## **Loving 1321**

Chapter 1321. Heartless 6

The car slowly stopped in front of the entrance of the villa, and eight bodyguards soon got down from the cars behind. They all marched up in a well-trained manner.

Ah Yong got down from the car too and walked over to open the car door for Gu Qiwu.

"Boss, we're here!" he said.

Gu Qiwu disembarked from the car in a rigid manner. When he looked up ahead, a luxurious holiday villa greeted his sight. Naturally, there were bodyguards on guard at the door too, especially when they saw the group stopping there.

Gu Qiwu looked at the villa through squinted eyes. After a while, he walked ahead.

...

In the backyard of the villa, Gu Lingsha was still trying to persuade Doris, but her mother looked even unhappier.

"Mother, I think we should make plans as soon as possible. Mu Yuchen has suddenly returned, and Su Chen's so proactive. You should know that those buddies have the power, especially Su Chen. The reason I was detained the last time was because of him, I..."

"Is that why you resent her and got someone to burn his woman's flower store? Did you used arson to vent your anger?" At this point, Doris could not hold back her anger. She glared coldly at Gu Lingsha. "Do you think I don't know what you've been doing my back? Shasha, I don't understand if you're really stupid or if your brain's malfunctioning. Do you think Su Chen's as dumb as you are?"

Gu Lingsha's expression paled as she fell silent for a while. "Mother, they're the bullies. Su Chen has never been nice to me, so I have to teach him a little lesson. Besides, I've handled things well, so you don't have to worry about that, Mother. It's not a bad thing for us to toss more worries in Su Chen's way."

She did not think that she was wrong. Apart from venting her anger, she could even ruffle Su Chen's feathers. This would be killing two birds with one stone.

"Do you really think Mu Yuchen wouldn't be able to guess that you're the one behind it? Mu Yuchen's sudden return was already a bad thing for us. Many things can't be put to full use. How else do you think Mu Lingshi remains unscathed? If she's doing just fine, then hmph! You'll be kicked away soon enough," Doris said as a sneer of disdain flashed on the corner of her lips.

Stunned, Gu Lingsha then said, "Mother, don't worry. Even if they can guess, they wouldn't have any evidence."

"If that's true, then you've just alerted the enemy, you fool! How did I give birth to such a useless thing, you incompetent bungler!? Shasha, you're going more and more off-track now. I don't remember you being this foolish! Shit!"

Doris watched on as Gu Lingsha anxiously tried to explain, and she felt even more disappointed. "Shasha, since when have you become someone who only knows how to go after someone and not reflect on yourself? Every failure is meant to build your foundation for the next time you strike. What have I been teaching you? We'd rather overestimate our enemies than think they're as dumb as you are!"

Gu Lingsha felt annoyed upon hearing Doris's reprimanding words. "Mother, you have your way of doing things, and I have mine. Qi Feng couldn't lay a hand on them because of Xi Xiaye, so can't I do something for myself? Besides, I guarantee that I've handled things cleanly. Even if Su Chen wants to suspect anything, he wouldn't find anything that leads back to me!"

"But they have most probably locked their targets onto me! Especially with all the recent incidents, do you think you're the only one with brains?" Doris's stern voice rang out while her blue eyes flashed with a cold light as she looked at Gu Lingsha in irritation. "A little impatience spoils great plans. You know this principle. How are you thinking of controlling Qi Feng? It's been so many years, yet you can't even lock down a man!"

"Mother!" When Doris hit her sore spot, Gu Lingsha said unhappily, "If it weren't for Xi Xiaye, Ah Feng and I would've been fine right now! If we're going to talk about scheming, I'm afraid I'm really not her rival! She's really hard to deal with right now!'

"Hmph, if your man can be influenced by another woman, then that only proves to show that you're too dumb and not charming enough. You can't even watch your man. How useless of you!" Doris said with a disdainful sneer.

Upon hearing Doris' triggering criticism, Gu Lingsha finally could not help but raise her voice to say, "If you're so capable, then Father wouldn't be like this! Mother, why do you have to say such hurtful things? I'm your daughter, not a toy for you to vent on! Can't you be less harsh to us?"

"Huh, my thing with Gu Qiwu is different from yours. At least, I can say that I had him for decades! All men are the same! If you don't take control of your authority as a woman, then you won't be able to handle any man! They're all born with the same wicked bones, just like you! If you weren't the daughter of the Gu family, do you think Qi Feng and the Qi family would've accepted you? Dream on, Shasha!"

Doris appeared incisive and shrewd when she said all that. Her eyes flickered with an exceptionally sardonic expression while that smile on the corner of her lips seemed to be mocking something.

As Doris looked at her daughter, she began to speak sincerely, "I've seen tons of these things. Shasha, trust me. Men are not to be trusted, even the ones you marry! Your father, Gu Qiwu, has been thinking about how to go against me from the moment we got married. Tell me, how can you hope for any true love in this world? You say you love Qi Feng, don't you? Let me ask you then. If I gave you a billion, ten billion, or a hundred billion to abandon him, would you be willing to?"

One billion?

Ten billion?

One hundred billion?

As Gu Lingsha listened, she did not quite react to the first amount, then she began hesitating at the second one, and towards the end of that last amount, her heart began to shift. She could not quite say it, but her heart started to feel confused.

Doris caught all of Gu Lingsha's reactions, and she smirked coldly. "See? In your sub-conscience, you're just like me. Money's more important. When it's just a trivial amount, you won't consider it, but when the amount's quite significant, you begin to hesitate. This is an inherent instinct, Shasha! You might not love Qi Feng that much. It's just like how if Qi Feng were to choose, he'd definitely choose that hundred billion and abandon you," she sneered.

Gu Lingsha's expression changed slightly while her lips parted. She was about to say something when there were sounds of footsteps from the corridor behind.

"Miss Doris, Mr. Gu is here. He's right outside! Our people couldn't stop him. He says he wants to see you!"

Chapter 1322. Vicious! 1

The sudden voice interrupted their argument.

"Father's here?" Gu Lingsha was surprised, and her eyes widened as she looked at Doris. She noticed her mother just acting as usual with her cold eyes. In the next moment, Doris looked at her subordinate. "Oh? Did he force his way in?"

"Miss, should we stop him?" the subordinate asked for Doris's opinion as he was aware of her relationship with Gu Qiwu.

Doris grinned coldly, and moments later, she glanced at Gu Lingshi. "Go back and reflect on yourself. Stop underestimating people, and use your brain before taking action the next time! Don't ever show your face before me again if this happens! Get lost!" she scolded.

"Mother, I want to see Father..." Gu Lingsha said quietly while lowering her head. Although she was upset, she did not dare to defy Doris.

"I told you to get lost!" Doris's tone turned serious as she averted her gaze away and started casually arranging the flowers nearby. "Bring that man over."

Gu Lingsha could not respond with anything, so she just turned around and left.

The subordinate left after a brief reply too.

Gu Qiwu and Ah Yong came all the way to the backyard. Ah Yong stopped as they turned into a corridor while the bodyguards were on standby as well. They could see Doris arranging the flowers in a vase.

Gu Qiwu slowed his steps as he got closer to Doris. She was such a beautiful, fair woman. She pretty much looked the same all these years. However, her extraordinary appearance hid a hideous heart inside! She had the face of an angel but the heart of a devil!

That was what Doris was like.

He had been aware of her decisive and bold personality when they were young. If they lived in ancient times, she would probably have been a cold, brutal general. He was once impressed by her beauty and proud demeanor, but now...

Gu Qiwu thought that he would probably have given her what she wanted if things had been different, but how could he accept her betrayal of him when he had only loved her all these years?

He was angry and disgusted when he was reminded of why he came here today!

Gu Qiwu went near her with a cold smile. He soon stopped behind Doris.

Doris did not even bother to turn around when she heard the sounds of footsteps getting closer. She continued tending to the flowers. Meanwhile, the pleasant scent of the flowers made Gu Qiwu feel refreshed.

"What do you want?" Gu Qiwu's eyes were cold as he looked at Doris. His voice reached her ears along with the wind.

"What do you think? I don't understand why you have to rush into my place and interrogate me, Gu Qiwu. You've really never changed at all. Do you think you have the right to ask me?"

Gu Qiwu could sense the chill in her words as well as...hatred!

With a bitter smile, he sat down beside her and poured himself a cup of hot tea. He only spoke up after taking a sip, "You're the one who shouldn't mention the word 'right'. If you're talking about our divorce, you deserved it. You betrayed our marriage of 30 years, and you're still trying to take more away from me. Don't you think it's a ridiculous joke?"

"A ridiculous joke? Gu Qiwu, aren't you aware of how cheap a person you are? You already plotted against me when I decided to marry you. 30 years of marriage? Do you think that I'm a fool? You betrayed me first!"

"Be honest. Have I ever mistreated you in the past thirty years? You've been getting a lot of dividends from the number of shares you hold. You've benefited well, haven't you?" Gu Qiwu glared at Doris.

What a greedy woman!

"Don't try to find an excuse for your betrayal. You've never intended to be loyal to me anyway, or else, what was up with Mu Zi? What about Mu Lingtian and Mu Lingshi? You're the worst. If I'd known she was such a dirty woman, I'd have ended her! You really put in a lot of effort to protect her, didn't you?!" Her eyes blazed when she spoke to Gu Qiwu as anger took over her.

"That's enough, Doris! Our matters aren't related to a dead person! Do not mention Mu Zi's name. I've done enough for Lingsha and you, but I've totally neglected Lingtian and Lingshi! Get a hold of yourself!"

"Really? Then why are you standing here right now?" Doris put on a cold smile.

"That depends on you. About the matter of Mu Lingmo and Qi Lei, you're behind it, aren't you?" Gu Qiwu asked coldly, and he sounded pretty sure as he stared at Doris.

Chapter 1323. Vicious! 2

Doris's expression remained unchanged after listening to Gu Qiwu's words.

Gu Qiwu calmly enjoyed his tea even when she said nothing. He just watched as she continued to trim the leaves. "There's no need for you to work on the plants further. Don't you think it's ironic for

someone as vicious as you to do something like this? Do you think by acting this way you could hide the dirty, wicked side of yours?"

Doris's scissors slipped and snipped off a freshly bloomed flower. She tried to fix it by trimming down more parts, but it did not look natural no matter how she tried.

Meanwhile, Gu Qiwu did not seem very pleased. "Stop wasting each other's time. You should know that I'm truly disgusted by you and wouldn't want to see you if possible."

Clank-

Doris's expression darkened as she threw away the pair of scissors before hurling the vase right past him. The vase broke and the flowers scattered all over the floor.

Gu Qiwu just looked at her in disdain. "You don't have to put on an act anymore. I know you did it. What do you want? Where are Ah Mo and Qi Lei right now? What do you want?" He decided it was time to be straightforward because he was sure that no one else could have done this except Doris!

Only this crazy woman would pull off an insane feat such as kidnapping the Second Master of Qi Kai, Qi Qiming's son, as well as the Mu family's son-in-law, Mu Yuchen's top subordinate!

Doris turned around and looked at him with a smile on her face. She poured herself a cup of tea. "Ah Mo? Aren't you two close now? Haven't you decided to get Mu Lingshi to officially become your daughter now?"

"Lingshi is my daughter with Zixi. She belongs to the Gu family, so what's wrong with that?" Gu Qiwu glanced at her coldly.

She let out a burst of cold laughter. "What are you going to do with Lingsha then? Don't tell me you did all those things to me because of this, Gu Qiwu. I suppose you've never thought of us as important to you, huh?"

"Whatever you say. I just want to know what you want by pulling this stunt? Are you trying to threaten me with those photos? I'm here now, so tell me how much you want!" Gu Qiwu did not even look at Doris when he spoke. He glanced coldly over the broken vase on the floor.

He could not stand to be considerate about this woman anymore. He was totally ignorant of the anger showing on her face. It might have been impossible for him in the past, but he could actually be calm before her right now. Perhaps, he did not love Doris as much as he thought...

Was he actually a truly cold-hearted person?

Doris's expression did not seem well. Gu Qiwu glanced over and noticed her angry, frozen expression while her grip on the teacup tightened.

"Why do you think that I'm behind it?" Doris took a deep breath and suppressed her anger. Her tone was cold when she spoke.

Gu Qiwu let out a scoff "It's not difficult to guess. I've been with you for 30 years, Doris. Although I can't say I know everything about you, doing dirty, wicked things have always been your thing, hasn't it? You only care about the benefits anyway."

Doris glared at him. "You're the same too, aren't you? You're heartless and cruel! You already plotted against me long before we were married. Isn't that even dirtier?"

However, Gu Qiwu just ignored her words.

She took a sip from her cup of tea before waving her hand and summoned Glenn over. He stopped right before Gu Qiwu.

"Mr. Gu, please cooperate with us and let us do an examination."

As Gu Qiwu raised his eyebrows, he glanced at Doris who seemed to be extremely wary of him. Then, he put the teacup down and stood up.

Glenn glanced over at two bodyguards who quickly did a body search of Gu Qiwu and then left after confirming that there was no issue.

Doris spoke up moments later, "You're the one who makes things difficult, Gu Qiwu. You shouldn't have done that to me if you know me. I hate people tricking me, and this person just had to be my husband who claimed that he loved me!"

"Enough! That's insulting! How dare you say something like that when you betrayed me, Doris? Do you think of me as an idiot? Are you forcing me to do what you say and then try to harm Lingshi?" Gu Qiwu was angered by her questioning and accusations!

Doris put on a cold smile. "Look at how much you care about Mu Lingshi! But have you forgotten that you have another daughter as well?"

"Just what do you want?" His expression darkened as he asked.

She put down her teacup and glanced at Gu Qiwu indifferently. "Nothing much. I just want you to reconsider some decisions. Also, I want you to promise that Mu Lingshi will never become part of the Gu family, which means that Shasha will be your only successor!"

Chapter 1324. Vicious! 3

Doris's words were determined while those blue eyes were incisive! There was a gray area in her words that Gu Qiwu could not figure out. It was extremely complicated!

That gaze...

Gu Qiwu had no idea how he tolerated her for 30 years and even saw her as a woman that he truly loved. His eyes turned dark, and in that instant, he suddenly saw shadows of Mu Lingshi!

Those eyes were surprisingly similar to Mu Zixi's. Mu Zixi was actually just a pure and simple person, who was as spotless as a white sheet. On that white sheet, apart from the colors of the Mu family, there was probably only Gu Qiwu, yet as he looked at Doris again, she claimed that was doing it for Gu Lingsha though it was probably for herself.

To him, he could only see all her desires and greed, and her dark viciousness of doing things by hook or by crook, thus he suddenly felt confused. What was the reason behind his so-called true love for Doris all these years?

Gu Qiwu could not determine what it was, but now as he watched Doris closing in hard on him, he did not feel happy. His stern face was as dark as the sky before a storm!

"The Gu family's only successor?" Gu Qiwu sneered in disdain, "Mu Yuchen has the DNA report on me and Lingshi. Do you think that even if I say so, everyone else would agree? Doris, you'd best not get on my nerves!"

"Enough, Gu Qiwu, I'll just tell you the truth. I like making deals with sincere people, and I hate those who don't know how to appreciate favors. It's best that you consider this properly. What decision should we make so that we can achieve a win-win situation?!" Doris said in a slightly lowered voice. She stared at Gu Qiwu's face and laughed as she said, "You're someone who knows how to consider things. You want to acknowledge your daughter, but it doesn't seem like Mu Lingshi wants to, does she?"

Her words made Gu Qiwu's brows furrow, and his gaze turned cold as he stared at Doris calmly. "Perhaps I could grant this wish of yours, but that'll depend on how you behave."

Her laughter had a biting cold chill to it. Gu Qiwu's expression looked worse while Doris instantly stopped laughing and continued, "Transfer 40 percent of the Hui Gu Corporation's shares to my name. In fact, you have to write your will right away and organize a press conference to announce that Hui Gu's future successor is going to be Shasha. Those are my conditions," Doris did not beat around the bush as she said with a sneer.

Gu Qiwu's lips curled downwards as he stared at Doris mysteriously then said with a smile, "You really do know how to demand things. If I do as you say, doesn't that mean you're trying to take down the entire Hui Gu and the Gu family? Do you think I'd agree to that?"

"What do you say? You should know that I've always been one with vicious methods. If I do anything to your son-in-law, do you think your precious daughter with Mu Zixi will forgive you? I heard she's quite a few months pregnant. Do you want her to go down the same path as Mu Zixi?"

Doris laughed coldly while her eyes flashed with an exceptionally heartless light. When she saw Gu Qiwu's handsome face darken, she chuckled again. "You should know my methods to go against people. Even though it's not easy to go against someone as strong-willed as Mu Lingmo, there are ways such as injecting him with drugs, virus antigens, or..."

Bam!

Before Doris could finish, Gu Qiwu had already stood up angrily. The teacup in hand was smashed to the ground. In that instant it shattered, the pieces of ceramic and tea residue with slightly boiling liquid splattered all over. Even Doris's face was hit by a shattered piece, creating a thin bloody line.

Gu Qiwu stared her down coldly, and you could see that his anger was at its peak. "Are you threatening me?"

"This isn't a threat. It's a negotiation. If you really want to see it that way, then so be it. Either way, it's not hard for me to ruin someone's willpower." Doris seemed to enjoy the way Gu Qiwu was acting right now. "Are you feeling very angry? That anger makes you want to just kill...ah—"

However, before Doris could finish, a dark figure had come over. To her shock, Gu Qiwu's strong hand instantly gripped her by the neck and tightened in an instant. It felt as if he exerted any more force, he could instantly break her neck!

"Witch! You're the first person who'd dare threaten me. Who do you think you are? I'm telling you, if you do anything to them, you will end up worse than them!" Gu Qiwu's gloomy voice was sinister. At that moment when he spoke, his hand gripped her even harder. Doris could barely breathe, and her blue eyes widened with disbelief, yet a viciousness flashed in them!

She lifted a leg and wanted to kick Gu Qiwu's bottom half as her fingers reached out to grab him!

But who was Gu Qiwu now?

He was an agile person with a martial arts background. Doris's little movement was elementary, thus he was one step ahead of her in letting go, but not before he slapped her hard, and on top of that, landing a punch to her jaw.

You could only hear the loud sound of a slap, and a white figure flew to the side. Then came the painful screams. Suddenly, you could see Doris rolling down the stairs!
"Miss!"
"Boss!"
The row of people who had been watching from the side quickly rushed up!
"Get lost! You're not needed here!"
"Glenn, you go away too!"
Gu Qiwu's voice was heard. Doris could not care less about the pain she felt as she roared too. The people from both parties dared not say much as they retreated to the side.
At that moment, Doris slowly propped herself up to sit, appearing embarrassed. On her neck, as well as her beautiful face, bruises and the mark of a slap were clearly seen. Specks of blood could also be seen on the corner of her mouth as a result of the punch too.
On the back of Gu Qiwu's hand were five bloody lines from her scratch!
Doris lifted a hand to wipe the blood on the corner of her mouth away as she stared at Gu Qiwu resentfully. She did not expect him to really lay a hand on her. He did not demonstrate a hint of pity at all. Was this his so-called true love all these years?
Doris silently suffered through the pain as she inhaled quite a few breaths before a mocking sneer flashed across her face. "What? Are you afraid now? Haven't you always feared nothing?"
Chapter 1325. Vicious! 4

As she spoke, she propped herself up. Her blue eyes revealed a fearless staunchness. Doris got up with the help of the railing on the side as she held her face that burned with pain. Her crazy eyes focused on the miserable-looking Gu Qiwu.

"Doris, I won't accept your threats. If you're going to lay your hands on them, then you're just forcing me. I'm afraid you've miscalculated! I can tell Qi Qiming about today, and when that happens, the person who's got more to lose than gain won't be me!" Gu Qiwu warned coldly.

Upon hearing that, Doris just laughed out loud. "Gu Qiwu, I think you're being foolish now. You want to just blurt things to Qi Qiming without having any evidence. Do you think he'll believe you? Huh, if you won't give in, then we shall wait and see whose methods will go harder!"

"If you really want to do things that way, I'll play along with you. Do you think I'd care about Mu Lingmo? Huh, to me, Mu Lingmo isn't even compatible with Lingshi. Only when he's done for can Lingshi find a better one. She will be the Hui Gu Corporation's successor. As for Lingsha, because of a mother like you, she might not get anything at all. I was planning to give her a part of Hui Gu, but because you exist, unfortunately, she won't be getting anything!"

Gu Qiwu laughed gloomily, then he lowered his voice to say into Doris's ear, "Do you think Qi Qiming will let you off? Did you all think Qi Feng could really accomplish anything? I'm afraid that even Qi Qiming doesn't understand his own thoughts right now! Taking these risks will only narrow your own path. Qi Qiming's not dumb. You'll only push him further away. You think too highly of yourself. Given your level, you can only do so much. In fact, don't forget that you still have to handle Mu Yuchen. Are you really all that smart?"

Gu Qiwu's voice was filled with disdain, as he took a look at Doris. He did not think that he could see this arrogant woman show a moment of embarrassed hesitance and uneasiness on her face in his lifetime!

As his long slender fingertips lifted her chin, he said coldly with a smile, "Doris, if you're smart, you'll let them go. Otherwise, you're just digging your own grave. I know how to be vicious and despicable too. In fact, who do you think has more potential of being a devil? Don't give me that look. You dirty woman, do you think you are elegant and beautiful? You can't even compare to the cheapest prostitute to me. Do you really think you're a noble princess? How tragic!"

Gu Qiwu was heartless as he coldly said these and then shrugged Doris off. She stumbled and fell down the stairs again. Although she cried out in pain and wanted to get up to slap Gu Qiwu, she did not get to because he was already walking away in huge strides.

"Don't be too happy, Gu Qiwu. You'll beg me one day! You will!" Doris clenched her fists until warm blood leaked out as she watched him walk away. Glenn wanted to go up and stop him, but she shouted to let him leave.

"Miss, are you okay?" Glenn swiftly went up to hold her. He watched as blood dripped from the corner of Doris's lips and he cursed coldly, "Gu Qiwu's not a man!"

However, Doris just laughed. There was madness in her voice as she said, "No, you don't know that this is the real Gu Qiwu. When he gets vicious, he doesn't care who you are. What a selfish, heartless person!"

"He will pay the price for this!" Glenn said coldly.

"Help me back and call the lawyer over. Also, get Qi Feng to come over. There's a change in our plans. If he doesn't want to get into trouble, tell him to rush over right away."

Doris endured the pain and her gaze turned cold as she watched Gu Qiwu vanish in the direction ahead.

"Yes, Miss!" Glenn answered and helped her towards the villa.

On the other end, when Gu Qiwu got out, he went straight into his car and the car drove away.

The car drove ahead, and after a while, Ah Yong finally could not help but speak up in concern, glancing at Gu Qiwu's hand, "Boss, let's go to the hospital to get your hand bandaged first."

The scratch marks and those lines of blood on the back of his hand were obvious. Even Ah Yong could smell the faint coppery smell in the air.

When Gu Qiwu heard that, he looked down at his wounds, thought about it, then answered, "No need. Just get it wrapped up when we get home."

"Yes, Boss!" Ah Yong did not know what Gu Qiwu and Doris had talked about earlier, but from the boss's expression, he could tell that it probably went badly, and they had both fought too, so...

"Boss, Doris she..." Ah Yong tried to probe.

Gu Qiwu's eyes darkened and he laughed coldly. "She's quite eager to win. Just for the sake of these few benefits, she can disregard everything. She's trying to corner me now and leave me with nowhere to go, so can I let her off easily now?" He chuckled mysteriously.

"Boss, what should we do next?" Ah Yong asked softly.

Gu Qiwu fell silent for a moment, then said calmly, "Help me ask Qi Qiming out tomorrow night at the usual place. I'll treat him to a meal."

"Qi Qiming? Boss, you want to meet him?" Ah Yong was a little surprised.

"Just do as I say. I have to talk to him," Gu Qiwu said as he took a tissue to wipe away the blood from the back of his hand before he shut his eyes, feeling worn out.

Ah Yong nodded. He knew that he was not in a good mood, so he did not dare to step on the landmines.

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After resting for quite a few days, Xi Xiaye finally recovered a little. The sickly paleness on her face was gone, and now, some healthy rosiness showing too.

It was a rare weekend and Mu Yuchen was not going to work today. The night before, the couple had returned to the old Mu residence and fetched both their sons home. The weekend at home was going to be livelier, so Xi Xiaye let Sis Wang and the rest off too.

In the morning, Xi Xiaye woke up early while the man beside her slept soundly. She washed up simply and then got up to make breakfast.

Not too long after she left the bedroom, the little guy, who was initially still sleeping on the large bed, suddenly opened his eyes. His bright and misty little eyes blinked a few times before he turned to look at his brother, then his little hands reached out to claw...

Mu Zirui, who was still sleeping, vaguely felt his face being tickled, so he opened his eyes immediately and saw Mu Xiaocheng already sitting up and smiling at him. He immediately got up too.

Chapter 1326. Just A Chess Piece 1

Naturally, it was not easy to handle work that had been piled up for months, so Mu Yuchen was worn out from work after quite a few days and nights in a row. Finally, he managed to clear them all. He planned to rest well this weekend, so he slept quite soundly when he did.

However, just as he was comfortable in his slumber, he felt like something was touching his face. He opened his eyes and heard a giggle. Mu Yuchen looked to where the sound came from and saw that his two sons were beside him, playing around.

Mu Zirui quickly noticed Mu Yuchen's gaze, so he exclaimed immediately, "Father? You're awake!"

Mu Yuchen smiled as he reached out to pat Mu Zirui's head. "You're awake so early. Why don't you sleep a while more?"

"Nah, Mother's awake too, and I've got a lot of homework this weekend, Father!" Mu Zirui looked at Mu Yuchen pitifully.

Mu Yuchen just smiled. "Just do what you can, and don't do what you don't feel like doing. You don't have to finish all of the questions. You've got to learn how to choose. For example, for those questions that you know how to tackle at a glance, you won't need to spend so much time on it, so just focus on the topics that need more attention. This is one of the ways to guarantee efficiency. You've got to learn how to master a subject comprehensively. Being a steadfast child who doesn't know how to adapt won't make you outstanding, understand?"

"Father, are you saying that I can choose not to do those questions?" Mu Zirui's eyes lit up as he looked at Mu Yuchen in excitement.

With raised brows, his father said with a lowered voice, "I do mean that, but right now, you need to make an accurate evaluation of your own capabilities. If you've grasped all those knowledge well, then you don't have to spend too much time on them. Just revise occasionally, but for the topics that you don't thoroughly understand, you'll need to spend more time on them. Assign your priorities logically."

"Well, Father, how can I make an accurate examination of my own capabilities then?" Mu Zirui thought about it and asked again.

"You'll have to grasp this yourself. From the way you know yourself, you should have an idea. You've got to train your own judgment, thought process, and eye for detail. I'll slowly teach you in time."

Mu Zirui nodded gently like a chick pecking at rice. "Okay, I got it, Father! I'll go brush my teeth then. You can play with little brother!" Then, he slid off the bed and ran to the bathroom.

At this moment, the little guy who was having fun immediately turned to look when he saw Mu Zirui's movements. Then, he met his father's gaze, and his little hands scratched his head. After a while, he mumbled as if wanting to say something.

"Ba...Ba Ba...Mmm...Wah wah!" Mu Xiaocheng's tender voice babbled.

Mu Yuchen instantly lit up as he stared at Mu Xiaocheng's little face and tried hard to hold down the surging joy in him. He picked Mu Xiaocheng up and urged, "Come, son, say that again. What did you just say? 'Father'[1], call me again. 'Father'..."

Mu Xiaocheng blinked and looked at him for a while. Obviously not understanding his father, he continued to play with himself.

Mu Yuchen frowned because the little guy had teased him with the mumble, but now...

He was about to keep playing with his son when unexpectedly, his phone buzzed. Mu Yuchen carried his son with one hand and picked up the phone with the other.

"Good morning, Master! Our people followed Gu Lingsha and we did find Doris. She's at XX Town's holiday villa. Gu Qiwu went over yesterday, but it seemed like they had a bad discussion. Right, Gu Qiwu has also asked to meet Qi Qiming for dinner tonight," Li Si's voice was heard.

Mu Yuchen fell silent for a moment, then he said calmly, "Mmm, got it."

"Master, don't forget your meeting with Xi Xinyi tonight. She was worried that you'd forget, so she called to confirm with me," Li Si thought about it before deciding to remind him.

"Mmm, come over right now."

"Yes, Master!"

Mu Yuchen hung up after that.

Before Mu Yuchen had set his phone aside, Xi Xiaye's voice came through. "Who was that who called? Look at how the little guy's listening intently as if he understands."

Mu Yuchen lifted his head. Mu Xiaocheng was one step ahead of him, and he slid out of his arms and crawled excitedly towards Xi Xiaye who quickly went up to carry the little fellow.

"It was Li Si. Get me some clothes." Mu Yuchen quickly got up and took over Mu Xiaocheng as he said.

"Are you going out? It's the weekend." Xi Xiaye looked at him puzzledly, but she did walk over to the wardrobe to get him a set of clothes.

"I'm going out for a bit. I'll be back before lunch. What do you want to eat? Should I bring some back for you?" Mu Yuchen pinched his son's little face while he spoke to the woman in front of him.

"Get Xiao Rui a violin. We told Xiao Rui that we would get him one before this, and he's quite interested. You're more familiar with it, so get him one while you're at it." Xi Xiaye remembered.

"Mmm," he responded. Xi Xiaye had already picked out his clothes for him, and Mu Zirui was done washing up and had come out of the bathroom.

"Xiao Rui, change into your clothes now and go out with me later. I'll bring you along to choose a violin for you," Mu Yuchen said as he looked at Mu Zirui, then he got up to go to the bathroom.

...

After breakfast, Mu Yuchen brought Mu Zirui out with him. Li Si and the rest had come over too, and they were waiting outside.

Xi Xiaye carried Mu Xiaocheng to send off the father and son. She reminded, "Xiao Rui, don't run around and stay close to your father."

"Yes, Mother, you've said this many times now." Mu Zirui shrugged helplessly and looked towards Mu Yuchen pitifully.

"Your mother's going through menopause." Mu Yuchen chuckled and patted Mu Zirui's head.

"You're going through menopause." Xi Xiaye shot the father and son a look.

He smiled without a word, then pointed at the backseat of the car where Mu Zirui slid in knowingly.

"Later on, I might need to go understand the situation from Father. They might have news on Ah Mo. I'll be back later."

"Mmm, come home soonest. I'll make lunch later."

"Don't starve our son now." He smiled, bent down, and gently held Mu Xiaocheng's hand. "Son, call me 'Father', 'Father'...Call me now, come...Call me 'Father'..."

Mu Xiaocheng widened his amber-like eyes and stared at Mu Yuchen, then he turned away and leaned into Xi Xiaye's embrace.

Chapter 1327. Just A Chess Piece 2

They were meeting at a teahouse near Glory World Corporation.

Xi Xinyi had been waiting for a while when Mu Yuchen arrived, but she stood up out of fear and respect when she saw him. For some reason, she had an unexplainable fear towards Mu Yuchen. His eyes alone could send a shiver down her spine, and she would become very obedient in front of him.

"Chairman Mu...Brother-in-law..." Xi Xinyi was not sure how she should address Mu Yuchen. She was about to pour him a cup of tea because she somehow got to know that he was a tea lover.

"The Maojian tea here is top-notch. Try it..."

Even though she did not want to put on such an inferior attitude, she could not help herself. She regretted what she did, but she had no other choice.

Mu Yuchen glanced at Xi Xinyi and sat down quietly before he waved for the waiter.

"Sir, do you need anything?"

"Give me a cup of Puer tea," Mu Yuchen said.

"Alright, please wait for a moment."

Xi Xinyi's expression darkened when the waiter left, and it was awkward.

"Take a seat." Mu Yuchen looked at her before rolling up his sleeves casually. "My body is a little weak right now, so Maojian isn't really suitable for me. Your sister only lets me drink Puer or Kuding tea at the moment," he explained when he noticed Xi Xinyi's offended expression.

Her expression softened moments later before sitting down. He used the term 'your sister', so was he admitting that she was his sister-in-law right now?

Xi Xinyi lowered her head. She was pretty desperate for news about Han Yifeng and her son Han Zhexuan, but she could not bring up the topic in front of this man.

Mu Yuchen's phone started ringing before he could even say anything else as someone from the company called. He hung up a few minutes later when the waiter served his tea.

"Xiaye should've spoken to you already." Mu Yuchen put down his phone and took a sip from his cup of tea.

Xi Xinyi nodded. "She told me a lot, including the fact that you met Yifeng in New York. While I didn't want to admit it, I truly am grateful to her. I'm thankful that she was willing to share that information with a sinful woman like me."

Xi Xinyi was not hiding anything at all as she went on, "I understand that she might just be considerate about Father, but I know what I've done wrong. I was arrogant and materialistic. My greed grew every day, and I was extremely mean to her. I even made many ridiculous mistakes. I finally realize that nothing is more important than relationships, family, love, friendships...Brother-in-law...please help me. I'm willing to do anything if Yifeng and my son will return to my side, please—" Her eyes got teary all of a sudden.

Mu Yuchen glanced at her when her voice started turning hoarse. The past year had been really tough on Xi Xinyi, and she looked much skinnier than before.

Nevertheless, he had gotten someone to keep an eye on Xi Xinyi for the past year. It had taken her a long time to process all her emotions. Especially after Yue Lingsi's matter, as well as the transition of her furious hatred into love and forgiveness, she had changed a lot.

Perhaps, Xi Xinyi had come to a realization. While she was not particularly close to Yue Lingsi in the past half a year, she still came over to bring her out for a walk from time to time.

Mu Yuchen never forgot that Yue Lingsi turned out this way because of his orders. While he did not regret his decision at all, he was willing to give them a chance as long as they were willing to change.

He continued drinking his tea as he glanced at Xi Xinyi. Then, he put his hand into his pocket and took out several photographs.

Xi Xinyi was a little confused when Mu Yuchen laid the photos out before her. "Take a look. They've been taken recently. Your son looks very much like his father. Han Yifeng said he already knows how to walk now, and the Han family really dotes on him. They are doing well."

Stunned, Xi Xinyi's eyes opened wide as she looked at Mu Yuchen. Moments later, she stared at the photos intently. She could not hold her tears back anymore when she saw the tiny human in the photos...

"Yes, he looks like Yifeng, especially his eyes and mouth..." Xi Xinyi grabbed a tissue and wiped her tears. "It's been so long since I last saw him. He's my son. How could Han Yifeng take him away from me? He's my son, Brother-in-law, my son!" she vented her pent-up frustration.

Chapter 1328. Just A Chess Piece 3

Mu Yuchen did not offer any words of comfort. He just drank his tea in silence while looking at the scenery outside the window.

The weather had been getting colder while the scent of plum blossoms was in the air.

"Brother-in-law, you said you'd help me...What should I do for you to get my son back for me? You said you'd give me a chance." Xi Xinyi seemed hopeful as she grabbed onto the photographs Mu Yuchen gave her earlier.

He averted his gaze back to her. "I wouldn't have met with Han Yifeng if I didn't want to give you a chance."

He was not lying. He truly did not want to see Han Yifeng at all! Although he knew that Xiaye had totally gotten over Han Yifeng, it just made him uncomfortable knowing that she had once given this man her love and attention. He did not mind her past, but he could not help getting jealous over losing her first love to someone else.

When Xi Xinyi noticed Mu Yuchen's tone sounded unhappy, she looked at him and saw the dissatisfaction in his eyes. She gave it some thought and figured it out moments later!

She started getting envious of Xi Xiaye. How lucky was she for someone like Mu Yuchen to fall head over heels for her! She felt bitter when comparing Xi Xiaye to herself.

"I'm here to talk to you about this," Mu Yuchen continued, "But I can't do this alone. I need Qi Lei's help."

Mu Yuchen revealed his plan to Xi Xinyi. "I know that Qi Kai intends to expand externally, and Qi Kai has a project with the Han Corporation abroad. Qi Lei is in charge of these projects. I did some analysis and think it has great potential. Qi Kai and the Han Corporation are investing a lot into it. I suggested Qi Lei appoint an operating manager to stay over in the States, particularly focusing on this project."

Xi Xinyi's eyes widened, not able to believe what she just heard. "An operating manager in the States?"

"Yes, and this person will be working in Han Yifeng's company on this project."

"I know about that, but isn't this project stuck at the moment? The plan is still far from being executable. Even if it runs, there are far more people suitable for this position...moreover, CEO Qi won't agree to this." Xi Xinyi seemed defeated.

"Didn't Qi Lei go missing? We don't even know if he's alive. CEO Qi is getting frustrated. Moreover, he announced that he's leaving Qi Kai." She found her chance to be non-existent.

Mu Yuchen smiled. "Who do you think will be the actual person to take over Qi Kai? Will it be Qi Feng or Qi Lei?"

"Of course, it'll be Qi Feng. Everyone in the company knows! It seems like Qi Lei left because of this too. CEO Qi has always been preparing to let Qi Feng take over the company, or else, he would've made Second Master Qi leave. Perhaps, he wanted to compensate him, hence he supported his decision to start a new company," Xi Xinyi said.

Mu Yuchen put on a cold grin without saying anything as he quietly emptied his cup of tea.

"Do you have some kind of plan?" Xi Xinyi asked as he went quiet.

"Qi Feng being the one to take over Qi Kai isn't set in stone. Just remember that. If Qi Lei becomes the owner of Qi Kai, you'll be the operating manager in the States. This is the chance I'm fighting for you. You know very well what you need to give up," Mu Yuchen said.

"I don't care as long as you can let me stay near Yifeng. I don't even care if I need to give Yueying to my sister, or I can just leave it to somebody," Xi Xinyi said.

Mu Yuchen nodded. "It's good that you have that resolved. What I need you to do now is to get Yue Hai to apply pressure on Qi Feng, and increase Qi Lei's influence in Qi Kai. Both Yue Hai and you need to be on the same side as Qi Lei. Don't worry. It'll only benefit you if you do as I say. Being neutral isn't the best option anymore. Qi Lei is Qi Qiming and Wang Qin's son, so Qi Kai rightfully belongs to him."

Xi Xinyi was stunned. He was fully supporting Qi Lei?

Xi Xinyi started contemplating it thoroughly...

Qi Feng had Qi Qiming and Doris backing him whereas Qi Lei only had Wang Qin's subordinates and no one else, so how could he fight against Qi Feng?

Even if Mu Yuchen had his back, he was still an outsider after all, so how could he influence anything inside Qi Kai?

Then again, it was Mu Yuchen, and there was also Xi Xiaye's influence as CEO of Fuhua. Qi Kai was gearing towards property development, was it not? She also heard that the ex-CEO of Fuhua, Shen Yue, had high expectations of Qi Lei!

There were also the enormous connections of the Mu family that could come into play. Qi Kai might as well have been in Qi Feng's pocket already if the Gu family was backing him, but things had changed now. Mu Lingshi was Gu Qiwu's daughter! Moreover, Doris and Gu Qiwu were divorced!

"Alright! Don't worry, Brother-in-law. I'll convince my uncle to support Second Master Qi! Though Second Master Qi is still missing..."

"His disappearance is the best chance we've got to deal a huge blow to Qi Feng, isn't it? I can assure you that Qi Lei will be fine," Mu Yuchen said calmly.

Chapter 1329. Just A Chess Piece 4

Xi Xinyi was no fool. She instantly understood what Mu Yuchen meant after a brief reminder from him. "I understand! I'll do my best!" she said in determination.

Mu Yuchen sipped more of the tea. "I made a deal with Han Yifeng. He promised that he'll side with Qi Lei if I can help him market his new products. He even promised that he won't give you trouble if you were to become the US operating manager."

Xi Xinyi's eyes brightened up as her gloomy expression disappeared in an instant. She was glittering with joy as her eyes went teary. "Really? He agreed? Did he really?"

Mu Yuchen glanced at Xi Xinyi who was hopelessly happy at the moment, and he nodded. "That's all that I can do for you. The rest is up to you."

He stood up and turned towards the staircase.

"Don't worry, Brother-in-law, I'll do my best! I will! Tell my sister that I'm really sorry for what I did. I'll use the rest of my life to make it up for her! Thank you for giving me this chance. Thank you..." Xi Xinyi cried as she thanked Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen did not slow down. Instead, he just said when he reached the stairs, "Xiaye wanted me to help. You should know that she was never a cruel person. She didn't want to use you like a chess piece, and yet you hurt her over and over again. I just hope that you can finally understand what it means to be a family. Can you at least do that for me?"

He then left Xi Xinyi alone.
Her face turned pale as tears flowed down her cheeks
Family
She finally realized how precious family was at her lowest. How could she not have known about this earlier?
If she could have been more generous, she might have been able to get along with Xiaye, but for almost thirty years, it had never occurred to her.
What was the point of suppressing people she was jealous of?
Why could she not unite with her and go against the external forces?
Xi Xinyi felt like she had never been this clear-minded before in her life!
She did not doubt Mu Yuchen's words at all. She was not being used as a chess piece. Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye were looking for reasons to save her. She understood it all now
A chess piece?
She was not the only one who struggled with this term.
Inside Doris's holiday villa, Gu Lingsha looked quietly at Doris who was smoking on the sofa at the moment. She could faintly see the mark on her neck, as well as the scratches on her face, though the slap mark had already vanished.

Gu Lingsha could not believe that he would do such a thing to Doris.

Gu Qiwu had always doted on Doris and let her do whatever she wanted. He gave the best of everything to her and never messed with any woman outside. They always looked like the best couple to everyone, the model of a married couple.

What happened?

How could Gu Qiwu do this to the woman he loved?

Although Gu Lingsha knew that the recent incidents created some friction between them, she thought they still had feelings for each other, so how could Gu Qiwu have hurt her so badly?

However, no one else knew what they talked about except themselves, so Gu Lingsha had no idea what happened.

"Mother, why would Father do this to you? Did you say something to make him mad? Why was he so angry? I heard he looked furious when he left..." Gu Lingsha carefully asked.

She heard from someone that Gu Qiwu initially planned to let her take over Hui Gu, but Doris's greedy intention to control Hui Gu enraged Gu Qiwu, and she was just Doris's chess piece used to juggle between Hui Gu and the Qi family.

Doris wanted to use the Qi family's influence to pressure Gu Qiwu.

However, he also wanted her to take control of the Qi family's influence. She felt that she was constantly being used by Gu Qiwu, Doris, and even Qi Feng to go against each other. Her sudden realization made her feel sad.

Doris laughed at her question. "He's just a cheap hypocrite. Do you really think he's a gentleman?"

"Mother, Father has always been a person with extraordinary self-control. I don't think he would actually harm you if you didn't do anything ridiculous. Moreover, you're the one at fault here. I don't see Father's revenge being odd. Why can't you just let up for once? I believe he will accept you again since he loved you so much. I'm sure he wouldn't just forget about the decades of marriage between the two of you!" Gu Lingsha said.

Doris let out a puff of smoke before staring at her coldly. "I wouldn't believe that you're actually my daughter if you didn't have a face that looks like mine. How could my daughter be this naive and stupid?!"

Gu Lingsha was stunned by her mother's words, and she bit her lip.

Doris had always been like this, she had a sharp tongue and would not even be considerate about her own daughter's feelings.

"You deserve to be treated just like a chess piece with that IQ of yours!"

Chapter 1330. Just A Chess Piece 5

Doris's cold voice was filled with a hint of disdain, and Gu Lingsha suddenly felt a piercing pain in her heart upon hearing that.

"I told you, men are unreliable. I've witnessed many relationships over the years. Do you think it's up to you to lecture me? I've seen many men. Gu Qiwu? I've never believed in his so-called love. Do you think someone so cold would have feelings? Hmph, he even looked at me coldly when we were in bed. What do you know?" Doris stated coldly.

Now that she did not need to hide anything anymore, she was quite frank about everything, "If a man doesn't even care about sleeping with you, how much love do you think he'd have for the woman? He was just lying to everyone. A man like him only loves himself!"

When Doris said that, Gu Lingsha's eyes instantly widened. She looked at Doris in shock, unable to believe she would say such a thing.

However, by the looks of that hostile gaze, Gu Lingsha did not doubt the truth in her words! She knew that Gu Qiwu was usually quite busy with work. Whether it was before or in recent years, he seemed to have always been like this. Usually, he liked to rest outside or just stayed at the office to rest.

He never had scandals with any women—this Gu Lingsha knew for sure.

However, now, when Doris put it that way, Gu Lingsha found it hard to fathom!

"I knew that this day would come for us. I just didn't expect him to treat me this way. You're his chess piece, so how am I not as well? All these years, perhaps he did have some feelings for me, but if you want to talk about love? Ha, don't insult the word!"

Doris laughed grimly. "You're in the same situation as I am. That's why I'm telling you to be wary of Qi Feng. I heard that the effects of his legs recovering are showing. I think that he'll be recovering very soon. You won't seem that important anymore after that. After all, you only gave birth to Qi Weier, a disabled daughter, and you can't give birth anymore. Why would the Qi family stop producing heirs at you? Haven't these people always emphasized on carrying on their ancestral line? Even if Qi Weier's all grown up, do you think she can become your successor?"

Doris analyzed for Gu Lingsha without holding back, "So, no matter what, if Qi Feng's seat as Qi Kai's CEO is firm, he might not need a woman like you. Qi Qiming wouldn't let this happen either. Otherwise, Qi Feng can only make way for Qi Lei."

"Mother, Father has actually mentioned these things to me as well..." Gu Lingsha revealed with a pale expression, "But I always thought that Qi Feng wouldn't be like them. No matter what, he and I are a couple who had gone through a lot together, thus this bond can't just be erased so easily."

"Can't just be erased so easily?" When Doris heard that, she instantly laughed in disdain again. "Then, why did you have a fallout with Qi Feng recently? Weren't you very worried that Qi Feng would have feelings for Xi Xiaye? To be honest, if I were a man, I'd choose Xi Xiaye without hesitation too, and I wouldn't look at you, Gu Lingsha! Look at yourself right now. What have you become? Where's the elegance of an heiress on you? A woman must never be lower herself. Otherwise, you'll look like a pile of trash to men. Do you understand?"

Doris put out the cigarette between her fingers on the ashtray before her and lightly touched her cheeks
that still hurt faintly.

"Mother, I..."

Doris considered it for a while and then said, "I've thought about it. You shouldn't be staying here like a useless person. That's not great either. I've talked to your grandmother. Go over to be with her since she hasn't been too well lately. I heard that Weiwei hasn't been doing well either. Great then, that place is good for recuperation, so bring her along as well. After all, your grandfather likes her. Go be with your grandfather for a while. I think that it will be a good change for you."

Her blue eyes flashed with concern too. As a mother, Doris had some sense of responsibility as well. When it came to her daughter, Gu Lingsha, she still loved her.

She did not know if this next series of events would happen smoothly either. If it did not go as planned, it could be considered protection for the mother and daughter. England was definitely safe. While she still needed to stay back and fight with Gu Qiwu, she could not just leave after decades of her time spent here. Otherwise, even Doris would look down on herself!

So, fight it was!

She must fight for it!

Why should she just watch on helplessly as Gu Qiwu handed Hui Gu to Mu Lingshi?

Doris had never lost to anyone!

...

Night took over. Even though the winter solstice had passed, the weather was still bitterly cold, and the sky darkened earlier than the months before. It was already completely dark at 7 p.m.

The entire City Z was engulfed in flourishing, dazzling lights.

Inside the private room of a luxuriously decorated yet isolated restaurant in the suburbs of City Z, Gu Qiwu had already ordered food. It was self-service hotpot.

The waiter had already brought the ingredients while Gu Qiwu began to open the drinks and serve them both. Ah Yong stood beside him.

"Boss, it's almost time, but we still don't see Qi Qiming. He wouldn't have decided to not come, would he?" Ah Yong looked worriedly at the time and said in concern.

Gu Qiwu only sat there calmly, not worried at all as he leisurely held up his drink and took a sip. "Don't worry. He won't miss our appointment."

Then, his sharp gaze looked ahead at the corridor. Ah Yong listened and paused, following Gu Qiwu's line of sight and looked ahead too.

Indeed, Qi Qiming was walking slowly towards Gu Qiwu with the accompaniment of two bodyguards.

"He's here, Boss!" Ah Yong said.

"Go out then. Guard the surroundings," Gu Qiwu said lukewarmly.

"Yes, Boss!"

The entire restaurant was reserved, so the whole floor was empty. There were people guarding outside as well, thus there was nothing to worry about actually.

To be safe, Ah Yong still retreated to three tables away to wait.

Qi Qiming's people stopped beside Ah Yong too. Qi Qiming continued walking towards Gu Qiwu alone. Soon, he reached Gu Qiwu. Then, he suddenly stopped and looked down at Gu Qiwu.

"Have a seat. I've waited for you for quite a while now, and I've ordered things you like." Gu Qiwu did not look up at him as he leisurely picked up the bottle of drink and poured Qi Qiming a glass.