ll be good. Let’s go together then. I haven’t seen the Elder CEO for almost half a month now, and I do miss him.”

“Alright, when it’s time, I’ll get Xiao Mei to inform you.”

Then, Lan Zilang slowly retreated while Xi Xiaye felt limp and leaned back on her chair in a daze.

...

In the afternoon, City B remained bleak with rain. When the sky had brightened up, Ah Bao and the rest continued their search once again, but they got nothing after an entire morning.

Su Chen’s side quickly got the CCTV recordings, but they did not find anything relevant either though they did see the scene of Qi Lei and Ah Mo getting into the car one after another to leave for the airport.

It was past 4 p.m. at the local time when Mu Yuchen’s flight landed in City B. He did not rest and went straight to the hotel where Qi Lei and Ah Mo had stayed at.

Ah Bao waited there for him. Since he did not find any relevant information, the entire row of them was all nervous, worried about how to tell the Master this.

because he used to come here for work all the time, the suite that ah mo stayed at was booked all year. at this moment, inside the room that ah mo had reserved, mu yuchen stood by the window and silently looked out of it. behind him stood li si, ah bao, and the rest. the row of them dared not say anything. their hearts were filled with reverence and worry because compared to a master who spoke, they were even more afraid of a master who did not.

some time passed before mu yuchen calmly said, "explain the situation."

ah bao and li si exchanged a look before the former took a step to the front and said softly, "yes, master! we've already searched through all the locations, but we didn't find anything relevant. the cctv recordings that we got didn't help either because there are too many blind spots on that road. in fact, there were many side roads too. we've searched along all those side roads, but we didn't find anyone. plus with this weather, i think that even if there were any traces, they were probably washed away by the rain. we couldn't do our job well. master, please punish us!"

ah bao felt like his heart was exceptionally heavy. he had been buddies for more than 10 years with ah mo and had always sacrificed himself for the mu family, what more the kinship between them. after they searched for so long but did not get a hint of news, ah bao blamed himself deeply.

mu yuchen's eyes darkened a little, but he did not scold him. he just closed his eyes to take a deep breath, and when he opened his eyes again, he had returned to calm.

"master, right now, our people are still continuing to search. perhaps we can find something useful," li si could not help but add.

"couldn't find them? you know that i don't want this answer. where are they? how did they just vanish with the car?"

mu yuchen's tone was rather sharp, so ah bao was fearful upon hearing it. he quickly said, "yes, master! i didn't do this well. please punish me! we only know that bro mo and master qi's schedule for those few days. we noticed that bro mo met gu qiwu. in fact, it was more than once. when bro mo left city b, the last call he made was to gu qiwu too. perhaps, mr. gu might know something. we're worried about the situation, so we didn't dare alert gu qiwu. we wanted to wait for you to come over and make the decision, master."

“gu qiwu? what are you trying to say?”

as mu yuchen listened to this, his eyes instantly turned cold. that unfathomable gaze of his made ah bao feel apprehensive, so he quickly explained, “master, master, i’m not saying that bro mo would do anything. i’m just...i trust that bro mo wouldn’t betray you, master...” he explained nervously, while mu yuchen’s expression had turned icy now.

“where’s gu qiwu now?” mu yuchen calmed himself down and asked again.

“gu qiwu’s returned to city z.”

“master, given this weather and the cctvs that weren’t placed everywhere, i think that there’s a high probability that they haven’t left city b. as long as we look in detail, i’m sure we can find some clues—”

before li si could finish, the phone in mu yuchen’s pocket buzzed. mu yuchen quickly took his phone out to look. it was su chen, so he quickly answered, and su chen’s low voice came through.

“ah chen, you’ve reached city b, haven’t you?”

“just reached the hotel. how are things on your end?” mu yuchen asked with a lowered voice.

“mmm, let’s not talk about that. i found something. come over right away. i’ll send the location to you. come immediately!” su chen said then hung up.

after a while, mu yuchen’s phone buzzed, so he opened the text and noticed that there was an additional gps location.

mu yuchen took a look, then abruptly turned around and walked out of the room in huge strides with ah bao and li si following him.

...

actually, xi xiaye knew that they would not be able to hide the news about ah mo from mu lingshi for long. they were husband and wife, after all. if ah mo was not around, he would have called mu lingshi every day, yet now with no news two days in a row, mu lingshi naturally noticed that something was out of place.

when she found xi xiaye, xi xiaye said that she was going back to the shen residence, but it looked like she had to forgo that and return to the old mu residence instead.

when the car drove into the old mu residence, the sky had turned dark and the lights in the house were lit.

however, compared to the usual hustle and bustle, the moment xi xiaye walked into the living room, she could feel that the atmosphere was exceptionally odd and stifling. before she could react, mu lingshi's voice of disbelief was heard.

"mother, what did you say? ah mo's missing? ah mo's missing? isn't he in city b? he even called me two days ago! how could he be missing?!"

mu lingshi was subconsciously afraid now, and the panic in her eyes could not be concealed as she looked at zhuang shurong in shock. beside her, mu yinan frowned slightly too. her eyes were fixed on zhuang shurong.

zhuang shurong sighed, her voice mixed with concern as she admitted, "we initially didn't want to tell you all about this because we were worried you would be too concerned, and it would be bad for your health. now that two days have passed, i'm thinking that something's not right. last night, your brother called your father who has sent people to search in city b, and your sis-in-law's people have gone over too, but it looks like there isn't much news yet. qi lei from the qi family and qi lei's assistant have gone missing too."

"how could this happen? how could it? two days ago, he told me that he'd rush back home soon, so how did this happen? they just vanished? mother, did something happen to ah mo?"

mu lingshi's little face turned pale now, and a strong sense of uneasiness gathered at her chest as she propped herself up to stand and looked dazed at zhuang shurong.

“lingshi, don’t be so worked up first! for now, no news is good news. your brother and your father are working hard right now, so it’ll be fine. you should take care of yourself!” zhuang shurong quickly got up to hold mu lingshi.

“can’t the people around him be contacted too?” mu yinan was calmer since he had seen quite a fair bit in life and had just gone through the incident with wang hui. in fact, if it was something others did not know, he would understand it.

ah mo used to work with him, so he knew about his capabilities and his martial arts skills. those highly skilled soldiers were no match for him, and he was confident in ah mo.

“we’ve contacted everyone that we could, but there’s still no news,” zhuang shurong sighed softly and responded.

“grandfather, mother, ah shi...”

upon hearing this, xi xiaye walked in.

“you’re back!” mu yinan smiled lovingly and greeted her.

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nodding, xi xiaye turned around to change her shoes on the porch before walking in. “have some tea.” when zhuang shurong saw xi xiaye’s silhouette, her face that was tense with concern eased a little.

“thank you, mother.” xi xiaye sat down on the sofa aside, took the tea, and had a simple sip.

mu lingshi’s anxious voice was then heard. “sister-in-law, how’s it? haven’t you and brother sent people to search for them? how are things now? did you find them?”

her anxious voice was mixed with endless worry. mu lingshi knew ah mo well too. he would never just disappear without a word. even if he was doing some kind of mission, he would inform her beforehand so that the family would not worry, and of course, he had told her that he was going to be home soon.

“ah shi, calm down. there isn’t any news now, but with ah mo’s abilities, he’ll be fine,” xi xiaye consoled as she reached out to hold her slightly cold fingertips. “the most important thing you have to do right now is take care of yourself and your baby.”

as mu lingshi took a deep breath, her hands clenched into fists and she said in a daze, “i know. i’m just afraid...worried...he’s never been like this...”

“just trust him, okay? don’t be too worried. we’ll let you know first if there’s anything. your brother should be back in a few days’ time. it’ll be fine. sit down. i’ll go take a look in the kitchen.”

xi xiaye was about to get up when zhuang shurong pulled her back and said calmly, “it’s okay, xiaye. sit with her for a while. i’ll go manage things and make you some dishes to take them home. you don’t look too well, so rest more. these things can’t be rushed.”

“mother...”

“it’s alright. sit. i know that you probably have to go home later, but it’ll be quick,” zhuang shurong said, and then walked to the kitchen.

“sit down. you’re rarely home. don’t busy yourself. are things at work all good?” mu yinan spoke up in time as he looked at xi xiaye with eyes that contained faint concern.

xi xiaye gratefully met with his gaze. “apart from the usual hecticness, all’s well. thank you, grandfather.”

he nodded. “you have to watch your own health too. maintain some balance between work and rest. we’ve heard about zimo’s situation in new york. ah chen, zimo, and su chen are three buddies who have grown up together, so they have a very strong bond. i hope you can be understanding of him.”

upon hearing that, xi xiaye smiled. “grandfather, don’t worry. i understand. things over there are almost settled. don’t worry. ah chen should be returning soon, so, ah shi, you don’t have to be worried. it’ll be fine.”

mu lingshi's eyes were a little dark, but she could only nod. "i guess that's all it can be for now. just believe him, trust him..."

dinner was soon ready. the dishes had just been served when mu tangchuan returned. the whole family had a simple dinner, then xi xiaye talked to mu lingshi for a while before she was about to go home.

zhuang shurong prepared some dishes for her to take home. however, mu tangchuan was the one who walked her out.

"father, you can go back in now." xi xiaye was actually shocked by mu tangchuan's actions. it seemed like he had something to say to her, but...

she did not guess wrongly. just as she said that, mu tangchuan interrupted, "hold on, xiaye, there's something i want to ask you." mu tangchuan's loving voice was heard.

xi xiaye quickly stopped her steps and turned to look at him. "father, what is it?"

mu tangchuan nodded before he thought about it more, then said, "did ah chen ask you to find someone to investigate the accident from six years ago?"

lingtian's incident?

xi xiaye paused. without hiding, she nodded to say, "yes, he's always been suspicious about the accident years ago, so he planned to investigate in secret once again. father, with the way ah chen is, do you still not understand? he's trying to find a reason for him to truly let go. however, his doubts aren't unfounded. no matter what, i'm willing to believe him, and go with him."

after she said this, mu tangchuan's gentle and elegant face very quickly flashed with a smile. he beamed happily. "very good, xiaye. if you can think that way, i'm very glad. since he's mentioned this to you on his own accord, i trust that you roughly know what happened years ago."

"mmm, i'm generally clear about what happened. you actually want to bring doris up, don't you?" xi xiaye was not slow either, so she could catch the hint between his words.

indeed, once she said that, mu tangchuan did not deny it. “mmm, i should ask ah chen these things, but you know, he doesn’t want to mention this to us. even if it’s to help, your mother-in-law and i, we both...”

“don’t worry, father, it’s not that he doesn’t want to talk about it to the two of you. he just thinks that some things will trouble you and mother. i didn’t plan to bring it up to you, but since you’ve brought it up today, i’ll let you know that the entire situation was actually probably one whereby everyone tried to get what they wanted. perhaps, from that time onwards, doris already knew about gu qiwu and aunt’s relationship...sometimes, a person’s greed can be terrifying, not just doris, but perhaps lingtian...”

at this juncture, xi xiaye did not continue, yet mu tangchuan’s profound eyes unconsciously darkened. clearly, he understood what she meant.

“father, actually, i have a feeling that the thing with qi lei and ah mo this time is the finishing point of this whole thing. their disappearance is no coincidence. perhaps, it has been planned for a long time now.”

“are you suspecting that it might have something to do with doris? do you have a basis?” mu tangchuan asked.

xi xiaye shook her head gently. “if we’re going to talk about evidence, then i don’t have any. it’s just an instinct. since it’s happened, there should be a reason. qi lei left qi kai a while ago and said that he wants to start his own thing while qi qiming unexpectedly defended him in public. on the surface, it was for qi kai and the qi family, but we can’t neglect that the person whose benefits are directly harmed is qi feng, so he’s got a huge motive. we can’t neglect that aspect. father, i suggest that we thoroughly do a check on qi feng. perhaps, we might find something unexpected.”

“don’t you worry about that. i didn’t forget all the things that should be done,” mu tangchuan replied with a smile.

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Now, Xi Xiaye felt assured.

Something flashed in Xi Xiaye’s mind, so she asked again, “Right, Father, there’s something I’ve been wanting to ask you about.”

“What is it?” Mu Tangchuan casually put his arms behind him as he said calmly.

Xi Xiaye paused while she roughly sorted out her thoughts before asking, “Wang Qin’s matter has passed for a long time now. I want to know if the police had no updates at all. It was clear that someone tried to frame us for that incident. Was there still no outcome to the investigation?”

“The suspect has been locked in, but they ran off abroad. You know as well that it’s quite hard to catch a criminal abroad. Besides, he’s consciously evading our capture. I’m sure someone’s helping him out abroad too. However, I did hear that he’s recently appeared at Los Angeles.”

When Mu Tangchuan revealed that, a ray of hope flashed in Xi Xiaye’s heart. She thought about it for a moment. “Mmm, then we’ll have to keep troubling you on this matter, Father.”

“Don’t worry, this matter isn’t quite straightforward. I know about it very well since Ah Chen’s mentioned about this to me too. I know that you’re all anxious for an explanation for your friend, Qi Lei. I promise that I won’t let this drag on for too long.”

“If you’ve said so, Father, then I won’t worry about it.” Xi Xiaye smiled. “Alright, thank you, Father. If there’s nothing else, I’ll go home first. I will leave Ah Shi’s matter into yours and Mother’s hands.”

“Alright, go home then. Be careful on the road.”

...

In the windy and rainy City B, inside an abandoned factory kilometers away from the highway.

When Mu Yuchen went over, the sky had darkened. After Su Chen made a police report, right now, there were many policemen around the factory and a police cordon had been put up too.

Su Chen was talking about something with a policeman.

Suddenly, there was the sound of a car honking. Secretary He, who stood beside them, immediately turned to look. When he saw the car, he said to Su Chen, "Chief Su, it's Master Mu!"

Su Chen looked up and followed the sound. Indeed, a car had slowly stopped at the car on the vacant space in front. The car door opened quickly, and Mu Yuchen got down to walk straight to Su Chen. In the blink of an eye, he reached Su Chen.

"You're here!" Su Chen greeted Mu Yuchen, and then looked to the policeman beside him as he continued, "Come, let me introduce you. This is Officer Xu who's in charge of the case this time. Officer Xu, this is Master Mu!"

"Hello, I'm Mu Yuchen," Mu Yuchen greeted humbly.

"Ah, it's Master Mu. What an honor!" Officer Xu smiled humbly too.

Mu Yuchen nodded slightly and turned to look at Su Chen. "Any new findings?"

"We found Ah Mo and Qi Lei's car inside. There're some traces of blood on it too. Early examination shows that it's not from Ah Mo, Qi Lei, or Yang Sheng because coincidentally, the three of them have the same blood type as you, which is O. Meanwhile, the samples show that it's type A, so it should be someone else's blood."

Su Chen's lowered voice was quickly heard. "Next up, it's best if I let Officer Xu explain it to you."

When Officer Xu heard that, he nodded and continued, "Based on the situation, there were signs of struggle in the car. The two bottles of mineral water in Qi Lei's car contain roofie[1]. Early speculations show that it might be Qi Lei and Yang Sheng's, but we'll only know for sure after examining it. So far, it looks like the three of them were captured by seven to eight rogues who used a long and sharp metal rod as a weapon. We could tell from the scratches on the car that there must have been quite a fight here! There's a mess of footprints at the scene, so it will be a little hard to pick them up.

"Also, this factory area is a repair shop that's been abandoned for quite a while now. Rarely anyone passes by. There are quite a few roads that lead outside too. They're all flat cemented paths. After such a long and heavy downpour, many traces have been washed away by the rain, so we can't find anything

relevant for now. Also, this part leads to the deep mountains. I just checked and noticed that there were a few signs that look like the trail marks a car, so we won't rule out that they've escaped into the mountains. One more thing. Come here to look—

“It's obvious that this place was a car repair shop. There are burnt traces here but look at the new paint over there. It should be quite fresh, so my guess is that the murderer might have painted the car again, and then ran off to evade the CCTVs. And in order not to be noticed, they burnt it all here, We can guess from the plastic tanks of gasoline on the ground.”

...

Officer Xu explained the general situation to Mu Yuchen. As Mu Yuchen listened, his expression turned solemn too.

“That means that Qi Lei, Yang Sheng, and Ah Mo might be together right now. They were probably kidnapped by a bunch of rogues, and someone among these rogues was hurt,” Su Chen said.

Officer Xu nodded. “You can say that!”

“Can we find out the direction in which they escaped?” Mu Yuchen fell silent for a moment, then asked in a lowered voice.

Officer Xu paused, thought about it for a moment, then responded, “I can't answer that for now, Master Mu! But I think that as long as we bring these things back to test and survey the scene again, we should be able to get an answer. Actually, through my conversation with Chief Su earlier, I can boldly speculate that they might have left City B by now. Two days is enough to do many things. These two roads pass through 30 kilometers of highway towards a place beyond the provinces where traffic is busy. The checkpoint inspections might not be so strict either, so it wouldn't have been too hard for them to escape.”

“Can we pick up any DNA from the location? Perhaps, we can compare it to our database and find out the rogue's identity.”

“Don’t worry, Mr. Mu. We found a few cigarette butts at the scene. We’ll bring them back for tests, and hopefully we’ll find something useful.”

Mu Yuchen sighed as he stood there for quite a while, then walked towards his car. The traces at the scene were clearly very chaotic. Mu Yuchen’s thoughts were leaning more towards the possibility that Ah Mo must have exchanged blows with those people!

Ah Mo was really alert, so perhaps he found out something. After all, even the usual seven to eight people were no match for him!

[1] Also known as Rohypnol, a sedative that was made in the early 1970s in hospitals only for deep sedation. It is now a fairly infamous date-rape drug. Has also been known to be used recreationally

Chapter 1295. Scheming, Retreating To Advance 1

mu yuchen watched the scene before him indifferently. his unfathomable gaze possessed an unusual sharpness and depth as he briefly looked around the surroundings and was almost done when he suddenly stopped.

his line of sign stopped on the door of a black car.

he saw that there was vague writing of the letter ‘d’ on the door, and also a very small triangular symbol.

mu yuchen’s eyes squinted. as he fell silent for a moment, a mysterious smirk flashed across his lips, but he did not say anything. he just turned and walked out.

“officer xu, i’ll leave this scene to you. i hope that the police’s efficiency will be of a level that the people are satisfied with. when the times come, i will thank you all well!”

“you’re being courteous now, master mu! this is our job that we should be doing.”

“alright, i won’t bother your work then. if there’s anything, just let us know when our cooperation is needed,” mu yuchen said, and then he looked back at su chen. “i’ll return to city z right away. are you coming along?”

su chen's brows were raised. "of course! but i think that before that, we should have dinner. booking flight tickets take time. besides, the way you look, if you...keep going like this, you'll fall. you don't look good!"

"we'll eat at the airport. i won't die from skipping a meal," mu yuchen stated, and then walked to the car.

shrugging, su chen followed after him.

"ah bao, stay back to help with investigations. let me know right away if there's anything."

"yes, master!"

mu yuchen's low voice was colored with a hint of fatigue. then, he got into the car as su chen followed behind.

all of them made their way straight for the airport without stopping.

the car was still speeding along the highway to the airport, and from the moment mu yuchen got into the car, he shut his eyes to rest. there were clear signs of fatigue between his brows. when su chen looked at him with the help of the light of the car, he could vaguely see his pale complexion.

that would be no surprise. he had flown for more than 10 hours from the other side. given the jetlag as well, he had not even had the time to catch his breath when he rushed over. it was no surprise he could barely stay awake.

when he thought about this, su chen did not bother him further. he fell silent and took the materials from the side to read through.

nonetheless, mu yuchen only rested for about ten minutes. when he heard the faint sound of documents being flipped through, he forced himself to open his heavy eyelids again.

su chen could sense the man beside him stirring, so he asked, "did you notice anything earlier?"

"you've got a keen eye." mu yuchen reached out with his long fingers and held up his forehead, trying to ease the weariness that was gathering within him.

"we've been bros for decades. if i can't even read that, all our years would've been for nothing! tell me, what did you think of that symbol on the car door? could it have been left behind by ah mo?" su chen obviously noticed mu yuchen's gaze too, so he could be sure that he must have noticed something.

mu yuchen smiled. "you saw it too? if it's just the letter 'd', i might not have thought of anything, but that triangular symbol is ah mo's usual symbol. his triangle always has a little trail at the end. because of that, i've even teased him about it once. if i guessed correctly, that 'd' might be him trying to tell us something. there aren't too many coincidences in this world. with what we've been gathering recently, the answer's quite obvious, no?"

"doris?" su chen quickly got it right.

"whether or not it was her, we must do a thorough check. earlier, i received something that my father found out through his investigation in my e-mail. on the day before lingtian's incident, the car met an accident and was sent to the repair shop. then, not long after the repair shop owner disappeared, and the repair shop closed too. i've gotten people to look for the people from the repair shop. right now, i'm quite looking forward to see if the letter that detective zhang sent to xi xiaye will hold any valuable information."

"mmm, also from today's situation we can see that ah mo and the rest might not be in a dangerous situation. maybe...but do you really think that ah mo can be trusted? i don't want the thing with lingtian to happen again. when i went over, someone already told me that he's been meeting gu qiwu a lot recently. can you be sure that he won't be the next lingtian?" su chen's tone was heavy as he asked.

"what do you think? would he do that?" mu yuchen did not answer and asked him back instead.

upon hearing that, su chen's expression froze he thought about it seriously and answered, "based on my understanding of ah mo, he wouldn't."

“do you think there’s anything else to doubt then?”

“but how can we explain his frequent meetings with gu qiwu?” this doubt was something that su chen still could not figure out.

mu yuchen sighed softly as he turned to look out of the window and fell silent for a while before he responded, “i think it was probably for lingshi.”

mu yuchen did not forget what xi xiaye had told him about mu lingshi’s matter. after all, doing so would fit lingshi’s personality.

“lingshi? why does it involve lingshi now? is lingshi thinking of wanting hui gu?” su chen kept thinking about it, and it seemed like this was the only answer.

“lingshi’s thoughts are simple and very straightforward. if she gets hui gu, doris and gu lingsha’s powers will be weakened much more. doris has always paid close attention to gu qiwu. do you think doris will neglect this?”

with mu yuchen’s reminder, su chen suddenly snapped back. “are you saying that doris might think of doing something to lingshi?”

su chen’s lowered voice could not help but be colored with a chill and his dark eyes flickered. “yes, there’s a huge probability of that. right now, ah mo’s incident is enough to prove this! she’s got quite a huge patience. this time, it was most likely planned by her!”

“her good luck can only end here.” mu yuchen laughed lukewarmly.

“what are you planning to do about ah mo and qi lei’s matter?”

“if there’s no news, it means they should be safe. besides, if ah mo and qi lei were held down by these people so easily, then all their years in the wild would’ve meant nothing. right now, the most important

thing for us to do is return to city z and watch doris. put our guard up against any more incidents. this time, i want doris to pay the price!" his calm tone held a hint of hostility.

"you're a smart one. alright, i'll play this game with you!"

a dazzling curve flashed on su chen's lips...

Chapter 1296. Scheming, Retreating to Advance 2

Unlike the Stormy City B, City Z Was Exceptionally Cloudless Tonight. The Bright Moon Hung High in the Night Sky While the Bright Silver Moonlight Illuminated the Ground, Engulfing the Grand Waves Villa in a Mesmerizing Gentleness.

When Xi Xiaye Returned From the Old Mu Residence, It Was Already a Little Late, and Sis Wang Had Already Coaxed Mu Xiaocheng to Sleep.

However, Xi Xiaye Still Could Not Help but Go to the Baby's Room and Watch Her Son for a While Before She Returned to Her Bedroom. After a Comfortable Bath, She Went to the Study Room, All Cool and Relaxed.

Now, the Clock on the Wall Showed That It Was Midnight, but Xi Xiaye Did Not Feel Like Sleeping Yet.

There Was Still No News About Qi Lei and Ah Mo, So She Was Worried. Because Ah Mo Was Skilled, She Could Still Persuade Herself to Feel Assured, but Qi Lei Was Different. He Had Been an Heir Who Lived Life Unconventionally. He Probably Did Not Have Many Self-defense Skills, and if He Fell Into the Hands of the Bad Guys, He Would Definitely Suffer.

When She Thought About This, Xi Xiaye Could Not Help but Sigh Softly Again. Her Mind Suddenly Flashed With the Memory of Her Conversation With Mu Tangchuan That Night. Suddenly, She Thought About Wang Qin Again...

Back Then, She Had Promised Wang Qin, That Pitiful and Sad Woman Who Was Not Treated Kindly by Fate but...

'qi Lei, May You Make It Through This Time,' She Thought to Herself.

As Xi Xiaye Prayed in Her Heart, She Got Up and Walked to the Window. She Saw That the Moon Looked Wonderful, and as She Was Thinking About Whether to Go Out for a Walk, There Was a Knock on the Door.

She Then Turned and Responded Towards the Door, "Come in!"

When the Door Opened, Sis Wang Brought in a Tray. There Was a Steaming Cup of Milk and a Bowl of Porridge on It.

"Sis Wang? Why Aren't You Asleep Yet?" Xi Xiaye's Calm Voice Was Heard.

"Missus...i Saw That You've Not Been Looking Too Good, and You Were Busy Until So Late. Last Night, You Were Going at It in the Study Room the Entire Night. You Have to Watch Your Health! Earlier, I Specially Made You Some Bird's Nest. Have Some and Rest Earlier!" Sis Wang Said Caringly.

With a Smile, Xi Xiaye Said Gratefully, "Thank You. Put It Down First. I'm Not Hungry Yet. I'll Eat Later. It's Already So Late, So Rest Earlier Now."

"That's Fine. Missus, You Look Like There's a Lot on Your Mind. Did Something Happen?"

"Nothing Much. We've Just Got a Sticky Situation to Deal With. You've Worked Hard With Sis Fang to Take Care of Xiao Rui and Xiao Cheng Every Day. When Master's Back, I'll Tell Him to Raise Your Salaries. Next Time, if There's Nothing Much, Try Not to Go Out So Much. When It Comes to Xiao Rui, Remember to Let the Bodyguards Send and Pick Him Up From School. Also, for Xiao Cheng, Apart From the Mu Family and the Shen Family, No One Should Be Fetching Him Without My Permission for Him to Leave the House. Do You Understand?" Xi Xiaye Reminded Worriedly.

Sis Wang Nodded and Smiled to Say, "Don't Worry, Missus. The Master Has Already Mentioned This to Us. Master's Already Paying Us Very Well, and We're Very Contented Too. Missus, You Don't Have to Regard Us as Outsiders."

“I Notice All Your Effort and Hard Work. Everything We’re Giving is What You Deserve. Alright, Put Down the Things and Rest Earlier. I’ve Still Got a Few Documents to Look Through,” Xi Xiaye Said, Then Walked to Her Desk to Sit Down Again.

When Sis Wang Saw That, She Dared Not Disturb Her, So She Set the Things on a Side Table Before She Mentioned a Few More Things and Retreated.

The Night Was Getting Later, and the Moonlight by the Window Slowly Shifted to the Left. The Curtains Also Revealed Long Shadows.

Xi Xiaye Did Not Know How Long She Held on to Staying Awake. After a While, She Fell Asleep, and Even the Bird’s Nest Had Gone Cold, but She Did Not Realize It.

It Was Long Past Midnight, and the Entire Villa Had Fallen Into a Quiet Dream State When Finally, a Black Car Slowly Drove Into the Grand Waves Villa Area With the Moonlight Shining on It. It Stopped Before Maple Residence.

Li Si Swiftly Got Down From the Car and Opened the Door for Mu Yuchen. “Master, You’re Home!”

In the Car, Mu Yuchen, Who Had His Eyes Closed, Slowly Opened His Eyes and Swiftly Got Down the Car.

“You Two Go Home Too. Come Over Tomorrow Afternoon,” Mu Yuchen Said and Then Reached Into His Shirt Pocket and Took Out a Key Card Before Walking Towards Maple Residence.

From Afar, He Could See the Light in the Study Room on the Second Floor Was Still Switched on. He Subconsciously Paused His Steps and Was Bathed in This Gentle and Silent Light. In That Instant, He Felt the Fatigue on Him Fade Away a Little More. In the Next Second, He Walked Into the House Impatiently.

He Did Not Switch on the Light in the Living Room. With the Help of the Dim Light Along the Corridors, He Ran Straight for the Second Floor.

As Expected, When He Pushed the Study Room Door Open and Looked Towards the Table, He Saw That the Woman Had Fallen Asleep on the Table...

Xi Xiaye Had Been a Light Sleeper as of Late and Would Be Awoken by Any Slight Movement, So When the Man Walked in, Her Sharp Senses Already Noticed His Familiar Fragrance. She Was Dazed and Thought That It Was All Part of Her Dream Until She Vaguely Heard the Sound of Those Footsteps.

She Then Looked Up With Her Misty Eyes to Look to the Side. Indeed, She Saw the Man's Handsome Face and Was Stunned. Quickly, She Rubbed Her Eyes, Dumbfounded.

Why Did It Feel Like She Was Looking at Mr. Mu?

Upon Seeing Her Blur Expression, the Man Just Stood Up and Let Her Examine Him While His Thin Lips Curved Up Slightly. "I'd Like to See How Long Your Reflexes Are Going to Take."

When His Familiar Voice Came Through, Xi Xiaye Snapped Back to Her Senses and Suddenly Held Him. "You're Back? Why Didn't You Give Me a Call First?"

"I'm Still Getting Home Whether or Not I Call. Were You Planning to Just Sleep in the Study Room Tonight?" His Low and Hoarse Voice Held a Hint of Reprimand Because He Was Unhappy to See Those Obvious Dark Circles Under Her Eyes.

Xi Xiaye Combed Her Fingers Through Her Slightly Messy Hair and Stretched. "I've Been Quite Overwhelmed With Work Recently. I Keep Thinking About a Few Things. Once I Lay in Bed, I Tend to Think a Lot. You Don't Look Too Good. You Look Travel-worn."

Mu Yuchen Glanced at Her, His Gaze as Profound as the Sea. Without a Second Thought, He Pulled Her Up. "Just Pretend It's Because I Miss a Certain Someone That I Rushed Home."

Then, Before She Could Say Anything, His Cool Kiss Fell on Her Lips.

Xi Xiaye Was Bewildered, but She Soon Reacted and Quickly Held Him, Happily Responding to the Tenderness and Passion He Offered.

Chapter 1297. Scheming, Retreating to Advance 3

After Some Intimate Moments, He Restrained His Passion and Held Her by the Waist as He Took the Cold Bird's Nest With One Hand and Finished It in a Few Gulps.

Xi Xiaye Then Snuck Out From His Embrace and Helped Him Take Off His Coat and Tie as She Said, "I Thought You'd Only Be Back in a Few More Days, but It's Good That You're Back. That Way, I Won't Have to Keep Feeling Restlessly Worried."

"What's There to Be Worried About? Aren't I Here Now? Get Something to Eat From the Kitchen. The Food on the Plane Was Really Hard to Swallow. Where's Our Son?"

"He's Sound Asleep Right Now, So You Should Go Shower First. I'll Go Downstairs and Make You Something to Eat. Coincidentally, Just Yesterday I Returned to the Old Residence. Mother Made Me Some Dishes. I'm Quite Hungry Too, So I'll Have Some With You! Come Downstairs When You're Done!" Xi Xiaye Said and Then Swiftly Went Out.

When He Saw the Woman Disappear Out of the Doorway, He Chuckled and Unhurriedly Followed Suit.

Xi Xiaye's Culinary Skills Had Improved From Before. She Quickly Heated Up a Few Dishes, and Then Prepared a Light Soup to Warm the Belly. When She Served the Food, Mu Yuchen Had Changed Into a Clean Set of Black Pajamas and Was Walking Downstairs While Drying His Dark Hair.

"All Good Dishes? Looks Like You've Been Living Quite the Good Life While I Wasn't Around, but Why Does It Seem Like You Haven't Gotten Any Fatter?" He Squinted at That Sharp Chin of Hers and Tossed Aside the Towel in His Hand as He Served Them Both Some Soup.

"No? I've Gotten Three Kilograms Heavier When I Weighed Myself Two Days Ago. When You Weren't Around, Mother Would Always Cook Good Food. You Know How Her Skills Are Like. It Would Be Hard to Even Want to Control Your Weight," She Said as She Handed Him a Glass of Red Wine That She Had Poured for Him.

He Had Two Bowls of Soup First Before He Picked Up the Wine to Have a Sip. "Actually, I Rushed Back From City B."

Upon Hearing That, Xi Xiaye Paused. "City B? How Are Things Over There? We Haven't Heard Anything. Ah Shi and Grandfather Have Found Out About It, and Tonight..."

"That's Within Expectations. How's She Now?" Mu Yuchen Was Not That Shocked.

"Her Emotions Aren't Too Stable, So Mother Will Stay Home to Accompany Her These Few Days. Do You Think She'd Be Any Good for Something Like This to Happen Right Now? Grandmother's Incident Took a Huge Blow to Her. Whatever Happens, Ah Mo Has to Be Fine."

Xi Xiaye Frowned Slightly. She Could Not Help but Sigh. "You Still Haven't Mentioned How Things Are in City B. Did You Find Out Anything?" She Said as She Picked Up Her Chopsticks to Put Food Into His Bowl.

He Very Happily Lapped It All Up, and Then Responded, "They Found Their Cars. Qi Lei and Yang Sheng Should Be With Ah Mo Too Since They Haven't Found Them Yet, but I'm Certain That They Aren't in Any Danger for Now."

"Do You Know Who Did It? Father Touched on It Briefly Tonight With Me Too. Right, He Seemed to Have Found Out Something, but Look at You. Rest First Tomorrow, and We'll Return to the Old Residence at Night. I Think There Are Some Things We Need to Discuss Properly."

"Whatever You Say. Anyway, Let's Not Talk About These Things. Eat More!" at This Moment, He Suddenly Did Not Feel Like Talking About These Things Anymore. He Just Wanted to Have a Nice Meal With Her and Talk About Her or About Their Sons.

"I Haven't Seen Them in More Than Two Months. Our Son Seems a Little Sturdier Now," He Suddenly Looked Up at Her and Smiled to Say.

"Do You Went to Take a Look at Him?" Xi Xiaye Flashed a Gentle Smile.

"Mmm, He's Grown Much Taller Too."

"Well, of Course, Mother Says He's Growing Up to Be Like You When You Were Little. Xiao Rui Doesn't Dare to Carry Him Now. He's Too Naughty."

“How’s Xiao Rui With Homework Recently?” Mu Yuchen Did Not Forget to Ask About Mu Zirui’s Studies.

“He Did Excellently in Every Subject for the Midterm Exams That’s Just Passed. He’s Waiting for You to Come Back and Praise Him. He Told Me a Few Days Ago That Their Class Teacher is an Old-fashioned Woman, So He Wants to Switch to the Class Next Door.”

When Mu Yuchen Heard That, He Swallowed His Food, Took a Napkin to Wipe His Mouth, and Asked in Amusement With Raised Brows, “Why? An Old-fashioned Woman? Is the Teacher Next Door Very Young?”

Xi Xiaye Could Not Help but Roll Her Eyes and Say Puzzledly, “the Class Teacher Next Door is a Young Teacher Who’s Just Graduated Not Too Long Ago. Every Day, She Dresses Up Gorgeously. Xiao Rui Says That All the Students in Class Like Her Very Much.”

“From What You’re Saying, Could Our Son Have Given His First Love to the Teacher Next Door?” Mu Yuchen Said Amusedly.

Upon Hearing That, Xi Xiaye Instantly Laughed Out Gently. She Cleared Her Throat Before Responding, “Hard to Say. This Child Was Previously Like You. He Was Quite Composed and Serious, but Recently He Seems to Be Much Naughtier Lately. Sometimes, He Even Tells Me About Which Boy Has a Crush on Which Girl in His Class.”

“That’s a Normal Childhood. I Don’t Want Him to Be Living Life Like an Adult at Such a Young Age Too. There Should Be Joy and Laughter. We Must Do Our Best to Give It to Them. It’s Enough That We Teach Them How to Be Good People. As for the Rest, There’s No Need to Worry Too Much.” He Was Quite Calm About It.

Xi Xiaye Sighed and Shrugged. “I Don’t Want to Worry Either. I Heard That Their School is Organizing Some New Year’s Day Event Whereby Every Class Needs to Come Up With Two Performances. The Class Students All Recommended Xiao Rui. The Teacher Asked Xiao Rui What Talents He Had, and He Couldn’t Answer. He Came Back and Cried to Me About It for a Long Time. I’m Thinking of Letting Him Learn Something Artistic. What Do You Think?”

“Artistic? What’s He Going to Learn? He’s So Busy With Homework Every Day. Aren’t You Worried That He’ll Be Tired? I Think Right Now We Have the Teachers. When He Gets Back in a Few Days, We’ll See if He’s Interested to Learn the Violin. If He is, You and I Can Take Turns Teaching Him. Are You Worried About Not Teaching Your Son Well?”

Since Xi Xiaye Felt Like It Was a Good Arrangement, She Nodded.

“Let’s Quickly Eat. The Food’s Getting Cold.”

“Mmm.”

...

After the Husband and Wife Finished Their Supper, They Chatted for a Bit in the Living Room Before Going Upstairs to Sleep.

He Had Been Busy for So Long. Now That He Was Home and Could Finally Have a Good, Comfortable Sleep, and Given the Fatigue From Many Days of Work That the Two of Them Went Through, They Fell Very Sound Asleep and Stayed That Way Until Noon the Next Day.

Sis Wang Knew That Mu Yuchen Was Back. She Was Also Aware That They Had Slept Very Late Last Night, So She Did Not Bother Them. She Just Quietly Took Care of Mu Xiaocheng.

Mu Xiaocheng Was Easy to Take Care of. When He Was Fed, He Would Not Cry or Make a Fuss.

Chapter 1298. Scheming, Retreating To Advance 4

More than two days had passed, and the news of Qi Lei’s disappearance could not be hidden from Qi Qiming. Qi Qiming had been abroad for the past two days. When he reached City Z in the morning, he went straight to the company. “What did you say? Missing? What do you mean he’s gone missing?”

In the luxuriously comfortable office, Qi Qiming was sitting on the soft chair, yet his cold voice echoed in the entire office. Xi Xinyi trembled slightly at the sound, and her beautiful face could not help but flash with terror.

She walked up again and spoke in a trembling and uneasy voice, “CEO Qi, I don’t know what happened either. Because of the proposal, I’ve been in contact with VP Qi and Assistant Yang, but I haven’t been able to get them. I’ve gone to ask around at Grand Lake Villa when I found out that VP Qi isn’t even back although the people in City B said that he left City B long ago. I thought something was odd, so I got someone to check on the flight information only to find out that he never even boarded the plane!”

When Xi Xinyi finished, Qi Qiming’s expression sank as he felt an uneasiness rise in his chest. He thought about it for a while, then looked coldly at Xi Xinyi. “What’s the actual situation?”

“I’m not too sure of the details. Right now, I just can’t contact them, and the customer’s rushing for the proposal. VP Qi didn’t finish handing it over when he left, so...I went to take a look at Chenye Movies and Television. They seem to know that VP Qi is missing, but they don’t know what happened either. Things seemed to be in a mess. I was going to look for Director Qi, but I didn’t expect him to...”

When Xi Xinyi said this, she looked carefully at Qi Qiming.

“Didn’t expect him to what?” Qi Qiming’s cold voice came through, and she could not help but feel a chill travel down her spine. She breathed in, then lowered her voice to say, “CEO Qi said that since VP Qi can leave the company, it’s not within his power to care about his problems...It sounds like Director Qi’s quite angry.”

As Xi Xinyi finished, Qi Qiming’s expression looked worse and his eagle eyes had turned cold. Then, he grabbed his phone from the table and made a call.

“Hello? It’s me! Investigate right away what’s happened to Qi Lei. Hurry!” he said, then he slammed down the phone to hang up, the sound startling Xi Xinyi again.

“Alright, I got it. Get out first.” Qi Qiming tried hard to control her emotions as he coldly told Xi Xinyi to get out.

“Yes, CEO Qi! But what about the proposal?”

“I’ll get someone to send it to you once I’ve looked through it!”

After that, Xi Xinyi turned around to leave Qi Qiming's office.

The door closed, and Qi Qiming loosened up a little, but his dark eyes still contained heaviness. After a short while, the phone on the table suddenly buzzed, and Qi Qiming swiftly picked it up.

"So? What happened these past few days?"

The person on the other end responded very quickly, "It's huge, CEO Qi! I just found out that Master Qi and his assistant, Yang Sheng, as well as Glory World's manager, Mu Lingmo, have all gone missing together. The Mu family are all worried about it right now. Mu Tangchuan has already sent people to handle this. All the signs point to them being kidnapped!"

"Kidnapped?" Qi Qiming's eyes froze. "Are you saying that Qi Lei was kidnapped?"

"Yes, CEO Qi, based on the current situation, this is the only speculated possibility!"

"B*stard! Which bold fool dares to touch my people? Are they tired of living? What have you all been doing? When did this happen? How did you only find out now? I think you want to get fired!" Qi Qiming could not help but explode in rage. He felt a panic rise in his chest. Even he himself did not know what happened, and he found it hard to breathe. In his mind, the scene of when Wang Qin passed away flashed.

"CEO Qi, please don't be angry! I'll get someone to rescue Second Master Qi right away!"

"Wait! Send me a copy of all the information you've gathered quickly!"

"Yes, CEO Qi, don't worry. Second Master Qi will be fine! I'll send this over right away!" The person on the other end sighed, yet before he could finish, Qi Qiming had already hung up.

After a while, the laptop before Qi Qiming chimed with the sound of a notification, so he quickly clicked on it.

His expression began to darken as he read further...

...

In his office, Qi Feng was busy as always.

After Gu Lingsha was released, the husband and wife's relationship quickly became tense again. When he left the house that morning, they even fought. Qi Feng was finding it more and more of a headache now, so he could not help but feel frustrated.

He did not want to be petty with her. In his helplessness, he could only leave the house early and reach the office sooner without even having breakfast.

The misunderstood ones were often worn out. Doubt was a seed that once planted, would easily root and sprout, especially for a woman like Gu Lingsha.

Even if Qi Feng wanted to get rid of her doubts, he still felt powerless.

Pa!

His mind could not help be filled with frustration. He could barely catch his breath as he could not help but toss the document in hand and loosen his tie.

Dong, dong, dong!

At this moment, the sound of a rushed knock on the door was heard.

"Come in!" a raspy voice spoke, and Qi Feng quickly gathered himself.

The door opened, and Morrison walked in with a solemn expression. He turned around to close the door and then walk over to Qi Feng.

“Master, bad news!”

“What is it?” Qi Feng frowned and glanced coldly at him.

Morrison walked over and said softly, “CEO Qi’s back at the office. He’s asked to see you right away! I heard earlier that he’s got someone to investigate Qi Lei’s disappearance. Do you think he noticed something?”

When Morrison said that, Qi Feng’s expression sank further and the light in his dark eyes began to flicker uncertainly.

“Master, I wonder how Doris did it. How did Mu Lingmo get dragged into it too? She might have thought that the Mu Lingmo is a simple person, but he’ll probably ruin things instead! I’m really worried right now if something’s going to change!” Morrison said very worriedly.

However, Qi Feng appeared much calmer.

“Mu Lingmo got dragged into it? Huh, we might’ve been wrong. Mu Lingmo could be Doris’s real target while Qi Lei is only a problem she’s helping us resolve along the way! This woman has never been easy to be taken advantage of. She wants me to help her deal with Gu Qiwu. Before that, she got to help me clean up the obstacles too. Mu Lingshi’s so well protected right now, so she had to find a breakthrough!” Qi Feng’s cold and raspy voice was completely hostile.

Chapter 1299. Scheming, Retreating To Advance 5

Morrison was stunned by Qi Feng’s reminder and only reacted after a while. He stared at Qi Feng in a daze, and then muttered, “Master, are you saying that Doris couldn’t find a place to strike, so she got to Mo Lingmo? But this seems like a bit of a stretch. Why would she be so certain that Mu Lingmo would be effective? Right now, the Second Master is involved too. I actually don’t think this will go well.”

“That’s just how you see it. Doris settling for the second-best might not bring about the best effect. Mu Lingmo is Mu Yuchen’s second limb and Mu Lingshi’s husband too, so controlling him is definitely beneficial to us.”

When Qi Feng said this, his eyes were a little gloomy.

Morrison took a look at him, thought about it for a moment, then said, "Master, are you saying that Doris might do something to Mu Lingmo?"

"Hmph, with that woman's level of viciousness, is there anything she wouldn't do?" Qi Feng's tone contained some disdain.

Qi Feng was sure that part of the reason Gu Lingsha was like this recently was that Doris had been instigating things!

Doris has always been unhappy with him, and Qi Feng knew this very well. Even if things were now set in stone and Gu Lingsha had married him, Doris was still not satisfied. This was something that had never changed ever since Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha were little.

Upon hearing that, Morrison nodded. "Master, you're right. Doris might take the extreme route. I'd like to see how she'll go about this. Let's just watch first. Even if there's anything suspicious on CEO Qi's end, it's not us who's doing anything. I think that as long as we can ground ourselves, no one can do anything about us. Oh, right, Professor Terl's coming tomorrow to check on your legs..."

"Got it. Send me up first," Qi Feng's low voice came through. He did not forget what Morrison had rushed in to say. Since Qi Qiming already knew about Qi Lei and rushed to call him up, he knew what was coming.

With Qi Feng's reminder, Morrison snapped back to his senses and quickly got up. "Yes, Master!" Then, he walked over to wheel Qi Feng out.

They took the elevator all the way up to the top floor and made their way to Qi Qiming's office.

They had just entered when Morrison could already feel the cold and stifling atmosphere. He hesitated as he wheeled Qi Feng in. What greeted their sight was Qi Qiming sitting in front of his desk.

"Morrison, you can go out first."

Qi Feng had just stopped in front of his desk when Qi Qiming's cold voice was heard. As he said this, he did not even look up.

Morrison was stunned and he subconsciously turned to look at Qi Feng.

Qi Feng took a glance at Qi Qiming, then silently nodded, so Morrison had no choice but to retreat.

The door closed, and Qi Feng looked up at Qi Qiming, yet the latter stayed silent and continued to look through the document before him as if Qi Feng was not there.

Qi Qiming did not start, thus naturally, Qi Feng kept quiet and silently waited.

A while passed, and a few of the documents on the left of Qi Qiming's work desk had been switched to the right as the two remained silent the whole time, yet the air in the office was becoming more and more stifling.

"Don't you have anything to say to me? Haven't you waited for so long?"

In the end, it was Qi Qiming who spoke up first, and he said this without looking at Qi Feng while his eyes remained on the document before him.

"Father, what do you expect me to say? I've been waiting for you to tell me something," Qi Feng was steady as he said calmly.

At this moment, Qi Qiming looked up at him and saw his calm expression. A satisfied look flashed in his eyes, yet in that instant, it turned into a complicated, doubtful gaze. Finally, it returned to calmness.

Qi Feng noticed this series of changes within Qi Qiming, and his heart could not help but sink a little, yet he did not show any changes in his expression.

Qi Qiming stared at him for a long before he slowly pulled open a drawer and put a document before Qi Feng. "Look at what this is. Don't tell me you didn't know about this!" His tone was gloomy.

Qi Feng reached out unhurriedly to take it, flip through it, and in the end, he just frowned.

He handed the document back to Qi Feng with a sigh and said in a raspy voice, "Actually, I only found out about Qi Lei's kidnapping this morning too. I've already sent for people to search. I didn't expect this news to reach you so soon, Father. I didn't think that such an incident would happen too. You know how Xiao Lei is too. He's always done things his way. I had some unhappy encounters with him, so when Xi Xinyi came to tell me that Qi Lei couldn't be contacted, I thought Xiao Lei was just throwing a tantrum."

At this point, Qi Feng paused as if he was thinking about something, then he continued, "Afterwards, I thought that something didn't feel right, so I checked and then found out that he's been missing for two days. Then, I sent for Morrison to find out more. It's my negligence with this one, Father. You can punish me however you want. I'm willing to accept it."

Qi Feng did not defend himself and very openly admitted his mistake without hiding the fact that Xi Xinyi had gone looking for him too.

That was because he knew Qi Qiming all too well!

As long as he caught a whiff of anything that did not satisfy him, he would begin to worry about the person, and since Qi Feng openly admitted to these things, it validated his need for control. In this case, Qi Qiming did not suspect Qi Feng much.

Indeed, as soon as Qi Feng said that, Qi Qiming's tense and gloomy expression eased a little.

"I know about your conflicted relationship with Xiao Lei, and I've always hoped that as the old brother, you could be more understanding of him. Especially after his mother's passing, he's changed a lot. You know Wang Qin too. Even though she was very much unhappy with you, to tell the truth, she never really did hit or scold you, and she's never treated you poorly," Qi Qiming said a little pensively.

"In fact, it's true that given the way things have been before, it was indeed unfair to her. Ah Feng, you had me protecting you before this. All these years, I was much harder on Xiao Lei instead. I hope you can understand my effort. I want you to tell me honestly today, do you still harbor resentment for Wang Qin and Xiao Lei? I want you to be honest!"

Chapter 1300. Scheming, Retreating To Advance 6

sure enough, as soon as qi qiming said this, a chill flickered in qi feng's black eyes while he looked down. when he lifted his eyes and stared at qi qiming again, calmness was restored.

qi feng did not immediately answer qi qiming. the father and son looked at each other for a long time before he chuckled. it was not difficult to hear a little iciness in his hoarse voice. "since you know how my relationship is with xiao lei, father, then there's little point to ask. i don't deny that xiao lei may seem like a great threat to me from your perspective, but if you think this matter is related to me, then i have nothing to say. it's just qi kai, isn't it? i never thought that i could really inherit it anyway. perhaps qi lei may be more qualified than me to take over."

qi qiming suddenly felt uncomfortable, especially when he saw qi feng's dim expression.

"all the unhappiness originated from this, whether it was wang qin or xiao lei. i know you're trying to be considerate about me and in order to compensate me, you gave me the position. i'm getting tired. i don't want to fight for it anymore. perhaps that is for the best. are you satisfied with that?" qi feng's tone was hoarse and low.

however, qi qiming did not seem very pleased. "ah feng, i don't mean that. i know you wouldn't do such a thing, but it's your negligence if something like this happens! it's been almost three days. you shouldn't leave it like that even if you're dissatisfied with him. no matter what, i still owe him and his mother, wang qin. now that wang qin is gone, he..." he halted his sentence halfway.

"don't think too much about what has passed now. after all, you're just doing your best to compensate." qi feng took a deep breath and raised his head to look at qi qiming while his eyes were filled with faint worries that qi qiming had never seen before. "you should know about xiao lei's temperament by now. maybe the quarrel we had back then had something to do with the current situation. morrison's investigation is similar to what you showed me. the mu family has reported it to the police given xiao lei's current relationship with the mu family, especially mu yuchen and xi xiaye. however, i do think the incident this time is highly unusual."

qi qiming relaxed a little, but after careful consideration, he felt that qi feng's words seemed to hold a deeper meaning. he lowered his voice and said, "do you mean that the mu family might be behind this? but mu lingmo has also gone missing!"

qi qiming was not a fool. naturally, he did not think the matter was so simple. he squinted and looked at qi feng, but he suddenly changed the topic. "how are lingsha and you? and how has weiwei been doing recently?" he asked and glanced at qi feng. "why do i hear that the two of you have been getting a little tensed lately? i heard you two got into a fight on the day she was released from the police station. what's the matter?"

qi feng paused before answering, "don't worry about it. i'll deal with it. she suffered a lot during her time inside, so it's normal." while he looked calm on the surface, he was not sure how much more patience he had left to offer her.

gu lingsha was now different from before. deeply influenced by doris, she was becoming more and more suspicious of his relationship with xi xiaye and would often bring her up in their arguments for no apparent reason.

qi feng never knew that a suspicious woman could be this annoying to deal with.

"well, you have to put in some effort too. just look at my marriage with wang qin. to be honest, if it wasn't for what happened six years ago, i doubt the two of you would be together, especially when someone like doris is monitoring you. by the way, i heard that you've been pretty close to doris lately, haven't you?"

"it's just because of sha sha and weiwei. i hope she can stop being biased and accept us." qi feng felt helpless when he said those words.

"doris isn't an easy opponent to deal with. be careful of what she's planning. i'd suggest you keep a distance from her since she's gotten into such a mess with gu qiwu. besides, you have to keep an eye on what's happening to xiao lei too. send someone to investigate and make sure that he's safe! these people are outrageous. if i find out who's behind this, i'll make sure they pay for it!" qi qiming sounded furious towards the end of his statement.

qi feng nodded. "yes, father! i'll make the arrangements right away."

"go!" qi qiming waved his hand at qi feng who called morrison in. soon, he quietly wheeled him out.

qi qiming looked at qi feng with a complicated gaze. he felt like he could not understand his son anymore. while he used to be considerate and observant of the overall situation, he seemed different now.

he took a deep breath and tried to forget about it as he started cleaning up his desk.

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on the other hand, morrison wheeled qi feng back to his office.

“master, did ceo qi suspect us?” morrison asked before handing qi feng a cup of coffee.

qi feng took a sip and grinned coldly. “he’s not a fool. it’s completely normal for him to have doubts. fortunately, he’s just being suspicious. try to minimize contact with doris for the time being, and keep an eye on the mu family’s movement. we might have a show to watch this time.”

morrison nodded. “understood! by the way, although i don’t know how the situation is over in new york, i heard that su chen rushed over to city b yesterday. it seems like the mu family is getting impatient.”

“mu lingmo and qi lei are both mu yuchen’s people. of course, he’ll be impatient! it’ll be amazing if the two of them are eliminated. let’s just wait and see what doris is going to do.”