

Loving 1401

Chapter 1401. Not Important Anymore 4

Qi Feng spoke lightly as he raised his head and looked at Gu Lingsha.

Startled, Gu Lingsha remained silent. She opened the file slowly and started reading it in silence.

As she continued reading, her face turned pale. She could not control her tears before she got to the end of the document. The pages were soaked in her tears, and even the text became a little blurry.

After she closed the document abruptly, she clenched it, and said incoherently, "How could this be? How could it be? How is this even possible?"

"Everything you read is true, and she already admitted to it. Shasha, I know it's very difficult for you to accept this. It's difficult for me too. I've never thought that the person who kept me in this wheelchair for six years turned out to be her...Your mother, my mother-in-law. Well, you..."

Qi Feng's feelings were all over the place. He had to admit that up until now, he did not know how he should face Doris, but he figured that he should probably be feeling resentment more than anything. However, he did not have the chance to resent her, now that Doris had already passed away. His resentment was suddenly rendered useless and had nowhere to go.

Moreover, Gu Lingsha was still his wife after all.

If this had happened in the past, Qi Feng might not have been willing to let things go. However, his recent experiences made him realize that he may not be able to live well if he had chosen to do everything his way. A good relationship with Gu Lingsha besides resolving their differences would be the best solution just like Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye. It would save them a lot of trouble.

Gu Lingsha's eyes were dim with sorrow. She said with tears in her eyes, "I think this was how my mother's temperament was. I've never lost to anyone in my life, but because of my father...He treated her in such a way that she had probably lost all hope. Mu Yuchen and the others were also pressuring her, yet Father...She simply had nowhere else to go," Gu Lingsha said, sobbing and sniffing while she was in a daze.

Although she finally found out what happened and realized that the change she was going through was because of Doris, she still could not bring herself to resent her mother. She just felt sorry for herself and thought that fate was unfair. Why did she need to go through so many ups and downs? Why could she not be happy like Xi Xiaye, Zhuang Shurong, and the other women?

“There’s nothing we can do now. Crying won’t make anything better. Mother made a mistake, and there’s no turning back. Father is still lying in the hospital. This incident probably took a toll on him as well. Mother’s intention of holding Mu Lingshi hostage was to die together. It was actually for a final sense of possession over Hui Gu. You should understand what it meant to her. Now, stop putting so much pressure on yourself.”

“How can I not feel the pressure? Feng, I don’t even know how to face her now. Should I hate her or resent her? She made a mistake, after all. I still can’t bring myself to tell Grandmother about this, but Grandfather must’ve already heard about it, and this isn’t a trivial matter.”

“Let’s go with the flow and not overthink. If you’re tired, go back and get some sleep. Mother’s affairs are already being processed. I think the funeral should be simple. After all, Mother wouldn’t want it to be too grand.”

“Feng, I want to bring Mother’s body back to England. This place has given her too many unpleasant memories, and she had always wanted to leave here and return to England when she was still alive. I think, over the years, it was the only place she has ever truly felt happy. You should go back with me just to wind down and take a vacation. Morrison mentioned that you can stand up on your own now. This could be a good time to take a rest over there. You haven’t really met my grandparents yet, have you?”

As Gu Lingsha went on, she smiled at Qi Feng. “Actually, Grandfather and Grandmother are very kind to me. They told me that I’m very much like Mother, so I think they do actually care about her unlike what Mother said. After all...Don’t worry. If you are worried about being away for too long, it can be a short trip.”

“Let me think about it. There are too many things that I’ll have to deal with in advance if we were to leave for a period of time,” Qi Feng said helplessly.

“It’s your call. I won’t interfere. I’m very tired, so I’ll leave Mother’s affairs up to you. I want to see Father tomorrow. Would you like to go together?” Gu Lingsha said with hope in her eyes.

After he hesitated for a moment, Qi Feng reached out to the glass of cold water on the table and took a sip. He said in a deep voice, "I'll take you to the hospital and wait for you outside."

Gu Lingsha seemed more at ease now and she nodded quickly. Slowly, she walked past the table and made her way towards him.

...

He almost woke up late after a night of drinking.

When Su Chen woke up, it was already past seven. He would normally wake up around six o'clock, make breakfast, and sometimes clean up the house. It did not cross his mind that he would have overslept that day as the sky was still gray, and he thought it was too early.

He washed up as quickly as possible and dressed up. Ji Zitong, who was still asleep on the bed, was stirred by his movements. She looked at him with blurry eyes and saw that he was going through the documents in the bag. She said hoarsely, "What time is it? Why are you up so early? Is it already dawn?"

"It's already past seven. I have to go to headquarters for a meeting. You can sleep in. I didn't have time to make breakfast, so I've asked Secretary He to buy you some and deliver it later. Remember to have breakfast before going to work. I'm leaving now, and I'll be back in the evening. What would you like to eat? I'll go get groceries after I get off work..."

It seemed that this was the peaceful life they had been living as husband and wife. They had been married for almost a year now.

Su Chen did not know how much feelings he had developed for Zitong after such a long period of time together. He was afraid that he had gotten used to her existence. From seeing her when he got off work every day to eating together and even holding her in his arms every night before going to bed, she had become part and parcel of his life.

Habit was such a terrible thing.

Maybe Ji Zitong felt the same way.

They might not necessarily have had feelings when they got married, but after such a long period of time, they had proven to each other that they were very compatible...

Chapter 1402. Not Important Anymore 5

Ji Zitong squinted at him and was about to lie back down when she saw him lost in thought, so she could not help but ask, "Mmm, got it. I'll sleep for a while longer then. What are you thinking about? You look so entranced."

Su Chen then snapped back to his senses and a smile flashed across his lips. "Nothing. I was just thinking about what dishes you like."

Ji Zitong yawned and combed through her messy hair as she shrugged and said, "Anything's fine. Something light will be good. Let's have steamboat at home and not go out for dinner. We've been eating hearty food recently. It's a bit too much. Didn't you say that you felt hearty yesterday? I'll make a trip back to my mother's this afternoon and bring some wild chrysanthemum tea home since it's good for the liver and the eyes."

Her concerned tone made Su Chen's heart soften, and he did not disagree with the suggestion. "I'll go pick you up at noon then?"

"No need. I'll drive over myself." Ji Zitong was not the kind of delicate woman. She did not need to trouble him for such simple things because she knew that he was usually quite busy, and if he rushed to spend time with her on these, he would need to work till late at night.

"Then, go get a few sets of new clothes from Sister then. I heard a few days ago that she said the store's got some new styles for the Winter/Spring season. Your fashion needs to change up anyway," Su Chen said when he was swiftly done tying his tie. The dark-colored uniform made him look resolute and he seemed very energetic.

"It's fine, I've got it. Quickly, off to work now. I'm going to sleep a little while more."

"Mmm, remember to get up for breakfast. If you're too tired working with Mother, then it's fine to rest for a day or two," Su Chen took his hat and reminded her.

“Got it!”

“Remember!” he nagged before leaving the room.

When she heard the door close, Ji Zitong pulled up her blanket and continued sleeping.

Ever since the flower store went down, she had been pulled into learning how to manage the company from Xie Jiajia, and she had felt quite exhausted by it, but at least, right now she could handle it. Although Xie Jiajia usually looked like a cheerful person, when she was strict, she could be quite harsh. Ji Zitong took quite a while to get used to the way Xie Jiajia was distinct between her personal life and her professional life.

Su Chen felt bad for her. When he saw that she was still reading the company materials at night, he had also called Xie Jiajia personally to ask her not to torture her own daughter-in-law. Fortunately, Xie Jiajia listened to him and reduced Ji Zitong’s workload after that.

Su Chen had just left home when Ah Mo called to inform him that someone managed to trace Glenn’s tracks and wanted to ask for surveillance footage. Therefore, Su Chen quickly got Secretary He to manage it.

What happened to Doris had given Mu Lingshi quite the shock, especially since Doris had been shot dead by her side, and her blood had splattered onto her face. She could still feel part of her face that felt like it had burned by the splatter.

When she saw Ah Mo slowly hanging up, she asked softly, “How are things?”

“Qi Feng has taken over. Glenn’s still trying to slink off, but we’ve locked down his location. He didn’t leave City Z, so as long as search in time, we should be able to find him quite soon,” Ah Mo responded.

Mu Lingshi nodded and sighed. “I think no one would have expected this outcome. I didn’t want to get into all of these too, but it seems like that’s not really up to me.”

“Now that this has passed, don’t think about it too much either. I think Lingtian can rest in peace now. What are you planning to do with Gu Qiwu? His lawyer has discussed things with Li Si. Brother has silently accepted this outcome too, but we still respect your wishes first and foremost,” Ah Mo said with a downcast voice as he met with Mu Lingshi’s dim gaze. Her eyes contained a faint hint of pain.

Fate had been too harsh on Mu Lingshi, but it was not easy for her to have persisted with this attitude and outlook. Perhaps because he shared the same experience as her, he could resonate with her and sympathize with her even more.

He did not know when he became attracted to her. Perhaps, it was 10 or even 20 years ago, or even longer. Ever since he was sensible, and after all that he had experienced, the only woman he wanted to protect was just Mu Lingshi alone...

“What did Brother say? I don’t want to take on the Gu surname. I want...” Mu Lingshi muttered as she lowered her gaze and nonchalantly took a sip of the water in her cup. “After so many years now, I’ve long gotten used to being a part of the Mu family. Ah Mo, if you were me, what would you do?”

“Lingshi, listen to your heart. No matter what you do, I support your decision as long as you feel good about it. Gu Qiwu’s still hospitalized at the moment. I heard he’s regained consciousness, but his emotions and state seem a little...Brother went to visit him.”

“Brother? Or was it because of this? Why didn’t he look for me himself? Actually, I’d like to hear his opinion,” Mu Lingshi said, puzzled.

“Perhaps, he did not think it was good to say all that to you, or he was worried that you would trouble yourself. No matter what choice you make, he, Father, and Mother, as well as Grandfather will support you. I am of the same opinion as them, Lingshi. In fact, I think that perhaps you should see Gu Qiwu. Just based on the fact that he took a bullet for you, I think, at that moment, he knew deep down that you are his daughter. Besides, now that Gu Lingsha’s back, knowing her, I think she’ll look for you.”

Ah Mo’s dark eyes flickered with a concerned light as he silently looked at her. “If we don’t handle all of this follow-up well, I’m worried that a second Doris will turn up. Meanwhile, you and the Mu family cannot handle any more suffering. Do you understand?”

His tone was pertinent, and upon hearing that, Mu Lingshi's gaze dimmed. She held onto the glass in her hand tightly and did not say anything after a long while.

A while passed, then she sighed as she said calmly, "Let me think about it. My thoughts are a mess right now."

"Alright, calm down and think about it then. I'm going to the office because I've got quite a few things to handle. I heard Father and Mother's conversation when I woke up earlier. Gu Qiwu asked Brother to bail him out, so I think it'll be done in the next few days. I heard that he wants to leave this place as soon as possible and return to City B. You—"

"I've got it. Don't worry. I'll think it through. Quickly go to work then. I'll call you if there's anything. Right, does Grandfather know about this?"

"Is there anything we can hide from the old man?"

Chapter 1403. Not Important Anymore 6

When Gu Lingsha arrived at the hospital, it was around 11 in the morning and was almost noon. The hospital was still crowded, especially in the inpatient ward.

Soon, she found Gu Qiwu's ward, and from afar, she could see policemen guarding the entrance. She had almost forgotten that he was still under detention because of Wang Qin's affairs. The last time Doris made an earnest request to see him, he had been immediately taken to meet her, but he had suffered injuries. Then, he was sent to the hospital to seek treatment.

Gu Lingsha was standing outside the door. Through the window, she could see Gu Qiwu lying on the hospital bed and looking out of the window. His expression was very calm and he seemed unfazed, but it seemed like he was lonelier than before.

It was cold like a cool breeze was passing through a bleak and barren forest, and there was an indescribable sense of loneliness.

Gu Lingsha could not remember the last time Gu Qiwu had smiled at her. For as long as she could remember, her father seemed to be strict and rigid all the time. She could never understand him.

She had always remembered her father as someone who treated her mother well, and he would always try his best to give Doris whatever she wanted. Whenever he traveled or went on business trips, he would often come back with gifts for Doris and her. Gu Qiwu had never treated Doris badly. All these years, he had never gotten involved with other women, except for Mu Zixi. People always thought that he and Doris were a loving couple.

She was naïve to think that what they shared was love. Once upon a time, she had been envious and had yearned for a relationship like theirs.

However, when she looked back, many things were probably different from what she expected. Now that Gu Qiwu and Doris had been separated by life and death, could this be the end of their struggles, grievances, and resentment?

‘Could this be the end?’ Gu Lingsha thought to herself.

Still, she would not know the answer because...She thought about Doris, who was still lying in the mortuary and had already breathed her last breath...

She stood watching outside the room for a long time. Inside the room, Gu Qiwu was just lying down and looking out of the window. He appeared motionless and tired. His weary eyes longed to catch a glimpse of the soft sunlight.

After struggling for a while, she finally brought herself to enter the room. She walked in slowly and stood next to the bed while staring at Gu Qiwu, appearing conflicted.

Up until this point, she had to admit that she did have some resentment in her heart because if it was not for...Things probably would not have ended up the way they did.

Gu Lingsha’s red lips trembled, and just when she was about to say something, Gu Qiwu whose back faced her, seemed to have realized she was there, so he spoke and interrupted her thoughts, “When did you come back?”

She could not hear any emotions in his calm tone. All Gu Lingsha could think about in this deafening silence was death. Nevertheless, this silence actually suppressed the anger in her heart.

“My mother is dead. Don’t you feel sad at all?” Gu Lingsha said as she stared at Gu Qiwu’s silhouette, expressing her dissatisfaction through her tone.

“I’d have been sad if she could survive. Maybe I’ll think about it.” Gu Qiwu still had his back turned to her as he said indifferently, “Since you’re back, I assume you must’ve visited your mother. Qi Feng should have told you everything.”

Upon hearing that, Gu Lingsha’s face darkened and she glanced down. “Father, even if you haven’t treated Mother and me badly all these years, you still shouldn’t have deceived her like that! You were so unfair to her!”

“Then, how would you define fairness? Do you want to talk about fairness? Were Mu Zixi, Lingtian, and Lingshi treated with any fairness? Your mother could go to the extent of killing Lingtian for her own gain. Was that what you call fairness? You once said that if it wasn’t for Lingtian, you might not have been able to live until now. The reason you are alive is that Ling Tian traded his own life for yours. Now, he’s gone and the culprit who orchestrated the car accident was your own biological mother...”

When Gu Qiwu said this, he suddenly paused. He slowly turned around and looked at Gu Lingsha. He noticed her little face getting paler.

“Lingsha, Lingtian, and Lingshi are both your family members. One of them was your brother who traded your life with his own, while the other is your sister who has been neglected for more than 20 years. I don’t want to hurt anyone of you, and as a father, all I wanted was...I want all of you to live peacefully.”

Gu Lingsha sneered coldly when Gu Qiwu said that, “Move on and live a peaceful life? Father, do you think that’s even possible?”

“As long as there is a will, there is a way,” Gu Qiwu replied.

Gu Lingsha’s expression dulled. She looked at Gu Qiwu and finally blurted out the question, “I heard that you plan to hand the Hui Gu Corporation over to Mu Lingshi. Is that so?”

Gu Qiwu paused, then raised his head and met her gaze. He said faintly, "Is this why you are here today? You're just like your mother. You've always thought about taking over the business." He could feel her intentions crystal-clear in his heart.

Gu Lingsha smiled coldly. "You're right, but I still want an explanation. Why did Mother choose to end up like this? Don't you think you're also responsible for her death? Father, why did Mother end up like this? It's because she was pressured by all of you! All of you! Do you understand?" She was agitated as she raised her voice.

"If you want things that don't belong to you, you'll have to pay a price. I have already planned the company's affairs and I know what I should do. You don't need to come over and say anything anymore since I have my own plans."

"Plan? What plan? Are you really going to hand the Hui Gu Corporation over to Mu Lingshi? Is she even qualified? Father! I'm your daughter. If you do this, what about me? What can I do?" Gu Lingsha clenched her fists and stared at Gu Qiwu in a daze. "Now that Mother is gone, aren't you...?"

Chapter 1404. Not Important Anymore 7

Before Gu Lingsha could finish, Gu Qiwu had already cut her off unhappily, "Enough, stop now. I've already made plans. Lingsha, I've never treated the two of you poorly, but you've got to know how to be content too. I just don't want to see you two sisters be caught up in these disputes."

"Meanwhile, I owe Lingshi too much. Some things might turn out to be a burden for you in your hands. Don't go thinking that I haven't done enough for you." He looked at Gu Lingsha with that gloomy expression of his.

Yes, he did not plan to evenly hand Hui Gu over to the sisters. That way, he could still prevent infighting between the sisters just like how Qi Qiming and Wang Qin had. In the end, it could only end in tragedy!

He had already lost Mu Zixi, and then his only son, Mu Lingtian. Now, even his first wife, Doris, was gone...

All of the pressure that he had been taking on suddenly found a space to be released, especially after this incident. It instantly overwhelmed everything his heart could take.

Upon hearing that, Gu Lingsha just smiled sadly. “Father, do you feel like I’m lagging far behind Mu Lingshi? Don’t you understand why Mother recklessly risked her own life?”

Gu Qiwu’s eyes darkened as he looked at her disdainfully from the corner of his eyes. “Do you want the Hui Gu Corporation?”

Gu Lingsha bit her plump lips and continued to smile wistfully. “What else did you think? I think it’s unfair! My mother’s gone. You can’t just favor Mu Lingsha. You know how important Hui Gu was to Mother, but you were never willing to relent!”

At this moment, Gu Qiwu finally expressed what he had kept in his heart for so long, “I used to think that Hui Gu was very important too, but ever since your brother, Lingtian, passed away, I suddenly felt that it wasn’t as important anymore. I have always known that your mother wanted those shares. If she could’ve been kinder, I might have given them to her, but after considering how all of these might be exposed in time to come, and Lingshi or more people would be threatened, I couldn’t give them to her.”

“I used to think that your brother, Lingtian, died because of Mu Yuchen. I once wanted to take on Mu Yuchen, but I couldn’t ignore what consequences might come after that. I had already let Zixi down, and I know how the Mu family treats Lingtian and Lingshi. Because of this dilemma, so I couldn’t truly... I thought this secret could always be kept a secret, but unexpectedly...Otherwise, it’s not a bad thing to just keep on living peacefully like this.

Gu Qiwu’s sickly pale face suddenly flashed with a faint trace. He silently looked at Gu Lingsha, who looked sullen, as he said earnestly, “I know. Perhaps, you resent me for what happened to your mother. Everything happened because of me and should be a burden borne by me. I just don’t want you to be like your mother and trouble your sister, Lingshi. She didn’t know anything, and now she might not be willing to acknowledge me as her father. As for you, if you knew how to be more content, you might be happier.”

“Happier? Father, do you think I can even use this word at this point?”

“I will leave you some assets. I won’t treat you poorly, but when it comes to Hui Gu, I hope you won’t interject and fight for it.”

“Father!” Gu Lingsha looked at Gu Qiwu sourly.

"I'm doing this for your own good. Alright, I'm tired now. Go home," Gu Qiwu closed his eyes and coldly asked her to leave.

"To you, I'm afraid that's all there is to it while Mother and I can't compare to Mu Zixi and the rest, huh? I really feel sad for Mother. What do you think outsiders are going to think of me? Or of Mother? Father!"

Gu Qiwu did not answer while his expression was cold. Gu Lingsha's cheeks were streaming with tears...

She silently looked at Gu Qiwu who had already closed his eyes to rest. Although she wanted to say something, in the end, she said nothing. Biting her lip, she turned around and walked towards the door.

When Gu Lingsha was about to vanish through the doorway, Gu Qiwu's calm voice came through, "When you find that Hui Gu Corporation isn't actually that important, then you are qualified. You don't have the right attitude while your sister's different. This is why I'm hoping you won't interject. You're like your mother. You're too purposeful and you scheme too much. In fact, you've got Qi Feng with you..."

Upon hearing that, Gu Lingsha paused and a sarcastic smile flashed across her lips. "Father, how dare you say that Mu Lingshi doesn't have any motive or isn't scheming? She was just taking one step back in order to advance two steps forward! You owe me and Mother too much! She was forced into a corner by all of you!" she snapped before continuing to walk ahead.

Bam!

The loud crash of the door closing vibrated through the entire room.

Gu Qiwu then opened his eyes and looked with a dim gaze at the shut door. When he thought about the way Gu Lingsha slammed the door in such a crossed manner, he could only smile sorrowfully.

This was his mistake!

...

Doris's funeral took place four days after Gu Lingsha returned to City Z.

The funeral was low-profile with only people who were frequently in touch with her and some guests that Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha invited in attendance.

Gu Lingsha wanted to bring Doris home to England, but unexpectedly, after her meeting with Gu Qiwu, she fell sick with a severe cold and even had to get Morrison's help to attend Doris's funeral. Thus, the matter of returning to England had been delayed, and Qi Feng arranged for Doris's ashes to be put to rest at West Hill Cemetery.

Inside the Chairman of Glory World's office, Mu Yuchen was standing coldly before the window with his hands leisurely behind his back.

"Master, it's Doris's funeral today. The ceremony is at 10 a.m."

After reporting the day's agenda, Li Si carefully brought up the news, "Missus has sent Lan Zilang to go over."

Upon hearing that, Mu Yuchen sighed. "Make a trip there to pay respects on behalf of me too. Also, cancel this afternoon's meetings."

"Yes, Master! Second Master Qi just called. He's invited you for tea at the Bamboo Teahouse this afternoon at 3 p.m.," Li Si replied.

"Mmm, okay," Mu Yuchen answered calmly, "Has Gu Qiwu's matter been settled?"

"If everything goes well, he should be able to be bailed out by noon today, but, Master, I noticed that he doesn't seem to quite care anymore. Could it be because of Doris's passing that he now...?"

Chapter 1405. Reason To Be Strong 1

As expected, Li Si did not dare to finish his sentence. He carefully observed Mu Yuchen's face and was relieved when he noticed that his expression did not change.

"If you're able to settle the affairs, hurry up and do so," Mu Yuchen said calmly while slowly lowering his hands. Then, he turned around and walked towards the desk.

"Yes, Master! By the way, we heard from Ah Bo. They've managed to trace the person and he has been staying around Los Angeles. Ah Bo has sent someone over."

"Notify the police to go easy on the manhunt. Don't be reckless. I still want to get some information out of him," Mu Yuchen said in a deep voice while sadness flashed across his dark eyes for a moment.

Li Si naturally understood what he meant and quickly nodded. "Master, don't worry. I'll let them know!"

"Okay. You may leave now."

"Yes, Master!"

Li Si finally left. Mu Yuchen slowly sat down in the office chair, turned around, and looked out of the window. It was a beautiful winter day and it had been a while since they had a warm winter day like this.

He quietly leaned back in his chair while resting his chin on his hand and slowly closed his eyes to nap for a while.

However, without realizing how much time had passed, he suddenly picked up a light and familiar scent as a pair of soft, cold hands touched and gently massaged his temples. The pressure felt just right, and it was so comfortable that it made him feel much better.

He did not open his eyes though his mouth curved into a smile. His long arm subconsciously reached out to the side, and just as he expected, he felt her soft skirt which he gently grasped in his hand.

"Why did you come here?" his deep gentle voice echoed while he played with her skirt.

"I was bored in the office, so I came to see you. Why? Don't you want to see me?" Xi Xiaye paused and leered at him.

"Of course, I do! I get to enjoy top-notch service, so I couldn't have asked for more." He smiled tenderly and clenched the skirt in his hand. "Do you want to go out for a walk? The sun's out today. It's been a long time since we've had such warm weather."

"The sun is quite warm, but it's rather windy. I only came over to have a meal with you. I need to leave afterward to attend a meeting at the office in the afternoon. I also wanted to get a copy of the materials from you," Xi Xiaye said while gently increasing the pressure of her hands.

"Alright, I'll send you back after lunch. I'm also going to see Qi Lei at the Bamboo Teahouse."

"Qi Lei?" Xi Xiaye was taken aback and she looked at him for a while, then lowered her eyes and nodded. "Oh, he didn't go that night either. I should probably go and see him. Well, send him my regards. Also, today is Doris's funeral, you—"

"Don't worry. I have arranged for Li Si to go there. For the sake of the business relationship between Glory World Corporation and Qi Kai Group, we should go and see him." He let go of her skirt after he said that and reached out to grab her hand instead while opening his eyes.

Xi Xiaye also stopped before she turned around and walked towards the coffee table. "I ran into Li Si on my way here. He said that Gu Qiwu's affairs are completed. Lingshi called me this morning. She happened to go to the hospital for a physical examination today, so she will probably meet Gu Qiwu."

"She told you that?" Upon hearing this, Mu Yuchen gazed at her suspiciously.

"It's impossible for Lingshi to compromise. Besides, her current situation may not be fit to take over the Hui Gu Corporation. She said that she wants Gu Qiwu to continue managing the business, but to make sure that Hui Gu won't fall into Gu Lingsha and Qi Feng's hands, she has drawn up an agreement privately. Should anything happen to her and the kids, all the properties inherited under her name will be directly donated to the Glory World Corporation Charity Foundation," Xi Xiaye said with a grin.

When Mu Yuchen heard that, his black eyes glimmered with appreciation. “Lingshi is quite clever. She has already planned a future for herself, which will also prevent Gu Lingsha and the others from plotting anything.”

“I thought she wouldn’t accept this agreement.”

“It doesn’t really matter if she agrees or not. It’s a good thing for her to return to the Gu family as the heir of Hui Gu. She can then protect herself and the people she cares about from that position. This is better than watching Gu Lingsha take everything away. I’m just worried about how she’ll face Gu Qiwu alone,” Xi Xiaye replied.

“I heard that Gu Lingsha has been very sick recently, especially after meeting Gu Qiwu. I think it’s because of this. Her status in the Gu family has been destroyed, but Gu Qiwu did leave her a lot of money though.”

“Where did you hear that?” He listened and glanced at her with a smile.

“I have my ways...”

Rat-a-tat!

Before Xi Xiaye could go on, there was a knock on the door.

“Come in,” Mu Yuchen responded simply.

The secretary quickly opened the door and walked in. “President Mu, Miss Lingshi is here. She’s downstairs and she’d like to see you!”

Lingshi?

Mu Yuchen raised an eyebrow at the woman on the sofa, and replied, “Ask her to come upstairs.”

“Okay, President Mu!”

As Xi Xiaye also glanced at him in surprise, she got up and walked over to the desk. She rummaged through the documents on the desk and quickly found the one she wanted. “Forget about lunch today. Have a good chat with her. I’ll go back first.”

With a nod, Mu Yuchen wrapped his hand around her, lowered his head, and kissed her lips. He gently patted her on the head with his large hands. “You can go back first and get off work earlier tonight. I’ll go pick Zirui up tonight and we’ll have dinner somewhere. The newly released animation sounds good. I promised Zirui I’d bring him to watch it last week. It’s time to keep my promise this weekend.”

Smiling happily, she tiptoed and gave him a peck on his face. “Go ahead. Just call me later.”

She then walked towards the door swiftly.

...

Mu Yuchen smiled tenderly while his eyes were still gleaming faintly.

Just when Xi Xiaye reached the staircase, she happened to run into Mu Lingshi who had just come out of the elevator.

She was dressed in loose casual clothes and her complexion seemed good, but she had also lost a lot of weight from her struggles. People would never have guessed that she was a pregnant woman if they did not look closely.

“Sister-in-law! You’re here too?” Mu Lingshi looked at Xi Xiaye in surprise.

“You should’ve asked your brother to go back instead of coming all the way here. I only came over to get a copy of some materials. Anyway, see you!” Xi Xiaye’s slightly disapproving tone was a sign of solicitude.

Chapter 1406. Reason To Be Strong 2

Mu Lingshi smiled. "It's fine. I'm bored staying home all day anyway, so I came out to walk around. It's been a while since I've been to the company, and I wanted to visit. Is my brother busy right now?" "He's still free now. Go on in. I'm leaving."

Then, Xi Xiaye turned around to enter the elevator.

Inside Mu Yuchen's office, Mu Lingshi pushed the door to enter, and from afar, she could see Mu Yuchen steeping tea on the sofa.

"Come over and sit." Mu Yuchen hinted at the sofa across him and indicated for Mu Lingshi to sit.

With a nod, she walked over and sat down.

Mu Yuchen leisurely poured her a cup of flower tea while his lowered voice contained concern. "Are you okay with a little flower tea? Your sister-in-law said that you asked to go for a health checkup today. How have you been feeling?"

Mu Lingshi reached out to take the cup of tea. "I drink it all the time at home. It's pretty good. I'll go over later. Ah Mo went out to do something, so I'm waiting for him here and decided to come to chat with you."

Then, she lowered her head and took a sip of the flower tea and paused before continuing, "Brother, Ah Mo's already—"

However, before she could finish, Mu Yuchen already lifted a hand to stop her. He looked up quietly at her and said earnestly, "Your sister-in-law brought it up earlier. Since you've already decided on that, then do as you wish. Obey your heart. There will be many things that you'll have to take on alone in time.

"In fact, Ah Mo's a reliable person with foresight, so you can ask him if you're not sure of anything. Lingshi, I have limited capabilities. When it comes to many things, I don't want to influence your thoughts. I'm afraid there isn't much I can do."

When Mu Yuchen finished, Mu Lingshi immediately shook her head gently. Tears could not help but well up in her eyes as she felt moved. “No, Brother, you’ve done too much already. Let me handle the rest. I won’t let you and everyone else down.”

“It doesn’t matter if I’m disappointed or not as long as you do well.”

“Brother, we owe you too much! I’m sorry...I didn’t think that it would’ve been like this...Lingtian, he...I know you’re actually very sad, but I don’t know if...”

“It’s in the past now. Forget it.” Mu Yuchen lowered his gaze and silently drank his tea. “You are you, and Lingtian is Lingtian. I have always been very clear about that. I remember that from the moment I was sensible, Father, Mother, Grandfather, and Grandmother have taught me that no matter what happens, I have to take good care of my younger siblings. I have always believed in that and made it the standard.”

“Brother, thank you...If it weren’t for you, I’m afraid I...You know, when the incident with Lingtian first happened, I once felt a deep sense of loss and was dispirited for a long time, but I never dared to explode in front of you. I was afraid that you’d take it the wrong way. To me, Brother, you’re forever number one. Even Ah Mo has to stand in line. Because of you, Brother, I have a reason to be strong. Because I’m very clear that once you are struck down, we’d also...”

Upon hearing that, Mu Yuchen suddenly laughed out loud and served Mu Lingshi more tea. He smiled and said, “You mustn’t let Ah Mo hear this now. I’m happy to see the two of you blissful. In the past, I might not have known this principle, but since I married your sister-in-law, I’ve probably been influenced by her.”

Mu Lingshi smiled gladly too. She held the warm cup in her hand tightly, sighed, and said, “Yeah, even though Sister-in-law looks ordinary, she’s actually a very magical person. Even the reason I could let go and reconcile with Ah Mo was thanks to her. And to be honest, Brother, since you married her, you have changed a lot. In the past, I might not have dared face you like this, but now, you’ve become much calmer.”

“She’s a more sensitive person. Sometimes, she might not be as strong as you are.” When Mu Yuchen said this, he could not help but think of her when they first met...

“Who says so? I think that Sister-in-law is so much more excellent than I am, and only she can match you, Brother. Thankfully, it wasn’t Gu Lingsha. Otherwise, I’d have cried to death, and I wouldn’t have known whether to call you Brother or Brother-in-law!” Mu Lingshi said, and then cheekily shrugged as she said unhappily.

“From the start, it could never have been her. There is no otherwise!” Mu Yuchen shot her a side glance, but he also felt thankful at the same time. It was a blessing that they had not been happy back then. Otherwise, how could he have met Xiaye?

Mu Lingshi watched Mu Yuchen, and pursed her lips before smiling, “That’s why I say that we’re still the lucky ones. I’ve been thinking recently, to be a smart person and choose what’s best for us. Brother, do you think that I’m...?”

“I can only say that you’ve truly grown and can take things on by yourself. That way, if you can really think that way, I’ll worry less from now on,” Mu Yuchen said.

Mu Lingshi was stunned for a moment, then she nodded gently. “I understand, Brother! I’ll leave now then. Ah Mo might already be waiting for me downstairs.”

...

When she walked out of Glory World Corporation, she could spot Ah Mo waiting by the car from a distance. Mu Lingshi quickly got into the car and they went straight to the hospital.

They had an appointment with the doctor, so the checkup could be done as soon as they reached, and the whole process was quick. After about an hour, it was done.

Underneath the tree outside the hospital entrance, Mu Lingshi was looking at the photo in hand while her face brimmed with faint joy. The child was quite healthy. Compared to before, it seemed to have grown quite a bit.

She looked at it for a while, then slowly kept the photo away, but before she could look up, she already felt someone moving closer to her. She quickly glanced up and Gu Qiwu’s frail figure greeted her sight.

“How is it you?” Mu Lingshi immediately frowned.

Gu Qiwu wore a black coat. Even underneath this faint, warm sun, you could seem to notice a hint of sickly pallidness on his pale face.

Mu Lingshi did not forget that he had been hurt from before.

Gu Qiwu did not answer as he just silently looked at Gu Lingshi for a while, then looked up at the warm winter sun. After a while, he said in a lowered voice, “Let’s find a place to sit.” Then, he walked ahead.

Mu Lingshi seemed to also remember that not too far away ahead was a coffee shop. She slowly turned around and watched as Gu Qiwu gradually walked away. Then, she took a deep breath and pulled out her phone to send Ah Mo a message before following after him.

The coffee shop was less than 100 meters away. The father and daughter walked in and found a quiet corner to sit down.

Chapter 1407. Reason To Be Strong 3

If it was not for the calm conversation with her brother, Mu Yuchen, before this, Mu Lingshi might not have been willing to sit down with Gu Qiwu like this now.

Gu Qiwu considered Mu Lingshi’s pregnancy and did not order coffee. He asked for a pot of grapefruit tea and some snacks instead.

“How was the result of the examination? Are you alright?” Gu Qiwu greeted though it was rare for him to show concern.

“It’s okay. Everything is fine,” Mu Lingshi responded weakly. Her tone was somewhat robotic as she looked down at the cup in front of her. She did not intend to waste any time and wanted to be straightforward, so she continued, “ Now that the cat’s out of the bag and everything has become clear now, do you have anything to say?”

Upon hearing this, Gu Qiwu paused and his pale face was a little stiff. He stayed silent for a long time before he mumbled, “What else can I say when all the truth is laid out right in front of me?”

Mu Lingshi sneered, "Yes, a heartless person like you wouldn't be able to feel empathy. Nevertheless, you're responsible for my mother and my brother's death, even Grandmother's misfortune. I cannot fathom how you can still sit here with peace of mind."

"I should've resented Doris, but then I realized I couldn't bring myself to begrudge her. My mother and I weren't close, and neither was Lingtian...What made me sad were Big Brother and Grandmother... So, you're the one I should hate the most."

"I understand your hatred towards me, and I'm not going to ask for forgiveness. I made an agreement with Mu Yuchen which I think he should have told you about."

"I won't let my child grow up with the surname 'Gu'. I wish that he'll still have the surname 'Mu' when he grows up. In my eyes, this surname represents happiness and unity. On the other hand ...you should know that going back to the Gu family with you is something I'm strongly opposed to, but if this allows me to take some weight off my elder brother's shoulders and to protect the people that I care about, then I'm willing to accept it. Anyway, it's still better than allowing Gu Lingsha or Qi Feng to benefit from this," Mu Lingshi did not conceal her intentions at all.

Gu Qiwu looked at her silently for a long time and smiled. "It's okay. Actually, from a long time ago, I never planned to hand the Hui Gu Corporation to Shasha. She's not fit to be in charge of Hui Gu, let alone with Qi Feng alongside her."

"Do you think I'd believe you? You didn't even want to admit to us in the beginning!" Mu Lingshi said in disdain and her voice became cold.

Gu Qiwu listened as his eyes darkened. Mu Lingshi's prejudice towards him was too deep. Nothing he said would be able to change her mind about him as a father, especially in such a short time.

"It doesn't matter whether you believe it or not. What's important is that you can consider it, and that's all I ask for. I haven't been able to find the best solution for everyone. Instead of letting Doris humiliate or hurt you, staying here with the Mu family will be better than staying with the Gu family." Gu Qiwu sounded depressed, and Mu Lingshi also felt a little down for no reason after hearing that.

“I’ve been thinking a lot recently, and I’ve finally sorted out whatever happened in the past. I’m determined not to let you and Shasha go down that road like the others. After Lingtian passed away, I’ve always been in favor of you being the successor of the Hui Gu Corporation, but I can’t let you return to the Gu family right away. You know Doris very well and what she was capable of. If it weren’t for Mu Yuchen, she probably wouldn’t have fallen as quickly as she did...I’ve always thought that your brother, Lingtian, died because of him. So, emotionally, I’m also very conflicted.

“With all these conflicts, I have to be cautious dealing with Mu Yuchen. On the other hand, I had to be wary of Doris as well. Nonetheless, it’s a good thing that you could stay out of it.

“Stay out of it? Do you think I can? Even if I wanted to, your woman and your daughter probably wouldn’t have let me go! Do you resent your eldest brother for all these things and causing Doris’s death?” Mu Lingshi asked as her gaze sharpened and she gripped the cup tightly.

“Don’t think of me like that. No matter what, Doris was indeed my lawful wife, but you and Lingtian are both my children. You’re both innocent, and I care about both of you. After the incident, I hope everything can be peaceful again. I will hand the Hui Gu Corporation over to you and leave a sum of money for your sister, Shasha. I hope that you sisters can live together peacefully and not hurt each other.”

Gu Qiwu’s tone became calmer. “When my matters are done and over with, I’ll go right back to City B. I probably won’t come around much, and since Shasha has married into the Qi family, she belongs to them now. Meanwhile, I hope you and Ah Mo can go back to City B with me. All the projects in City Z will be handed over to the regional manager, so you guys don’t have to get too involved with Shasha, Qi Feng, and the others. I mentioned these conditions to Mu Yuchen, and he did say he’d like to know your thoughts about it...”

When Gu Qiwu said that, his deep eyes were gleaming faintly with hope.

“If you’re willing to take this opportunity, I’ll try my best to make up for all the responsibilities I haven’t carried out as a father. In the past few decades, I don’t really know what I was looking for. If I had this opportunity, I wouldn’t have let myself get so busy and lose sight of what’s important. I can never abandon any of you sisters. I’ll be content as long as both of you live a good life. There’s only so much I can do, and the decision is up to you, Lingshi...”

“You can think about it. You can take Ah Mo and leave here with me to return to City B, or stay here. It’s up to you to decide. You’re smart, much smarter than your mother, and I believe you’ll know what’s best for you and make the right decision.”

It was Mu Lingshi who turned quiet this time. She lowered her head and took a sip of tea before inhaling a deep breath. She turned her head and looked out of the window, not answering Gu Qiwu for a long time.

“One of these days, I’m going to meet Mr. Mu and ask him for forgiveness. I’ll also tell him about this matter and ask for his consent. You don’t have to worry...”

“You don’t need to ask him. I’m willing to leave here and return to City B with you, but I want you to promise that from now on, you will stay out of all the grievances between the Mu family and the Qi family!”

Chapter 1408. Who Will Compromise? 1

Mu Lingshi’s voice was determined and decisive while her eyes were exceptionally bright as they were fixed on Gu Qiwu. “Can you agree to this request?”

Gu Qiwu’s stiffened and surprise flashed across his eyes, yet he felt even more suppressed joy as he answered with a lowered voice, “Yes, I’ll agree to you! When we go back this time, I’ll never step foot in City Z again, and I won’t interfere with any matters or decisions between Shasha and Qi Feng. I’ll stay out of it forever!”

He agreed to her without hesitation.

Upon hearing that, Mu Lingshi took a deep breath and finished the tea in her cup and set it aside. She closed her eyes and calmed down for a long while before slowly getting up and suddenly turning around to leave.

“Let me know when you’re done arranging everything. Actually, give me a heads-up a few days in advance so that I can be prepared too,” Mu Lingshi’s calm voice floated in the air, and then her figure gradually disappeared out of the doorway.

Gu Qiwu watched her leave quietly, and he was not sure how long had passed when he suddenly felt his eyes well up with hot tears.

This was something that had never happened before...

He did not know if he could call these feelings he felt anticipation or was it something else?

...

At West Hill Cemetery, Doris's ashes were temporarily laid to rest. The funeral was a simple one. At this moment, most of the people who attended the funeral had left. Before this tombstone, only Gu Lingsha and Qi Feng were left. Of course, behind them was also the black-clothed bodyguard holding up a black umbrella for them.

The monotonous black was reflected in the black and white photo on the tombstone. Everything looked serene. The longer Gu Lingsha looked at the photo on the tombstone, the sadder she felt. Before that, when she saw Doris's body wheeled in to be cremated into ashes, she had almost fainted from crying. Thankfully, Qi Feng had supported her by the side.

Perhaps it was at this moment that she could truly feel who was the one guarding her side...

Her swollen red eyes could not cry anymore. They hurt from the dryness and had swelled up a lot. She sniffled and her voice was extremely raspy when she said, "Mother, rest peacefully here for now. When I've handled things here, after I feel better and have stabilized things, I'll bring you away from this place. We won't return to City B anymore. I know that's where you felt unhappy too, so we won't return there. Instead, I'll bring you home to England and bury you on the beach that you love, Mother..."

When Qi Feng heard that, his heart sank. His expression looked exceptionally silent as he stared at Doris's photo. After a while, he reached out to hold Gu Lingsha's hand.

"Alright now, don't be too sad. She will rest peacefully. Us doing well would be the best way to repay her."

Qi Feng did not know whether he should resent Doris. If it were not for her, he would not be like this right now, but before Doris died, she did not rat him out either. Instead, she had taken it all on herself. In fact, from her standpoint, she just wanted to let Gu Lingsha have something, so...

Perhaps many grudges ended just like that. With a person's forever silence, it gradually faded away. He was willing to let go, but with the path before him paved like that, who would truly let Qi Feng go?

Upon feeling the faint warmth from Qi Feng's hand, Gu Lingsha subconsciously held his tightly and sniffled nonstop.

"Don't think too much. I'm still here. Don't worry! I will take good care of you and Weiwei. Don't be sad now." Qi Feng was not one who knew how to console others, so saying all that was hard for him.

Gu Lingsha felt like crying even more. "I'm tired and heartbroken. It feels like someone has cut away a piece of my heart."

Gu Lingsha choked on her sobs. "When Mother was still around, no matter what happened, I wouldn't feel afraid. She was my shelter, but now that she's suddenly gone, I just...It feels like I've lost my home, Ah Feng. I'm a mess right now, and I feel helpless. You'll never leave me, right? You swore to never leave me. You won't be like mother, will you?"

When she said that, Qi Feng's eyes flashed with a rare tenderness towards her. His hand on the side lifted slightly to gently pat her arm. "I won't leave. Don't worry. Alright, we should go home now. It's cold, and you haven't recovered. It won't be good if you feel worse when we get back."

Gu Lingsha nodded and let him pull her along while the bodyguard wheeled him to slowly turn around too.

She turned to take one last look at Doris's photo on the tombstone before wiping away her remaining tears and walking for quite a distance before she pulled her gaze away. The entire cemetery fell silent again as the sound of the wind rustled past and white flowers were scattered all over the ground before the tombstone. There was also a chill that made one short of breath in the air.

After a moment, at the foot of West Hill Cemetery, a black luxurious car slowly stopped by the side.

The car stopped for quite a while before Ah Yong carefully turned around to say to Gu Qiwu who was resting with his eyes shut in the back seat, "Boss, we've reached West Hill Cemetery."

Upon hearing that, Gu Qiwu opened his tightly shut eyes. After a few days of being detained, he looked much frailer. Even his eyes were not as sharp and imposing as before, and he seemed to have dimmed quite a bit like someone who had lost much vigor.

That would not be surprising. How could he not be hit hard by something like this?

"Go up and take a look on my behalf. Just get a bouquet of calla lilies. I won't be going up," Gu Qiwu said in a lowered voice. He did not want to go up and face Doris anymore even if she was...

Then, he shut his eyes again, appearing dazed and beaten overall.

"Boss...calla lilies are Miss Mu Zi's favorite flowers. Missus likes..." Ah Yong softly reminded.

"I know. Just give her a bouquet of calla lilies. I've always yielded to her. I want her to understand now that I won't always be so accommodating. Go, I'll wait for you in the car. You don't need to say anything. Just tell her I don't want to resent her either. If she can let all of this go with her passing, then I will be thankful."

The heavy tone of his voice made Ah Yong's heart sink. Soon, Ah Yong finally nodded, pushed open the car door, and slowly got down from the car.

Ah Yong might not understand all these grudges between the boss and Doris, but he knew that her passing did make the boss sad.

His boss might not actually be as indifferent as he seemed...

Chapter 1409. Who Will Compromise? 2

As the cool breeze swept through the bamboo forest in the afternoon, the sound of the bamboo rustling echoed through the air, and the clicking of the bead curtain swaying could be heard.

In a secluded room, Qi Lei sat down and ordered a pot of tea.

When Mu Yuchen arrived, Qi Lei had already flipped through several magazines and drank a few cups of tea.

“Have you waited for long?” Mu Yuchen sat opposite Qi Lei and handed him a folder. “The documents are ready and you can go through them. Liu Lingyu has been busy lately. The preliminary work is almost done so you can go there and have a look.”

Qi Lei quickly took the folder but did not open it immediately. “I trust you.”

He raised his hand to pour Mu Yuchen some tea and said, “Doris’s funeral was very simple. It wasn’t crowded and no one from England visited. This incident was definitely a big blow to Gu Lingsha and Qi Feng, so they probably won’t have the mood to plot anything for a while. It’s almost the end of the year, and everyone is going to be busy. Qi Kai Group’s general shareholders’ meeting will be held right after the New Year.”

Mu Yuchen picked up the teacup and took a sip, then said lightly, “I also want to have a peaceful year. There’s something about Qi Kai that you should be warier about. It’s about what I told you regarding Xi Xinyi before.”

Qi Lei raised his eyebrows and hesitated upon hearing that. “Xi Xinyi? Is she getting transferred to where Han Yifeng is?”

“The conditions I gave her before could be a good thing given the circumstances and uncertainty right now.”

Mu Yuchen’s voice was calm but Qi Lei could not help but smile. “You really are a competent brother-in-law, constantly worried about everything. You’d probably feel less exhausted if you had less conscience. Just the affairs about Mu Zixi alone are enough to drag you down. Sometimes, I really admire your courage.”

“Life must go on even when you’re exhausted. Comfort is for the dead. A comfortable life isn’t handed on a platter to you. You have to always fight for it. If you have any thoughts, you need to take action . Otherwise, you’ll be very passive in the future. People like us can’t just compromise on everything.”

At this point, Qi Lei could not help sighing faintly. He finished his cup of tea and said, “You’re right. We can’t just compromise.”

“As long as you get the idea. You should know what to do and I won’t interfere,” Mu Yuchen lowered his eyes and said calmly.

Qi Lei nodded. “Never mind. These are family matters anyway, so let me handle them myself. I know what to do.”

He did not want to let Mu Yuchen interfere either. The problems between Qi Feng and him could only be solved personally so as not to involve the innocent. After all, a depressed person like Qi Feng might end up like Doris if he had nowhere else to go.

Qi Lei had nothing to worry about since he had nothing to lose, but Mu Yuchen was different. He still had to think about Xi Xiaye and the Mu family.

He had to admit that he held some respect and admiration towards Xi Xiaye in his heart. Although it was nothing more than that, he could not bear to let her go through any trouble. The reason he met Mu Yuchen today was to clarify those things .

After pouring a cup of tea, Qi Lei looked down at the fragrant tea in front of him in silence and continued, “I’ve always been a person who doesn’t simply accept help from others, but, Chen, I really appreciate you and Xiaye. You’re intelligent, and if I were in your position, I’d probably do everything I can to my opponent considering the relationship with Xiaye. Instead...you have the generosity that I don’t, and I admire you for that.”

Mu Yuchen smiled after hearing his words and he shook his head disapprovingly. “No, I might not be as accepting as you are. At least, in Qi Feng’s case, I probably wouldn’t stay silent if I were you. You can say that I’m more realistic as I only keep people who are worth something by my side and be genuine with them just like you. The biggest difference between you and Qi Feng is that you are pure, righteous, and peaceful by nature, and I think we can be friends.”

Qi Lei also smiled and sipped his tea, then he said, "Your guess is indeed accurate. I am honored."

"We are just pursuing a win-win situation. I'm a businessman myself, and I've always sought after benefits. I haven't suffered any losses when working with you, so you don't have to thank me. You always put in a lot of thought and effort when it comes to things like these, far more than I do. Really, I should say thank you just based on the fact alone. However, I hope that we'll never need to mention this between us," Mu Yuchen said sincerely, moving Qi Lei's heart.

"Such humility coming from you is rather uncommon, Mu Yuchen. Xi Xiaye made the right decision to choose you. Fine, I won't be a stranger and make polite conversation next time. After getting these documents today, you don't have to worry about me anymore. I can handle them. The Hui Gu Corporation is now in Mu Lingshi's hands, so Qi Kai, Qi Feng, and the others are probably brazen in their assurance. I'm afraid it's a little difficult for me to come forward now, but I'll try my best to arrange your request.

"Also, in the coming future, we should meet less and you should have less contact with Qi Kai and his people so as not to aggravate Qi Feng. If he could do this to me, he can definitely do the same to you. It's better for you to just stay put and keep quiet," Qi Lei reminded him in a heavy tone.

Mu Yuchen raised his gaze at Qi Lei who had a serious look on his face. "Can you handle it?"

"I can handle it. Don't worry. The worst that can happen is losing. I'm not afraid as I have nothing to lose. What else can I lose?" Qi Lei said sarcastically, "I sold some of the shares from some foreign companies that I joined, and my mother also left me a lot of money over the years. It won't be hard to financially support the new company."

"But you still need to watch Qi Feng's actions. Also, I heard that someone from the Wang family contacted you." Mu Yuchen glanced at him.

Qi Lei's eyes darkened and he lowered his head to drink his tea. "I have nothing to do with them anymore."

When Mu Yuchen could hear the bitterness in his tone, he stayed silent for a while. He did not question him any further and both of them continued drinking their tea in silence.

Chapter 1410. Who Will Compromise? 3

Even though Gu Qiwu got bail, he could not leave City Z immediately. In the time that came, he stayed at the Gu family mansion, and only managed Hui Gu remotely.

It was great that the higher management of the company handled things well, so the crisis this time around was still manageable in terms of how it affected Hui Gu.

After Doris's incident, things seemed to have slowly quieted down. The entire city soon returned to its usual calm.

With the days that passed, the New Year grew closer. There was a lot of work closer to the end of the year. Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye both started work early and ended late, what more Su Chen and the rest. For quite a while, apart from the occasional phone call, they did not have time to meet up.

The weather grew colder and colder. After the huge snowfall in the north when a cold wave quietly struck City Z, Elder Mu and Mu Yinan went to meet Gu Qiwu at Bamboo Teahouse while he was sick.

Gu Qiwu was not as cold as he usually was before Mu Yinan. Only his quiet, apologetic behavior remained. At least, when he faced Mu Yinan, he could not help but hold himself back.

Mu Yinan was a man who had gone through many hardships. Right now, sitting before Gu Qiwu, he was calm. His peaceful eyes did not shift much, but when he looked at Gu Qiwu, the latter felt pressured in ways he did not understand.

Gu Qiwu did not even know how to begin. From what he remembered, he probably had not sat like this with Mu Yinan for decades now.

After a while, Mu Yinan suddenly frowned. He wiped his mouth with a napkin and coughed for a long while until there was sweat on his forehead.

When Gu Qiwu saw that, he quickly poured him a cup of tea. "Uncle Mu, please have some tea."

Mu Yinan took a deep breath and held back the discomfort in his throat as he looked at the cup of tea that Gu Qiwu handed him. He fell silent for a long while before reaching out to accept it and taking a brief sip.

“Do you know why I’ve come to see you?” You could hear the age in Mu Yinan’s lowered voice. Gu Qiwu also saw that his hand seemed to be trembling slightly as he held the teacup.

The old man did not seem very energetic, and there was a sickly pallor on his face.

Gu Qiwu nodded silently. Had it been in the past, he might have been a little more unyielding before Mu Yinan, but right now, he understood that he owed them too much. “I owe the Mu family a lot, whether it’s Zixi or Lingshi and the rest...”

“If their grandmother was still around, I might not have been willing to meet you,” Mu Yinan said in a lowered voice.

“I’m sorry, I...” Gu Qiwu wanted to apologize when he knew that these words were the most useless thing in the world.

“There’s no point harping on these things anymore. You don’t need to say more. I didn’t come to see you today to hound you on taking responsibility. I’ve been thinking a lot in recent days. Back then, the Gu family was interested in being connected to the Mu family by marriage, but when I considered the Mus and the Gus’ relationship that gradually grew colder, and the fact that I didn’t want my daughter to be sacrificed for a family clan’s benefit, I let her decide on her own marriage and respected her choices. I didn’t recommend her to marry into the Gu family, and I didn’t want to let a scheming person like you be the son-in-law of the Mu family.”

At this point, Mu Yinan could not help but sigh deeply while his aged eyes held an indescribable sense of blame for himself. “Back then, Zixi was already reacting oddly. I thought it was because she didn’t want to make things difficult for me, so she was against it, but I didn’t expect that...”

“It was I who went after Zixi first, Uncle Mu...”

“There’s no need to say that. Zixi was wrong in this too, and so were we, but the bigger fault lies with you. As a man, not only did you not take on the duty of protecting your woman, but as a father, you didn’t take on the duty of raising your children too. You have failed terribly. This proves that my judgment was right back then. Gu Qiwu, you’re an irresponsible person. My daughter would’ve done better marrying a pig or dog than an animal like you.”

Even though Mu Yinan spoke these angry words, his tone was very calm. He had no more energy to go after these things anymore because...

“Ah Shi has told me about her considerations and thoughts. I’m old now, so I’m afraid I don’t have many years left...” Mu Yinan sighed.

“No, Uncle, you’ll live long!” Gu Qiwu did not know why, but despite being quite indifferent initially, he suddenly felt his heart clog up upon hearing Mu Yinan say that. He seemed afraid of the idea of death.

“I know my own body. After their grandmother passed away, I’ve grown weary and death will probably come in the next few years. It is because I’ve gone through too many struggles and misery that I don’t want to see my children suffer through such long misfortunes. I’ve let go. As long as the children are happy, as a man in my final years, I’m content.”

“Uncle, I—”

“It’s alright. Let me finish.”

Mu Yinan breathed in, had a sip of tea, and continued again, “I understand Ah Shi’s thoughts very well. She’s afraid that she will burden Ah Chen and the rest. The fact that you came to this means that you must have thought it through as well. From a long-term perspective, this might not be a bad idea. Leaving this place, being miles away, and returning to your turf, you can protect them well. On one hand, you could also avoid any unnecessary conflict. It is indeed a solution with the best of both worlds.”

“Uncle, are you agreeing to it?”

When Gu Qiwu heard that, he looked at Gu Qiwu in disbelief. He thought that Mu Yinan would be incredibly difficult, or at least reprimand him a little, but...

“What did you think that? Will reprimanding you and making you pay some price calm this anger? I, Mu Yinan, will not do such a thing, but don’t feel like you’ve gotten away. I’m willing to let you go for the children. I don’t want anything on my end to cause them any burden. I already can’t do much for them, and I don’t want to hold them back further. I will hold back all of these unhappy grudges, and even if I can’t let them go in the end, I’ll let them leave with me,” Mu Yinan said, yet he did not know that Gu Qiwu felt sad and guilty as he listened.