

Loving 1431

Chapter 1431. Getting Along 5

Mu Yuchen caught her fist and pulled her into his embrace while his hand swiftly circled her waist. He tightly pulled her into his arms and held her head, then he lowered his head before a cold kiss abruptly stopped her words.

She struggled for a bit, but her little wriggles were just amusing to him.

Before she could react, she felt something cold behind her, and she found herself trapped before the wall with his tall figure looming before her.

The man recklessly had a taste of her, and then with one hand propped against the wall, he looked down at her with an unfathomable gaze. His eyes seemed as if they wanted to swallow her. She could not help but tremble slightly as she subconsciously pushed him away. "Don't come so close. I can barely breathe."

"Say those words from earlier again. Who's got cheap taste now?" His lowered voice had a hint of pressure to it!

Oh no, he had heard her!

Xi Xiaye looked up at him embarrassedly, and then silently lowered her head, not making a sound. She knew all too well that keeping quiet now was better than saying anything more.

When he saw her acting like a young married woman, he said unhappily although he actually thought it was funny, "Don't think that you're off the hook just cause you keep quiet. I have ways to make you speak up. You're quite the hardy one, aren't you? You want to put who in their place? Tell me again."

"I was just rambling...Mister Mu, please don't take it to heart. I didn't mean it..." she explained in a daze.

"It's too late for you to admit your mistake now!"

“What...? Mmm!”

...

When he pushed her against the soft bed behind her, Xi Xiaye’s first reaction was to practically shout out towards the door, “Xiao Mei, come in!”

“No one’s allowed to come in!”

Just as she said that, the man’s low and intimidating voice was heard. Xiao Mei, who had just walked up to the office door, immediately stopped and ran far, far away.

“I was wrong, Mister Mu. Can’t I be wrong? It’s almost time!”

“I’ll let you off this time, but it won’t be this easy the next time.” He shot her an unhappy glance, then nipped her neck as a punishment. She cried out and then kicked him unhappily. “Are you a dog?”

When Master Mu heard that, his expression sank. He looked at her and then said cruelly, “I’ll get back at you tonight!”

“No!”

“You’re quite the rebel now, are you?”

“I’m not just a rebel. I’m unreasonable too, so what about it?” Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes at him as she pulled her skirt down. “If you take another step forward, I won’t go.”

Mu Yuchen frowned in bewilderment. His girl seemed to have more of a temper recently!

He thought about it, then asked obscurely, “Are you on your thing?”

Xi Xiaye was puzzled by this question.

Thing? What thing?

She thought about it, then realized what he was referring to, so she immediately grabbed a pillow from the side to toss at him angrily.

“You’re the one on your time of the month! You really can’t say anything good, can you!”

“You show me how!” He looked at her with a chuckle, then reached out a hand to her. “Alright, let’s not go too far now. Gather yourself and then we can leave. Your hair’s looking like a bird’s nest.”

She paused, then put her hand into his warm palm.

The resting lounge had a simple dressing table. However, when she saw her hair in the mirror, she was quite shocked.

That fellow was quite good with his hands. At first, he was not great at it, but she let him torment her hair a few times, and now he could create a simple and beautiful bun. While the pattern was one that she did often, it was done quite neatly.

When the husband and wife left Fuhua Real Estate, it was already half past 6 p.m. The car was waiting at the entrance, and the two of them got in quickly.

Glory World’s annual meetings had always been held at Imperial Sky Hotel these past few years. In fact, every year it was done on a huge scale. They had joined the movies and television scene for quite a while now and signed many artistes on. A-listers like Caitlin would come over every year to add to the fun which was the annual meeting’s highlight. Besides that, people like Chairman Mu and his wife were well known public figures in the scene. Every year they would show up together, which was a rare sight to see.

Everyone knew that Chairman Mu rarely attended such banquets because of his Madam Mu. If he could not attend events, he would reject them unless it was an occasion that he had to show up at.

When the husband and wife went over, the banquet had begun. Vice President Zhang Lan was giving a speech as Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye went straight to their seats.

However, what surprised Xi Xiaye was the fact that Yang Sheng had come over too. His seat was at the same table as theirs. She smiled and nodded at Yang Sheng to greet him while she asked the man beside her, "You invited him?"

Mu Yuchen was speaking to Vice President Liu Lingyu beside him at the moment. When he felt Xi Xiaye nudge him, he stopped talking and turned to look at her. His gaze quickly went to Yang Sheng and he responded, "It should be Qi Lei who's here, but I guess he can't make it, so Yang Sheng decided to come."

"What's wrong with him?" Xi Xiaye asked, puzzled, while her brows were furrowed into a knot.

"It's not convenient for him to show up at the moment. I'm afraid he's overwhelmed with work these past few days. Earlier, VP Liu told me about the situation on his end. There's nothing much. They can start after the New Year. The new company's opening ceremony will be on the 15th day after the New Year, which coincides with the Spring Festival. The invitation has been sent to me."

Xi Xiaye understood Mu Yuchen, so she nodded. "Good then. We can invite him to Xiaocheng's first birthday too. Since it's just a family dinner, there aren't many people anyway."

"I've told him already, and he's coming."

...

After a few glasses of drinks, Xi Xiaye could feel the alcohol kicking in, so she went to stand on the balcony while Mu Yuchen continued to chat with some business partners. She did not want to disturb him anyway.

“CEO Xi!”

Xi Xiaye had just lowered her head to take a sip of tea when she heard someone call out to her from behind.

Stunned, she quickly turned to look and saw Yang Sheng walking towards her.

“Assistant Yang? Are you happy with the banquet so far?” Xi Xiaye held her tea as she drank to him.

Yang Sheng responded to the courtesy and took a sip of his drink too before he continued, “Very good, very happy. Glory World’s progressing quite well. Even Master Qi’s in admiration. You and Chairman Mu are both capable people, CEO Xi.”

“How’s Qi Lei? We haven’t been in much contact since his return.”

Knowing that Mu Yuchen would help resolve matters made her feel more at ease. Beneath that subconsciousness of hers, she could feel that Mu Yuchen assured her. Even when it came to Qi Lei, he could definitely resolve things well.

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Yang Sheng gazed at Xi Xiaye gratefully and responded, “Don’t you worry, Vice President Xi. Master Qi is doing great nowadays. I appreciate the support coming from you and Chairman Mu along the way. Because of you, Master Qi has changed a lot for the better and we are truly glad about that. I think if Vice President Wang were still alive, she would’ve felt the same way.”

As Yang Sheng elaborated, he felt like there was a virtual hand tightening its grasp over his heart in his chest cavity.

Some people may not be remembered after they had cashed in their chips, but that was not the case for Wang Qin. She had left a legacy behind, thus although she departed swiftly and all of a sudden, she was still remembered by many.

Just like Yang Sheng, if Vice President Wang had not accepted and acknowledged him in the first place, he would still be a hobo who had accomplished nothing today. Due to Wang Qin’s acknowledgment, he

had become the person he was today. Moreover, he was able to provide for his family. That was why he had been grateful to Wang Qin.

Apart from showing his gratitude towards Wang Qin, Yang Sheng also felt sorry for Qi Lei, thus he always treated him as his younger brother.

After all, after having gone through so much, they were not just superordinate and subordinate. They cared for each other subconsciously. They might not be biologically related, but they treated each other like they were family by blood.

Having heard that, Xi Xiaye welcomed the updates with a smile. "Frankly speaking, I haven't done much on the way. All the credits should go to Chairman Mu. However, I'm relieved after hearing what you have to say."

"Well, Master Qi won't dare to turn back to his old ways. Even Ms. Dongfang has shown concern for him. From what I see, Master Qi will only get better and better," Yang Sheng claimed with a contented smile.

"Ms. Dongfang?" Xi Xiaye captured the key point immediately.

"It's Ms. Dongfang Liyun. She's a friend of Master Qi," Yang Sheng explained.

Hearing that, Xi Xiaye smiled and nodded. "Yeah, having a few friends is good. At least, when he feels vexed, there are a few people that he can spend his time with just like Su Nan, the bunch, and I."

"I couldn't agree more. I guess Master Qi should have fully experienced and understood this. All these years he has been—"

"He's still young. It's great to just be able to see him change for the better, but he's also considered lucky to have a person who is as dedicated as you to be his assistant. I've heard about it from Mu Yuchen during the inauguration ceremony of the new company. Just let us know when you have any needs."

“Chairman Mu says so too, huh? Don’t worry. Master Qi should be able to handle those matters by himself. He can’t always rely on somebody else. Don’t underestimate Master Qi. He’s quite a competent man. He’s just a little lacking in the heart department, but he has grown a lot after experiencing everything that has happened,” Yang Sheng asserted while grinning from ear to ear.

“Oh yeah, how is Ah Mo?” he expressed his concern because he had heard that Mu Lingmo and Mu Lingshi had departed City Z to City B together with Gu Qiwu, and they planned to reside there permanently. He thought about that time when Qi Lei and he were on the run, and Ah Mo had chosen not to abandon them then. Based just on that incident, he was extremely thankful to him.

“Both Ah Shi and him are fine. Everything has been smooth. I was on a call with Mu Yuchen while I was on my way here, and he assured me. Ah Mo has stayed there before this due to his frequent business trips to City B, so don’t worry. Anyway, thanks for the concern.”

Yang Sheng nodded and said, “Fair enough. That’ll save me from worrying about what might happen there. However, Vice President Xi, I hope that you will be more alert too. I have heard gossip back in the Qi residence saying that Gu Lingsha threw a tantrum at home this morning. She almost argued with the Elder Master about something about Master Gu, so do be more careful.”

Xi Xiaye hesitated for a moment, then she immediately thanked Yang Sheng. “Got it, thanks.”

Dinner ended quite late in the night. Mu Yuchen brought Xi Xiaye home first as she was a little high on alcohol.

While they were on their way back to Maple Residence, Xi Xiaye felt a little befuddled, so she lay on his thighs for a short nap. The car swayed a little all of a sudden, which caused her to open her eyes in a daze. She then witnessed her man silently gazing down upon her with those loving eyes while his fingers were moving along her forehead, combing the few strands of fringe which had escaped her hairdo, and the other hand was firmly clasping her waist.

When he saw her opening her eyes, he asked in his deep voice, “How are you? Are you still feeling uncomfortable? Hangovers caused by cocktails are worse. You should know that.”

She tried her best to blink her heavy eyelids. She stared at him for a while, and spoke after quite some time, "Those cocktails were out of this world, but if I were to reject them, you'd have to take my place, and I dislike how you're like when you're drunk. Burp!"

She was able to remain conscious, burp, have a conversation, and caress his attractive face all at the same time. While doing all that, she pondered for a moment and thought of something, so she raised her voice abruptly and asked, "Let me get it clear. Why didn't we see Ms. Dongfang at the party? Xiao Mei told me that she might be there...Xiao Mei also told me that she knocked into her looking at gowns when she went out shopping, and she claimed that it was for the Glory World Corporation Annual Gala."

While Mu Yuchen could not comprehend that, on the other hand, he fully understood that he would not be able to handle her when her sense of crisis emerged. At the same time, his heart was filled with jubilation. Looking at those eyes which were filled with a daze, a thought came to him and he embraced her tightly in his arms. Then, he stared her in the eyes and spoke in his deep, alluring voice, "You feel threatened when you see her, huh?"

"Of course! Didn't you notice the gorgeous yet seductive dress? Those disgusting grins? And that intimate appellation! And you, you knew that I don't have any positive feelings about her, and still you have invited her to the gala. Have you not considered how I'd feel about your actions? You have never done so to any other woman, but why is she an exception?" She pinched his cheek to show her displeasure as she remonstrated.

"Oh my, you really should consider stopping all these imaginations. I have explained to you, haven't I? It's just a business acquaintanceship," he replied to her discontentment with an amused tone. It was rare to see her in a drunk state, but he loved it.

"No, I disapprove of that too! Hey, you haven't told me yet. Why wasn't she at the gala? Is it one of your conspiracies?" she proclaimed and burped at the same time. Her vision was so dazed that she was going in and out of focus. As she looked at his handsome face, he then turned into multiple faces like she was in a kaleidoscope. Still, she would not let go of that insistence of hers.

He continued to hug her tightly and he responded to the complaint with a smile, "When it comes to a rival whom my dear wife despises, it's natural for me to come up with ideas to prohibit her appearance in the gala. I got someone to keep her company in the middle of things. I'm a man of great taste. How could I have taken a fancy to such a woman? You have a slenderer stature, you are nice and kind, and better yet, she's not the mother to my sons. You're overthinking, darling."

“So, you do know your position, huh? Let me tell you, I still have quite the line of suitors out there. You should be the one feeling threatened. I forbid you from ogling any, and I mean any, other women. “

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“Also, those women who tried to approach you don’t have good intentions. You must always be vigilant and not make any mistakes, or else, no one can save you. I won’t hesitate to end you...” She waved her hands and shook her fist at him as she threatened him.

“Mr. Mu, you won’t do anything bad, will you? Tell me...tell me...”

She was obviously drunk!

Mu Yuchen grabbed her hand quickly and patiently comforted her. Finally, she relaxed a little.

When Mu Yuchen thought about her, he finally came to a conclusion that this woman must be jealous. She may seem calm as usual, but deep down she was probably feeling aggrieved.

Mu Yuchen began to reflect on himself as he pondered. He wondered what had he done that made her feel so insecure?

At this time, Xiaye, who was lying on his lap, opened her eyes again and stared at him silently, but her eyes could not seem to focus. “Why didn’t you answer my question?”

“Of course not!”

“Then, I believe you,” she responded with peace of mind.

“Xiaye?” he called her suddenly.

She closed her eyes and responded, “Yes?”

He cleared his throat and tightened his hand around her waist. Then, he bent down slightly to get closer to her, and whispered seductively in her ear, "Since you are so wary of other women around me, does it mean that you.. ."

After he said this, he suddenly stopped and did not continue.

"Mean that I...?" she asked after waiting for him to finish his sentence but he did not.

"Do you... love me? Truthfully? Is it far more than the feelings you had for Han Yifeng, the kind of love that will never leave?" he asked cautiously.

"Of course, I love you. You're my husband and the father of my children. You're handsome and sweet to me. Who else would I love if not you?" she replied loudly without hesitation. Her declaration made Li Si, who was in the front, look back and accidentally meet Mu Yuchen's gaze. He quickly looked away and Master Mu drew up the partition in the car to block Li Si from looking again.

Covering his mouth, Li Si could not help laughing.

That was definitely not his master. Master Mu had always been cold and distant. How could he have asked the Missus those questions like a young man who had just fallen in love?

Nevertheless, Master Mu and Miss Xiaye had already continued their conversation.

He was obviously elated to hear her declaration of love. He continued, "Xiaye, then tell me, in your eyes, am I your number one priority?"

She seemed to be a little surprised by his question. After thinking about it, she looked at him with a sneer and said, "That's childish!"

Mu Yuchen frowned when he heard that.

Childish? Was she talking about him?

“Are you angry, Mr. Mu? Look at your furrowed brows! I’m going to kiss you then...”

Before he could react, she had already lowered her soft pink lips to his, so he had no time to think about it as she pulled him closer...

He certainly would never refuse such bliss!

It was rare for her to take the initiative, but her alcohol tolerance was really...

He could not remember if it was at the annual shareholders’ meeting last year or two years ago when she seemed to have gotten drunk too. Nonetheless, he secretly rejoiced and lowered his head to kiss her. He was not going to let go of such a good opportunity.

Xi Xiaye, who was completely wasted, obviously had no recollection of everything that happened, but she could vaguely remember that a man had carried her back to her bedroom, and they had done the deed in every way possible. In the end, she could loosely remember that she had cried shamelessly and begged the man to let her go...

Anyway, she felt so humiliated!

The next morning, she could not care less about the soreness her body was feeling as she hugged her blanket and tried to recall the memory of what happened yesterday. At times, she would carefully glance at the man who was slowly getting dressed next to the bed. She was so focused that she did not even notice her son standing beside the bed with his little hands reaching out to tug her blanket, probably trying to wake her up.

“Mama...Mama...” the little boy called out after he saw that Xi Xiaye did not respond.

His voice brought her back to reality, and she quickly reached out to pick her son up without realizing she was naked under the blanket. The little boy was just about to melt into his mother’s embrace, but his father was a step quicker and he immediately held the boy in his arms while holding her blanket down with one hand.

“Well, whatever happened has happened. You should rest more since it’s an off day anyway. I’ll take our son out for a walk,” he comforted her as he tried to hold back the smile in his heart after seeing her gloomy expression.

“What did I do last night?” Xi Xiaye asked as she became red in the face.

When he was getting dressed earlier, she saw five scratches on his back. Could that be her masterpiece?

“What do you think? What do you think you did?” He gave her an ambiguous look, obviously wanting to see her embarrassed reaction!

“Would I have asked you if I could remember?” As she glanced at him, she knew that something did not feel quite right. It was rare to hear him humming when she woke up in the morning. Even her son looked at him with eyes wide in shock.

There could not have been a striptease and she did not tease anyone, did she?

She glanced at him to try to find out what happened, but he was holding Mu Xiaocheng and beckoning to her while holding his little hand.

“Nothing much happened. We had a good night. That’s all you have to remember. I told Grandfather already and they will be going with us. The sun’s out today, so it’s time to wake up, freshen up, and have breakfast. We’re going out.”

“You can go if you want to. I still want to sleep!”

How could she find the energy to go if she was exhausted? She pulled her blanket over herself and went back to bed.

Mu Yuchen smiled but did not bother her anymore. He went out while holding his son.

“Take a quick nap and get up soon. You haven’t eaten anything since last night,” he reminded before leaving the bedroom. Xi Xiaye pulled the blanket and covered her head, pretending not to have heard him.

Just when she closed her eyes, the cell phone on the bedside table suddenly vibrated. She struggled a little, and it took her a while to answer the phone. It was Su Nan.

“Hello? Xiaye? It’s me! It’s the weekend already. You promised to do some New Year shopping with me. You didn’t forget, did you?”

Su Nan!

New Year shopping?

Xi Xiaye just remembered that Su Nan had called her the other day, and she had completely forgotten about it! She could not help but knock her head!

Chapter 1434. The Closest Person 1

After she hung up, Xi Xiaye could not care about the ache she felt all over. She quickly got out of bed and took the clothes that Mu Yuchen had draped on the chair for her before walking towards the bathroom.

She practically washed up and changed at the quickest speed. After some simple makeup, she went downstairs.

When Sis Wang saw Xi Xiaye come down, she conveyed Mu Yuchen’s message, “Missus, you’re awake! Quickly have some breakfast. Master and the Little Master have gone out. Master said they were going to visit Master Mo and have lunch there. He also said that Chauffeur Wang can send you over when you’ve woken up. Otherwise, you can also just stay at home. He and the Little Master will return sooner then.”

“They’ve already gone out? Why were they so quick?”

Xi Xiaye walked to the table and picked up the steaming hot milk as she stuffed a piece of pastry into her mouth, then finished half a cup of milk in a gulp. She washed it all down with some tea and took the napkin to wipe her mouth before walking straight to the living room.

“Su Nan and I have plans. Where’s Chauffeur Wang? Tell him to send me to the World Trade Center,” Xi Xiaye said.

“The World Trade Center? Missus, aren’t you going to go over?” Sis Wang asked.

“No, I already have plans to go shopping with Su Nan. I might be back in the afternoon or at night. It’s the weekend, and it’ll soon be the end of the year already. Sis Wang, please inform the servants to clean up everything that needs to be cleaned in the next two days. Arrange for some people to stay behind to take care of things. You will all be on holiday quite soon, so get some New Year’s gifts for everyone. Please help settle all that,” Xi Xiaye requested as she took her handbag.

“Alright, Missus, I got it. Chauffeur Wang’s outside. I’ll get him to drive the car over right away.”

“Thanks,” Xi Xiaye responded, and then she quickly walked to the door.

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When the car reached the World Trade Center, Su Nan had already been waiting for quite a while at the coffee shop next door.

Before Xi Xiaye walked closer, Su Nan was already waving at her. “Xiaye! Here! Hurry!”

Xi Xiaye walked over and quickly sat across her. “Have you waited for very long?”

“Not too long. Here, have some pomelo tea. I finally found some time. I’ve been so incredibly busy recently. If it weren’t for Ruan Heng bringing Xiao Xi out, I might not have been able to escape.” Su Nan could not help but put a hand to her forehead exhaustedly.

“Mu Yuchen brought Xiao Cheng out too. Otherwise, I might have to take care of him at home too. How are you? You look quite tired. How about we go relax first?” Xi Xiaye drank the cup of pomelo tea as she suggested.

“Alright, I had the same idea too!” Su Nan responded gladly.

Thus, the two ladies left after finishing their cups of tea.

Xi Xiaye had not been as passionate about the enjoyment of self-maintenance and relaxation before this. It was only after she went along with Zhuang Shurong or Shen Wenna quite a few times, and after Mu Yuchen encouraged her to go for more did she now find time on the weekends to unwind.

She was a regular at the beauty parlor now, and she had her own beautician, so when Xi Xiaye went over, her needs were arranged quite swiftly. She and Su Nan were arranged to be in a VIP room.

“How’s Ruan Heng now? Has he been going for checkups recently? I’ve been so overwhelmed with work lately though I actually wanted to visit him.” Xi Xiaye sucked in a breath as she lifted a hand to tell the masseuse to go a little lighter.

Su Nan turned to look at her with a smile and said, “He’s fine. We’re all very busy end of the year. He’s alright now. He just went for a checkup a few days ago. All the signs show that he’s normal, and he doesn’t feel uncomfortable anyway. The doctor said it should be all fine as long as he doesn’t wear himself out. Don’t worry now. Everyone’s doing quite well.”

“How about you though? I heard that Lingshi and Ah Mo left City Z. How’s that going? Are they doing fine? Can they adapt to life over there? I heard about Doris’s matter too. I wanted to come over to look, but Ruan Heng said we shouldn’t add more trouble to you, so I held back,” Su Nan asked as her eyes were filled with concern.

When Mu Lingmo and Mu Lingshi were brought up, Xi Xiaye could not help but sigh softly again. “I don’t know how they are for now, but I think with Ah Shi’s personality, it isn’t possible for her to pretend as if nothing happened and to go on happily. Mu Yuchen also said before that they probably need to break into life there, but leaving this place might not be a bad thing for them. Even though it’s like starting over again, Ah Shi can’t let go of what happened here. Mu Yuchen and I wish she would live a little lighter. She should never have been burdened with those things.”

Upon hearing that, Su Nan nodded as well, and she sighed softly. "Yeah, it shouldn't have been a burden for her to bear. Of course, you and Mu Yuchen shouldn't be burdened by it either, but who told us to be the one who cares? If it were me, I think I wouldn't hesitate either. Mu Lingshi might not have been thinking of you guys or the Mu family when she was willing to leave. No matter what it is, the Gu family might be her true family."

"The Mu family will always be her family too. I can't bear to see her live a pressured life. Besides, in her current situation, it's good for her to have a safe and relatively peaceful place to live."

"Are you still worried about Gu Lingsha and the rest?" Su Nan was not oblivious either, hence she could understand what Xi Xiaye was trying to say.

Xi Xiaye did not answer as she just smiled. She could not help but worry because what Yang Sheng told her last night suddenly rang in her ears again.

"Don't pressure yourself too much. We'll just do our best. In fact, I trust that Mu Yuchen won't let anything terrible happen," Su Nan consoled.

"I know. I can't worry too much about these things either. Our whole family might go abroad for a holiday for a few days after the New Year. Do you and Ruan Heng want to come along as well?" Xi Xiaye did not want to continue this topic either, so she changed it.

"Celebrate the New Year? By going abroad for a holiday?" Su Nan looked at Xi Xiaye, slightly surprised. She thought about it, then shook her head. "I'm afraid we can't. I have to go back to our hometown with Ruan Heng for the New Year to visit his grandmother. Xiao Xi's older now, and Ruan Heng's grandmother is getting older too, but she hasn't met Xiao Xi yet, so next time then."

"You two have fun then. Oh right, it's going to be your son's first birthday soon. I've prepared a gift for him, and I have a New Year present for Xiao Rui. Remember to bring them back with you later. You'll be planning a lively banquet, won't you?"

Chapter 1435. The Closest Person 2

After hearing that, Xi Xiaye replied with a smile, "We plan to organize a small family gathering. What can a one-year-old possibly know? Plus, we don't want it to be a troublesome affair and drain everybody else in the process."

“He’s your only baby darling, yet you really wish to wrong your son? And has Master Mu agreed to this?” Su Nan questioned with a chuckle.

Come to think of it, Mu Yuchen had done an impeccable job protecting their sons in the past year. He had never let them be exposed to the media. Moreover, there were always guards surrounding Mu Zirui and Mu Zicheng, some of them even covert .

Especially after Xi Xiaye delivered Xiao Cheng prematurely due to the accident, these arrangements could not have been tightened further.

“Grandpa is also not someone who takes such matters seriously. He just wants the family to be happy, so he left the decision to the both of us...”

Thud!

“Damn you, woman. What do you think you’re doing? Are those eyes of yours freaking blind or what?”

“Yeah, what were you looking at? Did your parents teach you how to walk?”

“Hey, you’re the ones who were not paying attention to your surroundings, gossiping while walking around! How many eyes did you bring along today?”

“Oh my, you have some guts to talk back, huh? You still think that you’re right after bumping into me like that, huh!? Even my contact lens has dropped! Do you know how much they cost? It’s a couple hundred thousand! Are you even capable of paying for it?”

“You’re the one who knocked into me. What makes you think you have the right to confront me with such aggression? What are you up to, huh?”

“I demand to speak to the manager. What kind of person is this? Do you think this is a place that welcomes all people? Hmph!”

The clamor of quarrels butchered its way through the hallway and into the room. Even Xi Xiaye and Su Nan started frowning. What intrigued them even more than the incident was one of the voices as it seemed very familiar. The two were a little puzzled. They exchanged glances and directed their sight towards the doorway of the room. Coincidentally, an assistant was bringing in hot towels for them.

With that opportunity, their visions extended through the door gap and beyond the room, but what came into their sight was—Xi Xinyi! That familiar voice belonged to Xi Xinyi!

Immediately, the frown on Xi Xiaye's forehead tightened even more, but before she could react any further, the taller woman standing across from Xi Xinyi had already pounced onto her. She pulled her hair and started beating her up. Naturally, Xi Xinyi began to fight back and the two started to wrestle in a matter of seconds.

The women were very aggressive. Suddenly, all Xi Xiaye could hear were screeches, followed by a few shrieks. The actions of the two women were very swift, and it was obvious that Xi Xinyi was nowhere near on par with them. She was being pinned on the floor and taking the beating of her life. All she could do was cover her head while muffled voices of pain surrounded the hall.

When the argument broke out, the two masseurs stopped the massage.

Xi Xiaye's frown could not have been deeper. She got off the beauty bed, undid her towel, and started putting on her clothes at almost lightspeed. Then, she burst out of the room.

The hallways were crowded, full of customers who came for their spa sessions. All of them only stood there and watched the scene, but not even a single person lent a hand. Two of the masseurs went in to stop the fight but to no avail. They even got shoved aside while trying to help.

Xi Xinyi was held on the floor and being beaten up. One of the women even sat on her and started slapping her.

When Xi Xiaye saw all the actions and reactions, what remained in her eyes was only despair. She pushed into the crowd to make herself a path through the throng. Then, she grabbed the woman sitting on Xi Xinyi and shoved her off.

“Stop it! What do you think you’re doing?!” Xi Xiaye shouted at the top of her lungs while she dragged Xi Xinyi behind her for protection.

Xi Xiaye’s actions were followed by Su Nan running out of their room at maximum speed. When she took a look at Xi Xinyi, all she could see were bruises all over her face. She even saw blood oozing out from a corner of her lips, so she bent down and helped her up.

“Oh, another busybody, huh?” The two women stared at Xi Xiaye with sour expressions.

“I would advise restraint from this point onward. Also, here’s a reminder to you about where we are. Is this somewhere you can just randomly start fights?” Xi Xiaye stated the obvious while returning those stares with a cold glare at the same time.

“She bumped into me and ruined my contact lens which costs a few hundred thousand! Can she afford them? And she dares to disrespect us after taking up our VIP room! Judging from her look, a beating is considered merciful compared to asking her to pay me back! Now, beat it! I wouldn’t care less about beating you up too.”

“You’d better watch that tone of yours. This isn’t your house!” Su Nan asserted while trying her best to manage her temper as she would have blacked out if she were to lose her head and escalate the situation with those arrogant women.

“Why waste your time trash-talking with these people? They’re clearly on the same team. We’ve reserved the VIP suite in the first place, so who are they to say crap about that? Just beat all their sorry butts!”

“How dare you?!” Xi Xiaye did not even have the time to react to anything. She just got a whiff of strong alcohol before she felt an intense pain in her shoulder.

Su Nan saw the whole process, and she lost it this time. Letting Xi Xinyi go, she rushed into the scene and pulled Xi Xiaye behind her. Meanwhile, she pulled the hair of the woman who had assaulted Xi Xiaye with one hand and swiftly slapped her in the face with the other twice.

“Look at that stance! And look at that arrogance!”

“Ugh! Ah Meng, call Brother Hui to summon his men here immediately. We’ll teach them a lesson!”

The situation had escalated into chaos, and the woman managed to make the call. As a result, seven to eight men gushed into the building within three minutes. Even the employees of the spa center could not do anything to stop them!

Their vicious looks were so intimidating that even Xi Xiaye felt a sense of uneasiness.

When Mu Yuchen’s mobile rang, he was drinking the freshest tea at Zhou Zimo’s place, and Xiao Cheng was there with him too. As soon as he saw the name which appeared on the screen, he picked it up immediately.

“Hey, how’s everything? Do you want to come over?” His deep voice cut through the call.

However, the first answer that he got from the other side was a wave of random noises.

After that, Xi Xiaye’s anxious voice came through, “You need to come over now. I’m in a bit of a pickle here. We’re surrounded by a few gangsters, and the police are already on their way. You can go to the police station directly.”

Xi Xiaye hung up the phone after saying that.

Immediately after receiving this information, the radiance and confidence in Mu Yuchen’s eyes disappeared instantly.

“What’s wrong?” Zhou Zimo asked out of concern while making tea. He could tell that something was not right from his expression.

Mu Yuchen placed his teacup down, carried Xiao Cheng who was playing just beside him with his other hand and stormed out of the room. He took the largest strides he was capable of taking.

“I’ll skip the meal. Xiaye ran into some trouble and I need to leave now. Let’s meet some other day.” Just as he finished speaking, Mu Yuchen had disappeared from the doorway.

Zhou Zimo was left there with a frown. He thought about it for a second and could not convince himself to not think about the situation, so he decided to tag along...

At the police station, Su Nan and Xi Xinyi were in interrogation rooms while Xi Xiaye was standing in the hallway waiting. Concern could be read all over her face.

She was not hurt because Su Nan had stood in front of her when the two maniacs started their assault. After the gangsters arrived, all her bodyguards were there to stop them from getting near her. Compared to her, Su Nan and Xi Xinyi looked awful as both of them had bruises all over and were still being interrogated.

Chapter 1436. The Closest Person 3

Xi Xiaye was worried because she did not know if the fight would be in the police records.

Fortunately, the bodyguards dealt with it in time before the media could expose it. Otherwise, they may be in the headlines tomorrow for fighting with other women!

Although Xi Xiaye was unsettled, she could only calm herself down. She quietly found a seat in the corner and patiently waited with her head down.

She had no idea how much time had passed when she suddenly heard footsteps. Before she knew it, someone had stopped in front of her and she could smell a familiar scent. She raised her head subconsciously and saw the man standing in front of her. He frowned as he scanned her up and down.

Before she could say anything, he reproached in a hoarse voice, “Are you hurt? Why are you trying to bite off more than you can chew? Why did you fight them? Look at you. Do you think you can fight those people? ! I just told you that you have acute consciousness and you immediately prove me wrong! That’s zero consciousness!”

Mu Yuchen could not control the anger in his heart when he saw her injured face.

She glanced at him and took a deep breath before turning her head to look away.

“Get up. Let’s go home,” he said calmly while looking at her and reaching out his hand.

“What about them?” she asked.

“It’s okay. You can leave now. You can get in more fights if you’ve got nothing better to do in the future, and maybe the police force can award you with a badge of honor.” He shot her a sarcastic glance.

While he was on the way here, he had already heard about what happened from the bodyguard. Therefore, he had asked Su Chen to make some calls. Otherwise things would not have been solved this easily. As soon as those people heard who they had been fighting against, they could only choose to settle peacefully.

“I don’t want to fight either, but I just can’t stand it when they kept picking on us. Maybe you can, but not me!” she defended.

He could not believe her audacity! However, because he could tell that she was furious from her flushed cheeks, he could only keep quiet and take a deep breath.

“Forget it. Let’s not talk about it now. We’ll talk about it when we’re home and behind closed doors,” Mu Yuchen said.

Xi Xiaye could hear the door open just as he said that. She quickly looked over and saw Su Nan walking into the corridor with Xi Xinyi.

“Nan Nan, are you okay?” Xi Xiaye said worriedly after she saw the bruises on Su Nan’s face. The injuries on her body were probably worse.

She could feel her heart aching for Su Nan, so she quickly helped her up.

Su Nan smiled and immediately realized what happened after seeing Mu Yuchen in front of her. She felt embarrassed and nodded to him as she said, "It's okay. It's just a minor injury. I just couldn't stand those two arrogant women who thought I was an easy target. Even though I got punched a few times, I did manage to knock their front teeth off, so I guess that's a win!"

Su Nan had always been this bold and straightforward.

'It must be pretty difficult for Ruan Heng to tolerate a wife with such bold temperament,' Mu Yuchen thought.

"You're injured too! Don't worry. Just go to the hospital and get your wounds treated."

"Nan Nan!"

Just as Xi Xiaye was speaking to Su Nan, they could hear Ruan Heng's voice from the front. When she looked up, Ruan Heng had already rushed over.

"I'm fine. Why are you here?" Su Nan said softly. She was anxious because she did not know how to explain the injuries on her face.

"What do you mean you're okay when you're clearly injured?! Nan Nan, you're already 30. Can you stop being so impulsive? You're lucky those people didn't have any weapons, or else, you might've been the one at a loss," Ruan Heng chided anxiously.

"Okay, Ruan Heng, take her to treat her injuries first," Xi Xiaye said.

Ruan Heng realized that Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye were still standing beside him, so he quickly greeted them, "President Mu, Xiaye!"

Mu Yuchen nodded and waved to the bodyguards next to him. One of the bodyguards in black immediately stepped forward. "Master!"

“Take them to the hospital to treat their injuries.”

“Yes, Master!”

They slowly walked forward after hearing Mu Yuchen’s order.

“President Mu, Xiaye, we’ll make a move first,” Ruan Heng and Su Nan left after excusing themselves.

Xi Xiaye watched their silhouettes slowly disappearing out of the doorway. After a while, she turned around to look for Xi Xinyi, but she had left her side. She started searching around and quickly found her in another corridor in front.

Xi Xiaye saw her scrawny figure that seemed lonely. Her injuries were probably more serious than theirs.

Xi Xiaye hesitated for a while and her eyes darkened. Just as she was about to step forward to hold her, Xi Xinyi seemed to be unable to hold herself together anymore. She blacked out and her body fell forward.

“Xinyi!” Xi Xiaye called out without even realizing it.

Mu Yuchen frowned and signaled the bodyguard beside him. The bodyguard quickly rushed over and held Xi Xinyi.

“Let’s go to the hospital first!”

They hurriedly rushed to Hospital T.

At the hospital, the doctor carefully checked Xi Xinyi as she lay in the hospital bed and instructed the nurse to apply some medicine and bandage her wounds.

“She’s suffered two fractured ribs, and there were also many bruises on her body. I’m afraid that she might need to rest for a period of time. She needs to be admitted for a few days for further observation. As long as she rests well, she should recover very soon,” the doctor said to Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye.

Mu Yuchen nodded and looked at Xi Xinyi, whose eyes were still closed as she lay on the hospital bed. He thought for a while and asked, “When will she wake up?”

“She had a slight concussion and she’s also probably been too tired recently, so she won’t wake up until the evening. I suggest that she gets a good rest. Her body is already weak, and her condition isn’t very good,” the doctor said as he glanced at Xi Xinyi on the hospital bed.

When Xi Xiaye heard that, her eyes darkened and she did not know what to say for a while. After pondering for a long time, she could only nod her head and said, “Okay, we understand.”

She then turned to look at Mu Yuchen. “You can arrange for them to settle the hospitalization procedures first. Also, about this incident...I’ll let you decide if you want to tell Father or not.”

Xi Xiaye could not identify what she felt when she saw Xi Xinyi like that. She only knew that seeing Xi Xinyi so vulnerable did not make her as happy as she had imagined. For a moment, she thought that she felt a little distressed.

As Mu Yuchen listened, he gazed at her as he took a deep breath, then he wrapped his hand around her thin shoulders and took her in his arms.

“Don’t stress about it as long as you don’t have any regrets.”

He knew exactly what she was thinking.

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Chapter 1437. The Closest Person 4

She sighed to herself as well and held onto his shirt. After she calmed down, she let go of him and responded, "I'm fine. Let them go and settle the procedures. Go back when you're done. Tell Sis Wang to make some soup and bring it over. Also, is Zimo alright with taking care of our son?"

Earlier, when Zhou Zimo had chased after him, Mu Yuchen had passed Mu Xiaocheng to him and asked for his help to take care of him for a day.

That way, Zhou Zimo could experience how it was like to be a father. Mu Yuchen thought that letting Zhou Zimo be a super stay-at-home dad for a day would be an honor to his friend.

"Of course, he can. Don't worry. Zimo will good care of our son," Mu Yuchen said certainly.

With that, Xi Xiaye felt assured and she urged Mu Yuchen to settle the procedures again.

...

Obviously, Mu Yuchen had guessed right. Zhou Zimo adored Mu Xiaocheng very much, and they were now in Zhou Zimo's spacious and luxurious living room.

Mu Xiaocheng was now lying on the soft sofa and playing around. All over the floor, Zhou Zimo had told the servants to bring a few thick carpets to cover the floor. There were many toys too. Zhou Zimo sat aside with his pen and flipped through the document before him while his other hand held Mu Xiaocheng's baby bottle. Inside the bottle was some powdered milk that he had just asked Mu Yuchen to teach him to make.

Zhou Zimo swiftly signed the document, then looked to his left, and saw that Mu Xiaocheng did not drink a single drop, so he went over. "Xiao Cheng, come on. Drink some. You didn't eat much at lunch. Don't starve now and drink some quickly," he cajoled as he handed the milk bottle over.

However, Mu Xiaocheng was having fun playing, and when Zhou Zimo suddenly disrupted him, he was unhappy. His little claws reached out for Zhou Zimo's handsome face and smacked it. He was so quick that Zhou Zimo could not evade the strike in time, and he subconsciously cried out too.

When he heard Zhou Zimo crying out, Mu Xiaocheng instantly chuckled and started clawing at him again. Zhou Zimo quickly caught his little hands and kissed them, then patted his little head as he softly coaxed, "Alright now. Don't cause me trouble. Quickly sleep now. Come on, I'll nap with you..." he said as he walked upstairs.

However, a problem soon rose. He had just carried him upstairs when Mu Xiaocheng started to cry and would not stop no matter how much he coaxed. Giving him milk did not work either. Zhou Zimo was worried now. He thought about it and felt something was not right, so he pulled Mu Xiaocheng's pants down.

Damn it!

He wanted to immediately call Mu Yuchen so that he would take his son back

Perhaps because he could sense Zhou Zimo's thoughts, Mu Xiaocheng stopped crying and stared wide-eyed at Zhou Zimo! Those eyes were so similar to his father's!

Zhou Zimo thought it was creepy. After thinking about it, he braced himself and pinched Mu Xiaocheng's little cheek. "You little fellow, are you trying to wear your Uncle Zhou out? Come on, I'll bring you to wash up! I'll make you all nice smelling. You stink!"

...

The warm sun gradually fell to the west, and when the final stream of sunset fell below the horizon, the entire sky instantly fell silent.

Inside a suite in Hospital T.

Xi Xinyi woke up in a daze. When she felt the pain all over, she instantly frowned. She moved and sensed that there was someone beside her, so she turned and Xi Xiaye's figure greeted her sight.

She was sitting by her bedside, dressed in a beige coat with her head propped up on one hand. Her beautiful hair fell on her shoulders while her beautiful face looked the same as before. However, right now, she seemed to look even more beautiful. Her other hand was on her blanket, and she looked quite tired. Right now, she had fallen asleep with her eyes closed and her breath was even.

Even if it was quite cold outside, the ward was not.

Xi Xinyi did not think that the person sitting right here would be her sister. She thought about how after their relationship fell apart, they had become enemies, and how they tried to get rid of each other.

Nonetheless, she never thought that things would have turned out this way.

If it were back then, she definitely would not have done anything about that incident in the morning. She might have even made a fuss, but...

She did not know why, but her head was a mess at the moment. Her mind could not help but flash back to the scenes from before. Suddenly, her heart hurt and she could not seem to breathe.

She watched Xi Xiaye who was sound asleep, and then for some reason, she was hit by a pang of sadness in her heart, and her eyes could not help but well up with hot tears.

She cried. When the first drop of tears fell from the corner of her eyes, she felt it. This tear seemed to be heavier than before, so much so that she was at a loss.

She quickly lifted a hand to wipe away her tears as she turned to look out at the grayness outside her window, but the hot tears that welled up in her eyes simply would not stop.

Xi Xiaye felt some movement, so she quickly opened her eyes and blinked her misty eyes. As soon as she looked at Xi Xinyi, she saw that Xi Xinyi had her head turned away and was silently crying.

Frowning immediately, Xi Xiaye watched her and said with a raspy voice, "Are you feeling uncomfortable?"

Her tone was even, and you could not quite hear any emotions from it while her gaze was calm.

Xi Xinyi sniffled and lifted a hand to wipe away the tears from the corner of her eyes as she took a deep breath and shook her head. "I'm fine. Why are you here?"

"You were hurt quite badly. The doctor said that you'll have to be hospitalized for observation for a few days. Since you're awake, have something to eat. I told Sis Wang to make some shredded chicken porridge. She's quite a marvelous cook," Xi Xiaye said as she opened the Thermos flask by the table and poured out half a bowl of the shredded chicken porridge for Xi Xinyi.

The tempting aroma immediately filled the air. Immediately, Xi Xinyi felt really hungry, but when she saw Xi Xiaye hand the bowl of porridge over, she was stunned and did not immediately take it.

Although Xi Xiaye saw that she did not move, she just held the bowl and looked at her silently.

She could see that Xi Xinyi was feeling a mix of emotions, so Xi Xiaye calmly said, "Don't think too much about the other things now."

“Weren’t you...?” Xi Xinyi spoke in a daze. Her bruised face seemed pale and her eyes seemed blank while she looked at Xi Xiaye in confusion.

“I told you before. Neither do I remember the things from the past anymore, nor do I want to recall them. If you insist on holding onto the past, I can’t help you either,” Xi Xiaye said coldly, but she did not withdraw the bowl in her hand.

When Xi Xinyi heard that, she paused again and could not help but bite her lips.

Chapter 1438. The Closest Person 5

Xi Xiaye did not speak up after then while Xi Xinyi stared at her all this time.

The two sisters just sat there without uttering a single word. It took quite a while before Xi Xiaye continued speaking, “The doctor said your body hasn’t been doing well. You shouldn’t stay up late all the time. What you should do is to pay more attention to your nutrition intake. That way, your body will recover faster.”

She was unsure whether it was her tone of concern, but Xi Xinyi had an indescribable feeling while listening to her sister’s advice. After hesitating for quite some time, she accepted the bowl of porridge under Xi Xiaye’s delicate gaze and quietly started eating it with her head bowed down.

While looking at her sister in silence, Xi Xiaye pulled a napkin from the side table and passed it over. Xi Xinyi extended her arm to take it.

Meanwhile, both the sisters could not have known that amidst all the silence, two sturdy silhouettes were witnessing everything through the gap of the door from just outside the room.

“She is still who she was. She worries about her all the time, thus she has never truly made up her mind, Father,” Mu Yuchen spoke with slight resignation in his deep voice.

Speaking of that, her personality was the exact duplicate of his. No matter how inhumane they might be to others, they could never really do the same to the people who were close to them just like how he treated Mu Lingtian. Maybe that was the reason why he managed to find such a profound resonance within her.

That was why he found it emotionally impossible to tear himself away from his attachment to her. Sometimes, he just wished that she could be a little more heartless. Then, she would be more relaxed and not face too much pressure.

It was not that he loved her kindness. If she was part of the equation, he could put up with anything that came with her, including her so-called viciousness. Plus, if he had chosen to be with her in the first place, he must be someone who would willingly get his hands dirty with her and not someone who would despise her malice. This had nothing to do with kindness since he was not a saint of any kind to start with. However, it was those imperfections of hers that made him feel lucky.

Xi Mushan remembered every action and detail that took place in the ward, including the conversation between both sisters, word for word. He nodded and sighed lightly before he retracted his gaze from his daughters, turned his body away slowly yet silently, then took a few steps to the side while Mu Yuchen followed him from behind.

“Her personality resembles her mother’s a lot. However, she’s a soft-hearted person. Some see it as a strength while to others, it’s a shortcoming. If Xi Xinyi can realize that, it’s naturally the best-case scenario, but if she can’t, the person that she’ll hurt the most is definitely Xiaye,” Xu Mushan said faintly.

“But after all that has happened, I do also hope that Xinyi can let bygones be bygones. You have been giving in to accommodate Xiaye although that should be tiring. Thanks to you, she has an easier way out,” he continued while staring at Mu Yuchen with his grateful eyes.

In fact, when he knew that Mu Yuchen and his daughter were going out, deep down, he was filled with contentment and satisfaction.

Although he had changed his career path and was now an educator, he had been in politics for many years, and with his career advantage plus his relationship with Shen Wenna, he had learned a lot about the Mu family. After all, Mu Tangchuan was a rather prestigious name in the government, and this man standing in front of him was also a legend himself...

“Moreover, when it comes to both of us, I’m afraid that even a biological son wouldn’t have treated us better, and for that, I’m grateful.”

“I’m lucky if you appreciate what I’ve done so far. As for Xi Xinyi, I have been discussing it with Xiaye. How did Han Yifeng and her end up in their current situation? There are many details that we don’t know. Xiaye won’t forgive her, but I know she won’t want things to be how they are now. I have promised Xinyi that I’ll help her fight for another chance, and I’m already on it. I’ll be assigning her to San Francisco as a regional manager.”

“San Francisco? Where Han Yifeng is?” Xi Mushan asked.

Mu Yuchen replied with a nod, “Yeah, it isn’t an easy task to accomplish, but now I guess it’s for the best if I can make it happen as soon as possible.”

“What do you have in mind?”

“Don’t you worry, Father. I will do all the thinking. I’m thinking maybe after the Lunar New Year, but you don’t have to rush to tell her that just yet. As for Yue Lingsi...”

“We’ll transfer her there when Xinyi has settled down. Then, we’ll hire a private nurse to look after her. It’s not a big deal.” When speaking about Yue Lingsi, Xi Mushan’s feelings did not fluctuate much. She was a stain he could never erase. All he felt whenever the name came up was his guilt towards Shen Wenna.

“I’ll let you make the final call on that.” He did not wish to upset his wife by needing her to deal with such matters, so it was best if they could resolve the issue in one go.

“Great. I’ll get Li Si to arrange a nurse. She hasn’t been getting enough rest these few days, and there’s much to do at the end of the year, so I think we should return home. If there is anything, just call me. Mother knows you’re here, so you should go home earlier too.”

Xi Mushan nodded. “Yeah, sorry to have bothered you. Go home. I can see that Xiaye is tired...”

Both father and son-in-law strode back to the door while chatting.

Meanwhile, back in the ward. Xi Xiaye took the empty bowl from Xi Xinyi and ladled out another half a bowl. Xi Xinyi accepted it silently though without much thought given.

“Do you know that restraining your temper a little will make you suffer less? Taking a step backward for a moment of peace and safety is always the best policy. You’re only one girl, so you don’t have to go all out and mess with them. You’re considered lucky today, but luck will not be bestowed upon you all the time, and it’s not always a good thing for one to always fight for her own rights,” Xi Xiaye advised after some thought when she saw that Xi Xinyi had wiped her tears dry and started to gulp her porridge down.

As soon as Xi Xiaye’s words hit her, Xi Xinyi’s dried eyes immediately got warm and tears started rolling down again. She could not stand any word of concern from Xi Xiaye even if it was just a little as it would only remind her of how terrible she had been before this, and that made her feel disgusted about herself.

Seeing Xi Xinyi go silent, Xi Xiaye did not plan to continue her lecture any more and she slowly stood up.

“Mu Yuchen has asked Li Si to get you a nurse. Rest well and call the doctors or nurses if anything happens,” Xi Xiaye advised before taking her leave.

As the steely scent faded away, Xi Xinyi raised her head in an instant and stared at Xi Xiaye’s slender back. Following a moment of strenuous struggle, she called out to the silhouette in her hoarse voice, “Sorry, Sis! I’m terribly sorry...”

When the apology struck her, Xi Xiaye halted for a moment, but then she swiftly continued her movement out of the room without looking back or saying a single word.

As soon as she left the ward, she ran into the two men standing out there: Xi Mushan and Mu Yuchen.

“Dad?” Xi Xiaye looked at Xi Mushan in shock.

“I was the one who called him here,” Mu Yuchen replied.

"I was informed about the incident, so I came by to check on you girls. Are you okay?" Xi Mushan expressed his concern.

Chapter 1439. The Closest Person 6

Xi Xiaye shook her head and replied calmly, "I'm fine. Don't worry."

"That's good to hear. You guys should go back first. It's been a long day," Xi Mushan said.

"Then, we'll make a move first," Mu Yuchen had already reached out to hold Xi Xiaye as he said this.

She frowned when he held her and inhaled sharply before she decided to follow him.

When Xi Mushan walked into the ward, Xi Xinyi was in a daze while holding half a bowl of porridge in her hand. She slowly raised her head when she heard footsteps. "Father? Why are you here?"

Xi Mushan walked a few steps closer. "Ah Chen called, so I just wanted to drop by and visit. Are you alright? What's the matter? Why did you get into a fight?" he asked as he was slightly worried.

"I'm okay. Those women drank too much and there was some disagreement. The alcohol also kicked in, thus I just went for it without much thought. Fortunately, Brother-in-law got there in time to break up the fight. Su Nan was also injured. Is she okay now?"

"She's fine. Eat your porridge while it's still hot," Xi Mushan said as he pulled a chair from the side and sat down.

"Do you still blame your sister?" he looked at Xi Xinyi's pale face and asked in his low voice.

Xi Xinyi paused when she heard this. After a while, she broke into a bitter smile and said, "How could I bring myself to hate her?"

"It's best if you can think like that and have an open mind. She's the closest person to you after me and your mother. She's your sister."

“I understand, Father.”

“Get well soon. Remember that no matter what, you should never let anyone or anything hurt your own people because, at the end of the day, they might be all you can rely on. Your grandmother and mother didn’t understand this, and I hope you won’t be like them because you’d be going down a road of no return.”

“Father, I—”

“Okay, you don’t have to say anything as long as you truly understand. Now, take a good rest.”

Xi Xinyi sniffled as she looked down at the steaming bowl of porridge in her hand. Her eyes welled up a little.

...

It was dark when Xi Xiaye and Mu Yuchen finally returned to Maple Residence. Sis Wang had already prepared dinner and was waiting for them.

Zhou Zimo had also sent Mu Xiaocheng back and gone out to socialize before he could have dinner.

The couple washed their hands, had dinner, and went upstairs.

Although Xi Xiaye was tired, she called Ruan Heng just to make sure there was nothing serious about Su Nan’s injuries.

After her shower, Aunt Fang came and took Mu Xiaocheng away.

The little guy seemed to be exhausted from playing today. Xi Xiaye played with him for a while before he stopped paying attention to her. He then crawled to the middle of the bed and fell asleep, setting her mind at rest.

Mu Yuchen was still taking a bath. It was just past nine o'clock and Xi Xiaye did not normally go to bed early, so she started reading a book as she lay on the bed.

She was so focused on reading that she lost track of time, but suddenly she could smell a strong scent of Chinese liniment followed by a shadow in front of her.

Xi Xiaye frowned and quickly raised her head, only to see a man in a dark blue bathrobe who had already sat down next to her. He was holding a bottle of Chinese liniment and some cotton in his hand.

"Take your clothes off."

"What?" Xi Xiaye was dumbfounded and she looked at him with a frown.

"If you don't apply some medicine on your chest, you'll have to suffer the pain longer." He glared at her furiously.

Xi Xiaye just remembered that she had been punched by the drunk woman, and she felt a little sore. While she was taking a shower, she could feel the pain with just a slight movement in her hand.

She slowly removed her shirt, revealing the bruise on her chest near her right shoulder. It was small but quite obvious.

"If you ever encounter something like that in the future, don't get involved. For someone your size, you'll only suffer," he scolded her.

"I didn't expect the two women to be good at fighting, but Su Nan was pretty amazing herself. They also got their front teeth knocked out, didn't they?" Xi Xiaye could not help but smile as she remembered the tragic expression on the two women's faces. "Su Nan didn't let me do it, but I did it anyway and showed them who's boss."

"Do you feel proud of it? You'll only cry about it if you lose. You're already in your 30s, but you still think you can fight like a thug in school! Only irresponsible and immature teenage girls would do stupid things

like that," he reproached angrily while applying the medicine-soaked cotton on her bruise. You're mature and wise. You're already in your 30s!"

She glanced at him disdainfully. "You're indirectly saying that I'm old and less charming now, aren't you!?"

"Then, I have to commend your IQ now that it seems like it has improved. It's not easy to read between the lines," he said as he glared at her and the pressure of his hands slightly increased, so she started crying in pain.

"Ouch! Be careful! Don't you know that it hurts!?"

"How would you remember it if it didn't hurt? Your temper has gotten worse recently. Was the docility that I saw when we first got married just a show? Now, you're showing your true colors!" Mu Yuchen said. However, he could not help but smile when he saw her furrowed brows.

"Aren't you the same? Also, do you believe I can easily list more than ten of your weaknesses?" Xi Xiaye was certainly unimpressed and she immediately rebutted.

He listened but shot her a wry look.

Xi Xiaye thought he did not believe her, so she immediately started counting, "You call me a clean freak and picky eater, but when I say something about you, you just ignore me! You're also narrow-minded as if you're the only good man in the world. Sometimes, you can even be petty with your own son. Also, sometimes you like to pretend like you're a deep thinker, but I can see right through you now!"

"Then, do you know what I want to do now?" He did not seem to be angry when he heard what she said. Instead, he started smirking. Xi Xiaye felt her back going numb and her hair stood on end!

"You...want to strangle me?" she raised her eyebrows and smiled nervously.

"There's a secret I've been wanting to tell you. Do you want to know what it is?" There seemed to be a touch of seduction in his tone.

“What?” Of course, she wanted to know!

“It seems like you didn’t just start having a spare tire around your waist recently. You actually have one more!” he smiled innocently as he said.

Xi Xiaye was taken aback, and it took her a while to figure out what he meant. Her face turned sour and she struck him with the pillow next to her with one hand. “Get out! You’re sleeping in the living room tonight!”

He ignored her and grabbed the pillow with one hand while putting the medicine bottle on the table next to him. Then, he lay down next to her...

“I’m asking you to leave...Hey!”

“If you want our son to see any obscenity, then shout all you want!”

Chapter 1440. Another Year has Passed 1

Gosh!

This fellow!

How annoying! Shameless! So shameless!

Xi Xiaye cursed on the inside, but the man behind her had already taken her book away and swiftly switched off the lights before closing his eyes.

“Rest early. You’ve been quite worn out these past few days. Otherwise, let’s do something else!”

He seemed to emphasize the words ‘something else’, and Xi Xiaye obviously knew what he meant. She gritted her teeth and silently accepted it. It seemed as if she could never defeat him. He just had a way to smooth things over when she was unhappy!

She thought about it, then asked, "Why did you call Father over?"

"Why not?" he asked instead, and reached out to pull her into his arms.

She hesitated, then said quietly, "I don't know if doing so was right or wrong. Even though I'm not willing to talk about forgiveness, I don't feel great thinking about how she is now. I think Father must be thinking about that. Perhaps, that would be a good ending for her, or for us. I really hope these things won't leave any trauma. Just as how we've suffered, maybe we are fated to owe each other some things. What do you think?"

"I agree," he simply answered with two words.

"When can you transfer her away?" She looked up, and under the dim lights, she could see his eyes were gently shut.

"After the New Year. It depends on Qi Lei since it will be much better for him to do it. It wouldn't be too much to ask him back for a favor, would it?" His eyes were half-closed as he shot her a glance.

She then leaned on his chest and smiled. "Not much, but I feel like Qi Lei's changed a lot. I remember the first time I met him, he looked like the classic rich playboy. He was so annoying then, all devilish."

"What? Do you suddenly find him extremely charming now?" As he listened, his eyes that had just closed suddenly opened again and he looked at her.

"Mr. Mu, to be honest, your flirting skills just aren't as good as his. If it weren't for the fact that you were handsome, women would go for him first. Do you believe me?"

"Who are you hoping to go for now? If I'm not good, then I wouldn't have gotten you. You are Missus Mu now, Mu Yuchen's woman. You are none of Qi Lei's business." He gave her a cold stare to show that he was not happy.

Xi Xiaye then smiled and planted a peck on his cold lips. "But you are my type."

“I’m not a car...”

“Oh right, cars can be changed, but men can’t...Ah!”

“Who are you thinking of changing? Change...” The man’s growl showed his unhappiness.

“I didn’t say I want to change...Ah! My hair, you’re pinning it down...”

...

Xi Xinyi stayed in the hospital for quite a few days before she was discharged. On the day she was discharged, Xi Xiaye did not go over. However, she did get Sis Wang to make some porridge and soup to send over. As Xi Xinyi had recovered quite quickly, her initially pale complexion looked much better now.

On the day she was discharged, it was Xi Mushan who picked her up.

She had felt quite pressured before this, so she had moved out for a while, but after that, she moved back to the place where she had lived in with Han Yifeng when they were still married. Han Yifeng had left everything here for her just so there was still some part of them here.

To take care of her, Xi Xiaye had hired an experienced nurse as well.

When they returned to the villa, it was close to noon.

“What do you want to eat? Let’s have lunch at home. The servants have prepared quite a lot of ingredients.” Xi Mushan set aside the cup in hand as he spoke to Xi Xinyi who was carefully adjusting herself on the seat beside him.

“Let Sis Fu do it. Don’t worry yourself with that, Father. It’s New Year’s Eve the day after tomorrow, so you should be quite busy too. There’s no need to come all the way here,” she said.

However, Xi Mushan had already gotten up, taken off his coat, and gone straight to the kitchen without a second word.

Xi Xinyi turned and watched as he vanished at the kitchen entrance. Suddenly, she felt stunned...

Lunch was soon ready. Although there were only some simple dishes, they all looked and smelled good. This was something that Xi Xinyi had not enjoyed in a long time now.

The father and daughter sat across each other at the table. Xi Mushan served Xi Xinyi some soup as he said in concern, "I've told Sis Fu to make some tonic soup for you every day."

He thought about it before continuing, "I visited your mother yesterday. The nurses are taking care of her very well and she's much calmer now, but I didn't tell her about you getting hurt."

As Xi Xinyi lowered her head, her hand that held the spoon paused. "Father, you don't have to do that. I don't want Aunt to be unhappy. My mother...Just let her be..."

"I know that you must still be brooding over the thing between me, Wenna, and your mother, but right now, I don't want to hide anything from you. The marriage between your mother and I has always been a transaction, and I've never liked her. I could never let go of Wenna. I think you know about the incident back then. Wenna was chased away, and she hasn't had it easy all these years. As for your mother, I admit that apart from the fact that I didn't quite love her, I never treated her poorly. As for you, I have done my part as a father too." Xi Mushan's tone was calm while his expression was indifferent too.

Xi Xinyi fell silent. After a while, she said, "But Mother loves you deeply. She...she didn't mean to betray you, so..."

"Whatever it is, she was despicable to have been the third party between me and Wenna. That's the truth. I hope you can understand that and truly accept it. You can also think of it from your sister's perspective. As people, we can't only live for ourselves, can we? Why else would you want to have your son back and return to Han Yifeng's side then?" Xi Mushan said these heartfelt words.

Xi Xinyi paused. Soon, she looked up, “Grandmother and Mother always told me before that one must fight for the things we like. I thought they weren’t wrong either. There aren’t that many good people around, are they?”

“It’s not wrong to fight for what you like, but there is a bottom line to this fight. You’re not the only person in this world. There are many good people in this world. You have been limited by such narrow perspectives. That’s why you were so easily led astray. The way you think was probably influenced by your mother.”

Xi Mushan looked at Xi Xinyi quietly, but when he saw that her expression had darkened, he did not continue.