

Loving 141

Chapter 141. Xiaye Went Crazy (1)

Because they just had a meal at the Shen Residence, Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye did not really eat much. They just ate a little and drank half a bowl of soup.

Things were getting lively after dinner as fireworks shot up into the sky everywhere. A tiny spark shot up high into the night sky, and boom! It lit up the town beautifully.

Stars blanketed the night sky and the cold wind seemed a little lonely, but that was not enough to stop the people from having fun...

Mu Yuchen came out of the bathroom with a black sleeping robe around him. He did not see the woman anywhere in the bedroom. After thinking for a while, he exited the bedroom after tying his sash.

It was quiet in both the living room and the study room. She was probably downstairs mingling with the others or just watching television.

He sat down on the sofa slowly. As he turned the television on, he saw a pack of cigarettes on the side table, so he casually took one out and lit it up.

After several puffs of smoke, he heard the explosion of fireworks from downstairs. He turned his head over to the balcony, then he realized that someone was setting fireworks off right in the yard of his house. He could hear their voices all the way from outside.

He flicked the cigarette on the ashtray before walking towards the balcony.

He leaned against the balcony railing. As expected, he saw the servants and his family playing with fireworks happily. The colorful, sparkling fireworks went off one after another. Even he felt slightly cheered up inside.

He looked around with his eyes and soon noticed the petite woman standing by the side above the staircase. She was gazing up at the fireworks quietly...

She stood underneath the fireworks in silence and observed them with a peaceful smile. It was much different from the usual cold vibe she gave off.

“Missus, come over and play too!”

A servant handed her a lit sparkler, but she smiled and shook her head. “You guys go ahead. I’ll just watch.”

“Master!”

Xi Xiaye turned around when she heard someone yell. She looked over and saw the man on the balcony.

She saw the man casually smoking a cigarette there, and his eyes were definitely fixed on her.

She hesitated for a moment before going back inside the house.

When she went into the room, he was not on the balcony anymore. The curtains were closed and only a dim light by the side living room was switched on, emitting a weak yet warm light. A source of light came from the half-closed door of the study room as well.

She closed the door and went into the study room quietly.

She saw him reading casually beside the tall bookshelf when she pushed the door open. She observed quietly for a moment. Then, she turned around and poured a glass of water before entering the room.

The man, who was focused on his book, was alerted when he heard the sound of footsteps. Lifting his head and looking towards the entrance, her tiny figure came into his vision. His dark eyes brightened up slightly.

“Why don’t you join them?” He asked gently.

Xi Xiaye went over to him slowly and handed the glass of water to him, sighing, "I feel that it's way past my age to play with fireworks now, and your family's playing mahjong..."

He laughed and took a sip from the glass as he closed the book. "Well, it's only usual for the New Year, so get used to it."

Xi Xiaye smiled. "Mmm, it's not bad this way. Grandpa and Mother are probably watching some New Year special programme on TV now too. Although they do more or less the same thing every year, they kind of usher in the New Year spirit."

"Didn't Grandmother ask you to play and offer to become your strategist?"

Mu Yuchen did not forget that Wang Hui had mentioned that she would get Xi Xiaye to play mahjong that night and she would be her strategist in the back.

Xi Xiaye was too embarrassed to admit that she had almost lost all of Wang Hui's money. Anxious, Wang Hui had interfered to play again in order to win back her money again.

Mu Yuchen could guess what had happened judging from her disappointed look. He handed the book to her as he walked towards the table. "They've been playing for the past two decades. Of course, you're not going to win easily."

She put the book back onto the shelf and asked as she looked at the huge collection of books, "Do you always spend time like this during the New Year?"

"I've stayed abroad the past few years. I rarely celebrated it because I wasn't at home. Usually, I just rested at home." He grabbed his phone on the table as he put his arm over Xi Xiaye's shoulder and walked outside. "Let's go. I'll watch TV with you."

"The TV programmes are a little..."

She followed his steps as she glanced at him, reluctant to watch television. She thought about it for a bit and then said, "Let's play chess. Don't you have a chessboard here?"

She had not noticed it the last time she came, but this time there was a Go board beside the coffee table.

“What reward do I get if I win?”

A certain businessman showed his true colors as soon as Xi Xiaye suggested her proposal. He stared at her in the eye.

She halted her steps and wiggled her eyebrows. “You’ll know after you defeat me!”

“It’ll be better if we make the terms clear now.”

He stopped his steps as well and looked down at her from above with his height advantage. She seemed much smaller after she took her high heels off.

She took a deep breath and shrugged. “Alright then. Tell me what you want. I’ll make sure to fulfill what you want as long as it’s within my capabilities.”

“Anything? Including your kiss?” He said casually, his dark eyes brightening and looking at her with a smile.

Xi Xiaye was stunned. Her face blushed as she clenched her fists. She waved them before him. “Including this as well!”

Mu Yuchen raised his eyebrows. It was not his first time seeing this side of hers. He went silent for a moment and then let out a laugh. “Missus, actually when I saw you for the first time, I thought of you as a quiet and beautiful lady.”

Xi Xiaye was surprised to hear such high praise from him. She chuckled. “Am I really as good as you thought?”

“Afterwards, I realized I still need to work on my vision. It’s only complete if I can see through a person’s true nature. Sadly, I can’t return my goods now,” he mumbled as he patted her little head. A perfect curve of a smile appeared on his handsome face.

Chapter 142. Xiaye Went Crazy (2)

After taking some time, Xi Xiaye finally understood what he meant. She squinted at him and said coldly, “So, you’re dissing me now, are you?”

He turned around and laughed before he grabbed her. Then, he sat down on the sofa as he teased her gently, “Nope, how dare I diss my own wife?”

“You don’t dare to or you don’t know how to? You’ve already said it out loud just now. Do you think I’m stupid?”

Xi Xiaye started to set up the Go board. She placed a black piece first. “You’ll have to let me get a three-piece advantage before you as a punishment.”

Mu Yuchen smiled as he put a white piece on the board, staring at her in the eyes. “If you’re this smart and charismatic when you face other people, I’m sure that you won’t get taken advantage of.”

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment. She did not say anything and was just focused on the board.

Mu Yuchen stopped talking as well. He poured her a glass of water, and the real fight between them started.

Soon, even Mu Yuchen had to admit that the woman before her was a true expert at Go chess. He had finally found himself a worthy opponent!

After a long war, he defeated her by half a piece and was genuinely surprised, but the expression on his face seemed calm as usual. He smiled at the defeated woman opposite him.

“Missus, it’s time to fulfill your promise.”

He pushed the board away as he looked at her with other intentions in his eyes.

“Can I owe you first, Mr. Mu?” She put her hand on her forehead and glanced at him embarrassedly.

“Do you think I’d let you owe me?” He said ever so calmly. He was separating the black and white pieces on the board while saying something that made her so embarrassed, but he just acted very naturally.

“I knew that you’d try to get away with it, Director Xi. You have to change this bad habit of yours. I might have to reconsider your future promotion.”

Damn it!

How was this related to her work?

She frowned at him and said, “You can’t use your position as Chairman Mu to bully me. I don’t care how powerful you are in the office, but I get to have the final say at home. Otherwise, I’d be at a serious disadvantage. Why do I have to listen to you both at work and at home? Where are my human rights?!” She voiced out her opinions unhappily.

Mu Yuchen was shocked by her words. He leaned his body slightly as he looked at her and laughed. As he ran his fingers through her long hair and patted her head, a rarely seen tenderness appeared in his eyes. “The foodie has finally realized she has human rights too! Are you going to become the queen now?”

“Are you going to obey?” She raised her head from his arms and looked at him with her crystal-clear eyes.

He did not reply and just looked at her with a gentle smile.

After some silence, she pressed against him with a strained face. “If you don’t obey, I’ll...”

“You’ll what?” He asked quietly.

“I’ll eat you up!” She yelled loudly as she jumped onto him. Mu Yuchen was pressed down on the sofa. Her eyes brightened as she looked at Mu Yuchen under her. “I’m being serious here. I’ve thought about it thoroughly. We’re purely colleagues in the office. You can’t expose our true relationship as I think I enjoy my current work life, and I don’t want to change it. I want to be low-profile. You’re the boss at the company, so I’ll listen to whatever you say, but after we get off work, I’m the boss!”

It weighed heavily on the next few decades of their life. She could not always be under him although he was the high and mighty Chairman Mu...

Mu Yuchen grabbed her small waist as he covered her left shoulder. He observed the serious-looking woman on top of him with interest in his eyes. After some thought, he replied, “Given that my basic rights are protected, this matter is negotiable.”

“So, does that mean you agree?”

Her eyes brightened. She was overjoyed when he nodded, totally missing the mischievous look in his eyes.

“Since I’ve made such a sacrifice, shouldn’t you reward me?”

His magnetic voice was extremely seductive as he narrowed his eyes at her.

“What do you want?”

She lowered her body and her long hair fell onto him. She barely realized that she ignited fireworks inside someone’s pants and he was very tempted to commit a crime now.

“Don’t you know it very well?” He said as his grip on her waist tightened. Anyone could get what he obviously meant, and Xi Xiaye was no exception. She was distracted for a moment while she looked into his deep eyes. She felt like she was being hypnotized. After hesitating for a while, she left a kiss on his lips.

Mu Yuchen would never let this chance slip away. He locked her head down with his large hand while his other hand on her waist moved higher to support the left side of her body, afraid that he might injure her wound again.

...

Suddenly, he felt that kissing her was addictive. He wanted to take more away from her.

He never thought that there would be a day he could not suppress his own luscious desires. Suddenly, he could feel his restraint fading away. He had once regretted such feelings before.

He would never look for any woman for two simple reasons: one was to not give him any chance to make such a cheap mistake since society would not let him off easily with these mistakes, and the second was that a woman that made him feel comfortable had never appeared before him.

For some reason, the above reasons did not apply to her. Of course, he would not push such feelings away since they were married anyway. He should be able to embrace all of her, and at the same time, he should belong to her as well.

As they were getting intimate, she noticed him protecting her left shoulder and it warmed her heart. She put her hands onto his face and kissed him...

The temperature in the room spiked up!

Ka-chak—

After some time, the door suddenly creaked open, and the two of them had no idea at all.

Chapter 143. Xiaye Went Crazy (3)

“Cough, cough!”

A light cough was finally heard. Almost in an instant, Xi Xiaye rolled off of Mu Yuchen like a frightened cat and Mu Yuchen shot up very quickly too, reaching out to protect her.

“Mother! Father!”

Xi Xiaye subconsciously looked at the door and noticed that at that moment, Zhuang Shurong was standing by the door looking awkward as she remained composed and graceful. In fact, Mu Tangchuan was standing right behind her too!

She had almost screamed out loud in shock. Her beautiful, delicate face was blushing all over as she turned to the man beside her at a loss. However, she noticed that he remained extremely calm and did not even take a glimpse at the door. His first reaction was to swiftly help her fix her clothes.

She then noticed that amidst their affections earlier, the button at her chest had already been undone and her shoulder was also revealed. There was even a faintly discernible black lacy strap peeking out. Meanwhile, his robe was terribly messy and the sash at his waist had loosened, showing off his muscular chest...

In this scene, Xi Xiaye wanted to go crazy and shriek, then bury herself into a crack in the ground. She could not care less about anything else, so she immediately hid behind him.

After Mu Yuchen helped her button her shirt up, he unhurriedly fixed his sash, then turned to the door. Mu Tangchuan had already turned to walk away while Zhuang Shurong just looked away a little awkwardly towards the plant by the side.

“Why didn’t you knock before coming in?”

He inhaled and his voice still had hints of raspiness. He seemed very upset that their moment had been interrupted. After so long, he had finally cultivated this moment of tenderness.

Zhuang Shurong cleared her throat again. Seeing that they had already pulled themselves together, she said, “Earlier, your father knocked for a long time, but we didn’t hear your response. Chen Er, your father’s looking for you. Go to the study room with him. Xiaye, tomorrow’s the first day of the New Year. Your grandmother and I are going to the temple to pray tomorrow morning. Follow us. At the same time, we can pray for a child at the Guanyin Temple.”

Zhuang Shurong had just finished when Mu Tangchuan's voice rang out. "Forget it. It's fine to talk about it tomorrow. Xiaye, follow your grandmother and mother tomorrow. We'll go down first. Your grandmother's cooked some supper downstairs. If you're hungry, then come down. Otherwise, you two can continue!"

Before Xiaye could react, he had already dragged Zhuang Shurong out and closed the door.

When she heard the door shut, she looked out from behind him at the door. Upon confirming that it was closed, she then could not help but wail, her hands covering her little face.

Ruined!

Her image was ruined just like that!

What would Zhuang Shurong and Mu Tangchuan think of their daughter-in-law?

How embarrassing!

All because of him!

She angrily put her hands down and glared up at him. However, she noticed that he was looking at her calmly, his deep eyes holding a trace of amusement.

She buried her forehead in her hands. Blushing furiously, she panted and then could not help but pick up a bolster from the side to throw at him. "It's all because of you! Return me my reputation!"

Mu Yuchen caught the bolster she tossed with one hand and smiled. "They'll just pretend they didn't see that. What are you nervous about? We aren't shy and young students. This is something that everyone knows about."

"You, of course, don't think it's anything. The person that's embarrassed is me! Why did I do something so embarrassing?"

She was even pushing him down as she complained, and the way it looked...

“Enough. I already said it’s fine. If you still feel uncomfortable, just say that I forced you. Go and take a shower first. I’ll go out to take a look.”

He put the bolster down, patted her head, and softly consoled her. Seeing her little face that was exploding in humiliation, he could not help but reach out to touch her lightly.

She angrily turned her head away and ignored him.

He laughed helplessly before making his way past the sofa. “I’ll prepare the bath for you. Take a bath first. They already saw it no matter how much you fuss about it. Let loose a little more. We aren’t doing anything bad that we should feel guilty about.”

...

After he left the room, Mu Yuchen went straight to Mu Tangchuan’s study room.

They were discussing work-related matters and Mu Tangchuan’s phone kept ringing. One could already guess what had happened. He was currently in a high and important position, so on festive days like this, many people would call and text him with greetings.

Those in the political scene knew how Mu Tangchuan was like. He seemed gentle and cultivated, yet he was an iron fist through and through. He conducted himself honestly and maintained a great reputation in politics. Most of all, he was considered supported with love and respect by the people.

Part of Mu Yuchen’s personality had been inherited from him. He was gentle and profound with a pair of keen eyes that could see through everything.

“I know Glory World is also fighting for the project at the South River. I’ve already discussed this with Mayor Xi. We won’t side with any one of you. The government will make the assessments based on your proposals, plans, and all the other aspects combined. Finally, they’ll choose the best collaborator. I can

only urge you to pay attention to Qi Kai Corporation. This company should be Glory World's strong competitor, and they might go into an alliance with a very strong partner from abroad..."

"Okay, Father, that's enough. Regarding the South River project, Glory World is determined to win. You don't need to break your rules for me. I know what to do."

Before Mu Tangchuan could finish, Mu Yuchen had already interrupted him. He lifted a hand elegantly to serve Mu Tangchuan tea as he said calmly, "The launch of Glory World's Imperial Entertainment City will be on the seventh day of the New Year. Will you and Mother be coming over?"

Mu Tangchuan lowered his head to take a sip of tea as he answered, "No, we probably haven't returned to City Z on the seventh day. There are many places we need to visit in the New Year. Your mother's quite busy too. She needs to make a trip to City S on the sixth day of the New Year, so she probably won't be able to rush back by the seventh."

Mu Yuchen nodded, calmly sipping his tea. Then, he set the cup aside and got up unhurriedly. "Got it. It's the New Year. Don't be so busy with these work matters now. Isn't Grandmother preparing supper downstairs?"

"Mmm, she cooked some light dishes. Go down and have a glass or two. By the time we finish eating, it should be time to count down to the New Year." Mu Tangchuan got up too.

"I've gotten Ah Mo to bring a few bottles of red wine over from Maple Residence. That wine tastes pretty excellent. You can try it. I'll go and call Xiaye." Mu Yuchen moved over.

When he heard Mu Yuchen mention Xiaye, Mu Tangchuan recalled the scene from earlier and unexpectedly teased his son, laughing, "Chen Er, your wife is quite like your mother. Your mother... likes it like that too. That position... She doesn't like to be at the bottom..."

When Mu Tangchuan said this, Mu Yuchen was instantly stunned. He looked a little flabbergasted that his usually composed and stern father would talk about such things with him.

Perhaps, because he noticed Mu Yuchen's reaction, Mu Tangchuan then smiled. "We're all men. What's there to be awkward about? Your parents have been young once too. Didn't we make it through all these years?"

Chapter 144. Father and Son Conversation

Mu Yuchen's calm, handsome face flashed with a rare uneasiness. He thought about it, then replied, "She lost at chess, and I..."

He did not need to finish the rest of his sentence. The father and son exchanged a look, the kind of look that only men would understand.

Mu Tangchuan then chuckled before sighing, "You're not that young anymore either. You're going to be 31 soon. Before this, we've been waiting for you to get married. Now, we're looking forward to you being a father. Chen Er, push away all those worldly possessions. There's isn't much a man can hold onto. Your grandparents and parents can't be with you until you're old. Even your children will leave you to lead their own lives in the future. The only person who can stay with you is the woman in your arms. So, you have to treat your wife, Xiaye, well."

Mu Yuchen did not quite know how to respond to Mu Tangchuan's words. In his impression, his father was not the sort to say such sentimental things to him.

He fell silent for a moment, then calmly looked up at Mu Tangchuan and asked, "Then, Father, how do you see Mother? I know that previously you didn't love each other."

Mu Yuchen was right. Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong had been forced into an arranged marriage by their parents. After getting married, the husband and wife continued to be busy with their own careers. They had been married for more than 30 years. Based on what Mu Yuchen recalled, he had never seen them argue.

It was not that Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong did not have any conflict between them and were always this harmonious. It was just that every time a conflict happened, Mu Tangchuan would compromise. No matter how Zhuang Shurong flipped out, he would just pretend to be deaf and mute, or just hide. Then, he would appear again a few days later, and it would all be fine.

"The term 'love each other' has a very deep meaning. Until now, I still can't differentiate whether I have a kinship of love for your mother. Just because you're all grown up, you should know her well too. I

really can't get ahold of her. However, since I've married her, and she's now your mother and my woman, I've got to let her be. Sometimes, over these years I just treat her like my daughter. Would you make life difficult for your daughter?"

When he spoke about Zhuang Shurong, Mu Tangchuan did not look quite indifferent. His extraordinarily dark eyes that were similar to Mu Yuchen's oozed with a faint tenderness.

Observing Mu Tangchuan, Mu Yuchen seemed to be able to predict his days with Xi Xiaye in the future. He was afraid they would not be able to live so peacefully. They did not need to fuss about whether it was love, or whether they liked each other. The point was that as deep as one's love may be and as perfect as an ending could be, it seemed to just evolve into a familial love that was meant to be guarded for life.

It was as simple as that.

He fell silent for a while, then Mu Yuchen suddenly said, "Actually, since I was young, I was most grateful for you and Mother. It wasn't so much about how great of a life you gave me, but the role models that you two have unintentionally been for me. You have influenced and encouraged me."

His tall figure shifted over and walked under the dim, yellow wall lamp. "I hope that Xiaye and I can be like the two of you. As for all the unhappiness in the past, it'll all be put to a full stop here. No more bringing it up... Can you fulfill this request of mine?"

Then, before Mu Tangchuan could answer, he had already walked out the door and left.

"Chen Er..."

He had just walked out the door when he saw Zhuang Shurong right before him. She had a peculiar expression on her face; she must have heard a lot of their conversation.

Mu Yuchen nodded and said softly, "I'm going back to call Xiaye."

“Go ahead. The dishes are being prepared downstairs. I don’t think she ate much tonight,” Zhuang Shurong responded, and Mu Yuchen picked up his pace to walk out.

As she watched her son’s fading shadow along the corridor, Zhuang Shurong could not help but sigh softly. When she turned over, she noticed that her husband had already walked over.

“Why did you say all of these things to your son? Who’s your daughter?”

A rare and suspicious blush crept across Zhuang Shurong’s composed and beautiful face as she fixed her gaze on Mu Tangchuan.

Mu Tangchuan laughed gently. “Aren’t I just teaching our son to properly manage his marriage and family?”

“What Chen Er said... Do you think he’s still blaming me for it? With his intelligence, I’m afraid he’s long figured out the whole thing. Watching him get along pretty well with Xiaye, I... I’m guessing that the two of you are father and son indeed. Even your taste in women is the same. Years ago, your imagination also ran wild with Wenna. Now that your son’s fancied Wenna’s daughter... The mother and daughter have such remarkable resemblance...”

“What nonsense are you spouting? What wild imagination? If I did, would I have had such a grown-up son with you? How is Shen Wenna as amazing as you, Chief Zhuang?” Mu Tangchuan smiled in amusement at his frowning wife.

Zhuang Shurong shot him a side look. She breathed in and said, “Do you think Wenna and Xi Mushan really ended just like that? Who’s that Yue Lingsi anyway? During our schooling years, she was just part of Wenna’s little posse just because of her family background! Xi Mushan has really gone and done it... Wenna’s life has been ruined by the two of them...”

“What do we know about other’s family matters? Let them be. We should just watch after ourselves.”

Mu Tangchuan heaved a long sigh. “I can tell that Wenna didn’t get over Xi Mushan all these years. Sometimes, I really don’t understand you women. Since he’s already decided to leave, why should she still be so hung up?”

“You’re wrong about this. Sometimes, it might not be about being hung up. It’s about giving up. With Wenna’s personality, it would be like that. However, if it were me, I wouldn’t let go of them so easily! People who betray me must pay horribly. Then, I’ll find the next good stop and relive my glory!” Zhuang Shurong’s tone was resounding while her gaze flickered with determination.

“The way you are, you definitely won’t lose out. Look at how you raised Chen Er and Lingsi. If Wenna had a bit of your vigor, she wouldn’t have to live such a difficult life.”

As Mu Tangchuan said this, he pulled her out the door.

“What’s so bad about that? The children can only be at less of a disadvantage after they’ve truly toughened up themselves. Otherwise, if we let them take after your personality, what benefit would they bring?”

Zhuang Shurong had always been frank and clear-cut when she spoke. She was incisive and had a threatening manner. Even Mu Tangchuan, as the grand member of the provincial government, had now become a good-for-nothing before her.

Mu Tangchuan was lazy to argue with her, so he just followed after her and smiled gently.

The entire provincial government knew that his wife was amazing. He suddenly remembered that there was once when she came to his office to look for him. Even the female secretary who was receiving her stuttered when she spoke in her imposing manner...

However, only he knew her gentleness best...

Chapter 145. Happy New Year

When Mu Yuchen returned to the room, Xi Xiaye had already finished her bath and was lying down. The main light in the bedroom was switched off too. Only a dim wall lamp was left lit up.

He used the dim yellow light to look at the slightly protruding blanket. He picked up his pace and walked over, switching the table lamp on the side on. After staring at her sleeping for quite a while, he said, “Mother and the rest made supper. Do you want to go downstairs?”

“No, I’ve showered and I’m not hungry.” She did not even open her eyes as she answered a little sleepily.

Mu Yuchen did not bother her further either. He switched the light off and walked out of the bedroom.

Xi Xiaye was dazed in her sleep. She seemed to vaguely remember that the man returned to the room after quite a long while.

The next morning, the couple were still in their slumber when they were awoken by the knocking from outside.

Xi Xiaye unhurriedly tied up her beautiful, waist-length hair and casually combed it into a bun. Then, she opened the wardrobe and noticed that it was the same as the one in Maple Residence. The wardrobe was filled with clothes in all sorts of styles and colors in her size.

She had also noticed that the clothes all leaned towards light warm colors. In the bottom drawer, balls of socks had also been prepared in the dozens. It was even more clothes than the last time they came back...

She gaped at the clothes for quite a while before choosing mid-length qipao with lilac floral prints. On the outside, she put on a pastel-colored coat, then strolled towards the bathroom.

She had just reached the bathroom door when the man inside had already finished washing up. He changed into a silver-gray leisure suit and was drying his hands with a towel when he saw her walk over. Checking her out, he felt that she took his breath away.

Quickly, he reacted and took her toothbrush to help her apply some toothpaste before handing it to her.

Raising her brows, she walked over and took the toothbrush, silently watching the tall, dashing man in the mirror. She thought about it, then greeted calmly in that slightly raspy voice of hers, “Happy New Year, Mr. Mu.”

Mu Yuchen was stunned. He took a look at the mirror before him. Then, his eyes scanned around before falling onto her again. He chuckled softly. "Happy New Year, Missus."

Xi Xiaye smiled cheerfully too, then she started brushing her teeth.

"When you're done packing up, go downstairs for breakfast."

He lifted a hand to help fix the messy bangs on her forehead.

"Mmm." She just vaguely responded and Mu Yuchen then could not help but pat her head before smiling as he walked out.

After she was done washing and packing up, Xi Xiaye went downstairs.

The whole family was already downstairs waiting for them for breakfast. Everyone seemed in high spirits. Politely, she said some auspicious greetings. Wang Hui and the rest handed huge red envelopes around, making her a little shy. She subconsciously turned to look at the man beside her and saw that beside his hand were a few huge red envelopes. She then smiled and accepted them graciously.

"Thank you, Grandfather, Grandmother, Father, Mother."

She still did not dare to look up Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong. When she thought about how they had walked in on them last night, she could not help but feel her face heat up.

"If you really want to thank us, then grant us a grandson soon."

When Zhuang Shurong saw Xi Xiaye blushing, she could not help but laugh. "Your grandparents wanting to have a grandson is not a matter of a day or two. By the end of this year, we hope that you can fulfill her wishes."

"Haha, yeah, Xiaye, this is Grandmother's wish this year!"

...

Everyone spoke one after another as if the matter of having a child had immediately been pushed up the agenda. However, she and Mu Yuchen —

She still lowered her head a little bashfully, shooting him a look. She noticed that he was calmly taking the napkin on the side for her as if the matter being discussed had nothing to do with him.

After they finished breakfast, Wang Hui and Zhuang Shurong asked Xi Xiaye to go out with them. They made their way straight for the Buddhist temple in the east of the city. Mu Tangchuan and Mu Yinan had their own plans too. Everyone made their way out, so only Mu Yuchen was left alone in the Mu residence.

In the afternoon, Ah Mo received Mu Yuchen's call. When he sent the laptop that he had left behind in Maple Residence over, Mu Yuchen was sitting in the yard on a soft cushion and leisurely reading under the sun.

It was rare to see his Master having such a relaxed moment, so Ah Mo almost could not bear to disturb him, yet when he heard his hesitating footsteps, Mu Yuchen's calm voice was heard.

"Bring it over."

"Master!"

Ah Mo then delivered the laptop in his hand and Mu Yuchen casually took it. "Why don't you go out to walk around?"

"There's nowhere I want to go anyway. I'm used to being on call for your busy work matters," responded Ah Mo with a smile.

Mu Yuchen opened his laptop. "Much earlier, Grandfather mentioned your thing to me again. You and Lingsi are placed in the care of Father's name, so we're considered brothers..."

When he said this, Mu Yuchen suddenly looked up and fixed his gaze on Ah Mo. "I remember that you aren't that much younger than me. Grandfather and the other elders are saying that you should take note and see if there are any girls you fancy. The family can help you with proposing for marriage."

When he said this, Ah Mo was stunned. His handsome face turned scarlet and his eyes were filled with gratitude. "Thank you so much for Elder Madam and the old Chairman's concern. Right now, I just want to serve by your side, Master."

"The Mu family can't tie you down forever. You have to have your own life. All these years, you've been by my side. You're very good at handling many of the company matters. The seventh day of the New Year is the launch of Glory World's Imperial Sky Entertainment City. It's your sis-in-law who's in charge. Tomorrow, I need to make a trip to City B, but you don't have to come with me. Help her out instead."

Mu Yuchen took the cup of tea from the side and took a sip. He then continued, "After the launch, I'm planning to let you take over the Project Manager position right away. You'll take charge of City B's partnership for the development of the showbiz base. I'll always be watching out for you. I just want to know whether you're confident to take this on."

His deep and all-knowing gaze fell onto Ah Mo's handsome face while his tone was very calm.

"Master, well..."

Ah Mo was a little nervous and at a loss for words.

"Ah Mo, I can only provide you with the opportunity. Confidence is something only you can give yourself. I think highly of you. I'm not willing for you to stay by my side and waste your talents. You should belong to a wider world, so I'm hoping you can become Glory World's backbone."

When he said all of this, he suddenly closed his laptop with some waning interest. He got up and made his way towards the corridor. "Since there's an opportunity, you should give it a try, don't you think?"

His voice floated amidst the light, cool breeze, yet it sounded extremely kind to Ah Mo who quickly nodded and said to his back, "Yes, I'm willing to go with your arrangement, Master!"

Chapter 146. New Year Gathering (1)

When Xi Xiaye and Wang Hui returned, it was already past five in the evening.

There were many people in the temple. Wang Hui and Zhuang Shurong had even especially asked a Great Master for a protective talisman for the couple, hoping for them to be safe and sound in the days to come. After that, the three of them went shopping for a while, so they returned a little late.

When they reached home, Mu Yuchen and Mu Yinan had already finished preparing dinner. They took their seats at the table.

The table was full of dishes that were sumptuous. The dishes were all personally attended to by Mu Yuchen while Mu Yinan assisted. It was such a rare moment as it seemed to be his first time preparing for such a grand feast.

Xi Xiaye seemed to have gotten used to the man's cooking in this period of time, especially when she saw the honey sauce pork ribs before her. She felt her appetite increase and she practically licked her plate clean. She even inhaled all the vegetables that Mu Yuchen had served her.

After dinner, Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye's phone seemed to ring at the same time.

On his end, it was obviously Zhou Zimo calling to rush him, while for her, it was Su Nan.

"Hello? Xiaye, Happy New Year! May you have a prosperous New Year! Our guests are all almost here now. Are you on your way?"

The call had just gotten through when Su Nan's voice came through.

Xi Xiaye accepted the water that Mu Yuchen handed her. She took a gulp and then answered, "I've just finished dinner and I'm about to leave. You guys play first. I'll reach soon."

"Okay, then hurry up, alright? We'll wait for you!"

“Mmm,” she simply answered before hanging up and getting up. The man beside had already packed up and was waiting for her.

“Let’s go,” she said.

“Go to the wardrobe and put on another overcoat. It’s a little cold out there.”

His deep voice held a firmness that did not allow defiance.

Xi Xiaye frowned and looked at him. After thinking about it, she then obediently went back to get a windbreaker before picking the car keys up from the table.

On the way to Zhou Zimo’s place, they coincidentally passed by Emperor. The one who drove was Mu Yuchen. City Z was not as crowded as it usually was, probably because many people were on holiday and had gone home to celebrate the New Year.

However, the area around Emperor was livelier than it usually was.

After the car turned at a busy traffic junction, it stopped steadily on a driveway before Emperor.

Xi Xiaye unbuckled her seat belt. When she glanced at the time, she noticed that it was only slightly past 7 p.m., so she then told him, “I’m getting down now. Drive safe. Right, don’t drink so much if you’re driving. At about half-past 10, I’ll call you again.”

“Mmm, put on the windbreaker. Have you taken all of your things?” He handed the windbreaker to her and said softly.

“I’ve got everything.”

She reached over to take the windbreaker he handed her and was about to get down the car when he pulled her in. Before she could react, he planted a cold kiss accurately onto her forehead. By the time she could absorb it fully, he had already leaned over and helped her open the car door.

She subconsciously lifted a hand to touch her forehead as she stared at him looking startled. Then, after a while, she got down from the car slowly and walked towards Emperor.

While he watched her figure vanish at the entrance of Emperor, he took his phone to quickly make a call. After he hung up, he started the car again.

Following the details of the chosen venue, Xi Xiaye followed the waiter straight to room 801.

“Miss Xi, this is room 801. Please enter. If you need anything, you can call for room service,” said the waiter very eagerly.

Xi Xiaye nodded. “Thanks!”

“You’re welcome!”

As she watched the waiter walk down, Xi Xiaye ambled to the door. Before she entered, she could already hear the lively clamor and peals of laughter.

She reached out to push the door...

“Xiaye, you’re here!”

The first one to notice her was Su Nan, who swiftly got up and walked over to her. However, she did not look too good.

While Su Nan’s sudden movement made the entire room instantly quiet down, everyone looked towards the door together —

Xi Xiaye calmly looked around too and noticed that quite a few people were sitting on both sides of the sofa. They looked familiar and seemed to be junior high or senior high school classmates. There were

about more than 10 people, but what made Xi Xiaye's eyes darken was the one sitting in the middle of the sofa surrounded by several people. It was Xi Xinyi!

Why is she here?

Xi Xiaye's eyes narrowed as she subconsciously looked to Su Nan who was extremely annoyed as she leaned into Xi Xiaye's ear. "I don't why she came either. I invited Sun Mei who was at Wang Ziluo's place. She came with Wang Ziluo and Sun Mei. I'm guessing that Wang Ziluo told her... Right, do you still remember Wang Ziluo? He's the one who always wrote you love letters back then. He was the class monitor in the third class. He's just returned from abroad a few days ago. Do you remember?"

Su Nan had just finished, and before Xi Xiaye could answer, there was already a bright and pleasantly surprised voice that rang out. "Xiaye! It's really you!"

Xi Xiaye looked to where the sound came from, and then she noticed that the few people beside Xi Xinyi had all gotten up. One of them was the familiar Wang Ziluo. He was tall, handsome and very cheerful.

Wang Ziluo's family background was pretty decent. As the young master of the Wang Corporation, he was, of course, the most popular figure among this group of people. The people there were most probably chasing after Wang Ziluo!

When he saw Xi Xiaye, Wang Ziluo's eyes lit up, his eyes could not hide how she took his breath away while Xi Xinyi who stood behind him just stared at her. Her expression had mixed emotions, and she looked like she wanted to say something, but was hesitating on whether or not to walk up to her.

"Xiaye, oh my God! I almost couldn't recognize you! You're getting prettier and prettier!"

"Exactly, she's indeed a beauty. I probably wouldn't recognize her on the streets!"

"I heard that she's even become a Director at Glory World. If there comes a chance, be sure to look out for us!"

...

The crowd's courteous voices were heard as their eyes were filled with envy.

Xi Xiaye rarely joined such gatherings. Had she known that there would be so many people, she probably would have straight up rejected Su Nan. All these years, she had been reclusive. Apart from work, she usually would not go out and be in too much contact with anyone.

Wang Ziluo picked up the two glasses of wine from the table and walked towards Xi Xiaye, his face bright with a warm smile. "I thought Su Nan was kidding, but you really are here. It's been so many years, yet you really haven't changed at all. Happy New Year!"

Then, he handed a glass of wine to Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye indifferently looked at him and nodded slightly. She accepted the wine and thanked him before raising the glass slightly to say, "Apologies for being late. Here's wishing everyone a Happy New Year."

"Happy New Year!"

Everyone responded by lifting their glasses too.

She downed the glass in one go, then Xi Xiaye found a corner to sit down in. Su Nan sat right beside her while Ruan Heng was surrounded by several people and was forced to drink some more.

Wang Ziluo had been crowded around by everyone when he went back to sit with Xi Xinyi.

Chapter 147. New Year Gathering (2)

While everyone forced them to down some drinks, Xi Xiaye could not really ward them off. They were all interested in Glory World matters.

"Right, Xiaye, I heard that Glory World Corporation's Imperial Sky Entertainment City is going to launch on the seventh day of the New Year on a pretty huge scale. I wonder if we have the honor to go over for a look?"

“Yeah, since you’re a director at Glory World, this shouldn’t be too hard, should it? We also want to go and witness the grandeur of the launch, but...”

“Xiaye, which department are you managing in Glory World? Recently, I’ve been wanting to change my job. I wonder if your place has any vacancy...”

Many more of such similar questions swarmed her. Xi Xiaye could not help but politely smile and say, “It’s the New Year. Don’t worry about work now. We’re hardly relaxed. Tonight, we’re only allowed to play and bond with each other, not talk about work.”

“Yeah, yeah, argh, are you guys intentionally making it hard for everyone to have fun? Work matters shall temporarily be set aside. Tonight, we’re only going to eat, drink and be merry!” Su Nan helped Xi Xiaye round things up in time.

With that said, the few people who surrounded them exercised restraint and retreated.

“Xiaye, why didn’t Master Mu come along with you?” Su Nan softly asked in her ear.

“He went to his friend’s place to play cards,” Xi Xiaye simply answered as she gazed up slightly and her eyes met Xi Xinyi’s who sat in the middle seat and was throwing her mixed glances.

Su Nan followed Xi Xiaye’s gaze and looked towards Xi Xinyi too. Her eyes pooled with disdain. She could not help but whisper mockingly to Xi Xiaye, “This woman is really disgusting. Isn’t she already engaged to Han Yifeng? When did she become so close to Wang Ziluo? Did you know? I just found out that previously, Wang Ziluo asked her to bring you lots of his love letters, but he’s never seen her hand any of it to you. I told you that before this she must’ve fancied Wang Ziluo!”

Su Nan thought Xi Xinyi was annoying no matter how she looked now. The moment she thought about Xi Xiaye, she had the urge to go up to her and rip her face off.

“Annoying slut!”

Seeing that Xi Xinyi had retrieved her gaze and was chatting away with Wang Ziluo again, Su Nan could not help but turn fiery-eyed and cursed, "Wang Zi should be yours. Why is she still shamelessly seducing men after stealing Han Yifeng!?"

Compared to Su Nan's anger, Xi Xiaye seemed much calmer. She turned to look at Su Nan and noticed that she was resentful about the injustice as she stabbed the fruits in front of her violently with a fork, her little face all tensed up.

Seeing Su Nan like this, Xi Xiaye could not help but laugh. She frowned and finished the drink in her glass before saying calmly, "Miss Su Nan, you don't have to be so outraged over this injustice for me. I'm already a married woman now. The way you act would make me misunderstand that you're persuading me to cheat. Mr. Mu probably wouldn't spare me."

When she heard Xi Xiaye say this, Su Nan's beautiful eyes instantly lit up. She then came to a realization. "Right, I almost forgot! You're already married to Master Mu! That's the true Prince Charming... Do they know?"

"It's enough that you know. I'm not close to them, so there's no need for them to know. Besides, I don't want to invite trouble," Xi Xiaye said as she picked up the bottle of wine beside her and poured herself another glass.

As she watched the crowd rush towards Wang Ziluo and Xi Xinyi, she could tell what Xi Xiaye meant.

However, she still sulked. Initially, the two of them were going to have fun together, yet now it seemed to be Wang Ziluo and Xi Xinyi's show. The more she thought about it, the angrier she felt.

They watched how in the middle of the room, the crowd started coaxing Wang Ziluo and Xi Xinyi to sing a duet, while the two of them very happily accepted the request. They started to sing an affectionate duet.

It was the same every time. No matter where Xi Xinyi went, she would be the center of attention. Su Nan still felt indignant about it, but Xi Xiaye was already used to it.

Xi Xiaye downed two glasses at a go, then suddenly remembered Imperial Sky's Entertainment City launch. She then reached for her handbag and took out a red invitation before handing it to Su Nan. "Nan Nan, this is the invitation for the launch. Ask Ruan Heng to come together with you on that day."

"I'll definitely be there! I heard that there'll be many huge celebrities attending too. With all the big shots attending, it'll be an eye-opener for me!"

Su Nan excitedly took the invitation and opened it to take a look. Indeed, it was an invitation personally written by Xi Xiaye.

"You can go to Imperial Sky Fashion City first to choose a gown. Just put it on my tab."

"Got it!"

Su Nan happily accepted the offer while Xi Xiaye took another sip of wine, seeming a little bored watching the group of people crowding around Wang Ziluo and Xi Xinyi. She thought about it and did not feel like she was in the mood, so she decided to leave.

However, just as she wanted to get up, having finished singing two love songs with Xi Xinyi, Wang Ziluo suddenly got up and looked towards her. Before she could make her exit, people were beginning to coax them.

"Xiaye, you should sing a song with Ziluo too!" The young and beautiful Sun Mei said with a smile.

All of them knew about Xi Xiaye and Xi Xinyi's relationship, so when Sun Mei said this, everyone understood that she wanted to ease the slightly tensed atmosphere.

A group of people echoed her while Wang Ziluo looked at Xi Xiaye with anticipation. Xi Xinyi's face had turned a little stiff and her gaze at Xi Xiaye seemed obscure.

"I can't sing, CEO Wang. It's best to let Miss Xi sing with you."

Before Xi Xiaye could say anything, Xi Xinyi's sweet voice was heard. "Sis, Ziluo knew you were coming, that's why he rushed over. From what I recall, you sing really well too. It's such a happy day. Isn't it great for everyone to have some fun?"

Those who did not know would obviously think that Xi Xinyi was hinting at Xi Xiaye's humility. Yet, Su Nan knew that she was just making it hard for Xi Xiaye to say no. Before Xi Xiaye could answer, she scoffed, "As great as she sings, she can't compare to you as a professional actress. Right, I heard that Miss Xi's just gotten engaged to Han Corporation's CEO Han a few days ago. It's almost 10 p.m. now. If you don't go home now, it wouldn't be too great, would it?"

Su Nan had kept it in the whole night. The instant she saw Xi Xinyi walk in with Wang Ziluo, she almost wanted to kick the door down and leave. Had she not been too worried about Ruan Heng's image, she would have long done so!

It was the New Year, but she had to endure this anger. How unlucky!

"Thanks for your concern. Yifeng said that he'll drive over to pick me up later. We can play to our hearts' content tonight. I've already asked Yifeng to come to get the bill!" Xi Xinyi smiled with tenderness and elegance.

Chapter 148. New Year Gathering (3)

When Xi Xinyi said this, quite a few girls could not help but look envious.

"Xinyi, you're so lucky! CEO Han is so sweet to you!"

"Exactly! Not only is she outstandingly beautiful and is the Mayor's daughter, but she's also a celebrity loved by so many... Xinyi, we really admire you!"

"Thank you, guys. You'll find your own happiness too."

As she listened to the crowd's envious admirations, Xi Xinyi's sweet and charming face revealed a faint smile too. Her eyes were filled with sincerity and well wishes while she vaguely stole a glance at Xi Xiaye.

Such a heartfelt wish instantly made everyone beam and all of them thanked her.

“Pretentious!” Su Nan scoffed as she subconsciously shot Ruan Heng a look beside her. He indicated his innocence and shrugged.

Su Nan suddenly got up and walked over to grab the microphone on the table. She really did not want to hear this woman speak anymore. Increasing the music volume, she started to wail like a banshee and howl like a wolf into the microphone.

One could tell that Su Nan was clearly targeting Xi Xinyi. They could not help but frown as they looked at Su Nan. In fact, they also noticed that Wang Ziluo looked a little down after being rejected by Xi Xiaye.

While Xi Xinyi kept her bitter smile pasted on her face, she seemed quite pitiful. Sun Mei could not bear to watch, so she walked over to pat Xi Xinyi on the shoulder to console her. Then, she turned the music volume down a little and said something to Su Nan who then tossed the microphone onto the table with a darkened expression. She picked up the bottle on the table and downed it furiously.

Ruan Heng wanted to stop her, yet her stern look pushed him away.

Xi Xiaye could only helplessly try to stop whatever Su Nan was doing. She simply knew she was bad-tempered.

“That’s enough, Nan Nan. Don’t be angry with all these irrelevant people. I’m fine.”

“I just can’t stand her face! I really want to go up and rip it off. Her smile is so fake. Are they all blind? Look at the bitchy way she’s flaunting her happiness. Yifeng this, Yifeng that. She’s clearly trying to provoke you, you silly girl. Can’t you see? She’s egging you on!”

The entire room’s atmosphere turned a little weird. Xi Xiaye chuckled softly and did not say anything, yet a light shifted in her eyes.

Now that she was not rushing to leave, she watched Xi Xinyi with interest who was playing the victim. She casually held up her drink and drank it sip by sip...

Compared to the weird ambiance on Xi Xiaye's end, Mu Yuchen's side was extremely chilled out.

Inside Zhou Zimo's private villa, the buddies were playing cards at the table: four men and one woman. Apart from the three buddies and Zhou Zimo's friends, Su Chen had also brought over a female companion.

"Ah Chen, why didn't you bring your wife over? Going out this late at night... Wouldn't you get the blame?" Su Chen looked at his cards, and then at the calm Mu Yuchen. He could not help but tease him.

"She has her own plans. It's already 10 p.m. I'm done after this round," said Mu Yuchen plainly, not even looking at him, then he put his cards down.

"I'll follow!"

As the next player, Zhou Zimo played his hand. He smiled and said, "Are you worried that the sis-in-law will check up on you? We've always played till 11 p.m., so what are you rushing for? Look at the way you're behaving. It seems like someone's used to pampering."

"You can't pamper women too much, Ah Chen. You have to be careful. Otherwise, you're the one who'll suffer in the future. She'll control you no matter where you go. Being checked up on in the middle of the night is common too, just like the queen in my house. It can definitely drive you crazy!" Su Chen seemed to remind him based on his personal experience.

"Master Mu, I think he makes sense too. You can't spoil women. You should ask the female friend beside Master Mu."

When she heard, the companion beside Su Chen grinned. "This depends on you men. Don't make us women sound so horrible. We're rational people too, so whether or not we can hold you back, that'll depend on the men's capabilities!"

...

“If she could check up on me, I’d be pretty glad.” Mu Yuchen grinned weirdly, then he put the final cards he had down. “All of your luck tonight seems to be pretty bad. I’m done. Calculate what you guys owe me and bank it into my account. Also, don’t forget the important stuff.”

He had already gotten up to put on his windbreaker as he finished. Then, he grabbed the car keys at the corner of the table.

Su Chen looked on in shock at Mu Yuchen’s figure making his way to the door. He could not help but call out, “Hey, are you going home just like that? I was just going to say let’s get a few drinks!”

“Tonight, I drove by myself. I won’t drink more, but if you want to drink, you can come to Maple Residence and drink as much as you want another day. Tomorrow, I have to make a trip to City B for work, so I’ll leave first. Please send my greetings to the elders of your families.”

Then, his cool figure vanished out of the door.

When Han Yifeng followed the waiter to the private room, he found the room very lively. What shocked him even more was that Xi Xiaye was there too!

“Yifeng, you’re here!”

Han Yifeng had just walked into the room when Xi Xinyi smiled and walked up to greet him. She gently clung onto Han Yifeng’s arm. They were an ideal couple that was match-made in heaven, killing all onlookers with envy.

When she heard the crowd’s gasps of admiration, Xi Xinyi’s bright face was overflowing with joy. Her eyes turned to look at him. However, Xi Xiaye in the corner had glanced away as Xi Xinyi said a little sorrowfully to Han Yifeng, “Yifeng, Sister came too... but she seems to be...”

Han Yifeng pat the back of her hand that clung onto his arm to console her. He took a drink and walked towards Xi Xiaye.

“Happy New Year, Xiaye!” Han Yifeng’s deep voice greeted, his still eyes mixed with emotions as he raised his glass towards her.

Xi Xiaye looked up indifferently at the wall of people before her. Her beautiful face flashed with a faint trace of something, then she slowly got up, holding a glass while she smiled. “Happy New Year, CEO Han! Seeing your fiancè croon away so happily with CEO Wang, I thought you wouldn’t come. If she switches her job to be in public relations, I’m sure she’ll be great at what she does.”

Then, with her lips curved, she raised her glass towards Han Yifeng and downed her drink in a go.

When he heard this, Han Yifeng’s face turned gloomy. His eyes flashed and he subconsciously turned to look at Xi Xinyi who was at a loss as she bit her plump lower lip. She smiled bitterly and did not argue, but merely looked a little disappointedly and innocently at Xi Xiaye.

Han Yifeng then tore his gaze away and observed Xi Xiaye before him. He lifted his head and downed the drink in his glass as well.

At that moment, the crowd had rushed up and wanted to drink with Han Yifeng too. He politely returned the toasts while Xi Xinyi smiled with the elegant composure of a hostess and said, “Thank you, everyone. Yifeng has to drive. Please don’t make him drink too much. Tonight, everyone can have fun to your hearts’ content. Yifeng will take care of all of the expenses!”

The crowd instantly cheered, yet at that moment, the waiter, who walked in with Han Yifeng and had been silent all the while, suddenly spoke up, “All of the expenses have already been paid for. CEO Han doesn’t need to pay!”

Chapter 149. Kind Mr. Mu

When the waiter announced that, the crowd was shocked. Some of them could not immediately react. The waiter already walked up to Xi Xiaye with the bill and whispered softly, “Miss Xi, Master Mu says you can just sign the check.”

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment too. She gaped at the bill that the waiter had delivered and frowned, exchanging a look with Su Nan.

Mu Yuchen?

Did he pay for the bill?

When did he come over?

She was puzzled for quite a while before taking the pen and signing the bill.

Having lost her reputation, the smile on Xi Xinyi's face became a little awkward. Han Yifeng and the rest were very confused too. They subconsciously turned to Xi Xiaye and noticed that she was saying something to the waiter as she handed something back to him.

At that point, the soft light that flickered on her hand instantly flashed past his sight. His still eyes seemed to feel a piercing pain and he could not help but turn stiff.

If he saw it correctly, that intense light clearly sparkled from the ring on her ring finger.

Before he could take a better look, she had already put her hand away and the sleeve of her long windbreaker covered the shine. He subconsciously frowned. Even Xi Xinyi could feel that he was behaving oddly, so she frowned and followed his line of sight. However, she saw that across them, the person picked her handbag up and stood up.

"Yifeng!"

A coldness flashed in her eyes as she suddenly clung tightly onto Han Yifeng's arm.

Xi Xiaye had just gotten up when the phone in her pocket buzzed. Whipping it out for a look, she saw that it was Mu Yuchen, so she answered it.

"I'm where I dropped you off earlier." His deep voice calmly came through.

She adjusted her clothes and answered softly, "Mmm, wait for me. I'm coming out now."

Then, she hung up the phone.

“Su Nan, I’m going back now. Let’s find another day to hang out properly. Remember to come on the seventh day of the New Year.”

“Hold on, Xiaye. I’m leaving with you too!”

Su Nan quickly got up, stumbling a little. She held onto Xi Xiaye and said to Ruan Heng, “Ruan Heng, pack up. We’re leaving too. It’s late. I’ll wait for you outside!”

Then, she dragged Xi Xiaye and walked out. Her movements were so swift that no one could react in time.

Ruan Heng muttered a few words apologetically to everyone before he left too.

Her slim figure walked past Han Yifeng and vanished in an instant outside the door. He hesitated for a while before running out to chase her.

Surprised, Xi Xinyi called out to him and anxiously chased after them too, “Yifeng!”

...

When she walked out of the entrance of Emperor, the man had indeed stopped by the driveway. The windows were wound down. From afar, she could see that him in the driver’s seat on the phone with someone.

“Master Mu, Master Mu! Over here! Over here!” Su Nan waved enthusiastically and shouted towards Mu Yuchen who was in the car.

When he heard Su Nan’s shouts, Mu Yuchen turned over to see where the sound was coming from as he hung up. Then, he opened the car door and got down.

Mu Yuchen had just walked around his car and stood beside it when Su Nan had dragged Xi Xiaye energetically up to him and immediately started with auspicious greetings before asking for a red packet. "Master Mu! Happy New Year! May you have a prosperous one! Oh, red packet, please!"

Mu Yuchen did quite admire such a straightforward personality. He very politely nodded at her and his long fingers reached into his pocket to take two red packets out before handing it to Su Nan. He answered plainly, "Happy New Year."

Su Nan shrieked and immediately accepted it, "Thank you, Master Mu!"

Mu Yuchen elegantly and politely smiled. His eyes fell onto Xi Xiaye, and when he realized that she did not look great, he asked softly, "Didn't you have fun?"

"Initially, it should've been pretty fun, but who would've thought that Xi Xinyi would come too? In fact, she called Han Yifeng over too. The way they brag so ostentatiously is extremely unbearable! Master Mu, Xi Xinyi that bitc-... That woman was doing it intentionally. She even wanted to make Xiaye sing with Wang Zi!"

Before Xi Xiaye could answer, Su Nan already began to spill everything that she held in without constraint. Her every sentence complained about Xi Xinyi.

"Nan Nan, that's enough. Don't say any more. It's quite late. You guys go home first. Ruan Heng followed you out too."

Xi Xiaye looked on with a headache at Su Nan who was rambling on. Earlier, she had been provoked by Xi Xinyi and had downed quite a number of drinks, so she was starting to get tipsy. Clearly, she had drunk a little too much.

"Nan Nan!"

At that moment, Ruan Heng came up and helplessly held Su Nan who was still going on incessantly as he nodded at Mu Yuchen. "Master Mu!"

“Ruan Heng, she’s had too much. It’s fine inside, but it’s windy out here. She’ll easily get a headache when it’s windy. You’d better bring her home first.” Xi Xiaye frowned and helped Ruan Heng support Su Nan.

Ruan Heng nodded rather helplessly. “Okay then. We’ll go home now. Let’s get together again another day.”

“I’m not drunk, I’m not drunk! I don’t need you to hold me!”

“Okay, be careful on the road!”

...

As he watched Ruan Heng hold Su Nan and move further away, Mu Yuchen’s handsome brows raised. He suddenly looked down at Xi Xiaye who was still gazing ahead. The light in his eyes flickered as he chuckled softly, “Sing with Wang Zi [1]? Missus, aren’t I your prince?”

When she heard him teasing her, Xi Xiaye then shot him a side glare. She pulled the passenger car door open. “Princes go with princesses. I, Xi Xiaye don’t call myself a princess. Do you still think you’re a prince? That person’s name is coincidentally Wang Ziluo. Wang Zi for short. Drive, Mr. Mu!”

By the time she said this, she had already gotten into the car.

Mu Yuchen laughed and did not say a word. He fell silent for a moment before getting into the driver’s seat and reaching over to help her buckle up. “Since you didn’t have fun, next time, don’t attend such gatherings so often. Then, you can avoid bringing home such a foul mood.”

“Initially, I was a little unhappy, but... did you know that Han Yifeng was going to come over? Otherwise, why did you pay the bill in advance and embarrass him and Xi Xinyi?”

As she questioned him, she suddenly looked a little puzzledly at him.

Mu Yuchen paused, then smiled. "I thought it was just you and your two friends, and that I'd embarrass you by not going with you."

She could not help but be moved by this man's low-profile attention to detail. Xi Xiaye suddenly felt her heart warm, and she breathed in slightly. "Thank you, Mu Yuchen."

"Next time don't let me hear those two words anymore, you're so unaware, if you really want to thank me, then bring out some more substantial thing..."

Before he could finish, her slim figure had already leaned forward and planted a gentle kiss on his handsome face. A light fragrance entered his nostrils, but before he could take it all in, she was done.

Chapter 150. Flaming Fireworks (1)

Startled, he turned to look at her with a slight shock. When he saw that she was trying hard to hide the shyness on her beautiful face, he could not help but laugh, and a rare hint of doting and tenderness appeared in his eyes.

In this distracted moment, he actually felt that they were just like those young and inexperienced, naive couples. Nevertheless, he could deny that this actually felt pretty good.

This feeling was something he had never experienced in more than 30 years. It made him feel contented.

However, she performed so well, so he certainly would not let her suffer a loss. His hand reached out to cup her head. Then, he lowered his head to gently kiss her icy lips...

He did not go too deep and stopped at a brief taste. Otherwise, he was worried that he would not be able to hold himself back. The only who would suffer would be him.

"Let's go home." He breathed in, and then let go of her before starting the car.

The two of them naturally did not know that this scene had all been taken in by Han Yifeng who had dashed out.

The light in their car was turned off. Borrowing the dim yellow light from the streetlights, he could only see that Xi Xiaye was sitting in the car and kissing the man in the driver's seat, but who was he?

The first name that popped into Han Yifeng's mind was Mu Yuchen.

However, this answer was very quickly ruled out.

He thought that just because of the Mu family's huge household and business, someone of Mu Yuchen's stature would have very high standards when choosing his partner. He heard that he did not fancy even the daughter of a military region member or the daughter of an important businessman from New York's Wall Street.

Besides, Mu Yuchen was known to be low-profile, cold and distant from women in the circle. When it came to his sexuality, there were many speculations too.

Being a specially privileged person, Han Yifeng was used to applying his own judgment to examine other people, which was why some things were meant to only brush past him.

"Yifeng, what's wrong?" Xi Xinyi was panting when she chased Han Yifeng out. She saw that he was staring ahead at a far away car and her brows knotted together. "Is it Sister?"

Han Yifeng did not answer. There were too many emotions churning in his eyes. He was trying to see whether he had seen wrongly.

When she saw that he looked out of place, the hands underneath Xi Xinyi's sleeves tightened into balls. Quite a while after, she reached out to pull Han Yifeng's huge hand closer and leaned into his arms. She said disappointedly, "Yifeng, I'm a little tired. Let's go home too, okay?"

Han Yifeng then inhaled vaguely and looked down at the woman in his embrace. Seeing her bright and beautiful face colored with a hurt and vulnerable expression, his handsome tensed up face eased, and then he nodded.

“Thank you, Yifeng! As a reward for you!” Xi Xinyi smiled and then tiptoed to kiss Han Yifeng’s thin lips.

Han Yifeng let her kiss him. Then, he looked at her with mixed emotions and thought about it. “Xinyi, don’t get too close to other irrelevant men anymore...”

When Han Yifeng said this, Xi Xinyi turned stiff and her expression changed slightly. As she looked distractedly at Han Yifeng, she muttered, “Yifeng, you don’t believe me... Sister, she...”

“Let’s go home!” Han Yifeng suddenly said exhaustedly...

He needed to investigate what was happening on Xi Xiaye’s end!

...

He had to leave last minute for work tomorrow and all the information were in Maple Residence. In fact, some of the documents still needed to be arranged at the last minute, so Mu Yuchen just drove back to Maple Residence.

When they reached home, Mu Yuchen went straight upstairs while Xiaye tidied up all the New Year gifts that his friends had sent over downstairs. Ah Mo had left them in the living room.

When she was done and went upstairs, she did not see him in the side hall. The bedroom was empty too.

She thought about it, and then she walked to the study room.

Indeed, she had just walked to the door when she saw the man’s figure sitting by the wide and comfortable desk in his sleeping gown.

“Do you want some supper?” She said as she walked over and stopped by his side.

“I’m not hungry,” he answered softly, his gaze shifting from the screen before him to her. He casually took the water and handed it to her. She shook her head and said that she did not want to drink. Her body leaned forward as she looked at the screen in front of him, asking softly, “What are you working on? Hmm? Isn’t this my laptop?”

He lowered his head to drink the water before setting the glass aside. Then, his long arms circled her waist and he pulled Xi Xiaye who steadily fell onto his lap.

She was startled for a moment, and before she could react, he had already steadily held her down on his lap, his deep and calm voice came too, “I’m helping you arrange the data analysis.”

Her body stiffened for a moment while her other hand subconsciously held onto his shoulder. Noticing his gaze glow with a faint tenderness, she only eased after quite a while. She let go of his shoulder in a daze and turned to look at the dense data analysis on the laptop screen. A smile appeared on her beautiful face. “You are the more considerate boss that I’ve ever met, Mr. Mu.”

“Since I’m so considerate, shouldn’t you give me some encouragement? Hmm?”

His low voice had a hint of magnetic raspiness, appearing to sound like it carried a force of seduction. Especially when she gazed into his silent and starry eyes, she saw a black whirlpool that she almost could not escape in them.

She struggled for quite a while, and then under his meaningful gaze, her starry eyes twinkled for a few moments too. Then, her lips parted slightly and her brows raised. “Haven’t I praised you? In fact, earlier, didn’t I just...?”

As he listened, Mu Yuchen could not help but chuckle softly. The arm he circled around her waist tightened. “Those are two different things. I’m sacrificing my rest time on the first night of the New Year, sacrificing myself for you, yet this is how you’re acting? I’m not quite fond of the way you praised me.”

“Mu Yuchen, no matter how I look at you right now, you really look just like a profiteer who isn’t willing to suffer a loss. Here I was usually thinking that you were a low-profile, profound, elegant man of nobility,” she complained with a frown.

When he heard her grumbling, Mu Yuchen raised his handsome brows, his gaze rather thought-provoking. He smiled faintly as he looked at her. "I didn't know that I had such a good image in my Missus' eyes! Then, do you want to know, in your husband's eyes, what kind of image you have?"

"What am I?"

When she heard him, she started to be interested too. Her starry eyes twinkled as she fixed her eyes on him.

The corner of his lips flashed with a meaningful smile, then he leaned down slightly and murmured softly in her ear. Xi Xiaye listened and immediately could not help but be a little shocked. There was some light in her eyes. She was stunned as she looked at him, and her eyes were a little distracted.

His idle hand had already combed through her beautiful black waterfall hair, gently touching her exquisite face as he slowly lowered his head to capture her cold and calm lips...

His familiar fragrance assailed her nostrils. She could feel the man stir up great waves in her mouth, and she trembled slightly for a moment. With no time to think, she involuntarily reached out her slender pair of hands and clutched his shirt, beginning to respond to him with inexperience.