

## Loving 1511

### Chapter 1511. She's Like The Wind 1

Summer seemed to have arrived early this year. After May Day, the weather had slowly become warmer. The sun was scorching in June and boiling in July, signifying that it was midsummer. In the blink of an eye, several months had passed. During this period of time, everyone's life seemed to have returned to peace.

They had gone back to the quiet and simple life of going out to work early and returning from work late at night.

In the past few months, nothing out of the ordinary happened. However, a month ago, Mu Lingshi gave birth to a boy in the Townsperson Hospital of City B. Ah Mo and Gu Qiwu were both elated. A few days before the expected due date, Zhuang Shurong had also rushed over. When everyone back at City Z heard the news, they were ecstatic.

Ah Mo requested Mu Yinan to christen the child. The old man thought about it for several days, and finally named the child Mu Qiye, which meant precious and bright, in hopes that he could have a bright future.

The good news felt like billows and waves in the quiet days. Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye went to see Mu Lingshi as well. They were relieved to see that she was recovering well after giving birth, and she had grown plumper than before.

It was sunset again and there was a faint afterglow at dusk.

At this very moment, at the Vice-Chancellor's office of University A in City Z, Dongfang Liuyun was there in a long white shirt, paired with a pair of cropped trousers and white canvas shoes. She wore her waist-length hair down and was standing in front of the Vice-Chancellor, Xi Mushan's desk, with a black backpack in her hand.

She still had the same expression that was as cold as the wind. In fact, Xi Mushan never seemed to feel any other emotions from this young girl. He only knew that she was just like his daughter as they were both very capable. However, the woman in front of him was wiser and more mysterious than Xiaye.

“What’s the matter, Teacher Dongfang?”

Xi Mushan put down the file in his hand and was about to get up. However, Dongfang Liuyun, who was standing in front of him, reached out and left a letter in her hand on the desk in front of him.

“Vice-Chancellor Xi, this is my resignation letter. I don’t want to teach anymore.”

Her sudden request took Xi Mushan by surprise, he asked, “Resign? Why? Is it because you think that our welfare isn’t good enough?”

Dongfang Liuyun shook her head, and her mouth curved into a faint smile. “No, I never cared much about teaching. Now that the doctoral degree of University A has been confirmed, it’s time for me to leave. Being a teacher doesn’t really suit me.”

“Why would you say so? I personally went to a few lectures of courses you taught. I thought it was well done. Moreover, your lectures are always full. You’re loved by the students and are a role model to the teachers. Why would you quit your job all of a sudden? I always thought that you’d be happy working here.”

Xi Mushan was bewildered. In fact, the school’s application for the doctoral degree would not have passed the assessment so quickly if it was not for her efforts. Otherwise, the application might still be pending at the moment.

“I’ve said it before that I’m actually not too interested in teaching. I devoted myself to the job because it’s my obligation and that’s my principle. Moreover, I’m...not just a teacher,” Dongfang Liuyun said faintly.

Xi Mushan could not tell her emotions from her eyes that were as deep as the sea, but he thought about it, and suddenly, he seemed to understand something...

That was right. Dongfang Liuyun was not just a legend. Her background was also impressive. She was a woman with a remarkable background, beauty, and wisdom. Even Xi Mushan himself admired her, especially her personality.

Actually, according to his understanding, Dongfang Liuyun was a very simple and intelligent person. She was very smart, and she had a pair of piercing eyes that could see through the world.

She never depended on the status or power of her parents as she was very competitive. However, she did not seem to have a good relationship with her family. The Dongfang family remained mysterious in City Z. The Dongfang couple were the ones that often appeared in front of the media and they were a loving couple.

The majority of the news about the Dongfang family were rumors because no matter how the media tried to dig up their news, they kept their silence and never stood up to explain or clarify anything.

“I almost forgot that you have the Dongfang family behind you...” Xi Mushan sighed lightly. Just like Xiaye, the weight on his shoulders were heavy.

“If I could choose, I don’t want to either. Well, I’ll leave my resignation letter here. Please approve it. I’ve packed up my things and informed two other teachers about the final exam. They’ll be in charge of my two classes, so you don’t have to worry about the progress of the course and the students’ final exams.”

“I certainly have faith in your working ability. If that’s the case, I won’t say more. Let’s organize a department dinner for all the teachers from the Archaeology Department tonight...”

“It’s okay. My stomach hasn’t been feeling well these days and I don’t have any appetite. The doctor told me not to drink for the time being, so let’s do this another time. Don’t worry. I’ll come back to visit all of you, goodbye!” Dongfang Liuyun said indifferently and turned around. Her thin figure quickly disappeared outside the door.

The sunset had faded and the afterglow was still lingering while the tall trees in front of the campus rustled with the evening breeze.

When Dongfang Liuyun walked out of the campus gate, a black limousine stopped in front of her slowly and precisely. As the window was slowly lowered, she saw the black figure in the driver’s seat.

He had a gorgeous face and deep, dark eyes, and he was wearing a pair of dark trousers with a dark gray shirt. Who else could it be if not Qi Lei, who recently topped the list of the most popular man crush?

Unlike his cynic self in the past, Dongfang Liuyun felt that he had become reserved and matured.

“Get in.” Qi Lei glanced at her and put his sunglasses back on before looking away

Dongfang Liuyun paused and raised her eyebrows but did not refuse. She reached out to open the car door and got into the car.

“How did you know that I’m back?” she asked as she pulled the seat belt and fastened it.

“I have my ways,” Qi Lei glared at her and responded calmly.

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As Dongfang Liuyun shot him back a glance, her starry eyes flickered, and her indifferent lips flashed in ease. She did not say anything as she reached out to take a magazine from the side and began to flip through it. “Did you really resign from your job at the university? Didn’t you quite enjoy your time there? I remember you telling me before that you found it fulfilling to live life like this.” Qi Lei’s lowered and raspy voice was heard. He did not look at her as he spoke. Instead, he looked quietly ahead. The car sped along, but it did so steadily.

Upon hearing that, Dongfang Liuyun propped her head up on one hand. Her beautiful face could not hide a hint of fatigue. “Sometimes, it’s not about just doing whatever I want. I did live 20 over years of a carefree life, so it’s time I changed up my lifestyle.”

“To hear this from Dongfang Liuyun does put me in slight disbelief.” Qi Lei chuckled.

“Disbelief? I’m human too. To suffer through such pressure for a long period of time wears me out, so it’s good for me to change my lifestyle anyway. You’ve changed quite a lot too. I haven’t met you in about half a year. Why do you seem so mysterious and profound now?” Dongfang Liuyun calmly asked back.

“When you come visit me at my office and face those subordinates as well as those business partners, you’ll understand why.” Qi Lei’s tone was actually somewhat helpless, but he thought about it and just smiled.

When she heard that, Dongfang Liuyun obviously understood. She had seen such a thing before. Her mother always taught her how to cultivate one's charisma and vigor.

Her mother was a lawyer, and in fact, she was quite a famous one whose imposing manner made even the judges suffer from stage fright sometimes.

"That's true. Sometimes, it's only like this that your opponent won't be able to catch on to you. You've changed quite a bit in a short amount of time, and I'm amazed." Dongfang Liuyun was happy for Qi Lei.

"Enough about me. What do you want to eat? I finished work early to treat you to a meal, so consider it a celebration for the last time we attacked the underground military base the last time."

"The underground military base? It's been so long. Did you really want this meal so much? Let's have Chinese. I'll let you decide where."

A light glimmered in Dongfang Liuyun's starry eyes while she lowered her gaze and flipped another page of the magazine as she spoke absent-mindedly. She leaned back against the seat and slowly shut her eyes.

Upon seeing the fatigue that gathered between her brows, Qi Lei did not make another sound. Instead, he changed the CD to another more relaxing piano tune, and then continued to silently drive.

After about 20 minutes, the two of them reached their destination. It was a rather high-end looking eatery with an elegant atmosphere. It had the charm of canal towns, exuding a style with a homely feel to it.

Once they walked into the eatery, they could hear the sound of water flowing, and then came a refreshing feeling that made Dongfang Liuyun feel more awake.

The two of them found a booth in a quiet corner to sit.

When Qi Lei handed over the menu, Dongfang Liuyun just casually waved. "You order. I'm not too picky about my food. Just don't order alcohol."

He instantly looked up from the menu when he heard her. Then, he gave her a glance and his concerned gaze fell onto her quickly. "Are you feeling unwell?"

"It's minor. My stomach's not been feeling too well, but it'll be fine in two days," she said nonchalantly.

Qi Lei flipped open the menu unhurriedly and said calmly, "We've known each other for a while now, and we've gathered many times, but I really don't know what you like such as whether you like lighter flavors, savoury, or sweet."

"I don't pursue vegetarianism. I'm one who loves meat," replied Dongfang Liuyun as she held up the tea before her to take a sip.

"Only people like you who don't seem to get fat no matter what you eat would have such boldness. Alright then, I'll order some things that are easier on the digestive system."

Qi Lei then swiftly ordered the food and even got some shredded chicken porridge for Dongfang Liuyun.

Since they were there during dinner time, there were many customers at the eatery. However, despite the crowd, everyone spoke quietly. On the round 360-degree stage upfront, there was a live band playing in the middle. Dongfang Liuyun could see it when she turned. They were eye-catching and the song that was being sung felt quite apt too.

The dishes were soon served, and they picked up their chopsticks in unison.

"Are you not planning on going away again after your return this time?"

She would always disappear for a month or two, or for quite a few months, so Qi Lei was used to Dongfang Liuyun busy and running around.

Dongfang Liuyun held up her bowl and finished half of it before she responded, "For the short term, I might need to stay put before I make plans again. For the next one to two months, I'll be resting first. I'm afraid I won't be quite as free anymore after this. While I still have a chance, I'll cherish it."

"I heard that Mr. Dongfang wasn't too healthy before this. You must have rushed back for him."

Even though Qi Lei was not too clear about the information on Dongfang Liuyun's end, he roughly knew that the Dongfang Group was a financial group that ran in the family. They were a listed company with a long history, run by a well-known and mysterious family enterprise. If one were to go into concrete details, it should be similar to Qi Kai's previous incarnation.

The range of businesses that they were involved with was broad with jewels and antiques as the main sector. They also broke out of the conventional sole manufacturing mode and expanded into light decorations and electronics, as well as packaging and other businesses.

The real person wielding power at Dongfang Group was Dongfang Liuyun's grandmother, Dongfang Shuman. As a legend from the same generation as Mu Yinan, she was an eminent and unapproachable person at the top of the pyramid.

Apparently, Dongfang Shuman's real name was Shuman while Dongfang was her husband's surname, but she changed it when she got married to Old Master Dongfang. After Shuman married him, they gave birth to Dongfang Gan, who was Dongfang Liuyun's father, and they had another daughter called Dongfang Xue. Dongfang Xue was their daughter that they had at 40-odd years old, but right now, she was 36 years old without anyone to settle down with.

However, it seemed like these past few years Dongfang Shuman had been retreating from the business scene. A few years ago, she even fell severely ill. Outsiders were unsure about whether she was alive and well or not. Previously, even Qi Lei and Yang Sheng thought that Dongfang Shuman was gone. If it were not for the fact that she had been brought up once by chance, he would not have known.

However, the current CEO was Dongfang Gan. The Dongfang Group's internal structure was actually quite complicated. Old Master Dongfang did not just have one son alone since he had gotten married once before. His first wife also bore two sons for him: Dongfang Ren and Dongfang Yi. After they were divorced, the two sons followed Old Master Dongfang, and after that, he had married Shuman.

Also, Old Master Dongfang was not the family's only son. He was the eldest and had quite a few siblings after him, so...

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As he thought about this, Qi Lei suddenly understood why Dongfang Liuyun had such a mindset. She seemed to be able to see everything very clearly and always had keen and deep insight. Maybe it was because she had been living in such an environment for many years. Qi Lei also suddenly remembered that a long time ago, when he had asked Dongfang Liuyun questions about her health, the answer that she had given was, "It's no big deal. I had a gastric ulcer and got hospitalized for a few days, but I'm recovering well now."

Dongfang Liuyun did not like to mention her family affairs, and it was not difficult to see that. In fact, her beautiful brows would frown slightly every time she talked about matters related to the Dongfang family just like they did in this moment. Sometimes, it might even seem repulsive to her.

"Okay now, you should eat something." Qi Lei stopped the conversation just in time. Dongfang Liuyun also nodded and started to reach out silently for the dishes.

"Oh yeah, I have something for you. Just accept it as a thank you gift for your concern from before. I think you'll like it." A faint smile appeared on Qi Lei's face as he said so. He picked up the dark paper bag next to his heavy briefcase and handed it to Dongfang Liuyun, who was opposite him.

As Dongfang Liuyun raised her pretty eyebrows, she stopped her actions to lift her gaze and glance at Qi Lei. She seemed surprised, but she did not reach out for it for a while.

"Take a look at it. I know that you've been searching for it for quite some time already. I went to Europe last month and found it after searching a lot of places, there's nothing much that I can use to express my thanks, so I hope you'll like it." Qi Lei's deep voice slashed through the air in between the two.

Dongfang Liuyun paused for a second before putting her chopsticks aside. She reached for the gift, opened it, and took its contents out...

It was a few books which paper was already yellowed. They seemed to be books that had been published a while back, and they were still wrapped in kraft paper.



“The Lord of the Rings! But how...how did you find them?” Dongfang Liuyun skimmed through the pages of the yellowed book in glee, and her voice was overflowing with joy. “I’ve been looking around for a long time. I can’t believe that you found them...”

“I heard you mention it before. I thought of it when I went to a bookstore during my business trip, so I asked a friend to find them in order to give it to you as a thank you gift for the book you gave me back then.”

Dongfang Liuyun smiled cheerfully while she carefully put the books away properly, and gazed at Qi Lei. “Actually, you don’t need to be so courteous, but then, I won’t pretend to refuse, so I’ll accept them.”

“Actually, I was worried that you’d reject them,” Qi Lei replied humorously.

“You can take me as a person who’s very fond of courteous reciprocity. It’s very useful to me.”

“Good.”

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After dinner, the two went to a small square nearby to sit down. In the end, Qi Lei sent Dongfang Liuyun directly back.

In Villa number 17, in Beach Villa District, Grand Summer Bay.

As soon as the car stopped, Dongfang Liuyun opened the door and got out of the car. “It’s still early. Would you like to come in?”

“Maybe next time. I still need to go to the hospital for a while, and then go back to my office for some documents. It’s rare to get two days rest during the weekends, but there are still tasks that need to be handled in time.”

Dongfang Liuyun nodded and then walked inside with her backpack. Meanwhile, Qi Lei waited until the lights in the villa lit up before he ignited the engine and drove off.

Qi Qiming had been in a coma for a very long time. His condition was just like Ruan Heng's previous state as he could not wake up and could only lie in bed. Qi Lei got two nurses to take care of him, and he himself would come to visit two to three times a week.

At this moment, in Qi Qiming's advanced ward, Qi Lei had just scrubbed Qi Qiming. He was already sweating like crazy by the time he finished the routine. Coincidentally, Liang Jing entered the ward as it was time for her to be on duty.

"Hey, Aunt Liang, how's he? Has his condition improved?" Qi Lei glanced at Qi Qiming on the hospital bed and asked faintly.

Liang Jing flipped through the medical records in her hand and frowned slightly. "According to the data, it stands to reason that his situation has been improving. The blood clots in his head are disappearing, and all his body functions are returning to normal gradually. However, he's still not showing any tendency to wake up, which is a little odd. I think his own will to survive isn't strong. Maybe it's because he himself doesn't want to wake up. Let's do a full-body inspection for him tomorrow. I did warn you to be mentally prepared before this, so..."

"I know that. Thank you, Aunt Liang." Qi Lei did not need to listen anymore, so he interrupted.

Liang Jing nodded. "There are no thanks needed. After all, it's my job. Oh yeah, have you seen Zimo these few days? I went to his company several times, but I didn't run into the fella. He's probably avoiding me deliberately."

"Aunt Liang, Zimo has his own plan. If you keep asking him to find himself someone through a blind date, I'm afraid that he won't like it. Especially for a person like him, fate is something very important to him. This applies to me too. There's no way for us to accept the idea of getting married to a woman that we don't know. We can't guarantee the quality of the marriage. That's why it's impossible for us to try it out."

"You fellas only pay attention to the so-called mutual affection and the resonance of the souls. I know, and I understand that too, but Zimo is already 33 years old this year, not 23. He's getting older, and so is

his grandfather. The old man is looking forward to him getting married and having children. He has high standards, and those women can't make his cut. The ones I introduced him to before this aren't bad as long as they're not doctors or actresses in media, film, and television. Doctors are too tired to take care of him while the latter type has a rather complicated circle, which he won't fit in." Liang Jing knew what kind of woman would match her son.

"Moreover, you always talk about the resonance in the souls, but it's not something that you can just discover. It's totally not the case when it comes to me and his father. We'd only seen each other a few times. The first time was when he came to my house for a visit, the second time was when he sent me home, the third time was when I went to his house. We got engaged after that and were married within three months. Yeah, things might get rough throughout the journey, but we managed to get by, didn't we?"

Zhou Zimo's parents underwent a typical flash marriage. They were also considered a military marriage. Up till today, it was still popular for soldiers to marry doctors or nurses, and Liang Jing and Chief Officer Zhou were undoubtedly such a pair.

When she was young, Liang Jing was a doctor in the affiliated hospital of a military region. Chief Officer Zhou, who was still the head of the regiment, had gotten injured and was hospitalized, and that was how they met. After that, the family arranged for them to have a blind date, and then they got married. They had only known each other for less than three months when Chief Officer Zhou had already filed a marriage report, and because of that, Liang Jing could only marry him.

"You don't know his father's character. I wanted to return the goods and ask for a divorce in the first week after I married him. I didn't even see any merit in him since he was always only thinking about the matters of the military regions. Ugh, forget it. Let's not talk about such things. By the way, Qi Lei, you're no longer young. You should take this matter to heart too."

Chapter 1514. I'm Not You 1

Qi Lei understood Liang Jing's good intention, so he just laughed it off. He did not think about marriage anymore because he felt that he probably would never be as lucky as the others his whole life. Marriage would be a lifetime commitment, and he felt sorry that he was not brave enough to take the risk now. Neither did he know if he had the courage.

After Liang Jing left the ward, Qi Lei stood by the bed and looked at Qi Qiming for a long time. He spoke to the nurse before leaving the hospital and immediately rushed back to the office.

For the past few months, he never had time to rest and would always be busy from dusk to dawn. He devoted himself to work and had no time for breaks. Now that the company's operations were finally on track, he could finally relax a little.

At the same time, in Dongfang Liuyun's simple and elegant villa located at No.17 Beach Villa District, she was standing calmly on the stairs while staring condescendingly at the woman who was looking at her by the door.

The woman looked like she was in her 30s or 40s. She was dressed in a formal black dress, had a short and clean haircut, and a pair of piercing eyes that could spot everything. Although she had a fair complexion, a slender figure, and seemed full of life, she exuded the vibes of being rather domineering.

She was Dongfang Liuyun's mother, Song Siting, a star lawyer in the legal sector. She also knew how to fight and was good at it. In the legal sector, it was normal for lawyers to often cause offense to many people, so it was necessary to learn some moves for self-defense. That was also the reason why Dongfang Liuyun was agile too. It was mostly her influence.

Song Siting became famous when she was very young at the age of 26 or 27. When she was Dongfang Liuyun's age, she was already a well-known lawyer in the sector. She only started working with Dongfang Gan after being headhunted by Dongfang of the Dongfang Group. They then became a power couple, and Song Siting was still the senior lawyer consultant of Dongfang Gan and the chief consultant of the Dongfang Group. Her achievements were extraordinary, but she never interfered much in matters other than the company's legal affairs. She and Dongfang Gan had clear boundaries when it came to work, but it was just portrayed as such. When they were behind closed doors, she would turn into a tigress and Dongfang Gan would be submissive, leaving everything up to her.

"Why are you here?"

Dongfang Liuyun was wearing a fitting navy blue nightgown with her waist tie hanging loose and she made her way down the stairs step by step.

Song Siting walked toward the sofa in the living room and put down the handbag in her hand. "Since you never go back, I decided to come here instead. Your father has just been discharged from the hospital two days ago and the doctor said that he needs to rest for a month. Don't you care?"

“What should I care about?” Dongfang Liuyun glanced at her calmly as she walked to the water dispenser beside her and poured her a glass of water.

“27. You’re already 27. You know what you promised me back then.” Song Siting’s tone was very calm, somewhat robotic.

When Dongfang Liuyun heard that, the corners of her mouth curled into a faint cold smile. She passed the glass of water in her hands to Song Siting before sitting down on the sofa opposite her and crossed her hands. “I’ve quit my job at the university, and De Bao House has also been handed over to Uncle Ming. You don’t have to be that concerned. Are you worried that I’ll hold you back? Ever since I was a child, everything that I’ve done was to bring you honor, wasn’t it?”

“I know you’re fed up with me and think that I’m too strict with you, but I’m a lawyer and I’ve seen so many cases. I know that—”

“You know what a woman should do and how she should do it in order to avoid getting hurt in the future. You want me to be resilient and independent, to endure hardships, and be a strong woman just like you!” Dongfang Liuyun cut Song Siting off before she could finish, “I know you wanted to say this, and I’ve heard enough over the years, but I’m not you. Your path may not be for me. You’ve got your own opinions, but so do I.”

“Your own opinions? Are they as dubious as your father’s? Just thinking about makes me angry!” Song Siting looked cold when she said that.

“That’s just how Father is like. He’s kind and gentle. He also values the people around him. Not every family is like what you’ve experienced so if you could stop looking at things with your judgemental eyes, and start looking with eyes that are open to learning, maybe you’ll feel much better,” Dongfang Liuyun said lightly.

Song Siting glanced at Dongfang Liuyun and said with displeasure, “You’re just like your father, always so good at talking. You can stop all your antics. I have my own concerns. You’re not always at the office, so obviously, you’ve no idea what’s going on. Did you really think your father was hospitalized for days over a simple stomach ulcer?”

“What else could it be?” Dongfang Liuyun glared at Song Siting.

Song Siting took a breath and had a few sips of water before she answered coldly, “He got injured some time ago when he went to Myanmar to see the newly mined jade. He was afraid that it might affect the company, so he rushed back to China overnight despite his injury. Your father and I were very worried about you. You’re our only daughter and the most competent heir of the company, so you’ll become their target. Moreover, you’re not familiar with the company, and you don’t have much experience either, so as a long-term plan, don’t you have a sense of crisis? Don’t talk to me about choices. This is your obligation, understand?”

As Song Siting went on, her tone became more serious. “Do you think I want to force you to hold these responsibilities? For years, I’ve fought hard for your father, and I have to manage his relationships for him. Otherwise, how could he hold his ground with his temperament? We’ve had issues with them, but our interests are above everything else. However, even if we took a step back, it would still be impossible to turn things around. Dongfang Rouer may be engaged to the eldest son of the Jin family soon, and the circumstances may be unfavorable for us. Well...Fujiwara’s coming in a few days...”

“So, that’s why you’re eager for me to come back. Do you want me to entertain him?” Dongfang Liuyun asked calmly.

Song Siting’s eyes sparkled as she looked back at her. “That’s right.”

“I remember telling you multiple times that it’s impossible between me and Fujiwara, but you seemed to be more involved than me.” Dongfang Liuyun’s tone was cold and icy, and no emotion could be heard. “I’ll investigate Father’s matters, but if you want to use my marriage as a bargaining chip, don’t blame me for turning against you. You know what my temper’s like.”

Chapter 1515. I’m Not You 2

Song Siting’s gaze darkened after a series of sarcastic comments. She knew how her daughter was like. She was too much like her. They held true to their words. Between them, they had many disagreements, and they both had their reasons, but as long as her daughter could grow stronger, she did not mind.

“What’s wrong with Fujiwara? His feelings for you weren’t developed over a day or two unless you’re still—”

“It’s really late now. You can go home. Don’t come bothering me for no reason. I’ll visit home tomorrow. It’s best you go home and have a think about whatever you want to say or talk about. If you’re anticipating for me to be more efficient at work, get Father to also arrange for a set of printed

information on the Dongfang Group from the past few days. Print two copies then pass it to me tomorrow.” Dongfang Liuyun got up a little unhappily and her beautiful brows were knitted.

“Also, just focus on official matters. It’s best if you don’t ask too much about my personal life. There’s no need to say it’s in my best interest. If you respect my decisions without condition, that would be in my best interest. I don’t like people going against my decisions. Of course, if you really do think I’m that foolish, then pretend I never said these things to you,” she responded with waning interest and then turned around to walk up the stairs.

“Accompany Father more if you’re free. There’s no need to watch me over here. You’ve been watching me for more than 20 years. Even if you aren’t tired, I’m tired and I find it annoying. Honestly, it’s good that you don’t want to suffer a loss, but you’re being just as harsh to your own daughter. Aren’t you worried I won’t be able to handle the pressure one day and break down? Your daughter is human too. In fact, I’m a woman. Do you think everyone’s like you, a fighter among the successful career women?”

Song Siting fell silent for a moment, and when she wanted to respond, Dongfang Liuyun’s figure had already vanished at the stairs...

She remained stunned for a long while, then she sighed to herself before turning around to leave.

...

Inside the wide and cozy study room on the second floor, Dongfang Liuyun sat by the floor-to-ceiling window and leaned against the seat behind her. Her indifferent eyes watched quietly Song Siting as she gradually moved further away. Moments after that, she turned around in her chair and moved towards the elevated table on the side. She stood up and began to type on the chatbox open on her laptop.

Y: Email a copy of the Dongfang Group’s recent developments and information to my inbox.

X: You’re back?

Y: Mmm.

X: I'll send it tomorrow.

Y: Okay.

X: I'll be back the day after tomorrow. Let's find a time to meet. It's been a while.

Y: Time and location?

X: 8 p.m. at our usual spot

Y: Okay.

...

The short conversation ended very quickly.

After that, Dongfang Liuyun read until late at night before she got into bed to rest. She was not used to sleeping early either since she was practically like this every day and would only sleep past midnight.

The next day, Dongfang Liuyun woke up really early. She had the habit of a morning jog that usually lasted for about 40 minutes. She did not have any servants at home as she enjoyed the peace and quiet of living alone.

When she was done with some work and getting ready, it was past 9 a.m., so she left the house. Of course, she did not make her way home right away. Instead, she made a trip to De Bao House, but to her surprise, there was an uninvited guest at the shop.

"Miss, you're here. Fifth Lady has been waiting for you for a long while now."



Uncle Ming poured Dongfang Liuyun a glass of water as he looked over at the girl dressed in a pink dress and fiddling with the antiques on the rack behind the beaded curtains. His aged eyes flickered with a light as he looked uncertainly at Dongfang Liuyun.

Dongfang Liuyun casually took the glass of water that Uncle Ming handed her as she took two sips nonchalantly before walking inside.

Ding ding!

When the sound of the swaying beaded curtains was heard, Dongfang Rouer, who was in a trance of admiration, immediately gathered herself and slowly turned around. When she saw Dongfang Liuyun walking in, she raised her shapely eyebrows as she silently looked on.

Dongfang Rouer was her uncle's youngest daughter and the youngest heiress among the Dongfang clan's direct line of descendants. She was the fifth in line while Dongfang Liuyun was fourth, so at home, everyone called her the Fourth Lady.

Dongfang Rouer had always had poor health since she was young. Apparently, her mother had been tripped by the mischievous Dongfang Liuyun when she was pregnant with her. She had fallen down the stairs and had a premature birth. After that, both the mother and daughter had poor health and were quite frail in nature.

Dongfang Rouer inherited her mother's alluring beauty. Her mother had initially been a famous beauty in the movies and television scene before marrying Dongfang Ren. Dongfang Rouer was quite a few years younger than Dongfang Liuyun and should be 24 years old this year. She had been obedient and sensible since a young age and was doted on by everyone. She was also well-known in the industry and would frequently appear among circles of high society, especially since she was one of the more famous young ladies in City Z.

Her incomparable charm and charisma made her the dream lover of many men. Furthermore, that alluringly gentle voice of hers was just like her name and was extremely attractive.

"Why are you here?" Dongfang Liuyun's apathetic voice was heard, and before Dongfang Rouer could respond, she had already sat down on the table beside her,

“Am I not welcomed?”

Dongfang Rouer’s rather pale face flashed with a faint crescent-shaped smile. She looked at Dongfang Liuyun indistinctly, and when she did not make a sound, she continued to say, “I was doing something nearby. I heard you were back, so I came over to see you. I can tell that you’ve been doing quite well recently.”

Dongfang Liuyun looked at her with a gaze as profound as the sea. She did not utter a word as she listened silently.

“Are you slightly disappointed that I’m doing well?”

“Why would I be? You’re my Fourth Sis. Obviously, I hope that you’re doing well. I heard that Third Uncle’s health hasn’t been doing too well recently.” How could the observant Dongfang Liuyun not detect Dongfang Rouer’s voice vaguely containing a probing tone?

“He was in the hospital for a few days because of a stomach ulcer. It’s an old illness. Don’t you all know this too?”

Dongfang Liuyun looked at Dongfang Rouer with raised brows while her expression was as calm as the window and her lips flashed into a faint curve. “You seem to care about this more than I do. It looks like you’re more like his daughter than I am.”

“Fourth Sis, you’re being funny now, Third Uncle’s been working day and night for the company and worrying about the family clan matters. I should care about his health, shouldn’t I?”

Dongfang Liuyun looked at her meaningfully and did not make a sound to answer. Instead, she lowered her gaze and continued to drink her water. She casually leaned to a side and then met with Dongfang Rouer’s gaze without batting an eyelid while she sized her up.

“Instead of coming here to feel me out, why don’t you go home and think of ways of how to handle it?”

Chapter 1516. Return 1

Dongfang Liuyun's tone was still as cold as usual. There was not much reaction on her dazzling, gorgeous face that was still calm.

These few words of hers burst in Dongfang Rouer's head like thunder, making Dongfang Rouer's beautiful eyes flicker. She looked at Dongfang Liuyun faintly and took a breath.

"Are you coming back to the Dongfang Group?" Dongfang Rouer asked.

Dongfang Liuyun put the cup in her hand on the table next to her and stood up indifferently. "I'm offering you a chance. As long as you obey the orders and do your job, you'll naturally be rewarded, but if your raging ambitions burn me, then don't blame me for neglecting our kinship. I like to speak bluntly, and of course, you can convey this message to your father. The Dongfang Group didn't reach its current achievements due to a person's ability. It's the result of everyone's joint effort. I don't care about these things, but at the same time, I'm not someone who will stand to lose and place herself at a disadvantage."

"Those are some strong words, Fourth Sister. We're all loyal to the family," Dongfang Rouer spoke softly.

Loyal to the family, huh?

The eyes of Dongfang Liuyun dimmed, and her slender eyelashes fluttered. She flicked her slender eyelashes to hide the coldness in her eyes. "It's best if it's as you said. You know me, the rules are my code. Next weekend is Uncle's birthday. Do you have any plans for him?"

"Actually, I came here today just to tell you about that. It's Father's 60th birthday. Mother plans to throw him a fabulous birthday party, and knowing that you're back, I was thinking of telling you about it. You'll be there in person, won't you?" A sense of expectation could be seen in Dongfang Rouer's gentle eyes, and Dongfang Liuyun had gotten used to this look of hers.

"Of course, it's his 60th birthday, and it's a good day. It's wrong to not show up."

“Great to hear that, Fourth Sister, then I shall go home and let Father know about that. I hope to see you there in person that day. It’s been a long time since many of us last met each other. After all, we’re still a family, aren’t we?”

The corner of Dongfang Liuyun’s lips twitched and curved slightly. She then gave her an unconcerned sidelong glance as she responded, “If you insist on saying so.”

...

In Dongfang Rouer’s recollection, it seemed that Dongfang Liuyun had always been like this. She could only describe the latter as an unfathomable and inscrutable person. Dongfang Rouer rarely caught any of Dongfang Liuyun’s thoughts because she was never someone who easily showcased her emotions or thoughts on her expressions. In Dongfang Rouer’s eyes, she had always been a very sensitive and enigmatic person. It was not an exaggeration to say that she was sophisticated, sleek, and very capable. Above all, she was the person that Dongfang Rouer feared the most.

“Missus, I heard that the Fourth Lady has resigned from her school. Last night, Attorney Song rushed to Beach Villa in the night and only came back after around half an hour. I think the Fourth Lady should be going to work in the Dongfang Group this time, I also heard the President mention her a while ago.” On their way back, Ah Kang could not help but tell Dongfang Rouer, who was sitting behind in the car.

Ah Kang was Dongfang Rouer’s assistant and bodyguard, who was in his thirties. Tall and attractive, he had once been Dongfang Ren’s assistant, but after being transferred to Dongfang Rouer, he was still a very loyal subordinate.

Dongfang Rouer frowned her slender brows again, and after giving it a thought for a while, she said, “Don’t let my father know about this first. I’ll discuss this with my brothers later and we’ll see how it goes.”

“Yes, Missus.”

“Grandma’s body is receding day by day. She’s lost much of her vitality especially after her last collapse, and now she’s almost only lingering. Given the frequent trips that Third Uncle’s been making recently, my father’s been feeling a little agitated by all these matters.” Dongfang Rouer’s eyes were beaming with anxiousness as she said so.

“Don’t worry, Missus, as soon as you’re engaged to Young Master Jin, your momentum will overwhelm theirs. Plus, the Fourth Lady has never come into contact with any of the company’s matters, so it’s not so easy for her to get started.”

“Don’t forget that the young master of the Fujiwara family has a thing for her. This is also one of the reasons why Father is worried. She has always been lucky.”

“Yeah, I feel that she has always been blessed with all the good things, but, Missus, you can rest assured that the Fourth Lady has no feeling for Mr. Fujiwara. Because of this, things went slightly sideways between the Fourth Lady and Attorney Song. I think she might have some other plans brewing,” Ah Kang advised after thinking about it for a second.

“Grandpa used to favor her and he said that she has a good mentality. However...” Thinking of this, Dongfang Rouer could not help but feel a little bitter and astringent deep down. Nonetheless, the second half of the sentence did not escape her mouth.

“The old president does appreciate the Fourth Lady quite a bit, but your ability is nowhere near inferior to hers. However, with all due respect, the Fourth Lady must’ve also invested a lot of effort to achieve the status and fame that she has today, especially when Attorney Song’s high-stress parenting policy is brought into the equation.” Dongfang Rouer nodded after being reminded by Ah Kang. Her pretty eyes flashed when she replied, “What you just said makes sense too. Let’s just monitor the situation first since they’re still not that dominant in the company.”

“Of course, after all, the Dongfang Group belongs to the Dongfang family. How could someone who would become an outsider be in charge?” Ah Kang said with a smile.

“Yeah, most of the candidates are only inserted into the list for consideration’s sake, so now, I look forward to the position that Third Uncle will arrange for Fourth Sister.”

“Let’s wait and see!” Ah Kang chuckled and responded.

“By the way, Missus, I heard someone said before this that Mr. Fujiwara is coming over. I think Song Siting won’t let the opportunity slip this time. So, shall we...”

“Don’t act rashly. It’s a critical period, so let’s take a step back and monitor the situation first. Fujiwara is also not someone with whom we can afford to go head to head, so let’s take a look first. I’m more inclined to know more about Fourth Sister’s life in the past two years.”

“The Fourth Lady has either been teaching at university or went abroad for some archeological excursions. There doesn’t seem to be much action. Furthermore, she had a very indifferent relationship with the family originally, so...” Ah Kang had never paid much attention to Dongfang Liuyun, but now that she was back, he looked into her a little bit more naturally.

Inhaling, Dongfang Rouer thought about it. “You don’t know her. I grew up with her since I was a child, so I know her abilities too well. I heard that she has quite a relationship with President Qi of Tai Yu Corporation. You should know that South River Project No. 1 and 2 are now in the hands of the Glory World Corporation and Tai Yu Corporation, so Qi Lei plays a very important role in those projects. My father has always wanted to secure the interior decorating project of these two undertakings, but now it’s obviously a little difficult as we don’t have a deep connection with them.”

Chapter 1517. Return 2

The sunset had cast a golden afterglow into the silent night sky, and everything was covered in the hue of a warm yellow. A few leaves had fallen quiet, and as the cool breeze howled, a black car zoomed by and stopped in front of a luxury villa at the end of the street.

The gate opened immediately just as the car stopped in front of it. The guard greeted the driver respectfully, “Miss, you’re back!”

His voice sounded joyful. Dongfang Liuyun was a legend and she treated them well, so they really liked her.

Dongfang Liuyun nodded at them and drove the car in.

After she parked the car and walked into the house, she saw the helper, Aunt Wang, welcoming her from afar.

“Miss! You’re back! We’ve been looking forward to this day. Madam ordered us to prepare some of your favorite dishes this morning. We woke up early in the morning, thinking that you were going to be back for lunch!” Aunt Wang said as she reached out to take the black backpack in Dongfang Liuyun’s hand.

"I came back to deal with something. Are my parents around?" Dongfang Liuyun asked while walking to the sofa beside her.

"Something came up at Madam's office, so she went there. Master Dongfang went out for an afternoon tea session with his friends and he should be back soon. Sis Liu is already preparing dinner. Madam told us to call her when you come back, so she's on her way back right now. By the way, Miss, this bag—"

"Take it to my study," Dongfang Liuyun said before reaching out to take the remote control and turning the TV on.

"Yes, Miss," Aunt Wang responded and brought a cup of warm water for Dongfang Liuyun before taking her belongings upstairs.

Dongfang Liuyun had just sat down when she heard the sound of a car driving in. Shortly after that, she heard the maid, who was cleaning the courtyard outside, greet politely, "Master Dongfang is back!" She could tell that her father had probably returned.

Sure enough, she heard footsteps coming from the door after a while, and before she could turn her head to look, she could already hear an enthusiastic and deep voice calling out, "You're back!"

When she heard this, her gaze immediately went from the TV screen to a tall and well-built figure.

Dongfang Gan was the father of Dongfang Liuyun. He had a pair of black-framed glasses on his handsome face, and he was wearing a pair of straight black trousers with a white shirt. He looked very smart and gentle like a talented, well-mannered, and polite scholar. It seemed a little unfitting for someone like him who was of noble status.

All the years had not left many marks on him. He still looked the same even though he was already nearly 60.

"Father," Dongfang Liuyun called out faintly as she scooted over to the side to leave him a seat. Dongfang Gan strode over and sat down beside her.

"I didn't see anyone at all after waiting all day. It's good you got back in time for dinner. There's not much work at the company these days, so you should stay home for a few more days. You seem like you don't really like living with your mother and me," Dongfang Gan said calmly, but his deep dark eyes were a little bleak.

Dongfang Liuyun gave him a sidelong glance and replied, "No, I just want to have my own personal space. Mother is by your side, so that's good enough."

"I know that you don't have a good impression of your mother and me. Your mother has a strong personality, and she always strives for the best in everything. Even if you don't like it, just try your best to deal with it. There's no need to force yourself into everything that you do. She's an extremely insecure person. For years, she wished that she could just put us in armor to protect us all. I hope you can understand that eventually, someone needs to take a step back." While Dongfang Gan's calm tone was a little serious, it was not difficult to sense love and gentleness from his tone.

"Yes, someone needs to take a step back, but maybe come back and tell me this again when she truly understands the value of relationships. Then, maybe I'll think about it. I know you care about Mother, but personally, I'm not satisfied with the way she does things."

"Liuyun, I'm just trying to—"

"I know what you're trying to say. I don't want to talk about the past. How're you feeling?"

Dongfang Liuyun took a sip of tea, and said with concern, "Mother went to my place late last night and told me about your situation. Do you know who did it?"

"I can't be sure, but it's nothing serious, just a minor scratch. It could also be due to our competitors over there. You know, the jade industry has been very competitive lately. If it wasn't for the pressing matter over there, I wouldn't have gone over," Dongfang Gan said as he frowned subconsciously.

"Pressing matter? Was it caused by someone else? I've been paying attention to the news over there. Hasn't it been pretty peaceful?" Dongfang Liuyun asked.



“It’s because the jade market hasn’t been steady. In the past few years, our local jewelry businesses haven’t been doing so well. In the past, we’ve always created styles that are revolutionary, but it wasn’t widely accepted by customers. Therefore, we want to expand our customer base since foreign markets have great potential as well. We need to further expand the market while making sure that there are enough high-quality materials. This is our top priority.”

“As far as I remember, hasn’t our mine been supplying the materials as usual?” Dongfang Liuyun asked doubtfully as she raised her eyebrows slightly.

“You haven’t been involved in the company’s matters, so you don’t really know the situation. The mining situation hasn’t been great in the past few years. Even the largest jade field will eventually be emptied, so I’ve been scouting for new locations over the last few years. We also sent our professionals to investigate and survey, hoping to hear some good news. Your uncles spent a lot of time on this matter too, therefore this has surely put a lot of pressure on the company,” Dongfang Gan explained in a heavy tone.

“Not too long ago, I heard that the Jin family seemed to have lucked out, so your uncle planned to—”

Dongfang Liuyun gave him a sharp gaze and interrupted, “I know what they’re thinking about. Anyway, I asked Mother to sort out the company’s information for me yesterday. Is it ready? I’ll meet you when I have a better understanding of what’s going on.”

Chapter 1518. Return 3

When Dongfang Liuyun finished, Dongfang Gan thought about it for a while, then nodded.

“That’s fine too. Do as you wish then. I’ve told Ah Fei to prepare the information, he’ll send it over later.”

Then, he inhaled and turned his head to look at Dongfang Liuyun’s expression that was indifferent and hard to read. “Since you’ve quit your job at the university, I’m sure you’re mentally prepared as well. Take some time to rest first. Slowly get familiar with everything else later on. The company’s situation is very complicated, and I’m afraid you won’t be able to take it all on immediately. When you think you can then come to the office to work, be my assistant first.”

"I won't be your assistant. I'll go straight to the marketing department. In fact, I applied for an advertised position. I know the company's marketing department has been looking out for a business manager."

When Dongfang Gan finished, Dongfang Liuyun immediately interrupted him, "Business manager?"

Dongfang Gan frowned and took the tea that Aunt Wang handed him for a sip. He hesitated for a moment before he continued, "That's a tough job. Why would a girl like you go and do that? There are so many positions in the whole Dongfang Group. Why did you have to choose that of all things? No way, I disagree. You should just be my assistant. I'll ensure you get familiar with the company's business. Then, when the time is right, I'll arrange a more suitable position for you."

"In the past two years, I've aged quite a bit too. Your mother's heart isn't doing well either. I kept saying I'd go on a holiday with her, but it's been so many years, and this wish has yet to be fulfilled. Now, you're not that young anymore. When will you take the matter of marriage to heart?"

Dongfang Gan rarely brought up these things to Dongfang Liuyun because he knew that his daughter was always stubborn with her own opinions and plans. Her mother had always wanted to groom her into a sharp and imposing career woman, but Dongfang Liuyun's bones only inherited Dongfang Gan's reserved and gentle personality.

"Don't worry about me. I know what I should do." Dongfang Liuyun was tired of topics like these.

"I'm just worried about you. Your mother's brought up about you and Fujiwara. His feelings for you aren't new. He's determined on marrying you, but such a sad thing as connecting families by marriage isn't something I want to happen to my daughter. To live in such a huge family is already frustrating, and marriage is a matter of a lifetime. If you can't even make your own decision about that, what's the point of living?" Dongfang Gan took a sip of tea and spoke quite frankly.

Upon hearing that, Dongfang Liuyun's lips curved into a cold smile. "You say this quite incisively. If my mother can think the same way, that will make me very happy."

Then, she set aside her glass and slowly stood up. "What do you want to eat? Since I'm in the mood tonight, I'll cook you a thing or two."

When Dongfang Gan heard that, he set aside his glass too. "Let me help you with that."

Then, he followed after her.

The kitchen at home was huge, and a few servants were busy in there. When they saw Dongfang Liuyun and Dongfang Gan walk in, they could not help but stop what they were doing and were about to greet when Dongfang Liuyun waved. "You can all go out. We'll cook by ourselves."

"Yes, Miss, CEO Gan," the few of them responded and then left the kitchen.

The father and daughter began to get cracking.

Dongfang Liuyun's culinary skills were pretty good while Dongfang Gan was terrible. He could only help her prepare the ingredients, though of course, he enjoyed spending time like this.

Usually, Dongfang Gan was a stay-at-home man. He did not have much of a temper, unlike Song Siting. Usually, if he provoked Song Siting, he would just keep quiet and let her be.

So, to outsiders, he was a henpecked male.

Dongfang Liuyun was the same, probably because she was influenced by him. She probably would not know that this was actually the kind of time that Dongfang Gan enjoyed the most. If his wife could also return calmly later on, that would be best.

"Move back and stay with us. I'm worried about you living alone over there. Besides, the residence is so huge and we have servants while you're alone over there. How can that be more comfortable than being at home? It's not safe for you to be alone too."

He was watching Dongfang Liuyun as she sliced the vegetables skillfully. She seemed thinner than before, especially in the large white shirt she wore. Of course, Dongfang Gan felt worried at the sight of this.

He only had one precious daughter, and he loved this daughter of his more than anything else.

"I'm doing quite fine alone there. Don't worry. I want more peace and quiet. When I think of moving back later on, I'll let you know again."

Knowing that her father had good intentions, Dongfang Liuyun's tone softened. "Come visit me when you have time. It's quite near the office anyway, so going over for dinner is quite convenient. I'll be mostly at home for now."

"What about De Bao?"

"I handed it over to Uncle Ming. I'm considered an idle person for now," Dongfang Liuyun said as she squinted at him.

"It's good to be idle. You haven't quite slowed down and rested in a while. I told you before that there's no need for girls to live such a tired life. Do you have to be like your mother? You know that I've always wished that you could be a carefree daughter."

"Being carefree isn't suitable for people like us. This was how you went through things as well, wasn't it?" Dongfang Liuyun's tone was calm. She thought about it for a while then continued, "My mother's always saying that we father and daughter fail to live up to her expectations. Father, actually I understand you."

When Dongfang Liuyun said that, Dongfang Gan's movement turned stiff. After a while, he continued what he was doing. "Your mother's just showing off with her abilities. She doesn't know how to conceal herself. Because of this, I have been very much worried all these years, especially with her unforgiving zeal that's enough to drive people crazy. We understand her, so we know that she's actually a very kind person, but just because we know that that doesn't mean others do too.

"The conflict between me and her is from the past, and it's a gradual one. Father, I suggest that you don't care about these things. The fact that you can tolerate her and go through this life is a great thing."

“Mmm, okay, let’s not talk about your mother then. Do you want to get this skin peeled or just cut it into strips?”

When he noticed that Dongfang Liuyun did not look comfortable, Dongfang Gan just switched the topic. “Cut it into strips.”

“Right, today Dongfang Rouer came looking for me at the store,” Dongfang Liuyun suddenly recalled.

Chapter 1519. Get Together 1

“Rouer?” Dongfang Gan froze for a moment and then looked at Dongfang Liuyun. “Why did she go to you?”

“She heard that I’ve resigned from the university. She was, of course, worried about me. If that’s not it then what else?” Dongfang Liuyun responded unconcernedly. She hesitated for a second, then poured all the vegetables on the plate into the wok, and continued saying, “My mother has always been very wary of them, especially this time when there’s such a big movement. It’s always good for us to come up with plans earlier. I’ll personally attend Uncle’s 60th birthday. Dongfang Rouer came over and told me about the party.”

“It’s not news that they’re unfriendly to you, so why bother delivering your head to the guillotine?”

“It’s a thing that I should face sooner or later, so if I don’t even dare to face it now, then what else can I accomplish after this? Dongfang Rouer will definitely want to peek at the cards that I hold during this period so that she can get a hold of my details, thus please take good care of me when the time comes, Father.”

“I know that. Don’t you worry.” Dongfang Gan inhaled and then nodded.

...

When Song Siting came back, the dishes were just ready and were served on the table. The family of three sat down at the dining table. In fact, for their family, a meal with all three members of the family around was hard to come by since Dongfang Liuyun was hardly home and her relationship with Song Siting had always been rigid. Although Dongfang Gan did his best to smoothen things out, the relationship between the mother and daughter was still...

After dinner, the sky was already dark. Dongfang Gan's assistant, Ah Fei, delivered the documents. When Dongfang Liuyun did not stay for another second and left the house directly, Song Siting and Dongfang Gan sent her out together.

"Liuyun, just listen to me. Move back here and stay with us so that it'll be easier for us to take care of each other."

"Your father is right. This is what I hope for too. It's better for you to move back to stay with us. Go back and pack your luggage. I'll get them to go over and pick them up in another few days," Song Siting ordered her directly.

"If you really want me to do these things, let me have a few more quiet days." Dongfang Liuyun lifted the thick folder bag in her hand and glanced at the couple, and before they could react, she had already gotten into the car and ignited the engine.

"Hey, Liuyun!" With a frown, Song Siting looked at the car that was driving away and could not help but sigh. "Why is this kid always like this? I advised her to do so only for her own safety. Isn't it obvious that I worry about her?"

"Alright, don't overthink. Our daughter's temper has always been so, hasn't it? And you, don't always talk to her so aggressively. She's not your subordinate, hence there's no need to be so harsh on her. Besides, we do owe her that, so can't you just talk to her a tad bit more nicely?"

"Then, why don't I see her talking to me more nicely? Do you think I do so just to make myself happy?"

"In my opinion, you're still doing it your way! Okay, I won't quarrel with you anymore. Just do whatever you want." Dongfang Gan knew Song Siting's temperament, so he rolled his eyes and then turned around to walk back into the mansion.

"Hey, I didn't mean that. What do you mean by I'm still doing it my way? You'll have to clarify this. Explain it to me. I..." Song Siting listened and turned around to chase after him.

...

In the Grand Lake Villa, it was the same silence in the dead of the night.

Qi Lei's stiff features finally eased up after checking the last set of data in the notebook. He then took the cell phone on the side, made a call to Yang Sheng, and briefly explained a few matters about work. After hanging up, he wanted to cook himself some supper, but unexpectedly, Mu Yuchen called.

"What's the matter? You miss me?" Qi Lei and Mu Yuchen had naturally become very close with each other, so he teased directly after the call went through, but to his surprise, it was Xi Xiaye who was calling.

"It's me. It's an off-day tomorrow. Mu Yuchen and his brothers are playing poker at the barbecue, and Su Chen and the others have just arrived. He asked me to call you. Do you want to come since you live nearby," Xi Xiaye's faint voice said from the earpiece of the cell phone.

Barbeque and poker?

Qi Lei gave it a thought and responded, "I was just thinking about making myself supper, so of course, I won't say no to that invitation."

"You still haven't eaten? At this time?" Xi Xiaye creased her brows and asked.

"It's been hectic recently. I've gotten used to it. Anyway, I'm heading out now."

"Great, I'll get Sis Wang to make you some pumpkin porridge."

"Alright." Qi Lei grabbed his car keys and left his study after hanging up the call.

...

In the backyard of Maple Residence, in front of the barbecue grill, Li Si was skillfully flipping the skewers in his hands, and the rich and mouth-watering aroma was hovering all over the yard. Under the flower

racks of the pavilion on the side, Mu Yuchen was holding a handful of poker cards, battling it out with Zhou Zimo, Su Chen, and Ruan Heng. Mu Yuchen was as elegant and enigmatic as usual. His poker skills were naturally good, and after a few rounds, Su Chen and Ruan Heng had lost quite a few pennies.

“Dada...”

“Yes.”

Mu Xiaocheng, who was sitting in his arms, kept his head outstretched and stared at the poker cards in his father’s hand as if he knew what they were.

“Now, what’s this, son? Do you remember this?” Mu Yuchen tightened his embrace while drawing a card from the pile and showing it to Mu Xiaocheng. He asked him to recognize the suites.

Mu Xiaocheng’s glistening eyes widened as he stared at the cards in front of him for a long time. He then shouted, “Dada!”

“Oh my, you little dunderhead, you’re just like your mummy. Everything is your Dada now. Now tell Dada, what card is this?” Mu Yuchen rubbed his tiny head with a frown and then asked.

“Flower...Flower eight...” Mu Xiaocheng stared at the card for a long time before blinking his eyes at Mu Yuchen and replying.

Having heard that, a satisfied grin flickered on Mu Yuchen’s face while Su Chen stretched his arm out and pinched Mu Xiaocheng’s chubby cheek gently. “Boy of wonder!”

“Ah Chen, I think your son is as brilliant as you were when you were a kid.” Zhou Zimo also smiled while reaching out to hold Mu Xiaocheng’s hand.

Mu Xiaocheng was only one and a half years old, and he could basically walk steadily. He was already able to utter words quite clearly with a wide vocabulary. He also had a magnificent memory. It was like he had inherited Mu Yuchen’s extraordinary brain. On the other hand, Xi Xiaye was the person who had been losing everything. She had already forgotten where she left her purse or bag several times. It was



Mu Xiaocheng who magically found them out of nowhere while staggering or crawling around, then brought them to her.

The lives of Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye had always been very harmonious, and it had been very peaceful over the past six months. They had even flown over to City B and visited Mu Lingshi while she was in confinement after her labor. However, after considering the inconvenience to Mu Lingshi, Mu Yuchen finally agreed to Xi Xiaye's idea and they had since then adopted Qi Weier.

Qi Weier stayed in Maple Residence now, where Xi Xiaye even got a room decorated in a warm-colored princess design especially for her.

Chapter 1520. Get Together 2

At this moment, in the large living room of Maple Residence, Mu Zirui and Qi Weier were sitting on the sofa as they watched cartoons. They were both dressed in clean pajamas.

Xi Xiaye was sitting on the sofa beside Qi Weier when she looked through their homework.

"Weier, you're not doing well in abacus math. Don't you understand what the teacher taught? Or do you think that the homework assigned by the teacher is too difficult?" Xi Xiaye frowned as she flipped through the workbook in her hand.

"Mommy, their class teacher is very irresponsible. For situations like Wei Er's, the teacher was supposed to give her more guidance, but she made her sit at the back, and those at the front were all tall, so Weier can't see the blackboard at all," Mu Zirui said before Qi Weier could speak.

"I only found out when I passed by their class today, and I saw several girls in their class bullying her. Fortunately, I asked my buddy to take care of her. Otherwise, she's going to cry from being bullied by those little girls."

"How could this be?" Xi Xiaye frowned. Xiao Mei had helped handle the school transfer procedures when Qi Weier transferred back. Did she not inform the school about Qi Weier's situation?

"Their headteacher is the new Teacher Li. Mommy, I think you'd better go to school to talk to the teacher when you have the time. Otherwise, if this goes on, her academic performance will only plummet," Mu Zirui said as he glanced at Qi Weier who silently lowered her head.

Xi Xiaye's eyebrows furrowed and she could not help but worry. "Weier, why didn't you tell me about this? Are you getting bullied a lot at school? Is the teacher finding fault with you?"

She certainly knew Qi Weier's temperament. Although she did find the courage to speak a little more since living with them, she still could not communicate with strangers, thus Xi Xiaye was quite worried about this.

"Mommy..." Qi Weier raised her gaze to look at Xi Xiaye and called her in a daze.

Xi Xiaye took a breath and put the workbook in her hand on the side table. She stretched out her hands and said, "Weier, don't be afraid. Mommy and Daddy will protect you, and so will Brother and your grandparents. So, if anyone dares to bully you, you have to tell Mommy. You're a very good girl. You're smart and capable, so don't be discouraged. In the future, if there's anything you're not happy about, just tell Mommy and Daddy, and don't hold yourself back, okay?" Xi Xiaye gently squeezed her little hand.

"Why don't I discuss with the teacher immediately and see if you can be transferred to the front? We can then hire a home tutor to make up for the previous homework. For the final exam, if your grades for all the subjects are at least Bs, Mommy and Daddy will take you and your brother to the amusement park and have sundaes, okay?"

Qi Weier was excited when she heard Xi Xiaye say that, but she remembered that when Mu Zirui spoke to Mu Yuchen a few days ago, Mu Yuchen had rejected him, so she said, "Mommy...Daddy said sundaes are bad for teeth..."

Xi Xiaye smiled and reached out to touch her head. "It's okay to eat them once in a while. Okay now, Mommy can teach you about abacus math. Where's your book?"

"It's here..." Qi Weier quickly turned around and rummaged through her schoolbag. She found a book and handed it to Xi Xiaye.

"Xiao Rui, come take a look too."

Xi Xiaye was always busy, but she would always still take time to pay attention to the children's homework no matter what. Usually, either her or Mu Yuchen would take turns, so both of them could understand their children's studies well.

When Qi Lei rushed over, everyone was having fun. He let Sis Wang take his son upstairs to sleep. Only then did the few men gather around to drink whereas Su Nan and Ji Zitong were helping Li Si out.

"I ran into Chief Liang at the hospital some time ago. She said that your standards are too high and that if you go on like this, you'll end up like me sooner or later, so be prepared to be single."

Qi Lei frowned slightly when he heard that and he downed the whiskey in his glass in a shot. He glanced at Zhou Zimo who was beside him. "Someone is turning 33 this year!"

Zhou Zimo immediately glared at him. "I could be 40 and still be more popular than you. I can get married anytime, but I'm afraid you can't."

"If your popularity is really that high, show us then. You guys are indeed far behind me and Ah Chen, but there are many good women now, so it's better to keep this in mind. I'm always anxious for your sake," Su Chen said.

When he was done talking, he glanced at Mu Yuchen, who had been silent for a while. He raised his eyebrows and seemed to be interested to hear what he had to say. "Why? Aren't you going to say a few words?"

"They're single, not me, so what do I need to worry about? Instead of worrying about them, it's more practical to think about what breakfast to prepare tomorrow," Mu Yuchen spoke in a calm tone.

As he said that, he reached out and poured some whiskey for Qi Lei. "The first phase of South River Project No. 1 is about to be completed. The government hopes to take this opportunity to promote the development here as a landmark at South River. I'm afraid that you'll need to pay more attention to your design. I have no doubts about your design, but I hope there won't be any mistakes in the interior design."

“You can rest assured when I’m handling the job. We’ll let the professionals perform the latter work. Let’s use the traditional method this time,” Qi Lei grew serious and said sternly when he started talking business.

“Do you plan to call for bids?” Mu Yuchen could instantly guess Qi Lei’s intentions.

Qi Lei nodded without hiding either. “Yes, we can only use this method. Although Tai Yu Corporation is strengthening its comprehensive strength in construction, we’re not planning to expand into interior design for the time being. I’ll get my staff to draw up a proposal. Meanwhile, you can think about what you want, so you send me your comments next Tuesday, and I’ll summarize everything.”

“I may not be able to be of much help. For a project this huge, the average company may not be able to handle it. It’s best to consider a few recognized companies and I can look into it these two days. I happen to have a friend who does interior design, and he knows the industry very well,” Zhou Zimo said after thinking for a while.

“Then, send a copy of the information to Qi Lei and me on Tuesday morning. Is there a problem?” Mu Yuchen said without trying to be polite at all.

“Sure.”