

Loving 131

Chapter 131. Maple Residence Gathering (4)

It fell silent for quite a while.

Seeing her puzzlement, Mu Yuchen's voice suddenly softly entered her ear as he simply explained, "Lingshi grew up with us. All these years, she's been living abroad. She's a few years younger than you. She manages the company's branch of entertainment nightclubs in France and is considered a pretty experienced DJ. She's a brat that's easy to get along with him. She's as dumb as you, but her personality is more like a boy's and she's very straightforward."

Her brows raised as she looked a little astonished at him. Mu Lingshi, entertainment nightclub, female DJ?

She did not know why, but she vaguely felt that whenever Mu Lingshi was mentioned, the atmosphere became a little weird, but she was quite excited to meet this legendary sister-in-law of hers.

Yesterday or the day before, when the Mu residence called, she had vaguely heard Wang Hui complain to Mu Yanan about Lingshi not coming back to celebrate the New Year or something...

Now that she heard them discuss her again, she started to become more curious.

...

After dinner, Su Chen and Zhou Zimo walked straight to the living room. They steeped some tea and began to play some cards.

When the few of them gathered together, they had quite a lot on the agenda. Usually, they would go golfing, wander around the horse ranch, drink tea and play cards, go to the club to pass time and so on.

Initially, Xiaye was mulling over tidying up the dishes herself, yet just as she picked up one bowl, the man that had gone to brew the tea had returned.

“Let me. You go play with them.”

When Xiaye saw him tidying up, she stopped him. “If you do this yourself, you’ll go on till midnight.”

He ignored her and quickly cleaned it up himself. He brought the dishes to the kitchen. Stumped, Xi Xiaye followed him.

The man had already begun to silently wash the dishes.

He had drunk quite a lot earlier, so his exceptionally handsome face was faintly blushing. As she moved closer to him, she could even faintly smell the light scent of alcohol. Su Chen and Zhou Zimo had poured him quite a bit to drink.

She stood behind him and watched him for quite a while, then she poured him a glass of water. “Do you want to go upstairs for a shower first?” She said as she handed the glass of water to him.

He looked at her from the side, then took the glass. He had two gulps before he said in his deep and slightly raspy voice, “I’m not in a rush. It’s still early. Tonight, you have to work a little harder. We all drank quite a bit, so it’s not good if we drive. Later on, you’ll have to drive. We’ll send them home together, okay?”

She nodded and shifted her feet slightly. Her fair arms reached into the sink and she lowered her head to quietly wash the bowls.

Quite a while after that, she suddenly remembered something and softly called out to him, “Mr. Mu?”

“Mmm? What is it?” He answered, his hands not stopping what they were doing.

“Tomorrow afternoon, I want to make a trip back to the Shen residence. The day after tomorrow, I’ll follow you back to the Mu residence on the evening of New Year’s Eve, okay?” Xi Xiaye said, then she slowly looked up at him, her eyes holding a hint of hope and even anticipation.

The Shen residence seemed to have been always cold and cheerless. When the New Year came, Grandpa would let the servants go on holiday, so it would be even more deserted with only Grandpa, Shen Yue, and Shen Wenna. In the past, she would go home to celebrate the New Year, but now...

“Grandpa’s old. Every year, I would go back to the Shen residence to celebrate with him... I hope that he can get through every New Year a little happier. Actually, he’s someone who quite relishes the bustling of excitement. Grandma has left us for quite a few years now, so he’s always been lonely. When Mother’s not home, he’d always stay in the office to work overtime.”

When she said this, she suddenly paused. After quite a while, she then continued, “But every time when I go back, he’d always return from the office at the quickest speed. Since I have some free time now, I want to spend more time with him...”

At this moment, she seemed to experience the feeling of being a daughter that had been married off.

In fact, from just Shen Wenna’s call that day, she could not help but admit that she did feel a little worried, yet she did not know how to console her mother. She kept thinking about it and decided to make a trip back to the Shen residence the next day and have a New Year’s Eve family dinner the day after that with them before returning to the Mu residence.

“The New Year merchandise have been prepared. Tomorrow I’ll accompany you, then the night after that, I’ll return to the Mu residence immediately,” he responded softly in a tone that sounded gentle. “Are you considered enlightened now? Is it because you’ve been married to me for so long that you know how to miss home now?”

“Do I have to tell you when I miss home?” Xi Xiaye shot him a look. Every time he spoke, he did not seem to have kind things to say.

Mu Yuchen chuckled without a word.

After the husband and wife were done tidying up and walked out of the kitchen, Su Chen and the rest were battling it out vigorously. They were lacking one out of four players, so they could only play Fight the Landlord!

When they saw Mu Yuchen walk out, Su Chen immediately said, “Ah Chen, come over to play cards with us. Quick! We’ve waited on you for so long!”

Mu Yuchen took the towel that Xi Xiaye handed to him and wiped his hands as he walked over. Su Chen and the rest had already begun to shuffle and distribute the cards.

“Let me steep you guys a pot of warm flower tea to help you sober up.”

When she thought about how these men had downed quite a few bottles of whiskey, and noticing how red all their faces were, she could only helplessly bury her head in her hands.

“No need. Just sit. Do you know how to play cards?” Mu Yuchen pulled her down to the chair. Her body reflexively shifted and her hands already begun to pick up the cards.

“Not really,” she answered very honestly, not rejecting sitting down by his side.

She found chess alright, but when it came to playing cards, she was really not too proficient at it. However, she did play it with Su Nan and Ruan Heng once in a while, so she knew one or two ways to play it, but by the looks of their game, it was clear that she was unfamiliar with it.

“Missus, just learn from the Master. His skills are out of this world! Even when Master Su and Master Zhou gang up, they can only end up in a tie at best,” Ah Mo smiled as he said.

“Why? Earlier, didn’t you admit your role in helping him? Ah Mo, I notice that after you’ve mixed with your Master Mu for such a long time, you’ve picked up his personality too!” The moment Ah Mo finished, Su Chen looked at him, then his gaze stopped on Xi Xiaye. He shot Mu Yuchen a sidelong look as he was focused on arranging the cards.

He teased, “Ah Chen, how about you teach your wife some moves? Next time, when we come over, if we’re down by one person, we could even let Xiaye take over. Actually, thinking about it further, later on when all of us buddies are married like you, when we come out to play, the wives could even gather a table...”

Once Su Chen said this, even Zhou Zimo raised his handsome brows and cheerfully agreed.

Mu Yuchen looked at the two of them and grinned. "Wait till you two get married before you discuss this with me."

Then, he began the game, casually tossing a card onto the table.

"I knew you'd say this. You'd better come and hang out during the New Year. We buddies haven't gathered properly these past few years... I'll follow!" Zhou Zimo smiled gracefully and put a card down too...

Chapter 132. Lady Xiaye Is Masculine! (1)

After several rounds of cards, they gulped down a few more glasses. The guys were starting to get drunk.

"It's pretty late now and I have to go back soon. The elders at home might think that I went somewhere to mess around again. They've been pretty strict lately."

Su Chen put his wine glass down as he grabbed his car keys on the table, staggering to his feet.

Zhou Zimo nodded as well, looking slightly shaky when he stood up.

"Master, let me send Master Su and Master Zhou back!" Ah Mo quickly helped the unsteady Su Chen stand, but Su Chen declined, "It's alright. I'm not drunk yet. Anyway, it's just driving! Let's go, Zimo!"

He clung onto Zhou Zimo's shoulder and then walked outside.

Mu Yuchen pressed his hand to his forehead as he was experiencing some light headache. "Follow the rules. Don't get your office into trouble during the New Year. Even if you don't care about your own safety, be considerate to your subordinates."

He turned to his wife, Xi Xiaye. "Missus, go and get the car in the garage. Please send them back. They're all along the same way."

He then passed his car keys to Xi Xiaye who grabbed the keys from him and went out swiftly.

“Let’s go!”

Mu Yuchen’s footsteps still seemed solid as he stood up. “I’ll send you guys back personally. Oh, I’ve prepared some gifts for your parents too.”

...

The few of them were waiting outside the entrance as Xi Xiaye drove the car over.

She rolled the windows down and looked at them.

Zhou Zimo and Ah Mo went in the car after they helped Su Chen to get inside. As Mu Yuchen sat in the front passenger seat, Xi Xiaye quickly started the car.

The car went through the streets swiftly under the night sky.

...

At the same time, in a high-class villa area in the east of City Z.

Han Yifeng was wearing a sleeping robe as he watched the TV after he was done with showering. Suddenly, he heard some light footsteps behind him. Before he could turn around, a sweet fragrance bathed him, and a pair of gentle arms hugged his shoulders.

“Yifeng!” Xi Xinyi’s gentle voice reached him as if a warm wind had passed by his ears. “We’re finally engaged! Although there were some flaws at the engagement ceremony today, I don’t care about anything else as long as I get to be with you.”

Han Yifeng turned around to look at her. Her swollen face looked much better now despite her little face seeming frail and her eyes slightly red. It made Han Yifeng feel terrible. He patted her hands and consoled her, "Don't think too much about what happened today. Xiaye is... I'll give you a grand wedding in the future..."

Xi Xinyi laughed. "I'm alright, Yifeng! I don't mind going through these sufferings if Sister can feel better. Actually, I'm very pleased that she could come."

There was some regret in her tone of voice besides her obvious kindness.

Xi Xiaye's indifferent expression, as well as her stubborn look, flashed through his mind, so he asked Xi Xinyi, "By the way, what were the 20% shares Xiaye mentioned? What does that mean?"

Xi Xinyi was slightly stunned. She closed her eyelids to cover up her tears on the verge of falling. After a while, she replied with a smile, "I'm not really sure about it too. It's probably something between my parents. Yifeng, about what happened today... Sister was able to get Chairman Mu to come. Could it be...?" Xi Xinyi asked Han Yifeng with a weird look.

Han Yifeng's expression changed when Mu Yuchen was mentioned. He did not forget about what Mu Yuchen had told him and he went silent for a moment before asking Xi Xinyi abruptly, "Xinyi, have you been to nightclubs in New York before?"

"No! You have to believe me, Yifeng. Master Mu said that on purpose... It's late, Yifeng. Let's rest. I want to go out shopping together tomorrow. We need to pick out some clothes for you..."

Xi Xinyi crawled into Han Yifeng's embrace and wrapped her arms around his neck. Gazing at him lovingly, the next moment, her soft red lips met with Han Yifeng's thin lips...

Han Yifeng hesitated for a moment when the sweet fragrance came right towards him. Xi Xinyi was sitting on his lap, teasing his naughty little thing to get all riled up. He hugged her and gave her a deeper kiss.

"Yifeng, it's been half a month... Half a month... Since you touched me... I want you..." Xi Xinyi moaned uncontrollably as she whispered.

He felt empty inside, but he also felt a sense of being suffocated despite feeling empty. Even when he was enjoying acts of love with the woman he deeply loved, somehow it could not fill the void in his heart.

Suddenly, their outfits were messed up. Han Yifeng could not hold it in anymore, so he held Xi Xinyi up and walked into the bedroom...

Compared to the fun on Han Yifeng's side, Xi Xiaye was having a tough night.

Su Chen and Zhou Zimo stayed in large mansions on the outskirts like the Mu Residence and they were pretty far away from Maple Residence. In addition to the traffic jam during the New Year season, it took about two hours for just one way!

After sending them back, it was nearly 2 a.m. Xi Xiaye drove straight back to Maple Residence. However, the car suddenly stopped on its own just as she entered the city!

Xi Xiaye tried restarting the car several times, but it did not work. She frowned and glanced over at the front passenger seat. The man was already fast asleep.

She sighed helplessly, staring at the dim street lights and lost in her thoughts. In the end, she walked out of the car...

She went in front of the car and popped up the bonnet. Then, she noticed there was some smoke coming out. Coughing profusely, she did a simple check-up. She then realized it was a problem with the engine.

She sighed again. Glancing around the quiet street, most of the cars that passed by sped right over. She thought of calling the car repair service, but it would take a long time for them to get there.

Under the starry night, as she looked at the smoky engine under the dim street lights, she tapped her forehead with her hand and went towards the trunk.

Chapter 133. Lady Xiaye Is Masculine! (2)

In just the blink of an eye, Xi Xiaye returned to the front of the car with a toolbox. She took her windbreaker off and was just wearing a light-colored woolen sweater. Leaving her windbreaker on the driver's seat, she rolled her sleeves up and took out some tools before she started working on the engine.

It was not a big issue and she was able to handle it. She had gotten these tips and tricks about cars from her experience of being an amateur racer. She could solve small issues like these easily. There were several times when Shen Wenna called for Xi Xiaye when her car broke down.

She bent over slightly and her long hair hung over her shoulders as she worked on the car unnoticed...

After a while, with the tinkering and clanging of the metal from time to time, tiny parts started piling up on a towel on the ground. She whipped a scissors out and cut away a burnt wire, then...

The streets in the wee hours were quiet. From time to time, one or two cars sped past and the cold wind blew. The shadows of the trees were trembling slightly whilst the dim, yellow streetlights gave the little girl a long shadow.

...

After realizing that the car had been stationary for some time, Mu Yuchen finally opened his sleepy eyes. Following a brief moment of blurry vision before him, he looked beside at the driver's seat and frowned when he did not see the woman. Only her windbreaker was left there. His mind instantly sobered up. Just as he was about to look around, he heard the clanking of metal, so he raised his head.

He saw that the bonnet was popped up, and beside it was a slender figure busy working on the ground...

He quickly opened the door and went out.

Clink!

Krr —

He had to admit that even he felt his heart ache a little when this skinny woman was so focused on her work in the cold wind.

She should not have needed to know these things, yet...

As he thought about it, she was always someone like this. Although she was strong and stubborn, she was weak in relationships. She had a pretty high IQ, but her EQ was speechlessly low. She could mess up the simplest of things.

When he watched her, he saw something that made him feel warm. He did not know what that was called. Positivity, power, or just a light?

He then felt that maybe this woman his heart ached for had something he had been looking for...

Perhaps because the man's quiet eyes were staring at her for too long, her focus was broken and she could feel someone looking at her. She stared back at him as she brushed away the hair in front of her face.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows when she saw the man just standing on the side studying her. She then complained, "It's been a long time since you left this car in the garage and didn't drive it. Get it checked soon."

She then looked down again and continued with her work. After some time, she was done. She slowly closed the bonnet and took the gloves off as she let out a sigh of relief. Sweat started shining on her forehead.

As she was about to wipe it off with her forearm, the man went to her and handed her a piece of tissue paper. Her beautiful face had now turned into dirty. He laughed at her and spoke in a warm voice, "It's a blessing for a man like me to have married you."

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows as she took the tissue from him with the elegance of a queen. She wiped the sweat off and her lips formed into a smile before she chuckled. "You're right! You can't even get someone like me even if you prayed for your whole life across several generations. I'm a strong woman of the new era with wonderful virtues!"

“Did you really think I was praising you? Are you sure you’re not a man disguised as a woman?” Mu Yuchen laughed at her cheeky behavior. He took the tissue from her and wiped some of the oil stains from her face.

“Masculine women are true to themselves. All the girls who are called masculine actually wish to have someone to depend on. Most of them are forced to be independent because of life. I think they should earn men’s respect more. I can’t have you looking down on masculine women here.” Xi Xiaye just let him help her with the cleaning, her eyes brightening slightly as she came up with the odd reply that answered his unasked question.

Mu Yuchen was stunned for a moment. His eyes told her that he was surprised. His gaze turned gentle as he looked at her and he sighed lightly as he embraced her into his arms. “I’m not looking down on masculine women. Do you think I’m disrespecting you? I’m always respectful towards each and every woman who is independent and takes life seriously, for instance, someone like you.”

Xi Xiaye laughed. She popped her head out from his embrace and looked at him with her glittering eyes. “Was that a real compliment just now?”

Mu Yuchen nodded, looking at her in the eyes.

“Then, I have a question for you,” Xi Xiaye blurted out after giving it some thought.

“Please go ahead,” he said generously.

“Mmm.”

She was in deep thought for a while before she asked quietly as her eyes met his, “I want to know why don’t men like women who come off headstrong or masculine, and they prefer those frail-looking women? For example...”

“For example a woman like Xi Xinyi?” Mu Yuchen interrupted her before she could finish.

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment and went silent. Then, she nodded.

Mu Yuchen grasped the essence of what she wanted to say. He told her quietly, "You want to know why you lost to Xi Xinyi, don't you?"

Xi Xiaye was once again astonished.

"Frail women can call up the desire to protect them within men, letting them enjoy the pleasure of conquering. That'd be the common explanation. The main reason is that the person doesn't actually care about you or love you. No matter whether you're headstrong or frail, it doesn't matter to him. Everyone has a partner suitable for him or her, so your question is invalid, Mrs. Mu."

The man's words reached her before she could react. She could feel his hug tighten as he finished his sentence.

After giving it some thought, she somewhat understood what he was saying, so she nodded and hugged him back too.

Chapter 134. Get Near, Get Warm

At that moment, she did not want to think about anything else. Every time she got close to him, every time they hugged, she could feel a warmth seeping into her.

Such feelings...

She had never experienced them from Han Yifeng before whether it was long before Xi Xinyi came between them or after she was severely hurt.

Everyone had a dark side to them, but Xi Xiaye suddenly felt a faint light shining into that dark corner in her heart. A weak flow of warmth traveled throughout her body and she was slowly recovering...

She wanted to savor this feeling. She wanted to get ahold of it.

She wondered if he felt the same way as well.

...

After what felt like forever, Mu Yuchen got her back into the car. He took the car keys from her before putting a windbreaker over her, then he started the car.

It was 4 a.m. when they arrived home. They showered one after another and went to sleep near dawn, completely exhausted. When Mu Yuchen kissed her on the forehead, she was already asleep.

...

The next day was a sunny day and the weather was great.

When Han Yifeng woke up, Xi Xinyi was still sleeping beside him with half her breast tantalizingly exposed. There were some marks on her chest from what happened yesterday. The scratches on Han Yifeng's arm was obvious as well. They definitely had one wild night.

After watching Xi Xinyi sleep for a while, Han Yifeng moved slightly and wanted to get up from the bed.

"Yifeng, you're awake!"

Han Yifeng's movements seemed to have woken Xi Xinyi up. She rolled her body under the sheets and her soft arms onto Han Yifeng's sturdy body as she stuffed her face into his chest.

"Mmm, morning!" Han Yifeng replied.

"It's still pretty early. Let's sleep in for a little more. It's been a long time since I've felt this relaxed. Let's go out shopping later in the afternoon!" Xi Xinyi spoke as she drew circles on Han Yifeng's chest. She then kissed Han Yifeng's handsome face.

"You can continue sleeping. Last night was pretty tiring. I'll get them to send breakfast over! I'm famished!"

Han Yifeng held Xi Xinyi's tiny little hands and gently patted her head, then he got out of bed.

Xi Xinyi laid back down and smiled lazily. "Okay, I do feel hungry now after you mention it. I feel like eating a lovely Western breakfast. Please get me some!"

"Mmm, get a little bit more sleep. I'll call them to send it over." Han Yifeng took his phone and dialed a number before entering the bathroom.

After around an hour, Han Yifeng came out of the bathroom. He had changed into a silver tailor-made suit. Xi Xinyi climbed out of bed and noticed that the once-messy room had already been cleaned up by the servants.

He suddenly felt a little tired as he opened the middle drawer of his wardrobe. A variety of ties were arranged inside, but they were a little messy. He went silent for some time before tying one around his neck. As he looked at himself in the mirror, he started daydreaming.

Someone told him a long long time ago, "Yifeng, I've arranged all your ties in the middle drawer of your wardrobe, so it's easier for you to look through them."

"You should have a mirror in front of your wardrobe. I'll have someone to install it for you tomorrow."

...

He went silent and only came back to his senses after a while. After tidying the drawer of ties, he exited the room.

Downstairs, Xi Xinyi had already changed into a warm-colored spring outfit. She let her light blonde hair down and looked beautiful. A scarf covered the marks on her neck as she sat by the table having breakfast.

"Yifeng!"

She turned around and smiled at Han Yifeng when she heard the sounds of footsteps. Suddenly, there was the sound of glass breaking —

Pang!

A beautiful glass had met its end!

“Ah!”

Xi Xinyi was shocked and quickly stood up while Han Yifeng quickly rushed over. He looked down at the glass shards...

There was some coldness in the air as Xi Xinyi's face turned pale. She looked at the glass shards on the floor, and then looked at Han Yifeng. Then, she bent over and started picking the pieces up as she said anxiously, “I'm sorry, Yifeng... I didn't do it on purpose. It looks nice, so... I'll get someone to make another one for you!”

Han Yifeng could feel something leaving him when he looked at the pieces. He wanted to get ahold of his feelings, but he had no idea what it was that bothered him.

He took a deep breath before he walked over and sat down in his seat. “It's okay. Let's have breakfast.”

It was not the same one anymore if another one was made. Out of the blue, he suddenly remembered that the glass belonged to a pair. Xi Xiaye must have had it custom made as his birthday present.

...

Xi Xiaye had a dreamless sleep and it was way past noon when she woke up. The space beside her was already empty. Just as she was about to go and look for something to eat downstairs after freshening up, she heard some noises coming from the study room.

She glanced over and noticed that the door to the study room was open, so she walked over. She saw the man was on a call as he sat in the chair before the table. It seemed to be something related to Imperial Sky Entertainment City.

When he noticed Xi Xiaye was at the door, he turned the laptop off before standing up and walking towards her.

“Mmm, I’ll leave it to you.” He hung up on the call, then he looked at Xi Xiaye. “Go down and eat something.”

“Hmm, is it about the opening ceremony of Imperial Sky Entertainment City? What did Vice President Zhang say?”

She found out a little about the conversation after listening to him speak on the phone.

“The PR Department has delayed the opening ceremony to the 7th day after the New Year. Coincidentally, it’s Valentine’s Day, which is a pretty excellent marketing opportunity. What do you think?”

Mu Yuchen handed his phone to her before he shifted the potted plant by the door a little.

Xi Xiaye gave it some thought before nodding. “It’s pretty good. We can have a Valentine’s Day event. Most people would have gotten back from their hometowns by then. Plus, it’s not a work day, so it should do well. Let’s just set it on that day. We have to send out the invitations today since it’s the New Year Eve tomorrow. We can’t wait until after the New Year.”

Chapter 135. Back To Shen Residence

Mu Yuchen nodded. “Agreed, but you’re kind of busy after the New Year. Vice President Zhang mentioned that he wants you to monitor the event on that day. Can you handle it?”

“Does this count as overtime?” Xi Xiaye pinched between her eyebrows with her long fingers as she stared at him.

Mu Yuchen smiled and slung his arm over her shoulder as they walked outside. "They are worried you might be dissatisfied since you'll be the one doing the ribbon-cutting ceremony together with Vice President Zhang and several other guests."

"If we're going to do it, we should have a reciprocal banquet together. We can promote the South River project. Since attracting more investors is beneficial to Glory World, I think it's better if you attend it personally. The opening ceremony this time is different from the anniversary celebration. You should realize its importance."

"So?" Mu Yuchen looked at her pointedly.

"I can become the main person-in-charge for the opening ceremony if you're worried, that is. But you have to help me to complete the data analysis for the South River project, and you also have to show me the several designs you showed me back then," Xi Xiaye requested.

"Fine, then. The stuff you need is on my work computer. You can take this laptop over. I've been using your laptop, but because the data is too complicated, I'll give it to you in two days."

"That's more like it... Hey, Mr. Mu, did you wake up early to help me with the data analysis?"

As she suddenly thought of something, Xi Xiaye halted her steps. She turned around and looked at him in surprise with glitter in her eyes.

"Did you think I was really a dictator that would only take from you?"

"Of course not, Chairman Mu, you're a very kind superior who's considerate of his subordinates."

"That's enough. Get something to eat. Ah Mo came over to prepare the stuff. After lunch, we'll go back to the Shen Residence after a short rest. I've told Grandpa about it. Mother is probably preparing dinner now."

...

When they left for the Shen Residence after lunch, it was nearly 2 p.m. in the afternoon.

The couple used a quiet shortcut. Evidently, the highway would experience severe traffic jam now, so while taking the shortcut was not the best route, they got to save a little bit of time.

It was almost an hour later when the car entered the Shen Residence.

The housekeeper, Uncle Wang, came up to them with a warm smile as they parked the car. "Miss, Mr. Mu, you guys are back!"

Xi Xiaye got down from the car and unloaded a lot of gifts from the passenger seat at the back as she asked, "Uncle Wang, didn't you return to your hometown?"

"I'm not going back this year. Neither did Aunt Xu. We went back not too long ago, so it's fine," Uncle Wang replied with a smile.

Xi Xiaye was surprised. She soon understood what he meant and nodded gratefully. "Thank you, Uncle Wang! This is for you and Aunt Xu." She then handed him two gift boxes.

"Miss, Mr. Mu..."

"You're welcome. Just call him by his name and I'd like you guys to call me Xiaye as well."

Xi Xiaye passed them to Uncle Wang, then she continued to unload stuff from the car. Mu Yuchen went over and helped as well.

Uncle Wang smiled, shaking his head helplessly. He looked at the married couple with gratitude. All these years, Xi Xiaye had never forgotten to get him and Aunt Xu gifts every holiday season. They were...

After some time, he came back to his senses and helped to transfer the things inside.

Xi Xiaye poured two glasses of water and handed one to Mu Yuchen. She took a few sips as she asked, "Uncle Wang, where's Grandpa and Mother?"

"Madam went out with Aunt Xu to buy ingredients. Elder Master is writing some calligraphy couplets in the study room!"

"Calligraphy couplets?" Xi Xiaye's eyes flashed as she grabbed Mu Yuchen's hand. "Let's go and take a look! My grandpa's calligraphy is pretty amazing!"

...

They could hear familiar classical music playing from far away as they walked towards Shen Yue's study room. Mu Yuchen could not help but smile.

"As the flowers bloom all over the world, silk is flowing through the water streams. Katyusha is standing on the steep ground..."

"What are you laughing about? This is my grandma's favorite song. It was extremely trendy during their time."

Xi Xiaye caught the man's grin.

Mu Yuchen put his arm over her shoulder and laughed lightly. "I'm not laughing about that. I was just thinking that Grandpa and Grandma might have an unforgettable past as well, so they feel nostalgic about this song and play it on repeat..."

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Mmm, Grandpa and Grandma were very much in love. I learned what interdependence and mutual understanding are from them. Mother told me that Grandma married Grandpa when he still had nothing. He started struggling in the business world after retiring from the army and finally created Fuhua Corporation. Although he was on the verge of giving up halfway, she always supported him..."

“Sometimes, we have no choice but to admit the greatness of love. Under grandma’s unwavering and determined support, Fuhua slowly became better and better. It wasn’t called Fuhua in the past. Grandpa was so in love with Grandma that he changed the company’s name to hers...”

Xi Xiaye suddenly halted her steps and sighed lightly, “You know, sometimes I’m really envious of love like theirs. There aren’t a lot of materialistic desires. Once they became a married couple, they gave each other their whole lives. Grandpa’s personal net worth became higher as the days went by. Although Grandma was getting older and older, he still loved her like he always did. He’d never do anything to betray her. He told me that Grandma was always a young 18-year-old girl in his eyes.

“Love back then was really simple and pure. Once you set eyes on someone, they’d follow each other forever, and now... the high rates of divorce were shocking. Maybe it was because they were bonded by moral principles, but perhaps, it was more about how they promised to give their partner their whole life when they decided to be together.”

Mu Yuchen listened to her quietly. He tightened his grip on her shoulder slightly after she finished her sharing. Then, he said in a low voice, “We’ll become like them too.”

“Will we?” Xi Xiaye mumbled, her eyes seeming a little out of focus as she looked into his eyes.

He nodded and gave a simple yet confident reply, “Mmm!”

Chapter 136. Inviting Shen Yue

As they walked through the corridor and arrived at Shen Yue’s study room, they looked inside and saw Shen Yue writing freely away. There were already several completed calligraphy couplets on the floor.

“You’re back!” Shen Yue put his brush down and looked towards the door.

Xi Xiaye let go of Mu Yuchen’s hand and went over. She glanced at the couplets on the floor and smiled, “Grandpa, your calligraphy is looking great. They look very energetic.”

“I practiced a little... Just killing some time.”

Shen Yue’s skinny figure walked past the table and went towards them.

“Grandpa,” Mu Yuchen greeted politely and Shen Yue nodded.

“I thought the both of you were going to just let me and your mother pass New Year’s Eve alone. I’m glad to know that you have some conscience in you!” Shen Yue seemed glad when he saw the matching couple before him. He stared at Xi Xiaye.

Before Xi Xiaye could reply, Mu Yuchen replied, “Grandpa, she’s always missing you and Mother everywhere she goes. She’s your favorite granddaughter after all. You’re more important to her than anyone else, including me.”

Xi Xiaye was stunned and she stared at him in shock. Not only were his words sweet, but he had also quickly conquered her grandpa, Shen Yue!

As expected, Shen Yue laughed happily when he heard Mu Yuchen’s words and he nodded. “That’s right. There’s no way you could top me! I’ve been taking care of her for almost the past twenty years. It’s not something to be forgotten easily. Of course, I’m more important! Let’s go, Chen, we’ll have a match of Go. I didn’t play enough the last time!”

Before the young couple could react, he walked outside the study room with his cane and continued, “Xiaye, the Pu’er tea your mother brought back this time was pretty fragrant. Take some back and try it with Chen. Aunt Xu, Aunt Xu! Get me that jade Go set. I’m playing a match with Chen. Aunt Xu, where are you? Uncle Wang! Uncle Wang!”

Towards the end, he started yelling instead. Xi Xiaye just shrugged as she looked at Mu Yuchen beside her.

After a moment, Uncle Wang got the jade Go set out. Shen Yue sat down and started setting it up. Soon, he already started his first move using a white piece without asking Mu Yuchen. “It’s your turn. Let me test you out.”

Mu Yuchen sat down casually opposite him and picked up a black piece to put on the Go board. Xi Xiaye was boiling some water to prepare tea for them as she observed the match.

Shen Yue was an expert in Go himself. Xi Xiaye had learned from him, and she soon got better and he was unable to defeat her anymore.

Shen Wenna used to think about raising Xi Xiaye into a little princess that was fluent at multiple musical and artistic talents, yet Shen Yue disagreed. Xi Xiaye was not really fond of those things as well. The only thing she was somewhat interested in was Go. As for musical instruments, she did not really know anything else aside from a little bit of violin. Literature-wise, she barely received a passing grade, but at least, she read comics...

At one point, Shen Yue felt troubled. Back then, her mother Shen Wenna and Father Xi Mushan were the two top students of the school. They always held onto the first and second place in the whole school. Although both of them were at the pinnacle with both their grades and appearance, this girl did not seem to inherit anything from her parents except her mother's beauty.

Did things move back when they reached an extreme?

After some time, Xi Xiaye was done boiling the tea and the war started. The two generals were fighting ferociously.

Apparently, the man was pretty skilled at Go as well, so Shen Yue was unable to get an advantage playing against him. His expression looked calm as ever. On the other hand, Shen Yue face darkened slightly.

"Grandpa, have some tea." Xi Xiaye handed a cup of tea to him.

"I don't want it. Don't interrupt me. I'm thinking what should I do. Hmm... You, come here and take a look. What should I do?" Shen Yue waved his hand as he said.

Xi Xiaye bent over slightly and glanced at the board before pointing at one of the boxes, "Here!"

"Mmm, right! Here then!" Shen Yue quickly placed one of his pieces there.

Xi Xiaye suddenly thought of something. She turned towards Shen Yue and said, "Grandpa, I have something to talk to you about."

"What is it?"

She sat down beside Shen Yue and sipped some tea, then she continued, "On the 7th day after the New Year, we are having an opening ceremony for Imperial Sky Entertainment City. Can you please come? Fuhua is still on holiday anyway."

"It's been years since I last attended events like this one," Shen Yue gave a short reply to Xi Xiaye's request, and Mu Yuchen looked at her in shock.

"Grandpa, it's a great opportunity. I think you'll be interested in a project under Glory World, but it'd be unfair if I tell you about it, so you should come and take a look for yourself. I think you'd be satisfied." Xi Xiaye threw out a bait, causing Shen Yue to stop moving his hand that was holding a Go stone. He raised his gray eyebrows and glanced at Xi Xiaye. "What project?"

Xi Xiaye pursed her lips and glanced over at Mu Yuchen, smiling. "I won't tell you for now. You'll find out on that day. Go and take a look. I'm in charge of this project. I heard from Uncle Lan that you've been pretty interested in South River recently."

"So, does Glory World have some ideas on the South River too?"

Shen Yue seemed interested now. He glanced at Mu Yuchen, and then looked back at Xi Xiaye. Giving it some thought, he replied, "You know, Han Corporation and Qikai contacted me recently. However, I am indeed interested in South River."

Qikai?

Xi Xiaye frowned when she heard the name. Of course, she did not forget what happened. Although she had never dealt with Qikai before, she heard from Vice President Liu during the anniversary celebration that Glory World had conflicts with Qikai before when collaborating with several other companies.

Chapter 137. Top Student And Bad Student! (1)

“Anyway, Grandpa, you should just come. On that day, there’ll be others aside from Qikai and Han Corporation attending. Also, can you convince Mother to attend along together with you?”

Xi Xiaye actually hoped for Shen Wenna to put up a tough act since Deng Wenwen was shameless enough to look for her. She would not just give up so easily and she wanted Shen Wenna to portray a sturdy attitude, especially on this matter.

“Your mother?” Shen Yue became alert when he heard Xi Xiaye’s request. He looked at Xi Xiaye, slightly shocked.

“Mmm,” Xi Xiaye sighed before she nodded with a heavy expression as she sipped some tea.

“Forget about it. You know your mother dislikes events like these. I understand that you youngsters have fresh ideas, but let her live in peace and don’t bother her. It’s not been easy for her to keep on going after so many years. If something else happens to her again, I don’t think I can be responsible and tell your dead grandma about it.”

Shen Yue placed his Go piece down with a disappointed expression on his face. “She has a knot in her heart, and you know exactly what that is. Let her forget all about the unhappy past. It’s not a bad idea living a little more carefreely.”

“But...”

Mu Yuchen stopped her when she was about to continue. “That’s enough, Xiaye. Listen to Grandpa. Grandpa, it’s your turn now.”

Shen Yue’s expression softened as he picked up another piece...

At that moment, there were sounds of footsteps outside followed by Aunt Xu’s voice.

“Madam, do I take all of these into the kitchen?”

“Mmm, wash the vegetables. I’ll handle the fish.”

Shen Wenna’s figure appeared before Xi Xiaye’s eyes.

After receiving a call from Mu Yuchen in the morning and finding out that her daughter and son-in-law were going to come for dinner, Shen Wenna had gone out after a light breakfast. Aside from buying ingredients for dinner, she had also bought some New Year goodies too.

As usual, Xi Xiaye became Shen Wenna’s helper in the kitchen. When she saw Shen Wenna’s frosty expression, there seemed to be tension in the air. Xi Xiaye was not able to bring up the matter about Xi Xinyi going to look for her before.

The atmosphere around the mother-daughter pair was getting awkward and no one said a thing.

After some time passed while they prepared several dishes together, Xi Xiaye, who was preparing the seasoning, looked at Shen Wenna. She hesitated for a moment and then said quietly, “Mother, Father made me bring you something. There’s also a document...”

Shen Wenna stopped her movements for a brief moment, then she continued, “What document is it?”

“I didn’t look at it. He asked me to pass it to you by hand. If not, he’d look for you personally. Yesterday was Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi’s engagement... He came to Glory World and I followed him over. He didn’t know about Xi Xinyi going to look for you. Ah Mo told me he left City Z after the engagement party and will only be back after the New Year,” Xi Xiaye observed her carefully as she spoke.

She was expressionless as she gave it some thought.

“If you don’t like it, I’ll give them back to him.”

“It’s fine. Bring them to my study room later.”

“Mmm.”

Her brief reply ended the conversation.

The dinner was ready. It was a very sumptuous feast for just five people. They sat around the big table and things seemed much livelier than before.

They opened several bottles of champagne. Xi Xiaye gulped a few glasses down while Shen Yue chatted to Mu Yuchen from time to time about topics ranging from chess to geography to astronomy. Shen Wenna joined in the conversation sometimes and they seemed to be enjoying themselves.

On the other hand, Xi Xiaye did not really speak much and just listened. She would just eat whatever the man put into her bowl. When they were done, she noticed that she had eaten a little too much while the man barely ate.

After dinner, the family sat in the living room and watched TV while enjoying some tea. Shen Yue went back to his room after watching some news. Xi Xiaye got Mu Yuchen to go and shower first, while she brought the stuff Xi Mushan had given her into Shen Wenna's room.

After she knocked onto Shen Wenna's door, she saw that her mother had just come out of the shower and was sitting at a sofa in the corner doing some reading.

"You don't have to be considerate about me and your father's past. I just hope you can live a more carefree life than me." Shen Wenna grabbed the document from Xi Xiaye as she looked at her calmly, her voice sounding gentle.

Xi Xiaye's eyes met with hers as a part of her struggled deep inside. The words that were stuck in her throat finally came out of her mouth. "Mother, have you always... been... missing Father? If not, you..."

She would never have asked about what happened between Shen Wenna and Xi Mushan because she knew that it acted like a needle in her heart. Just touching the topic would hurt her.

Shen Wenna's eyes darkened like the stars in the skies suddenly hiding behind dark clouds when she heard her question.

After some time, Shen Wenna still did not reply. Xi Xiaye struggled inside, and after a long silence, she ended the conversation between them like many times before. She stood up slowly.

“It’s pretty late now. Get some rest soon.”

She then exited the room.

“I only have these much feelings in my whole life, and I gave them all to your father. It doesn’t matter if I miss him or not. You’re all grown up, so you shouldn’t always be worrying about me. Worry more about yourself. Your married life has just begun. Xiaye, I hope that you can treat yourself better. That’d be great.”

Shen Wenna stood up from the sofa and went into the study room. “Help me close the door when you leave.”

...

Xi Xiaye was distracted for a moment. In the end, she nodded and left quietly.

Mu Yuchen was done with his shower when she returned to her room. He was reading a stack of yellowish papers in his sleeping robe.

Xi Xiaye noticed that something was not right and she went over with a frown on her face.

He was looking through her test papers during high school!

Where did he get them?

She remembered that she had put all of them on the top shelf of her bookshelf. She did not expect him to find them so easily. As she was reminded of the pathetic marks on her papers, her face blushed as she dashed over.

“Don’t you look at it. I’m not letting you!”

Chapter 138. Top Student And Bad Student! (2)

A faint fresh scent wafted over as a tiny figure ran towards him. He raised his arms high and Xi Xiaye could not reach them. She almost fell down, but luckily she caught his sleeve.

“Give it back to me!”

She frowned at him and her voice sounded angry. She grabbed his shoulder and jumped several times, but still could not reach them.

He was pretty tall himself along with his long limbs. She could not do anything with her height, and she aggravated her injury slightly and felt pain flare up near her wound. In the end, she glared at him as she yanked on his sleeve.

The man raised his left arm high, throwing her a glance as he grinned. He laughed when he saw her nearly exploding. “You shamelessly got such a score but you’re ashamed when people see it?”

Xi Xiaye was fed up with him. She glared at him knowing that he would not give it back to her, so she plopped onto the sofa. “Look all you want then...”

Mu Yuchen glanced at her as he flipped through the test papers, sitting down beside her. “These scores are too pathetic to even look at. You can even make mistakes on spelling. Can’t you even do well in memorizing?”

“I told you I was always bad at studies. I especially hated things that need memorizing. They wanted us to memorize countless articles and this section was only 5% of the exam. It’s such a small portion throughout the three years of high school. Don’t you think...”

Xi Xiaye did not finish her sentence because Mu Yuchen’s eyes made her feel that at that point in time, he seemed like a strict disciplinary teacher staring at her...

He covered the test papers and looked at her. “Really? That’s unexpected.”

Xi Xiaye stared at him as she snatched the test papers away. “Super top students like you would never understand people who are never good at studies. Don’t you dare mock me about this in the future.”

He laughed and put his arm around her shoulder. “What are you thinking about? Have you never heard about the phrase ‘pair a top student with a bad student’? Everyone has their advantages and disadvantages. I’ll make anyone who mocks my wife suffer!”

Xi Xiaye put on a grin, she laughed, “That’s right, being bad at studying doesn’t mean a dark future is ahead right? You think...”

She raised her head and looked at him. As she did, she gazed into his deep, dark eyes and could clearly see her reflection from his clear eyes, the hidden stars suddenly appearing so mysterious and distant.

She suddenly realized —

He was really dapper and very gentlemanly. She wanted to use the phrase “very pleasant to look at” to describe his smile, but she had no idea whether if it was appropriate.

“Mu Yuchen, has anyone told you that you’re actually quite a beautiful man?”

She was not sure why she said that. However, her words surprised Mu Yuchen.

Was this little woman teasing him?

He laughed delightedly. Being praised by his own woman as “beautiful” was something to be happy about indeed. He raised his large, dry hand and patted her head before leaving a light kiss on her forehead. “Missus, you’re really beautiful as well. Okay, go and get washed up. I’ve prepared the bath for you. Remember to change the dressing for your wound too. I’ve brought it over and put it on the dressing table. Be careful.”

He had not missed her frown caused by the pain from her injury just now and worried for her. He wanted her to stay safe and free from any injuries as she stayed by his side.

He respected her and cared for her all because he wanted to have a decent start with her, especially because they had decades to walk together ahead of them.

Him and her, safe and peaceful until the end of their lives. That would be ideal.

However, could they be like many others? Could they become a family first before possessing feelings of love for each other?

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment as she looked at him with a serious yet gentle expression. She thought about it and then said, "Thank you for treating me so well, Mr. Mu."

"You're my wife. Who else should I treat well if not you?" He replied almost instantly before grabbing the test papers in her hands and putting them back onto the bookshelf. She stood up when he turned around, her eyes seeming distracted. She was probably thinking about something else. In response, he opened the bathroom door and looked at her questioningly.

"Go in and take a bath. Get to sleep soon. We have a lot to do tomorrow, alright?"

His gentle tone had a certain degree of firmness to it, so Xi Xiaye stopped her mind from wandering around as she nodded and then slowly walked into the bathroom under his supervision.

...

When she came out of the bathroom, he was already in the bed lying on his side. The light was switched off and only a dim yellow light was left in the room.

She looked at him as she stood beside the bed. Pulling the sheets aside when he did not give her any reaction, she turned off the lights and then slowly got into bed...

After some time, she called his name out, "Mu Yuchen..."

“Mmm?” He replied quietly.

Her eyes hidden in the dark sparkled slightly and her lips hesitated a little. She turned her body around and looked at his back facing her. After thinking for a bit, she turned back again.

Mu Yuchen turned around when he heard behind him. He called out to her and pulled her into his arms when her back faced him. A slightly humid and deep voice reached her. “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing... I just wanted to try calling... Mmm!”

Before she could finish, the man’s minty kiss came down from above her. His unique scent rushed towards her.

“It’s not too much for me to get a good night kiss, is it?”

His voice sounded charismatic as ever and without waiting for her reply, he kissed her rosebud lips once again. At the same time, he carefully sent her the gentleness hidden deep within his heart.

Afterwards, Mu Yuchen thought to himself: he asked for it!

Although he usually had strong self-restraint, he had pulled off such a risky stunt. He took deep breaths as he prevented Xi Xiaye from moving, and then...

Chapter 139. New Year's Eve (1)

After breakfast the next day, the Shen Residence started getting lively. Shen Yue and Uncle Wang were taking care of the plants in the yard as Shen Wenna and Aunt Xu were making dumplings for the reunion dinner. While City Z was in the north, many families had the practice of eating dumplings for their reunion dinner, so Shen Wenna made some too.

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye were handling the calligraphy couplets and lanterns.

They worked until 6 p.m. in the evening before the family had their reunion dinner joyously. Because the couple needed to hurry back to the Mu Residence, Shen Yue and Shen Wenna sent them off.

“I got Uncle Wang to put some gifts into the trunk. Give them to your grandparents and parents. Take some time to visit us after the New Year.” Shen Yue stood by the door and was starting to miss Xi Xiaye already.

In the end, the girl still had to go... Every time he thought about this, he felt like his treasure was being snatched away, and he felt empty and sour inside.

“Please be happy and well, Chen. Send my regards to your parents and grandparents,” Shen Wenna told him.

The couple nodded. “Grandpa, Mother, please get back in. It’s pretty cold outside. I’ll be sure to return with Xiaye after the New Year.”

“Okay, get in the car. It’s getting late soon. They’re going to be worried!”

A rare gentle smile broke across Shen Wenna’s frigid face as she patted Xi Xiaye’s shoulder before she guided Shen Yue back into the house.

“Mmm, we’ll go now. Grandpa and Mother, please go back inside too.” Xi Xiaye felt a little sullen as she sat on the front passenger seat and waved to them.

“Remember to come back frequently. Give us a call before coming over. Grandpa will prepare your favorite dish at home. Maple Residence isn’t that far away from here...”

While Shen Yue’s voice sounded old, it had a very strong intent in it. Xi Xiaye nodded obediently.

The car started leaving the Shen Residence under the night sky.

The whole City Z was very lively. They could hear the sound of firecrackers and fireworks and they passed through the streets. One by one, the fireworks went off in the night sky and Xi Xiaye stared at them with her clear eyes.

Suddenly, her phone started vibrating at the side and she came back to her senses. Taking a glimpse, she noticed that it was Su Nan calling her.

“Su Nan?” She picked up the call.

“Xiaye? Happy New Year’s Eve!”

Su Nan’s sweet voice came over from the phone. “It’s the first day of the New Year tomorrow. Come out and relax tomorrow night!”

“Tomorrow night? Umm...”

Xi Xiaye looked at Mu Yuchen hesitantly while Su Nan just went on, “I know you’re a woman with a family right now, but aren’t I too? You know what? Bring your man over as well. I’ve booked a room at Emperor and invited a few good friends. You know some of them too! Consider it a celebration for both our marriages and also a New Year celebration...”

Su Nan’s voice bombarded her ears. Xi Xiaye hesitated before asking Mu Yuchen, “Su Nan’s inviting us for a gathering at Emperor. Do you...”

“You should go out and relax more. I won’t bother your friends’ gathering. Zhou Zimo has invited me to his place for cards, so you decide for yourself whether you want to follow me or go with your friends,” he replied quietly.

Xi Xiaye frowned slightly and after some consideration, she decided. “I’ll go with Su Nan then.”

“Mmm, I’ll send you over. Give me a call when you want to go back.”

She nodded and then said to Su Nan on the phone, “Su Nan, actually I just wanted to call you and invite both you and Ruan Heng over to the opening ceremony of Glory World Imperial Sky Entertainment City. Anyway, I’ll talk to you about it tomorrow night then.”

“The opening ceremony for Imperial Sky Entertainment City?” Su Nan screamed, “Really? Is it really okay for people like us to join such a significant event? I know that only big shots can join events like this.”

“Aren’t I inviting you to become our guest now? Sometime later, Fashion City under Imperial Sky is going to organize a fashion show and I’m sure you’ll be interested. Come over and take a look.”

...

Su Nan gladly accepted Xi Xiaye’s invitation.

Xi Xiaye hung up on the call and turned around to the man who was focusing on driving. “The PR Department is done sending out all the invitations, isn’t it?”

“They were done with it last night. They move pretty quickly,” Mu Yuchen replied.

Xi Xiaye nodded. “I’ll hand the invitations to Su Nan tomorrow then. There should be some invitations left at home, shouldn’t there?”

“Just get Ah Mo to send them over tomorrow. You can take charge of the opening ceremony. Ah Mo will be helping you.” Suddenly, he turned his head to look at her as he placed his hand onto hers. “There’s something I have to inform you about.”

“What is it?” She looked at his large hand in doubt.

He suddenly tightened his grip and said, “I’m going to City B right after the New Year, so I’ll leave things here to you. Can you handle it?”

“You’re going to City B?”

Xi Xiaye was surprised. No wonder he was leaving this matter in her hands. She frowned worriedly. “Is there something wrong with the partnership?”

“No, it’s about the actual contract signing as well as sending an inspection team. Coincidentally, the daughter of Chairman Li from the company we’re working with is getting married, so I might stay over for a night or two,” he replied indifferently.

“Mmm, then you should bring Ah Mo over. I can handle things here on my own. The PR Department has done most of the preparations, so I’m just overseeing things on that day.”

Xi Xiaye gave it some thought with a frown. “Don’t worry, Vice President Zhang is around as well. I’ll go to him for advice if anything comes up.”

“Wow, are you being a humble person now?” Mu Yuchen laughed as he moved his hand away. He put his arm over her shoulder and she did not struggle this time. Scoffing, she looked at him. “I’ve always been a humble person. When are you going?”

“I’ll go by the evening of the second day after the New Year. I’ll be back in time for the opening ceremony.”

She hesitated for a moment before nodding. “Mmm, get enough rest these two days then. It’s going to be pretty tiring for you. After the opening ceremony, most of our projects will go into a more relaxed phase.”

“Are you concerned about me?” A smile appeared on his handsome face as he heard her words, his grip on her shoulder tightening slightly.

Xi Xiaye just stared at him without saying anything.

Chapter 140. New Year's Eve (2)

Things quieted down inside the car. Mu Yuchen was still driving and he glanced over at her when the woman did not say anything for quite some while. He noticed something.

She was staring at a number on her phone, seeming distracted as a complicated expression appeared on her face. It was as if she was struggling.

“Just call that number. Hesitating isn’t going to help.” He nudged her as though he understood her inner struggles. Stunned, Xi Xiaye turned around and gaped at him in shock.

“You know who I wanted to call?” She blurted out.

“Why wouldn’t I?” He replied calmly as he slowed the car down.

Xi Xiaye sighed on the inside. She almost forgot that the man’s eyes were all-seeing. Sometimes, she realized he could see through everything about her, yet until now she was unable to look at him openly...

She hesitated for another brief moment before calling the number.

The call went through quickly, but it was not Xi Jiyang who picked up the call. Instead, it was Xi Xinyi...

She was way too familiar with Xi Xinyi’s voice!

“Hello? Who are you looking for?” Xi Xinyi asked gently when no one spoke on the phone after she picked up the call. She then spoke to Yifeng beside her, “Yifeng, why are you here? Oh, right, Grandfather actually liked your present a lot. It’s been some time since I last saw him so happy. We have to come back and visit him more in the future...”

...

Xi Xiaye slowly put her hand down as she stared at her phone screen go dim. A self-mocking smile appeared on her beautiful face.

Of course, she could hear the elated voices from the other end. Compared to the Shen Residence, West Park was much livelier and she even heard Xi Jiyang’s laughter as well.

This call was probably not necessary.

Mu Yuchen did not say anything when he saw her expression darken. He did not tell her that he had actually sent Ah Mo to West Park and handed a special gift to Xi Jiyang under her name.

With her worrying EQ, she would never be able to beat the expert in acting.

After some moments of silence, she tossed her phone aside and closed her eyes in fatigue. She said quietly, "I want to take a nap."

He nodded and replied gently, "Mmm, I'll wake you up when we reach."

He even grabbed a blanket for her.

...

At the same time, in West Park.

The elder Xi Jiyang was sitting on the living room sofa while flipping through a thick and yellowish album. A precious cheerful expression was on his face and his hands were shaking slightly as he was not able to hide his excitement.

Someone had sent the album over just now and said that it was a New Year's gift from Ms. Xiaye. Opening it, he noticed that the album recorded all his achievements when he was still active in politics as well as some of the important events involving him back in the day. There was a whole list of newspapers and magazine clippings all arranged in chronological order.

He was suddenly reminded of his old days. Every image summoned a past memory deep inside him, making him feel like he had traveled back in time...

Tears were on the verge of falling from his eyes. He flipped through the album again and again dearly with a fulfilled smile spreading across his wizened face. He did not even look at the well-prepared and expensive gifts Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi had bought for him. Instead, he praised Xi Xiaye, "Your sister is really amazing. Just how much effort did she put into making this? She found me my precious old memories... How great! Xinyi, you'd better learn from your sister."

Xi Xinyi was a little distracted when she heard Xi Jiyang's words. Nevertheless, after a while, she smiled gently as she nodded. "Mmm, I got it. I told you so! Sister won't forget about you. She's even prepared such a meticulous gift for you. As long as you're happy!"

Xi Jiyang glimpsed at Xi Xinyi.

"Grandfather, I..." Xi Xinyi's expression froze.

Before she could reply, Xi Jiyang mumbled to himself as he closed the album, "It's not been very lively around here in the recent years. I wonder if she's gone back to her mother. It's been years since I've had a reunion dinner with her."

"Her coming back here will just give us trouble. We've indulged her too much and she's become extremely rude now! Lingsi was being considerate about Shen Wenna and just let her daughter do whatever she wanted. Now, look at her arrogance!" Deng Wenwen criticized unhappily when she heard Xi Jiyang.

...

The New Year spirit got more and more fired up as fireworks shot up high into the sky everywhere. The car rumbled under the beautiful fireworks as they arrived into the Mu Residence. Xi Xiaye was already asleep on the man's shoulder.

However, she was a light sleeper and she woke up the moment the car stopped moving.

Wang Hui and the others had prepared the reunion dinner and were waiting for them to arrive.

"Come and sit down. I'm worried the dishes might go cold, so I even started making them later."

Wang Hui looked at the young couple with a big smile, her tone kind. She felt that the more she looked at Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye standing beside each other, the more she thought of them being a perfect couple. She was over the moon as she thought that she would be able to have a grandchild soon.

Mu Yinan could not help but pat his wife's shoulder when he saw her face. "Don't put on such a vulgar smile. You might frighten them."

"Who has a vulgar smile now?" Wang Hui glared at Mu Yinan, annoyed by what he said. "I can't believe that such words came from a vulgar person like you."

"So, only you can talk about others and I can't talk about you? Can you be any more unreasonable?"

Mu Yinan was not convinced.

"I'm the reason here. Any problems?"

"I'm not going to talk to you anymore!"

"Talk? My smile has nothing to do with you, alright? Am I disturbing you in any way?"

...

"Just ignore them. They'll come and eat after they are done." Mu Yuchen lowered his voice as he glanced at the old couple fighting before them as he spoke to the slightly shocked Xi Xiaye.

Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong smiled at each other and shook their head helplessly. Then, they started serving everyone wine.