

Loving 1301

Chapter 1301. Such Threats? 1

unlike the heavy downpour over in city b, the weather was great in city z. the warmth could even be felt through the thick window panes.

the spring breeze passed by as xi xiaye opened the windows, making the curtains dance with the wind.

she stretched her back and looked back towards the bed where the man was still sound asleep.

it had been a long time since he had a good night's sleep, and he had gone to bed pretty late last night. he had to make up for all the hours of sleep that he had missed all at once.

xi xiaye did not wake him up. she called the company and informed lan zilang that she would not be going to the office today. then, she went downstairs to take a look at her son and prepared to make some food.

...

as mu yuchen was sleeping, he could feel something moving beside him. his hand reached out for it without even opening his eyes as he thought it was his wife. he wanted to get her closer to him.

instead, his hand touched something soft and squishy, and he also felt his fingertips getting wet.

he instantly opened his eyes—

the little guy was nibbling on his fingers happily with his teeth that had started to grow. mu yuchen could feel a slight twinge on his fingers.

mu xiaocheng's eyes widened when he noticed his father looking at him, and the two of them started a staring contest with each other.

mu xiaocheng probably did not remember much about his father, so he was looking at him with great curiosity. since he had just learned how to walk, he walked around the bed despite being shaky.

“mu xiaocheng, do you remember who i am?” mu yuchen’s eyes were filled with love as he grabbed the toddler’s small hand.

naturally, mu xiaocheng had no idea what he was saying, but he could sense that this man before him meant no harm, so he stood up and gave mu yuchen a big smile. he extended his hand upwards and handed mu yuchen his toy with a giggle, giving his father a friendly glance.

mu yuchen’s heart melted when he looked at his son. he helped him up to sit on his lap. “come to daddy, you seemed much stronger now. why don’t you try calling me ‘daddy’ now?”

mu xiaocheng waved his hands around happily, and the bedroom was filled with the child’s laughter.

“get up if you’re awake. sis wang is preparing breakfast downstairs. he just woke up, so i guess he’s hungry too.”

as the two of them were having fun, xi xiaye came inside the room. she went to the wardrobe and picked some outfits out for him. “i’ve told grandfather that we’re going over later. mother said she’ll cook for us. by the way, su chen called you several times. i think there are updates for ah mo’s matter, so remember to call him back later.”

she draped some of his clothes on the chair before picking up mu xiaocheng in her arms.

mu yuchen pinched mu xiaocheng’s cheek before getting out of bed. then, he grabbed his clothes and went into the bathroom.

...

after a light breakfast, the family headed towards the mu residence.

the whole family was tensed after something like this happened, especially mu lingshi. she could not sleep last night and seemed to be out of herself. because zhuang shurong was worried sick, she asked dr. zhong to come and take a look at her this morning too.

the living room was empty when mu yuchen and xi xiaye entered the house.

“where’s everyone?” mu yuchen frowned as he asked the butler.

“master, elder master is in the backyard. your parents went shopping, and ms. lingshi is resting upstairs.

“brother, sister-in-law!” mu lingshi’s voice reached them from above. the two of them raised their head and saw her lumbering slowly down the staircase.

“what happened to you?” mu yuchen noticed mu lingshi’s pale face and frowned. “couldn’t sleep well?”

“i’d be lying if i said i wasn’t worried. is there any news right now? last night was painful for me. this has never happened...”

xi xiaye helped mu lingshi to the sofa. “you only have to worry about your health right now. let the rest of us worry about that. don’t you trust me and father?”

mu yuchen did not seem very happy, but he was genuinely concerned. “i know ah mo’s ability very well. just stay home and try not to go out if it’s unnecessary.”

“are you saying that someone’s trying to harm me?” mu lingshi noticed mu yuchen’s grim expression. “ah mo kept telling me that things are going to get chaotic, especially after what happened between gu qiwu and doris.”

“i can’t answer you right now. you’ll just have to stay put at home for now,” mu yuchen started brewing some tea as he spoke.

“but, brother, i...” as mu lingshi was about to continue, the servant’s voice reached them from the entrance. “miss, there’s a delivery for you!”

the servant came over with a huge package.

“a delivery?”

mu lingshi was stunned for a moment, then she examined the package. she had no idea what it was, so she felt it was odd. “wang xiao? i don’t know this person. what’s this?”

mu yuchen sensed that something was strange, so he stopped brewing the tea and glanced over at mu lingshi who seemed confused and was about to open the package. however, mu yuchen swiftly took it away from her.

his sudden movement startled both mu lingshi and xi xiaye!

Chapter 1302. Such Threats? 2

“what’s the matter?” xi xiaye squinted and became alert as she looked at mu yuchen, her face strained while she asked.

stunned, mu lingshi glanced at mu yuchen and soon averted her gaze to the package he was holding. “brother? is there a problem?”

mu yuchen frowned as he held onto the package tightly. “are you sure you don’t know who the sender is?”

mu lingshi and xi xiaye traded glances before nodding. “i don’t, and i don’t know what this means.”

he lowered his head and thought for a moment. then, he hesitated for a while before opening the package. just as he just made a small tear on the package, photos dropped out of it and fell all over the floor.

xi xiaye looked at the photos on the floor. they were all...

“ah mo!” mu lingshi screamed before xi xiaye could react!

a large hand quickly grabbed the photos on the floor!

“brother! it’s ah mo! it’s ah mo!” mu lingshi snatched the photos from mu yuchen’s hand and started looking at them closely.

the photos showed a small white space with ah mo in the middle, tied up to a chair while blindfolded. the photos clearly showed the bruises and injuries on ah mo, and he seemed pretty badly injured!

“he’s hurt! brother! he’s hurt. do you see that?” mu lingshi was terrified as she looked through the photos. xi xiaye glanced through them and did not see qi lei, but ah mo’s overall condition still looked safe at the moment.

“ah mo—”

“ah shi!” when xi xiaye suddenly felt a weight crashing towards her, she quickly reacted and grabbed mu lingshi who was falling while mu yuchen swiftly stepped forward and helped as well.

mu lingshi’s legs gave way as she blacked out suddenly.

“ah shi? are you okay?” xi xiaye was worried.

mu yuchen took mu lingshi in his arms and said, “drive the car over. her condition is unstable. let’s go to the hospital right now.”

“okay!” xi xiaye ran out while mu yuchen followed behind with mu lingshi in his arms.

“master? what happened to miss?” the butler asked.

“we’re going to the hospital. please tell them later,” mu yuchen spoke without a pause. he already disappeared out the door by the time he finished his sentence.

xi xiaye soon drove the car over, and the butler quickly helped to open the door. they quickly headed towards the hospital.

...

the sky had turned dark. in a patient’s room at hospital t, after another round of checkup from the doctor, he kept his stethoscope away. mu lingshi still looked pale and exhausted, and she had not regained consciousness either.

xi xiaye was worried sick. her frown never left her face while mu yuchen’s expression was grim as he stood beside her.

“how’s she doing?” mu yuchen asked quietly. he walked outside when he noticed that the doctor did not seem very positive, and the latter followed him outside.

“ms. mu’s emotions are extremely unstable. her nutrition uptake isn’t enough as well, and it might affect her child’s future development. moreover, her health condition is already poorer than an average person’s if she takes on any more burden, the child might be in danger,” the doctor said.

mu yuchen frowned. “she comes for her monthly checkup on time every month. if her condition is this bad, then why...”

“master mu, i’ve already told ms. mu during her previous visits that she was still fine about two months ago, but her condition has worsened these past few months, and emotions play a huge part in this change. she might have prenatal depression if this continues. you should spend more time and care for her as a part of her family. do your best to keep her happy as it’ll be beneficial for both her and her child.”

though the doctor tried to be careful with his words, mu yuchen caught the key message.

his heart sank!

depression?

prenatal depression?

mu yuchen was worried about that. after all, his aunt had been diagnosed with the exact same mental illness the last time. due to a lack of control and treatment, it had worsened and caused her to take her own life in the end.

“don’t worry too much, master mu. while ms. mu’s condition doesn’t look good right now, it’s not really a big issue. just spend more time with her and take care of her nutrition intake. help her to relax and i’m sure things will change for the better,” the doctor comforted mu yuchen.

mu yuchen took a deep breath and nodded. “i’ll leave her in your care then. please help stabilize her condition.”

“don’t worry, master mu. we’ll do our best! the patient needs to rest quietly, and she has to be mindful of her emotions too, so...” the doctor reminded him.

“i understand.”

“great. let me know if you need anything else.”

mu yuchen nodded before the doctor left. he turned around and was about to head back into the room when he saw xi xiaye right outside the door.

“what did the doctor say?” worry was written all over xi xiaye’s face. “she doesn’t look well. i’m worried.”

mu yuchen lowered his eyes and stayed silent for a moment before grabbing her by the shoulders. "it's fine. there are just some problems with controlling her emotions, and her nutritional intake is lacking. we just have to spend more time and take care of her better, but it'll be fine."

Chapter 1303. Such Threats? 3

his low and sensitive voice had just fallen when xi xiaye felt at ease. she turned around to look at the ward behind her. through the window, she could see the weak mu lingshi sound asleep on the sickbed.

"mr. mu, no matter what, you have to get ah mo back in one piece. bring him home. she can't suffer anymore, or she will break down soon enough."

fate had not been very kind to her, so she should not be burdened with all these misfortunes.

as xi xiaye watched mu lingshi lying on the sickbed lifelessly, she felt her chest grow a little heavy in a way that made it hard to breathe. she even felt a little heartbroken.

mu yuchen nodded, his tone exceptionally certain as he said, "don't worry."

"mmm, let's go in and be with her for a bit," xi xiaye said softly.

he then held her and walked into the ward.

after a while, zhuang shurong's anxious call came. mu yuchen picked it up.

"you don't have to come over. it's alright. she's just lacking some nutrition and hasn't been in too stable of a mood. tell grandfather, so he doesn't worry. xiaye and i are here, so we'll have to leave xiao cheng with you for now, mother."

"chen er, did something happen? why did she suddenly faint?" zhuang shurong was still a little doubtful.

"i'll tell you all about it when i get back. don't worry. it's fine." it was not a good time to explain all of this now, so mu yuchen only briefly gave his assurance.

“is it about ah mo? tell us, your father and i are very worried. your father’s about to go over to the hospital to see you all.” zhuang shurong’s tone was naturally concerned.

“mother, tell him that he doesn’t have to come. when lingshi wakes up tomorrow, she’ll be going home in two days if there aren’t much problems. we’ll talk about this again then. it’s quite late already, so have your dinner first. xiaye and i are here. don’t worry,” mu yuchen casually said, then hung up.

mu yuchen actually had it all sorted with regards to mu lingshi’s matter. when li si rushed over, from afar, he saw mu yuchen looking out of the window in the walkway, the dim lights covering him in a hazy chill.

“master? how’s miss lingshi?” li si walked a few steps and reached him as he asked in concern.

“she’s alright. bring these things to them for analysis. see if you can find out the place in these pictures. also, find out where doris is right now, and what she’s been doing these past few days,” mu yuchen said, then he handed li si a folder.

filled with doubt, li si quickly took the folder and opened it to look.

“ah mo? master! how is ah mo? he...is hurt? my gosh, those animals did it!”

li si quickly flipped through the large stack of photos, and after that, he frowned even more. “master, that’s not right, why don’t i see master qi? and yang sheng? weren’t they kidnapped together? where did you get these pictures, master?”

mu yuchen slowly put his arms behind him. “these were sent directly to lingshi.”

“sent to miss lingshi? who sent it? they sent these? what are they trying to do?” li si’s heart clenched when he thought about the girl on the sickbed, and he could not help but feel enraged. “are they trying to use these things to threaten miss lingshi?”

mu yuchen did not answer, but the sneer that flashed on his lips already told li si his answer.

“how despicable!” li si growled angrily.

“the cover of the express delivery is inside too. take a look. you must find out who the sender is.”

“yes, don’t worry, master. i’ll get it done right away!” li si responded. “oh right, master, master su sent over some documents earlier. he said it’s for you to take a look. it seems to be related to master lingtian’s accident six years ago.”

when he said that, mu yuchen paused, fell silent for a bit, then calmly answered, “got it.”

...

the accident six years ago...

lingtian...

if this had not been mentioned, xi xiaye would have almost forgotten about it. because too many things have been happening these past two days, she had forgotten all about that letter!

detective zhang’s letter!

“what’s wrong?” mu yuchen had just pushed the door open to enter when she saw xi xiaye standing there. upon seeing her odd expression, he asked in concern, “why do you look so pale? are you feeling unwell?”

“no, don’t worry. it’s nothing. i just remembered that letter i told you that detective zhang sent to me. i left it in the safe at home. it’s still there. i almost forgot about it.”

xi xiaye frowned and chided herself for forgetting about it!

“it’s fine. once lingshi’s alright tomorrow, we can go back and take a look too. let’s go in.”

...

mu lingshi woke up in a daze. she only sensed that her head was blank, and what greeted her sight was a helpless dullness as she felt all limp and weak. it was even hard to get up.

“ah shi? you’re awake?” xi xiaye’s surprised voice came through. she was relieved as she helped her sit up.

“sister-in-law? why are you here? where’s this?” mu lingshi’s misty eyes looked at xi xiaye who had suddenly appeared.

“you fainted all of a sudden, so we sent you to the hospital. you’re in the hospital now. how are you feeling right now? your brother just went out to get mother to bring you some porridge. you’re hungry, aren’t you?” xi xiaye quickly poured her a cup of warm water.

mu lingshi accepted it in a dazed state. sipping slowly, her voice was weak and raspy as she held her heavy head and muttered softly, “hospital...how did i end up in the hospital?”

“it’s fine. the doctor just said that you lack nutrition, and you can’t be too stirred up emotionally. you have to maintain a good mood. that way, you’ll give birth to a cute and healthy baby. don’t worry, understand?”

once xi xiaye said that, something flashed in mu lingshi’s mind and she immediately remembered everything. her face turned pale and she quickly held xi xiaye by the arm. “sis-in-law, how’s ah mo now? those people must be treating him terribly. they must be! brother, where’s my brother? brother, quickly help me save ah mo, brother!”

“ah shi! calm down! the doctor said you can’t get too emotional!” xi xiaye felt heartbroken seeing mu lingshi like this. she set the cup in hand aside and then hugged her.

mu lingshi struggled for a while before she weakly fell into her embrace and quietly cried out.

poor thing! she kept getting hit by one thing after another. she had always been someone who was cold on the outside but soft on the inside. even xi xiaye was moved to the point that she could not keep it all in until now.

she gently patted her on the back and softly consoled, "it'll be okay. trust your brother. he'll rescue ah mo. don't worry..."

Chapter 1304. Such Threats? 4

mu yuchen naturally would not have expected that the day after they received these photos, the same thing would occur inside gu qiwu's study room in the gu residence of city z.

on gu qiwu's wide desk were the same pictures that had been sent to mu lingshi. they were all of mu lingmo being held down and beaten up.

at this moment, gu qiwu was sitting at his desk, and ah yong could feel the tension from him even with the distance of the desk!

"what's the meaning of this?" gu qiwu looked coldly at the pictures on the table and demanded coldly.

"boss, these were sent over by express delivery this morning. i didn't know there were what was inside too. in fact, i checked that the sender's name isn't even real. we knew that mu lingmo was kidnapped with qi lei, so i think these were sent by the kidnappers, but we didn't receive any news of them asking for money. i wonder what these kidnappers are up to!" ah yong broke into a cold sweat as he said a little worriedly.

"since you know something like this has happened, why didn't you investigate it? qi lei's been kidnapped too? how did qi qiming react?"

gu qiwu looked at ah yong with a reprimanding gaze as he said sharply.

ah yong quickly lowered his head. "i'm sorry, boss, it's my oversight. however, i've just quickly contacted our people who say that qi qiming only found out about this just yesterday and was enraged. after that, he called qi feng to his office. i'm guessing that he might have reprimanded qi feng for negligence, or he suspects that this has something to do with qi feng. boss, you know how qi feng and qi lei have been recently too, so there is that possibility."

“qi feng? does qi feng dare touch ah mo? he doesn’t have anything against ah mo, does he? apart from mu yuchen, he doesn’t have a reason to go for ah mo. he has to give in a little to me at least. to openly go against me doesn’t seem like a foolish thing that qi feng would do! yet, you just told me that mu yuchen and su chen have confirmed that ah mo went missing the same time as qi lei! when did mu yuchen return to the country? why don’t i know about it? didn’t i hear that the matter in new york hasn’t yet been resolved? why is he suddenly back?”

gu qiwu could not figure it out.

“boss, you’re right. however, boss, we just received bad news too.” when ah yong said this, he paused, and his expression subconsciously tensed up as he looked worriedly at gu qiwu.

“what news?” gu qiwu asked coldly and tossed the pictures onto the desk nonchalantly. actually, his thoughts seemed to be leaning towards a suspect. most probably, only that evil woman would do such a thing!

in fact, he did not forget that she had sent him a series of pictures related to mu lingshi before this. this beautiful yet evil woman was just like a poppy. if it had been back then, gu qiwu both loved and loathed her. however, since the divorce, his feelings for her were completely erased.

doris and gu lingsha were actually very similar to each other. they both thought they were inherently noble and all high and mighty with no sense of self-awareness. in comparison, gu qiwu suddenly felt that mu zixi and mu lingshi were much more hassle-free.

nevertheless, with mu lingshi’s current personality, she did not care about acknowledging him as her father.

“boss, actually, since mu lingmo’s disappearance, miss mu lingshi hasn’t been doing too well. before these pictures were sent to you, a copy was already sent to miss lingshi just yesterday evening. i heard that miss lingshi fainted when she saw these pictures, mu yuchen sent her to the hospital, and she’s still hospitalized right now...”

bam!

before ah yong could finish, the teacup in gu qiwu's hand had already been smashed onto the table. he was extremely unhappy, and his grave and stern face was covered with a layer of cold, stormy clouds.

"boss, are you okay?" ah yong broke out in cold sweat as he looked a little worriedly at gu qiwu. "don't worry, boss. i've found out that miss lingshi is alright now, but she might need to rest for a few days."

"where did you find out about this?" gu qiwu held back the anger that he felt and asked ah yong coldly.

"li si mentioned it..." ah yong responded softly.

then, a dark and complicated light flashed in gu qiwu's eyes. he thought about it for a moment before smiling coldly, "looks like it's mu yuchen's orders. without mu yuchen's green light, li si wouldn't have told you all of this."

"boss, are you saying that mu yuchen's planning on working with you? but why?" ah yong did not quite understand it. he remained stunned as he looked at his boss and asked in confusion.

"hmph, because he's very smart. he can already guess who's behind this!" gu qiwu viciously picked up the photos on the table and said through gritted teeth, "i wanted to just end things nicely on account of having been married once, but you won't take it. well then, don't blame me for being cruel, witch!"

at this point, as patient as gu qiwu was, he finally could not help but curse.

now, something appeared in ah yong's mind. he finally caught it and could not help but gasp. just as he was about to say something, gu qiwu spoke up first, "quickly find out doris's tracks for me right away. she should still be in city z. you must get her to meet me. i think she'll be very happy to!"

gu qiwu seemed indifferent, then he picked up the stack of photos on the table before tossing them to ah yong. "and these things, burn them all!"

inhaling, ah yong quickly nodded and swiftly packed away all the photos. "yes, boss, don't worry. i'll destroy them right away!"

ah yong had just reached the door when gu qiwu spoke again, "also, get my private lawyer over right away. i have some things to consult him about. tell him to rush over in secret. right, just tell him to come past midnight today at 1.30 in the morning. i'll wait for him at our usual spot. warn him to be more vigilant too!"

"yes, i understand, boss! i'll go get it done right away!" ah yong answered with a lowered voice and then left the study room.

when he heard the door close, gu qiwu fell slightly limp while his stern face was covered in fatigue. he thought about mu lingshi, and worry could not help but flash in his eyes.

Chapter 1305. Accompany

at hospital t, the sun was close to noon was very gentle and pleasing.

mu lingshi's baby bump was showing now, but she was still reacting quite badly. especially these past few days with all the worries, it had not been easy.

at noon, mu yinan personally sent the nutritious tonic soup that zhuang shurong cooked over. when he saw that mu lingshi was alright, he went home.

mu yuchen and xi xiaye stayed with her at the hospital. because xi xiaye did not feel assured leaving mu lingshi alone, she kept very close by her side while mu yuchen handled ah mo's matter. there were also quite a few other things to settle. of course, he did not go to the office either because not many people knew he was back.

"come, let's sit over there for a bit. the chrysanthemum flowers seem to be blooming quite nicely." xi xiaye held mu lingshi and walked on the hospital's pebble path, then she saw the bench by the flowerbed.

"okay," mu lingshi responded and walked over too.

"mmm, the air's quite nice outside. i feel a little stifled staying all day in the ward."

mu lingshi sat down slowly with xi xiaye's help. she looked up gratefully at her and said, "sis-in-law, actually, you and brother don't have to be like this. i know you're usually overwhelmed with work. you don't have to spend time with me like this. work's important, and i'll be okay alone."

mu lingshi felt bad, especially upon seeing xi xiaye's clearly exhausted demeanor. she could not help but feel bad for her, especially because she knew her struggles.

upon hearing that, xi xiaye only smiled and put the shawl over mu lingshi's shoulders, she looked up at the autumn sun that was closer to the west, and spoke in a calm, breezy tone, "right now, there's nothing more important than you. work's important, but if we don't take good care of you, what would be the meaning of work or money?"

at this point, xi xiaye paused and calmly turned to look at the pale but grateful mu lingshi as she continued, "do you know that ever since i was young, i've tasted all the loneliness and helplessness? so, i can understand how you're feeling right now."

when xi xiaye brought that up, mu lingshi was stunned. she seemed to understand something as she suddenly smiled and said, "don't worry, sis-in-law, i know. i trust brother, father, and mother. actually, if we're talking, i'm much luckier than you. at least, ah mo and i have parents who love and care for us, and we have brother, bro su chen, and bro zimo who protect us whereas, sis-in-law, you don't seem to have anything..."

"it's not like i have nothing. sometimes, you don't need so much. one word of concern and encouragement can be the reason to stop you from giving up and even to work hard." xi xiaye suddenly remembered something, so she lamented, "sometimes, it's not too bad having a bumpy life because many people only become mature after experiencing these hardships, especially when it comes to relationships, whether it's kinship, friendship, or romantic ones..."

"sis-in-law, i actually really admire you. if i were you, i would've turned bad by now. how could i have persisted being good?" mu lingshi could not help sigh. "this time, if ah mo comes home safely, i'll definitely treat him better. no one's having it easy right now. sis-in-law, actually, especially since i realized that grandmother has left us for far away, i suddenly find that before time and life, we're all too insignificant. one or two years ago, i was still thinking of living wild and free, but now..."

"that proves that we're truly maturing and growing up. your brother taught me this before. he thinks that the mark of a person's true maturity is when his circle is no longer all sorts of nightclubs or crazy parties. instead, it would be after work every day, to miss those at home, to take off his coat and cook

for his family, to drive the family out for a movie and play a game of chess with grandfather, chat about politics with father and mother, and gather with his buddies from time to time for a barbeque at home..."

xi xiaye recalled the words that her man could not help but go on and on about to her, yet right now she could not hide the smile on her beautiful face.

"no wonder i was saying that ever since my brother returned the year before, he's changed a lot. even though he never did go out to nightclubs before that, he didn't seem to miss home. but, sis-in-law, ever since you married him, he's become much more considerate. i think he must have been influenced by you."

mu lingshi smiled and held xi xiaye's hand. "sis-in-law, do you know that i've grown up with my brother for close to 30 years now? you're the only person who can hold my brother down. love is quite a terrifying thing."

"i don't quite control him either. it's he who controls me and holds me down." xi xiaye did not agree with her now.

"sis-in-law, don't explain anymore. you're blushing." mu lingshi's joyous voice came through as xi xiaye only felt her face getting hot.

"you know that she's got thin skin. why are you teasing her like that? that doesn't seem like you!"

mu lingshi had just finished when a low and magnetic voice suddenly came from the side. it was accompanied by a smile and a long shadow on the ground.

xi xiaye and mu lingshi exchanged a glance, then the two of them smiled and turned to look to the side. indeed, they saw a tall man standing underneath the sun.

it was none other than mu yuchen.

he held his coat casually while his other hand held his phone. he looked at them leisurely. however, those unfathomable eyes brushed past mu lingshi and quickly stopped on xi xiaye beside her.

when mu lingshi saw that, she quickly lowered her head to laugh as she cleared her throat.

she seemed to have noticed for a long time now that regardless of when, as many people as there might be, her brother's gaze would always easily find her sister-in-law. he would quickly capture her figure, and of course, ah mo was always like that too.

perhaps, it had to do with the way they grew up. all of the mu men were like that whether it was their grandfather, mu yinan, or their father, mu tangchuan...

they were all like that...

he looked at xi xiaye for quite a while. when she looked away from him, mu yuchen walked up to them and asked mu lingshi, "feeling better now?"

"much better. alright, brother, since you're here, bring sis-in-law home to rest well. i'm fine anyway. i trust you and father about ah mo's matter. i'll go back first. i don't want to be a lightbulb..." mu lingshi said, then stood up. without waiting for them to respond, she waved to the bodyguard on the side.

Chapter 1306. Trap 1

mu yuchen turned around after mu lingshi left, he sat down beside xi xiaye and then looked at her. "are you tired?" he asked while grabbing her hand as she did not seem well.

xi xiaye shook her head as she grabbed his coat and put it aside. "i'm fine. i'm glad that ah shi is getting better. i'm just worried about her unstable emotional state. it'll be bad if she starts feeling unwell again."

"it seems like she's gotten over it. i feel more at ease now."

"i have to give you the same amount of care i showed her too. i heard from the bodyguards that you didn't eat lunch. what's the matter?"

“it’s alright. i just didn’t have the appetite. you didn’t have lunch either, did you?”

she glared at him. “li si said you were so busy that you didn’t even have time for lunch. are you done with work now?”

“i didn’t have the appetite either. i’ve done what i could. the next step is to just wait.” he pinched the space between his eyebrows as he spoke.

xi xiaye nodded as she glanced at the sun for a moment before standing up. “let’s go eat something now. it’s my treat.” she smiled while squinting at him.

“did something good happen? why are you so generous today?” he glanced at her and chuckled, merely letting her drag him to wherever they were heading.

“don’t speak as if i’m a stingy person. do i seem like that sort of person?” xi xiaye glared at him.

“of course not. i’m the stingy person here. you’ve always been generous.” he went along with her.

she seemed satisfied with his answer. “you’ve been getting better with your words lately. i’ll bring you to enjoy some top-class service today.”

mu yuchen raised his eyebrows and smiled. “top-class service, huh?”

“are you serving me personally?” he wrapped his arm around her shoulder and whispered into her ear, “that’d truly be top-class service for me.”

“i can’t even muster any strength right now, and you’re trying to exhaust me further...ah!” xi xiaye rolled her eyes at him, and suddenly the man embraced her in his arms, shocking her with his sudden behaviour.

“put me down. there are so many people looking at us!”

there was quite a crowd in the hospital right now, and their unusual antics did not go unobserved.

“so what? i’m just a man holding his wife. is it that odd?” mu yuchen was unfazed. “why do you feel lighter compared to when you were in los angeles?”

“my weight is still three digits no matter how light i am now. put me down. i don’t want you to put on a performance here.”

“dear, are you saying that i’ve not been treating you well enough?”

“of course, i don’t mean that.”

“then, don’t use the word ‘performance’. i don’t like that.”

“you...”

...

their car was parked in the emergency parking lot.

xi xiaye sat in the front passenger seat with mu yuchen driving this time.

“let’s go to the pinnacle island restaurant. there are several new dishes there that look pretty good. let me take a nap right now. wake me up when we arrive.”

xi xiaye leaned back and just let him put the seatbelt on for her.

“let’s not eat out since you’re tired. we’ll eat at home instead. i’ll cook something for you.” master mu was actually not fond of eating out. no matter how delicious the food could be, he still preferred to eat his own cooking.

“aren’t you tired? i’m telling you that i don’t feel like doing anything. i’m not cleaning up the dishes after that. furthermore, sis wang and the other servants aren’t around, so isn’t it easier eating out?”

“you’ll eat, and i’ll clean up!” he stared at her for a moment before starting the car.

“are you angry?” she inched closer to him and asked.

however, mu yuchen did not want to reply.

“fine, fine, we’ll eat at home then. i won’t complain if you’re willing to put in the extra effort.”

“you need to exercise more. i’m pretty sure that you don’t even spend much time walking, much less going to the gym. the doctor spoke to me about your health report today.”

since they were both in the hospital that morning, they had their health checkup done together. their results came out in the afternoon, and mu yuchen went to get them.

“how are the results?” xi xiaye was interested.

“i’m fine, but you’re suboptimal. your health condition is poor,” he said quietly.

she frowned and tried to defend herself, “how is that possible? i think i’m fine. did you ask the doctor when it will be suitable for me to have another baby? it’s been almost a year now. dr. zhong mentioned before that i might need several years to recover from my first pregnancy. i’ve been taking quite some tonics lately, so when our son reaches two years old...”

when she started the old topic once again, mu yuchen felt a headache oncoming.

“it’s not that simple. just take care of your health for now. we’re still young anyway, so don’t worry.”

“how can i not be worried? we still don’t...nan nan and ruan heng plan to have another one, but i really want a daughter...”

“why do you worry? by the time our sons get married, you’ll have a daughter-in-law, won’t you? just look at how mother treats both you and lingshi. it’s so much better than how she treats me.”

while she had to admit it, she still tried to defend her point, “it’s different from our own child...”

“so, do you mean that you won’t be nice to your future daughter-in-law? be careful. no girl will want to marry our sons.”

he squinted at her. “sometimes, daughter-in-laws can be much closer than daughters, especially for those who are married far away. marriage has been unfair to ladies by default. why else do you think mother is always nice to you? can’t your silly brain think of that?”

xi xiaye felt ashamed, but she had to admit that his words made sense. she then looked out of the window and ignored him for the moment.

“i’m not criticizing you. don’t be so petty.”

“i’m a petty person, alright? don’t talk to me.”

Chapter 1307. Trap 2

xi xiaye was not happy with his response.

he chuckled and glanced at her. “i’ll repent! please turn over and look at me.”

it was an indescribable feeling. xi xiaye wanted to get angry, but the sparks in her head all fizzled out. it was always like this every time. no matter how much she would love to get angry, it always felt like she was punching a cotton ball.

nonetheless, xi xiaye stared at him without saying anything.

“what are those eyes? i’m genuinely apologizing.” he frowned when he noticed that unhappy gaze of hers.

she did not want to explain herself to him, so she turned and looked out of the window again.

mu yuchen coughed and glanced at her before switching the cd player on. then, the man started singing along to the tune, “even if there are thousands of songs in the coming day, they will float on the road in the distance. even if the coming nights are filled with thousands of stars, they can’t compare to your beauty...”

xi xiaye turned back to him and noticed a meaningful gaze. she wanted to scold him, but broke into laughter instead. “how can you feel so good about yourself?”

“aren’t you angry anymore?”

“i wasn’t angry from the beginning.”

“am i being delusional then?” he felt defeated. “i’m probably the only one who can stand you. others might have already requested a refund.”

“i’m still pretty popular, you know.”

“you’re still mrs. mu no matter how popular you are. do you think anyone in city z dares to marry you if i were to say no?”

“how despicable!”

“and shameless too—” he laughed. during the brief window of stopping at a traffic light, he went over to her side and left a kiss on her lips...

they messed around until they got home. since it was a sensitive period right now, there was no one else in maple residence since sis wang and the others all had gone back to the mu residence. mu xiaocheng also probably had to stay there for some time.

...

they planned to have lunch, but their trip to the supermarket took quite some time, and they arrived home around the evening, so they started making dinner instead.

xi xiaye did not eat much. by the time she was done with her meal, mu yuchen was still working through his food. he told her to go take a shower and sleep right after that when he noticed that she looked exhausted.

mu yuchen had gotten used to this already. by the time he entered the room, xi xiaye had already fallen asleep on the bed and did not even realize when he came in.

he covered her with the blanket before switching the lights off and leaving the room. as he closed the door, his phone on the coffee table started ringing, so he went over and picked it up. it was li si calling.

"it's me." mu yuchen's voice soon reached the other side.

"master, gu qiwu's car is heading to the hospital. he should be here to see ms. lingshi. should we stop him?" li si sounded worried.

"gu qiwu, huh?" mu yuchen grinned as he casually sat down on the sofa. "no need, but get a few people to keep an eye on them."

mu yuchen then started making some tea.

li si was hesitant when he heard the orders. "however, the doctor said we shouldn't let ms. lingshi get worked up anymore, or else, it'll affect her health..."

mu yuchen grabbed a cup. "lingshi understands it better than any of us. don't worry and just follow what i said."

"please reconsider, master. i'm really worried," li si reconfirmed.

"i know lingshi much better than you do. she can recover because she's prepared to face whatever there is to come."

mu yuchen hung up on the call right after that.

after several cups of tea, he thought of something, so he picked his phone up again and dialed another number.

su chen had just finished showering when his phone started ringing. he was about to do start on some work in the study room.

"come to my place. let's have a drink," mu yuchen said the moment the call connected.

"what's wrong? is there progress on ah mo's case?" su chen asked.

"we'll talk when you arrive." mu yuchen hung up after that.

su chen frowned after the line was cut. then, he walked to his wardrobe and changed his clothes.

when ji zitong came out of the shower as she dried her hair, she noticed su chen was all dressed up. "heading out this late at night and all dressed up too?"

su chen turned around and saw his woman coming towards him. immediately, he grabbed her towel and helped her dry her hair. "ah chen wants to meet me right now. i might be back a little late."

"chairman mu? oh, right, is there any news about mr. ah mo now?" ji zitong was concerned too.

"i'm not sure yet. maybe ah chen has something for me. by the way, lingshi has been admitted to the hospital. perhaps you could go visit her tomorrow. i guess she might feel lonely. could you spend some time with her when your store isn't so busy?" su chen asked in a comfortable tone.

"don't worry. i plan to visit her tomorrow anyway. she's a nice person." ji zitong seemed to be in pain as she continued, "it's just that fate seems to be unfair to her. she's such a lovable and impressive person."

"life is never fair anyway. she had always looked up to me as an elder brother, so you're her sister-in-law in a sense. please take care of her, alright?" su chen felt terrible for mu lingshi as well.

actually, the sus, the mus, and the zhous had more male children, so naturally mu lingshi was one of their favorites among all the children.

ji zitong stopped su chen's hands from stroking her hair. "i will! let me do it on my own. you should go now. who knows if it might be something urgent? just let me know if there's anything i can do though i'm not sure if i can help."

Chapter 1308. Trap 3

su chen went on his way soon after that. he arrived at mu yuchen's maple residence as quickly as he could.

su chen usually drove fast anyway, so it took him less than an hour to reach maple residence since there was no traffic jam at this time.

mu yuchen grabbed some wine after he hung up on the call. then, he went to the swimming pool in the backyard. su chen noticed two wine glasses and a bottle of wine on the table beside the pool when he arrived.

when su chen went closer, he noticed movements in the pool.

splash—

mu yuchen came out of the water and swam towards his direction.

“you got here pretty quickly. want to have a round?” mu yuchen grabbed a towel and dried his hair before covering himself with a shower robe.

su chen casually opened the wine bottle and poured glasses for the both of them. he took a sip and said, “i’m good. i’m surprised that you’re fine to swim in such cold temperatures. plus, you still look as great as when you were in the army!”

mu yuchen grabbed the glass and emptied it. “just need to freshen myself up. it’s cold outside. let’s talk in the house.”

he then walked into the house, and su chen quickly followed him.

mu yuchen changed into his comfortable sleeping robe before going downstairs again. by then, su chen was preparing some tea in the living room.

“not up for some wine? weren’t you always eyeing my collection? drink however much you like tonight.”

he tightened his sash as he sat down and squinted at su chen when he noticed him boiling some water.

su chen looked at him. “i still need to drive later. my woman at home also specifically told me to not drink. we’ll drink together once zimo is back. let’s have some tea and a game of chess. it’s been some time since i last played against you!”

mu yuchen glanced at him and smiled. “i don’t remember you being so attentive to what a woman says.”

“depends on which woman. that’s the woman who sleeps beside me every night, after all...”

su chen glanced upstairs and noticed that the stairway was empty. he lowered his voice as he looked at mu yuchen and asked, “is xiaye asleep?”

“she looked after lingshi last night, so she’s exhausted and has fallen asleep,” mu yuchen grabbed some tea leaves from the cupboard as he replied.

su chen nodded. “when you get into a fight with her, does she stop you from getting into bed?”

mu yuchen paused while throwing an odd glance at su chen who frowned instantly. “why are you looking at me like that? i’m not saying that i have such an issue. don’t pin it on me!”

“did i say anything?” mu yuchen casually brewed the tea. “xiaye would never do something so unreasonable. if zitong makes you do that, it means that you’ve failed as a husband.”

“screw you! so many girls went after me back in the day. at the very least, i looked more dependable than you.” su chen glared at him before placing a black piece on the chess board.

mu yuchen put down a white piece after that. “how could you be our brother if you weren’t good enough?”

“gu qiwu went to visit lingshi at the hospital, and i told li si to allow him to,” he continued quietly.

“gu qiwu found out that lingshi is hospitalized? didn’t you just expose to him that you’re back?” su chen frowned. “it doesn’t seem like a wise decision.”

mu yuchen was calm. “i told li si to leak the news to him, and it seems like he’s received the same photos as well. i’m pretty confident that i know who’s behind this right now, and gu qiwu must be aware of it too.”

“are you saying that it’s doris? for her to actually do something so risky in order to go against gu qiwu, how desperate is she? does she think that gu qiwu will let her do whatever she wants?” su chen widened his eyes.

“of course not. that’s why he needs us. why else do you think he tried to stop xiaye before? there are still a lot of things we don’t know about doris. i can’t say for sure that i have full knowledge of her

background. just like what happened in new york, her behavior suggests that she has something else up her sleeves.”

“so what? she could never have expected you to return so suddenly. unfortunately, ah mo...” su chen started to worry.

mu yuchen put on a mysterious smile. “don’t worry. ah mo will be fine. i wasn’t too sure before, but these photos just told me the answer.”

then, he put on another piece before pulling open a drawer nearby and took out the photos of ah mo being abducted.

“look at ah mo’s hand. you were in the army before, so i’m sure you understand the message he’s sending.”

su chen quickly grabbed the photos and looked at them carefully. ah mo was showing different hand signs in each of the photos, but they were very easy to miss!

“he’s safe! qi lei is with him!” su chen was able to decipher what it meant.

mu yuchen nodded. “that’s right. that’s probably what he’s trying to tell us.”

“ah mo! ugh, he really made us worry. just how much do we still not know about him?” su chen was surprised.

“he has always been a capable man. i’m afraid we might be inferior to him in certain skill sets. i believe that we might have discovered something huge this time.”

“oh? i’m looking forward to it then, but i didn’t really hear anything from qi qiming. isn’t he worried about qi lei?”

Chapter 1309. Trap 4

su chen stopped what he was doing as he looked at mu yuchen and asked.

mu yuchen reached out to take the pictures back from su chen and glanced at them indifferently before putting them back into the drawer. "how strong were you anticipating qi qiming's reaction to be? qi qiming only realized this late. in fact, he told qi feng to investigate this, but before that, qi feng seemed to have had an unhappy exchange with him. if that's the case, are you sure that qi qiming's all that naive?"

"otherwise, how else do you think he'll act?" su chen poured mu yuchen a cup of tea as he asked.

"if qi qiming really was that foolish, qi kai would've been done for. the last time, qi lei wasn't made to leave city z, and not too long ago, when qi lei announced that he was going to start his own thing, not only did he not stop him, but he even defended him. wasn't this sufficient explanation?" mu yuchen's dark eyes flickered with a wise light as he said with a faint smile.

"however, qi qiming was just compelled by the circumstances then, so that doesn't seem to explain much."

"if qi qiming was really the same as he was back then, how do you think qi feng would've made qi lei leave city z, especially with qi qiming's recent attitude? so, i'm making a bet."

"what are you betting on?" su chen took a sip of tea and looked suspiciously at mu yuchen.

mu yuchen put down another chess piece on the board as he said with a lowered voice, "i bet that qi qiming does care a little bit about his son, qi lei."

"huh, we have all witnessed qi qiming's attitude towards qi lei. where did you get this confidence that qi qiming cares about qi lei?" su chen seemed to disagree with mu yuchen's opinion.

"actually, it's not that qi qiming doesn't care about qi lei. it was just because of wang qin back then. not too long ago, ah mo mentioned to me that qi qiming seemed interested in wang qin's cause of death recently. he's also hired a private investigator to look into it. only he knows about this. the police station hasn't even come through with the investigation. if it weren't for my father's requests, it would've probably been buried by now."

“qi qiming’s suspicious about wang qin’s incident too? haven’t we found out who the murderer was? but the person’s escaped abroad, so they couldn’t catch him.”

“do you think that an assassin would just try to frame me and kill wang qin for no reason?”

as mu yuchen looked at su chen, he picked his tea up and sipped it calmly. “there’s something i need you to look over. tell them to pay attention to the entry-exit situation. don’t let doris leave. can you do that?”

upon hearing that, su chen raised his brows. he thought about it, then asked, “do you think that she’s still in city z right now?”

“she’s created such a huge trap. if she was going to leave so easily, she would’ve done everything for nothing, especially with things on gu qiwu’s end.”

“okay, if that’s the case, leave it to me. she won’t be able to leave!”

“thanks, buddy.” mu yuchen looked up at him and smiled.

“consider it a thank you for the unlimited freebies at your imperial sky entertainment city. it’s your turn now!”

...

in front of a certain higher class ward in city z.

gu qiwu stood outside the door. through his silent line of sight, he looked through the window and saw mu lingshi lying on the bed, flipping through some documents. he suddenly stopped his steps as if his feet were frozen, and he did not move for a long time.

“boss, miss lingshi isn’t asleep yet. do we want to enter?” ah yong looked around vigilantly, and lowered his voice to say to gu qiwu.

gu qiwu's grave expression contained some depth, and an extremely complicated light gathered in his eyes too. he did not answer ah yong while his gaze remained on mu lingshi who was on the sickbed.

mu lingshi did not know this was happening outside her room. because she had been asleep the entire afternoon, she did not feel very sleepy now. the doctor said that she needed to stay at the hospital for another two more days of observation and would be discharged once her condition stabilized.

in the evening, zhuang shurong went over and brought her some soup that she liked. when she suggested staying to watch over mu lingshi, the latter had chased her home.

right now, she was briefly looking through the quarterly report from imperial sky entertainment city. these things were usually done by ah mo, but these past few days, she would sometimes help to handle some things to lighten his burden.

gu qiwu stood outside the door for a long time, unsure if he should go in or not. he struggled for a while, and was about to knock on the door when suddenly, there was the sound of footsteps from behind him. he frowned and subconsciously turned to see a few figures appear vaguely around the corner ahead.

he shot ah yong a look, and then moved to another corner quickly to hide. the footsteps moved closer, and the shadows were dragged out by the light.

"minister, we're here. miss lingshi isn't asleep yet!"

"wait for me downstairs." it was mu tangchuan's elegant voice.

"yes, minister!"

mu tangchuan lifted a hand to knock on the door, and mu lingshi's voice came very quickly from inside.

"come in!"

when mu tangchuan pushed the door open to enter, mu lingshi looked up from her documents. upon seeing his tall figure, a smile flashed on her face, and she quickly set aside the documents and wanted to get down the bed.

“father! why are you here?! it’s so late!”

mu tangchuan walked up to her and quickly held her. “alright, don’t move about now. just lie down and rest. i’ve been busy the entire day. i just got back from the provincial government department, so i came over to take a look at you. how are you feeling now? feeling better?” he asked caringly and lovingly as he helped her sit down.

“much better. i’ll be able to go home the day after tomorrow. it’s already so late, father. why did you come over?”

“i was worried about you, so i came. why isn’t your mother here? didn’t she say she was going to be with you?” mu tangchuan looked around, and when he did not see zhuang shurong, he frowned.

“i chased mother home since xiao cheng’s still home. brother and sis-in-law accompanied me in the hospital last night too. they were worried. i saw that sis-in-law wasn’t looking too well, so i told them go home first. mother still has to go to work. this isn’t a huge deal anyway, and brother did hire a nurse.”

mu lingshi actually did feel her heart melt, not for anything except the way they were concerned for her.

“having nurses on standby isn’t as intimate as being taken care by our own people. i’ve just applied for leave on behalf of your mother. i’ll ask her to come over to be with you for a few days. don’t worry about ah mo’s thing. your brother and i are confident that we’ll get him out safely. you take good care of yourself, understand?” mu tangchuan looked worriedly at her.

her little face was as cool as zixi’s. the more he looked at her, the more she looked just like zixi. back then, he did not care enough for her, and that was how the situation became worse. because he did not take good care of her, she met someone like gu qiwu.

from then onwards, the series of tragedies took place...

Chapter 1310. Trap 5

whatever it was, he could not push the blame onto someone else as the older brother. he was not a good older brother.

every time he thought about mu zixi, he could not help but blame himself. all these years, it was also this guilt that drove him to treat mu lingtian and mu lingshi much better to the point that even his own son, mu yuchen, was neglected...

however, even so, it could not make up for the regret he felt towards mu zixi.

when it came to this, mu tangchuan could not even compare to his son, mu yuchen. even though mu yuchen was indifferent as a person when it came to these kinds of things, he cherished them very much and took very good care of it...

mu lingshi could see the fatigue gathered between mu tangchuan's brows, so she immediately said with concern for him, "father, don't worry. i understand. it's quite late. you've just finished work, so you must be quite hungry. quickly go home for dinner."

mu tangchuan smiled and looked at her lovingly. "i'm alright. look what i've brought you."

as he said this, he mysteriously lifted his arm, and mu lingshi saw that he held a box of food. she widened her eyes in surprise.

mu tangchuan quickly put the box of food on the table. when he opened it up, a strong aroma filled the air. mu lingshi sniffed it enjoyably and immediately could not help but cry out loudly and happily, "river snails and duck feet in claypot!"

this was mu lingshi's favorite dish as a child. it was also one that mu tangchuan loved, but zhuang shurong did not let them have it at home because it was not hygienic! in fact, this dish needed to be very spicy for it to be flavorful. however, since mu tangchuan had a slight gastric problem, with the word 'spicy' included, zhuang shurong practically banned it.

mu lingshi now thought to herself that it had been quite a few years since she had had this dish.

“your mother’s strict, so i secretly bought the ingredients and borrowed the kitchen in the dining hall to cook this. try and see if it’s flavorful enough. i put quite a lot of chili, but you can handle the spice. try it... my authentic river snails and duck feet in claypot! but don’t tell your mother. otherwise, knowing her, she’ll smack me after this,” mu tangchuan smiled slightly and said as he carefully poured the food out.

mu lingshi watched mu tangchuan and could not help feel her heart go warm. suddenly, she felt something come up in her throat. she did not say anything as she just quietly watched mu tangchuan do his thing. her keen eyes noticed that in between his dark hair were some silver ones, then she sighed to herself.

“come, try this. you haven’t had it for quite a few years now, right? i’ve asked the doctor. it’s fine to have a bit.” mu tangchuan brought the small bowl to mu lingshi.

her heart was filled with even more emotions. she reached out to take it and said with her gaze lowered, “thank you, father...”

“mmm, eat it.” mu tangchuan smiled and withdrew his hands as he sat upright and watched quietly.

she fell silent for a long while and lowered her head to drink a sip of soup before asking softly, “father, since when did you get so much white hair on your head?”

upon hearing that, mu tangchuan smiled. “i’ve always had it. i’m soon to be 60 now, and your brother’s going to be 33 soon too. time waits for no man. in the blink of an eye, i’ve become old.”

when mu lingshi heard that, she was dazed for a while, then she said in a raspy voice, “father, you will always be young to me.”

“i can’t deny that i’m old. the world belongs to you young people right now. you and ah mo, as well as ah chen and your sister-in-law...you can live a full life. lingshi, this world is huge. you have to go out there, or you might think that this is all there is to the world and that life is unchanging. whether it’s work or travel, your time is in abundance, so you have to go out more, understand?”

mu tangchuan had found out about mu lingshi's situation from mu yuchen and the doctor. he hoped that she would not end up like mu zixi, thus he tried to enlighten her.

mu lingshi picked up a pickled bamboo shoot and stuffed it into her mouth before she muttered, "i know, father...don't worry, mu lingshi is mu lingshi. i will be like my parents and my brother. i'll be a strong person. i won't lean into depression."

when mu tangchuan heard that, he nodded happily and gently patted her head. "alright, then i won't go on too much about this. you're quite like your mother too. she's such an amazing person. not many people can beat her all these years. it's good that you're like her."

feeling the light touch on her head, mu lingshi felt her heart go soft, and she felt choked up. finally, her eyes could not help but well up in hot tears, and her long eyelashes began to turn wet. she lowered her gaze and blinked hard as she silently nodded, yet she could not say a word...

"is it tasty?" mu tangchuan asked softly.

she then looked up at him and said while a little choked up, "it's tasty. it's the tastiest thing i've eaten..."

"is it too spicy?" when he noticed mu lingshi's slightly wet eyes, mu tangchuan quickly poured her a cup of warm water. "come, have some water."

mu lingshi shook her head. she held back her sobs and suddenly set aside the bowl and chopsticks to hug mu tangchuan while sobbing out loud, "father—"

her soft crying sounded like a helplessly lost little girl as large teardrops slid down her beautiful face. in a short while, it soaked mu tangchuan's shirt at the shoulders.

mu tangchuan did not say anything. he just took a deep breath. after a while, he patted her shoulders. "don't be sad. it will all be okay with mother and me and your brother around, okay?"

mu lingshi nodded hard with tears in her eyes. "father, i won't be so stubborn anymore. i'll definitely be a good daughter to you and mother. ah mo will be a good son-in-law. our family will always be harmonious. nothing's more important than our family's happiness and good health, father..."

upon hearing that, mu tangchuan felt moved too. "good...good..."

"quickly eat. it's getting cold now."

"mmm, it's delicious. father, can you make this for me all the time?"

"of course, but we can't tell your mother. she seems to be nearing menopause now, so she's getting stricter," mu tangchuan could not help but say.

when she heard that, mu lingshi just smiled and lifted a hand to wipe away her tears as she said, "father, you and mother are so loving! i hope that when i grow older, i can be like you and mother!"

"we're an old couple now. where's the loving? she's been complaining about me recently!"