

## Loving 1521

### Chapter 1521. Get Together 3

The buddies chatted till quite late before they went their separate ways, but they did not drink till they were drunk like they used to, thus they were still quite sober when they left.

Mu Yuchen had already gone upstairs to shower, and Xi Xiaye walked Qi Lei out. The two of them walked side by side while the dim yellow lights made their shadows look long, but with one long and one short, it looked quite harmonious.

“How have you been? I haven’t gone over to visit in a while since I’ve been quite busy recently.” Xi Xiaye’s calm voice broke the silence between the two of them, and one could hear the concern in her voice.

“Pretty good, just much busier than before, but I must say that I’ve been living a much more fulfilled life recently. It feels good. What’s with that look of yours? I’m a serious person now.”

Xi Xiaye chuckled as she shot him a glance. “Indeed, you’re quite something when you get all serious. The project in City B is making rather good progress. Uncle Lan was just telling me to praise you properly. If it weren’t for you, the project might not have gotten on track so quickly. Fuhua’s foundation in City B is quite weak, and there are indeed many obstacles to setting things in motion.”

“If you want to thank anyone, it should be your Mr. Mu. I didn’t do anything. I was only thinking of my own benefits, so you don’t have to thank me. Instead, it was Mu Yuchen. Glory World didn’t get many advantages out of this,” said Qi Lei humbly.

“Him helping me out is what he should do.”

“He and I are of different identities. I know you’re saying that. Alright, since we’re so close, I don’t want to hear all these boring thank yous. How’s Weiwei? Actually, I was thinking...”

Before Qi Lei could finish, Xi Xiaye had already spoken up to cut him short, “She’s doing very well. Letting her stay here is much better for her than anywhere else. Her recent situation has improved much more. It’s just that she can’t quite keep up with her grades, but don’t worry. I’ll guide her well and see if she can catch up with the rest. You’re still a bachelor, thus you don’t have experience with these

things. In fact, an additional child will just be a burden and you won't be able to manage her. It's much better on my end since I'm already raising two, so one more isn't a problem."

Qi Lei stopped walking now and looked deep into her eyes. Then, he continued walking. "You've got a great reason. As her biological uncle, hearing you say that makes me feel like I'm a very irresponsible person."

"Weier enjoys life over here. Actually, she's a very pitiful child, having met with many difficulties in life. Of course, I'm hoping that she will have a good childhood. I hope that those incidents won't cast too much of a shadow on her childhood. That way, she can be like normal people when she grows up, and live a more carefree life."

Xi Xiaye had given it much thought before. To leave Qi Weier on Mu Lingshi's end might not be the best choice. The more she deliberated over it, the more she decided that the girl should come with her and Mu Yuchen. Mu Yuchen had always been a good influence, and with him around, it would benefit the children's education.

She just wanted to help out this pitiful girl who should have a complete and beautiful life, not a nightmare that scared her. While it proved that her considerations were correct right now, at least, Qi Weier was doing much better now than before.

"With a temperament like yours, I do feel inferior."

"Don't worry about Weier. Instead, it's you. Right now, the company's basically steady. Haven't you thought about your personal matters?" Xi Xiaye looked at him with a meaningful expression while a faint smile flashed across her lips.

"You and your husband have the same thoughts. Earlier, Mu Yuchen asked this question too." Qi Lei's eyes were colored with a helpless smile.

"He cares quite a lot about you. He sees you like a brother," Xi Xiaye explained.

"I know both of you are concerned about me, but you shouldn't worry too much about those things. Right now, I feel at peace. Neither can I seem to love anyone, nor can I bear another relationship. It's

not a bad thing to live life alone and be a little quiet. In fact, I'm afraid I won't have a chance at another relationship. My heart's too tired..." said Qi Lei plainly.

When Xi Xiaye heard that, she frowned immediately and looked at him disapprovingly. "Why do you say that? I remember the last time when you said the same thing, I reprimanded you. You're only in your early 30s. Mr. Mu only met me when he was about your age whereas Su Chen's only got together with Ji Zitong at 31 years old."

At this point, Xi Xiaye could not help but sigh softly as she lamented, "Actually, Qi Lei, you say you're tired, yet it's not just you who are tired. I used to think that way too. I always feel like you're walking down the same path that I've taken. Who wouldn't be tired living in the now, for today or tomorrow? We wish for different things, so we suffer different burdens of the heart. Next time, you'll understand that having another person by your side might help you share much of the burden like what's weighing on your mind..."

"Looks like you've come to a huge realization." Qi Lei grinned, but his smile looked a little bleak and lonely. Xi Xiaye felt sad to see this.

"I always tell Mr. Mu that our experiences are similar, and that's why I always resonate with you. Many times I can understand how you feel, but I have to also admit that I'm right now a tad luckier than you. The more one climbs up the ladder, the more one will feel lonely. I understand this feeling too, but we can't just grow old alone. You're 30, just 30. You've only gone through a third of your life." Xi Xiaye looked at Qi Lei with some tenderness in her eyes.

"Time flies. In the blink of an eye, 30 years have passed. It feels like I haven't done anything in time, and just like that, 30 years have passed by." Qi Lei sighed. From the corner his eyes that looked at Xi Xiaye, concern gathered. Finally, he was moved, so he thought about it, then said, "Alright, don't worry now and don't send me off. I know. When the time is right I'll find a good woman, get married and have children. I'll fight for a good life for myself."

Upon hearing that, Xi Xiaye only smiled and stopped walking because Qi Lei's car was right in front of them.

"You seem to sound quite helpless. I'm not forcing you." She smiled.

Qi Lei shot her a side glance. "Is this not forcing? You're going the soft and hard way at the same time now. Alright, I'm going home. I'll think about it."

Then, he pulled open the car door and sat inside before he waved to Xi Xiaye and started the car...

Chapter 1522. Get Together 4

Back in the room, Mu Yuchen had just taken a shower and went to see the children. When he pushed the door open to enter the room, Xi Xiaye had also just walked in from outside the room.

"Has he already gone back?" As his deep voice slashed through the room, Xi Xiaye subconsciously raised her head and looked forward. The tall and well-built figure of the man caught her eyes.

Xi Xiaye paused for a second while he walked over to help her close the door. "Yeah, I just sent him off. It's been some time and he seems a lot more settled. I can see the more reserved version of you in him recently. Sure enough, everyone needs to experience life in order to truly learn and mature. I think he'll get better and better."

She walked towards him, stretched her body, and sat down on the sofa beside him. "Get me a glass of water."

Having heard that request, Mu Yuchen got up from the sofa and silently went over to pour her some water.

She grabbed the glass from him and emptied it almost immediately.

"Do you want more?" he asked.

Xi Xiaye shook her head. "Nah, I'm good. Let me tell you something."

"Yeah?"

"Xiao Rui told me just now that Weier isn't doing very well at school. Can you do something to arrange for the school to take care of her? At least, she should be transferred to the front of the class first. You

should've realized that her abacus result isn't ideal at all," Xi Xiaye said anxiously while her eyebrows furrowed.

With a somewhat helpless gaze, Mu Yuchen grabbed the cup she handed over and said in his deep voice, "You worry a lot, huh? It seems that the company hasn't placed enough matters on your plate. You pampering Weier won't do her any good. If she thinks that her seating in the class is affecting her studies, you should teach her how to communicate with her teacher and get the teacher to move her to a more suitable location in the class."

"But look at her situation. How can she harness the courage to communicate with her teacher?" Xi Xiaye gave him a disapproving glance. "She faces problems even when trying to communicate with her classmates and people with whom she isn't very familiar. There are only a few people that she dares to talk to now. Isn't the leap too large for her? She needs time and a process to adapt to all these."

"That's why you should encourage her to meet people and adapt to the environment. There's no such thing as life or the environment adapting to people, only the other way around. She can't always be surrounded by the people that she knows and only live in the bubble they've made for her. If this situation continues, she'll never be able to leave her comfort zone, let alone make her own decisions and lead an independent life." His tone became a little serious, and his explanation made Xi Xiaye feel a little unbearable. Nevertheless, when she came to think of it, he seemed to have a point, so she did not know what to think at this moment.

"So, what do you think we should do? I have no idea at all. Weier has been staying with us for a while already. She basically doesn't dare to communicate with anybody except for the few of us. As for her classmates at school, probably..."

"Her personality has been shaped by a certain lifestyle for a long time. I think it's impossible for her to change in such a short time. She needs to be guided slowly. We should let her voice out her thoughts when we see the right opportunity. At that point, we should only be the party that gives her support and mentors her. Okay, now don't worry, I'll accompany her to school personally on Monday. I'll then encourage her to take the initiative to discuss this matter with her teacher while being beside her."

Xi Xiaye breathed a sigh of relief when she heard the plan. She hesitated and then continued to add, "Then, you should pay attention. Her condition isn't great, so mind your tone when you're talking to her. Tell her things and discuss things with her nicely. As for her classmates, you can also teach her a trick or two and see if you can alleviate the situation."

“Since when have I needed you to worry about my ways of tackling things?” Mu Yuchen gave her a sideways glance.

“Honestly, it’s not easy being your kid,” Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and responded helplessly.

“Otherwise, do you think that it’d be a blessing to be my child? I don’t care how much success they will achieve in the future, but they should at least always be optimistic and positive. I don’t need them to conquer the pyramid and be on the top of the food chain. There’s nothing wrong with being ordinary.” He stretched out his hand to her as he said so, and she also placed her hand in his warm palm tacitly.

Then, she stood up with his help while replying, “You seem quite zen about this matter. Don’t you expect your children and grandchildren to be prosperous in the future?”

“I don’t mind wishing for it, but think about it this way. We can only live for a few decades. What’s left of us after hundreds of years is just a pile of dust, so you can only worry this much. Our kids and grandkids will have their own lives to live. It’s already not easy to lead an honest and dignified life.”

He seemed to have gotten over that concept of life and was at peace with that thought of his. Sometimes, even Xi Xiaye had to admire his attitude towards life. She thought about it and understood what he meant. “You’re right. The more we think, the more we desire. There are so many root sources that cause humans to sin, and desire is definitely one of them...”

“It’s great that we’re on the same page about that. I hope I won’t see these in our children. It’s actually very difficult to live as a person, let alone be a good person. It’s already a blessing if a person doesn’t turn out evil.”

“I didn’t catch that part. You sound like you got that from some Buddhist scriptures. Anyway, I just wish that they can grow up healthily and safely just like us. I’m a little scared of what I’ve experienced over the years, and I really hope that they won’t tread the same path that we did.”

“Of course, they won’t, so don’t worry, okay?”

At this moment, Xi Xiaye took a breath as she tilted her head to glance at him, and then nodded happily. “Okay, let’s not talk about this already. Just don’t forget about Monday. By the way, I’m going to Japan

on a business trip for a few days on Monday. We need to do some surveying before we decide whether to cooperate with them.”

“Is it the collaboration on the Glory World Flourish City project?”

It was a newly proposed project that Fuhua Real Estates had been considering for the past two years. Apart from that, it was also a project in collaboration with the government to attract more foreign investment. The scale of the project was huge, thus it was a rather strenuous project for Fuhua Real Estate, not to mention they had considerable competitors, so everything had to be done cautiously.

Xi Xiaye nodded. “Yup, it’s that project, and since you’re not going to work tomorrow anyway, just stay at home and help me check on the feasibility of the proposal. You can come up with some issues or breakthroughs so that I feel more reassured.”

“Okay, I’ll go through the proposal for you tomorrow. Oh yeah, have you taken the medicine that Sis Wang made for you?” Mu Yuchen asked out of concern.

Chapter 1523. Hope You Can Compromise 1

The special diet was something that Mu Yuchen had asked the doctor to prescribe so that Xi Xiaye could restore her health.

Since Xi Xiaye gave birth to Mu Xiaocheng prematurely, her body suffered a lot of physical trauma after that, and the chances of getting pregnant were very slim. In fact, Xi Xiaye had vaguely noticed that deep down, even though Mu Yuchen was okay with it, she had always wanted a daughter, so she had been worrying about that.

In desperation, Mu Yuchen could only ask an experienced doctor to prescribe a special diet for her to restore her health. Her complexion was much better recently, and she was not as thin as before. She used to be so frail that it seemed like she could get blown away by the wind, but now, she had gained a little bit of weight.

“I’ve been drinking these for more than a month now. Why isn’t there any news yet? I just had my period a few days ago...Do you think we really aren’t destined to have a daughter?” Xi Xiaye frowned.

“What nonsense are you talking about? How could it happen so soon? You have two sons and one daughter now. What else are you unsatisfied with? Let’s go with the flow. Mu Xiaocheng is already your greatest achievement, so don’t be discontented.” He did not know how else to comfort her.

“Well, forget it. I can only resign to my fate. I’m already more fortunate than most people.”

“It’s best to think so. If we get a son again, we’ll see what you do.”

“Well...”

“No room for discussion. This is my biggest compromise.”

It was already late at night, and the people walking around the plaza gradually left. The plaza seemed a little lonely, but the lights were very bright. The midnight wind was not as hot as in the day, and it felt much more refreshing.

On a bench under the street light by the plaza, Dongfang Liuyun was sitting steadily as she looked at the thick stack of documents in her hand attentively. While reading through it, she held a black signing pen in her hand and was marking something on the document.

She did not know how long she had been there until she felt that her neck had gone stiff and numb. She took a breath and raised her head carefully while squeezing the back of her neck and massaging her shoulders. Finally, she closed the document in her hand and was about to leave, but just as she was about to raise her head and stand up, a bottle of water was handed right in front of her.

She stopped in surprise and raised her gaze subconsciously to see Qi Lei standing in front of her.

“It’s so late already. Why did you come?” Dongfang Liuyun was a little surprised though she did not refuse the water in Qi Lei’s hand. She said softly, “Thank you”, then took a few sips.

“I just happened to go to Mu Yuchen’s place for a small get-together, so I came here on the way back. You’re still hustling at this hour,” Qi Lei said in a deep voice as he looked at the file on her lap condescendingly.

Dongfang Liuyun also glanced down at the file on her lap and smiled. "Just like you, you can't just sit still and be idle. Since you're in a good mood today, let's just play a few rounds," she said and kept the documents in her hand into the black backpack beside her before standing up.

Qi Lei glanced at the mobile phone in his hand to look at the time. It was already midnight. He glanced at Dongfang Liuyun and smiled. "I'm interested, but maybe not today since it's already midnight. You should go back early and get some rest. It's bad for your health if you stay up late so often, especially since you've returned this time, your complexion seems worse than before."

Dongfang Liuyun was taken aback. She pulled the backpack on her shoulders and glared at him. "We can do it some other time then."

"Is there something on your mind?" Qi Lei asked as he seemed to be aware that she was acting a little different than usual.

Dongfang Liuyun thought about it for a moment and calmly replied, "It's nothing. The comfortable life I've had is now suddenly controlled, so it's just a little uncomfortable. Since you're here, come take a walk with me."

She had already walked forward as she said that. Her slender figure passed through the dim light, actually seeming scrawny and lonely. The evening breeze kept blowing and her hair was a little messy.

Qi Lei hesitated for a moment, then took off his coat and followed her before slowly draping it over her shoulders. Dongfang Liuyun paused and turned her head to look at the draped coat on her shoulders. She seemed confused as she raised her gaze and looked at him quietly.

"Put it on. It's a bit cold now." He put one hand into the pocket of his pants and went on.

"Thank you."

When she saw his figure walk past her, only then did she stop refusing and pulled the coat tighter before following behind him.

“Actually, I don’t really like this city,” Dongfang Liuyun said as she looked at the lights that were still brilliant in front of her. There seemed to be a little sadness in her voice.

“Is it because it left you with bad memories?” Qi Lei asked.

“I actually don’t have much impression of this city. When I was young, I grew up in the countryside. I was brought here after I was five years old, and I studied under so much pressure. My mother always wanted me to be able to become someone capable like her, but I just want to be an ordinary person. I didn’t like the life I had to live, so naturally, I also didn’t really like this city.”

Dongfang Liuyun was never someone who easily confided her thoughts. She always kept her thoughts to herself, and when she talked about it today, she found it amusing too.

“Just don’t be cynical. Your mentality is much better than mine. I didn’t know this before, but after all that I’ve been through, I suddenly realize that this is probably what life’s like, and it’s a blessing to be able to live an ordinary life.”

Qi Lei smiled and suddenly looked at her while his black eyes flickered. “What do you think?”

“I just want to be ordinary, but there’s only so much I can do. From the very beginning, I have to understand that my future was already laid out, and it doesn’t matter if I want it or not.” Dongfang Liuyun paused for a while, and then continued, “That’s why I really understand what you went through.”

“It’s all in the past, and we can only look forward. Do you plan to take over the Dongfang Group?” Qi Lei asked with concern as he could tell the pressure she was feeling from her words.

“I’m still learning about the company and I plan to start with the marketing department.”

“You really have perseverance. It’s not easy to work in the marketing department. You’re a woman and you have to think about it thoroughly.”

As the leader of a large company himself, he certainly knew about the difficulty of each job.

“This is how I can have an actual understanding of the company’s operations. I can learn about internal matters later on.”

Chapter 1524. Hope You Can Compromise 2

The two of them walked along this pedestrian path for quite a distance until the splendor of lights ahead came to an end before Dongfang Liuyun said to turn back. Qi Lei agreed.

The streetlights past midnight seemed brighter than before. They walked for quite a while and then reached their parked cars. Qi Lei, who did not say much throughout the walk, suddenly spoke up, “Alright, it’s the wee hours of the morning. Go home earlier. From what I recall, this isn’t quite like you.”

When she heard that, she laughed. “Sometimes, I just say things. There are times when I feel down and lonely too. Alright, that’s enough. Here, take back your coat.”

Then, she took off the coat from her shoulders and handed it to him.

Qi Lei silently looked on for a while, then finally took it back. He thought about it for a moment and said, “You don’t have to give yourself so much pressure. You’re just one woman.”

When she heard that, she was stunned. Eventually, she smiled to say, “When it comes to many things, I don’t have the right to say no. Thank you for your kind intentions. Now, go home.”

Then, she abruptly turned and walked to her car.

Qi Lei did not manage to say another word before the car was started. The black vehicle drove ahead, leaving him with only the lonely view of the car driving away.

For some reason, he could clearly feel that Dongfang Liuyun seemed a little...

Everyone had a story of their own though hers was probably not quite ordinary.

...

A considerably serene weekend passed by just like that. Dongfang Liuyun had been staying put at home for the past few days. She had looked through all of the Dongfang Group's information in detail several times, as well as those files she had asked Lan Xiu to send to her.

After a few days, she almost lost track of time in the real world. It was only when Lan Xiu called that she remembered that they were supposed to meet.

The evening had passed, and the sun had set for quite a while now. The world was a vast grayness.

When Dongfang Liuyun rushed to the meetup location by car, Lan Xiu had already ordered some dishes and was waiting for her.

Lan Xiu was Dongfang Liuyun's best friend. He was Singaporean, but years ago, he had stayed permanently in City Z with his parents. He was Dongfang Liuyun's schoolmate, and they even went abroad to further their studies together. He was considered her senior in school. They had practically no secrets between one another.

Lan Xiu was a casual person. He had a lanky figure and his handsome looks made him seem reserved. While his profound eyes revealed the light of wisdom, he looked like he had flirtatious feminine energy. In Dongfang Liuyun's words, he was definitely a rarity that made women jealous.

Dongfang Liuyun sat right across him.

When he sensed movement across him, Lan Xiu looked up unhurriedly from his magazine and looked at her sitting across him. Tenderness soon flashed across his face. "You're here!"

"You're quite the enthusiastic one. Aren't you tired from your flight that was over 10 hours?" Dongfang Liuyun picked up her chopsticks, the table was filled with dishes that she liked.

"To eat with you, I'd brace myself even if I were tired." Lan Xiu's low and raspy voice was as charming as a cello.

Dongfang Liuyun looked up slightly and nonchalantly glanced at him. "I've looked through the things you sent me. They are quite detailed. Thank you. Let me toast to you."

Then, she was about to fill up the glass before her when Lan Xiu was a step ahead of her and stopped her. "You've been having poor digestion recently. Drink less and have more water. It's been so many years. Why are you still so reluctant to take good care of yourself? Are you trying to break yourself?"

Lan Xiu's tensed handsome face looked concerned while his low and raspy voice mixed with a hint of reprimanding as well.

Dongfang Liuyun was forced to stop what she was doing. She looked up and met Lan Xiu's gaze. A while after that, she looked away and pulled her hand back. "I'm fine. It's just a small problem, but I'm feeling much better now."

"I heard Fujiwara's coming to City Z quite soon. Have you planned on meeting him? This time, he's prepared quite a bit when he was back in Japan. He's not going to give up on you, Liuyun. He's got such strong feelings for you. Won't you consider it? Don't reject him because of his older brother—"

Before Lan Xiu could finish, Dongfang Liuyun's initially unhappy face was covered with some paleness as she coldly cut him off, "Enough, stop right there!"

"Liuyun!" Lan Xiu's raspy voice was slightly raised as well. His handsome brows were furrowed into a knot as his eyes fixed on her.

Dongfang Liuyun had already shut her eyes as she took in several shallow breaths at a go. Finally, she opened her eyes and took a glass to drain the water it contained. "I've said it before. I forgot about those things. Fujiwara and I will never happen."

"You can't just forget some things just cause you said you have! Fujiwara is a mad man. I'll be honest with you. He's personally visited your grandmother. In fact, they enjoyed talking to each other. If I guess it correctly, the so-called project he's coming to City Z for isn't the real reason. His target is you. He wants to be combined with the Dongfang Group by marriage. I've thought about this from quite a few points. It's highly possible your grandmother will say yes to this. Liuyun, you'd better plan early!" Lan Xiu's words were mixed with thick worry.

Upon hearing this, Dongfang Liuyun looked miserable. "Isn't Grandmother unwell? Why would she have the mind to be talking about these things with him."

"Liuyun, tell me honestly, how do you feel about Fujiawara?"

"From the moment he turned away, he and I have got nothing left. I don't want to look into whose fault it was. He had his reasons for doing that, so I don't blame him either. There's no way I can go back and accept a flawed relationship, just as Lan Qi can't...can't...be revived..."

Bam!

Before Dongfang Liuyun could finish, she suddenly turned pale, and the cup in her hand fell to the ground.

"Liuyun!" Lan Xiu was quick to hold her wavering body. He went over and caught her in his arms. "It's fine! It's fine! Don't be afraid, Liuyun! Don't be afraid...He won't blame you. He wouldn't..."

Dongfang Liuyun took in quite a few breaths before she calmed herself down. Then, she pushed Lan Xiu away. "I'm fine. I've long been fine."

She turned away and looked at the glorious lights outside the window. "I can't let this piece of happiness go, I guess..."

Chapter 1525. Hope You Can Compromise 3

As Lan Xiu gazed at her in silence, her cold profile was still as calm and distant as always.

Indeed, she was someone who had experienced plenty of life and death. He might not understand that feeling, but he knew that she had been suffering all this time. She was also someone who had always struggled with life, thus she had stronger courage than he did.

After a while, Lan Xiu sat back and poured some water for her. "It's great to know that you're able to get over with it. How can you be blamed for this matter? So, don't put pressure on yourself now that my brother's soul might be waiting for its reincarnation already. If you still care..."

“He’s dead. Do you believe that souls or reincarnation are a thing?” Dongfang Liuyun withdrew her gaze unconcernedly and glanced at Lan Xiu, who was opposite her. She then reached out, picked up the glass, and took a gulp from it.

“If you believe that it exists, then it exists. Otherwise, it just doesn’t.”

“It’s just how the world finds a reason to comfort themselves, but I don’t need any of it. Plus, reminiscence doesn’t seem to carry much practical meaning. What can be done is to continue what he’s not accomplished to help him fulfill his last wish.” Dongfang Liuyun’s tone returned to its former indifference as she also calmed down.

“You have a very staunch sense of responsibility, Liuyun. It’s very tiring.” Lan Xiu looked at her, and it was not difficult to sense the distress and pity in his eyes. “I don’t think he’ll blame you if you really want to come back to him. You should know that he has always cared about you. I suppressed all the news after that incident, hoping that you could continue to live peacefully instead of being so depressed. Otherwise, what do you think is the reason for me doing all this?”

“You know, Fujiwara won’t give up that easily this time. The Fujiwara family have pressured him a little, or else, he’ll be asked to marry Nako Yamaguchi...”

“Who he’ll be marrying is none of my business. I just don’t want to see him again.”

“I know the reason behind you traveling around these years and refusing to stay here for a longer period of time is that you don’t want to see him, but the situation is different this time. You should’ve read the information that I gave you before this. Others might not necessarily give you the chance even if you need some time to catch a breather. You have to think more for yourself,” Lan Xiu advised in all earnestness, but Dongfang Liuyun was woolgathering.

“I can naturally decide how to deal with matters by myself, Lan Xiu. There aren’t many things that I care about and you should know that.” There was a hint of coldness in Dongfang Liuyun’s indifferent tone. She then thought about it and her eyes dimmed. “I won’t give them the chance to threaten me.”

“Then, what can you do? If things go on like this, I’m afraid that even your mother will hope that you can compromise...” Lan Xiu asked with creased eyebrows.

As Dongfang Liuyun raised her head again, she finished the water in the glass and gazed up at Lan Xiu. After a while, she lowered her eyes and did not answer his question.

“I’ve already resigned from the university and will report directly to the marketing department of the Dongfang Group in a few days. Most of my focus should be placed on the company’s agendas in the future. I wish they can just cut me some slack in the relationship department. If I were to be forced one day, I wouldn’t even mind...” Dongfang Liuyun stopped all of a sudden.

Lan Xiu waited for her to continue for a long time, but she did not, and when he glanced up at her, she had already silently picked up her chopsticks to go for the dishes. He gave it a thought and did not ask anymore.

“It’s Dongfang Ren’s birthday in two days. I’ll be going back,” Dongfang Liuyun took a bite of food and said slowly.

“Dongfang Ren? Dongfang Rouer paid you a visit, huh?” Lan Xiu asked.

“She went to De Bao House to find me and even tested me there. She’s a threat to me since she’s the clever one, not to mention her connections in the Dongfang Group. I’ve roughly skimmed through the information my father gave me. It’s obvious that they’ve been plotting against him non-stop ever since he took over the company temporarily. My father isn’t the type to take up such a position. He’s been thinking of letting go since a long time ago.”

“It must’ve been very hard for Uncle Dongfang.”

“While there isn’t any major crisis for the time being, there have been plenty of undercurrents within the company. Everyone is looking for something to be used against my father, and now that he’s returned from Myanmar with an injury, it shows that they can no longer hold back. This is also why I’ve decided to come back without hesitation.”

Dongfang Liuyun had always been like this. She always exuded a very strong sense of purpose when it meant business. That was also why she had always been a very efficient person.

When he heard that, Lan Xiu nodded without saying a word, “Yeah, it’s great to come back earlier. Anyway, it’s just a matter of time. You just have to be careful since you’ve never been in contact with the Dongfang Group before this. I’m afraid that you might need to put in a lot of extra effort in many of its agendas. As for your contacts in the company, you’d better let Uncle Dongfang and Auntie Song sort them out for you so that you’ll be fully prepared for everything that comes your way.”

“Don’t worry. I know that.”

“Do you need me to accompany you to Dongfang Ren’s birthday?” Lan Xiu thought it would not be that simple as it might be another trap since Dongfang Rouer had personally invited her to attend the banquet. He understood that it was normal for the Dongfang family to have secondary intentions.

“Nah, you seldom mingle with the family, and I don’t want to drag you down with me if anything were to happen. Don’t worry. I won’t be courteous with you when there’s a need.”

After Dongfang Liuyun said so, Lan Xiu had already picked up his chopsticks and added dishes into her bowl. “Okay, I’ll be staying here for a while. I can finally rest well after all the hustle and bustle.”

“Yeah, I know that. I’m going to stay in Beach Villa District in the long run. The environment there is marvelous, so I don’t plan to move anytime sooner.”

“Of course, you can stay there. I still have a few more houses under my name, and they’re all empty,” Lan Xiu responded in his deep voice while refilling her glass, “Just let me know if you have any needs. Since you’re new in City Z, there are only a few places that one can go. Let’s play a game when you have the time. It’s been a long time since I last touched a billiard cue, and I hope I haven’t gone all rusty.”

“I haven’t played for a long time. The environment there isn’t great, and I don’t like it very much.” Dongfang Liuyun remembered the unpleasant incident that had taken place when she brought Qi Lei there. After that, she had almost stopped going.

“It’s nice to go for a walk around the city.”

"I know you mean well. Don't worry, I can take care of myself. By the way, I've sent what you want directly to your office, so go back and check if you're satisfied with them," Dongfang Liuyun responded indifferently.

"Okay, I know. Now, eat something. You seem a lot thinner than before when you came back this time, and you look a little pale."

"You should stay there for a while and we'll see what changes would happen to you when you're back." Dongfang Liuyun squinted at him, and a sense of relief could be seen on the curving corners of her lips.

Chapter 1526. Sick 1

They left the restaurant right after dinner.

It was already bright outside. On the sidewalk ahead, pedestrians were constantly passing by, and the night breeze was still a little warm from the heat during the day. The plaza in front was still crowded with people who were taking strolls. The sound of people chatting and their laughter could be heard, and it was very lively. Dongfang Liuyun's car was stopped in the parking space in front.

Lan Xiu sent Dongfang Liuyun over, and they walked side by side but did not say anything.

When they reached the side of the plaza, Dongfang Liuyun suddenly slowed down and called Lan Xiu, "Lan Xiu..."

"What's up?" he asked as he turned his head to look at her.

Dongfang Liuyun took a breath and thought for a while, then suddenly she turned her head and looked at the cute children playing in the plaza next to her, and said in a light tone, "Have you ever thought about getting married?"

"Getting married?"

Lan Xiu was startled when he heard her question, and for a while, he was still in a daze. He did not know how to answer her question. However, his eyes that were looking at Dongfang Liuyun seemed to darken.

After a long time, he still did not say anything.

Dongfang Liuyun waited for a while and did not hear his answer, so she turned around and looked at him. "Do you find this question very difficult to answer?"

"No, I just don't know how to answer it," he replied.

After a brief silence, Dongfang Liuyun asked another question, "If I told you that I'd marry you, would you be able to accept it?"

As Lan Xiu listened, he immediately stopped in his tracks and gaped at her in shock. He was stretching out his hand and he immediately tightened his palm. It was evident how shocked he was by her words!

In fact, he never thought that Dongfang Liuyun would mention the word "marriage". In his eyes, she was too good and perfect. She only deserved the best. No one around them could be worthy of Dongfang Liuyun, including the powerful Fujiwara, or his kind and considerate brother.

However, she was saying such things to him now, and it made him...

"I know the answer. Thank you, Lan Xiu! I'm leaving!" Dongfang Liuyun said without any changes in her expression. She strode forward to open the car door and immediately got in.

"Liuyun!" Lan Xiu called her and wanted to catch up, but she had already started the car and was already slowly driving away towards the brightly lit street ahead.

However, at this very moment, Qi Lei was in the office of the President of Tai Yu Corporation.

After a busy day, he had finally finished the job he had been working on for the past few days. He looked at the time and realized that it was late. He got up and looked outside to see that it was already a bustling night.

“Master Qi, have a cup of warm water to warm your stomach. It’s so late, so don’t go back home to cook dinner. I’ve already asked the hotel to send dinner. They’re all light flavors, so you can have some.”

Yang Sheng was certainly very concerned about Qi Lei and dared not interrupt his thoughts because he knew about Qi Lei’s temper after working with him all this while. He did not like getting interrupted when he was busy, and things that he prepared must be done on the same day, so staying up late was something he did often.

“Just put it aside.” Qi Lei did not feel very hungry after going out for afternoon tea in the afternoon.

“Master Qi, you need to take care of your body and not exhaust yourself. Now that the company matters are getting on track and the situation has stabilized, you should relax too. By the way, Master Qi, the human resources department has approved the interview, and the new secretary meets all the requirements, but she’s a woman—”

“Change it to a guy,” Qi Lei interrupted him before he could finish speaking. He turned his head and grabbed the coat on the side with one hand as he was about to leave to go outside. When he saw the porridge in Yang Sheng’s hand, he thought about it for a while before stepping forward and taking it with one hand. He had a few mouthfuls and drank the glass of water that was next to him, then he took a napkin and wiped his mouth before walking towards the door.

“Clean up and get off work early.”

The tall and slender figure then disappeared outside the door.

“Master Qi!” Yang Sheng yelled subconsciously, but Qi Lei’s footsteps did not stop. He sighed helplessly.

Initially, he wanted to find a beautiful female secretary for Qi Lei since he knew that he did not normally have any contact with women. Business partners or people in the industry always tried to introduce their daughters to Qi Lei, but he had always shown a lack of interest, so Yang Sheng was also quite worried.

This time, he proposed to hire another secretary for Qi Lei. He actually thought that if he could find a beautiful woman with good family background, she might be able to develop an office romance with Qi Lei, but he did not expect him to repel women to this extent...

Could he still be thinking about Miss Xiaye?

As Yang Sheng thought about this, he could not help but grumble secretly...

The black car slowly drove out of the plaza in front of Tai Yu Corporation and towards the wide road ahead before disappearing out of sight after a while.

Inside the car, Qi Lei lowered the windows out of habit. The car was not going too fast, and the shadow of the car was passing through the dim streetlights slowly as he drove straight to the city hospital.

He was indeed on his way to see Qi Qiming, who was still lying unconscious in the hospital...

However, at this time, on the avenue leading to the Grand Summer Bay Beach Villa District...

Screech!

A sharp squeal of brakes could be heard through the silence of the night, and the black shadow of the car hurriedly stopped on the side of the road.

In the driver's seat, Dongfang Liuyun was looking pale as she pressed her stomach with one hand. She was hurriedly looking for the familiar medicine bottle by turning to the backpack beside her but could not find it after trying for a long time...

She could only feel that her mind was going blank due to the pain, and her starry eyes were also losing focus.

Her stomach had not been well. She had been traveling around these few years, and she did not eat regularly or rest well. It was no wonder that her body had suffered. If it were not for Lan Xiu's

persuasion, she would not have gone to the hospital because she was afraid to find out what sickness she had. Fortunately, after the doctor gave her a thorough examination, she was told that it was just a gastric problem, but she needed to take some medicine to get better and that she would definitely not be able to drink as much as before.

After a short rest, the pain did not ease but got worse instead. Dongfang Liuyun was breaking into a cold sweat from the pain, and she could feel every cell of her body clamoring because of the pain. Even her eyes became a little hazy. Her fingers trembled as she turned to rummage through her bag pack, and she finally found her phone...

Chapter 1527. Sick (2)

When the phone rang, Qi Lei's car had just passed through the traffic port ahead. The second he heard his phone ring, he turned to look and saw two words pop up on his screen, so he swiftly picked up.

"Hello, Liuyun?"

"Lan Xiu...can you come over? I'm at the Grand Summer Bay highway intersection...I...I can't hold on till the hospital anymore..." Dongfang Liuyun only had so much energy to whisper that before her hand fell limp and her phone fell to the ground.

Duu duu—

Before Qi Lei could respond, the busy signal of the phone rang and he immediately tensed up. It seemed that Dongfang Liuyun was not feeling too well!

As he thought about it, his dark eyes squinted and then a darkness flashed through them. He immediately had a bad feeling!

Did she not mention the Grand Summer Bay highway intersection?

Something must have happened!

When he thought about this, Qi Lei could not care about anything else. He narrowed his eyes as he sped up and turned around at the crossing in front...

He practically sped all the way to his destination. It was probably 40 kilometres from where he was, and he only took 20 minutes. Thankfully, there was no traffic jam that night.

At the Grand Summer Bay highway intersection, as Qi Lei drove over, he could see the black Jeep parked on the side underneath the streetlights from afar.

The Grand Summer Bay was considered an area nearer to the suburbs, so there were not many cars that passed through this road. At most, there were only one or two cars that whizzed past.

Qi Lei swiftly parked his car and quickly rushed over to the black Jeep. He pulled open the door and indeed saw Dongfang Liuyun leaning against her seat with her eyes tightly shut. Under the dim lights in the car, he could see the paleness and pain on her beautiful face. Her fair forehead was covered in sweat, and her hands that laid on her knees were clenched into tight fists. From a distance, he could feel the coldness that engulfed her being.

Upon seeing that, he could not help but frown. Without a second thought, he quickly leaned over and carried her.

“How are you feeling? Let me send you to the hospital. Hold on a bit more! Hold on!”

When she felt movement, Dongfang Liuyun subconsciously opened her eyes and looked at Qi Lei. She was obviously slightly shocked, yet she had no energy to say any more, “Why...is it you...?”

She thought she had called Lan Xiu...

“Forget about that first. Does it hurt a lot? We’ll go to the hospital now. Just hold on for a bit.”

When he saw her subconsciously holding onto her belly, he could guess what was wrong. No wonder she was trembling in cold...

Naturally, Dongfang Liuyun did not have much energy to think much. Qi Lei had just put her into the car and buckled her up before she fainted...

...

Two hours later, Dongfang Liuyun was admitted into a suite at the hospital.

While the doctor did a series of checkups for her, and then looked at the medical records on hand as well as the image of her stomach, he had a solemn expression.

Qi Lei took a look at Dongfang Liuyun who laid on the sickbed with an intravenous drip as he asked with a lowered voice, "Doctor, how is she?"

"She's always had gastritis. In fact, it's quite severe, and she hasn't been doing well. Plus the fact that she did have injuries near her stomach, there were some signs of inflammation. That's why it hurt even more. It's a good thing that she's always been taking her medicine. Otherwise, it would've turned out worse. Also, she's probably been overstretching herself from work, hence she's quite weak now. If she isn't more careful, there will be severe consequences, and she might even need to cut out a part of the stomach if there are changes to this illness."

When he heard the doctor, Qi Lei's brows that had just relaxed furrowed once again. "How could that be?"

She did not seem like someone who was ill at all.

"The situation is quite bad, so she needs to be hospitalized for a few days of observation. Her wound can't be inflamed again. From now on, it's best to quit alcohol and avoid spicy food, and after a few months of recuperation, she should be able to recover slowly. However, the injury at her stomach is still there, and with gastritis, it's normal for it to hurt from time to time. There's no need to worry too much. Just remind her to take her meds on time. You may handle the hospitalization procedures first."

The doctor briefly explained some important things to take note of before he left.

Dongfang Liuyun, who lay on the sickbed, was still knocked out.

Qi Lei looked at her quietly for a while, and then finally he sighed to himself and took out his phone to give Yang Sheng a call. He told him to arrange for a few people to come over.

After he hung up, he thought about it, then pulled out the chair by the bed and sat down.

Naturally, he was not quite used to seeing her this vulnerable, in Qi Lei's impression, Dongfang Liuyun had always been a strong goddess. He caught on a lot of energy from her that he did not have within him, but now...

He did not expect someone like her to topple too.

When he saw the doctor's expression, he figured that the wound should be quite serious.

"What kind of person are you? I've never met a woman like you. You're so hard to grasp..." Qi Lei silently watched that elegant complexion of hers, and softly said before he pulled her blanket over her. Then, he switched off the bright light by the bedside table and left the wall lamp switched on.

Even when Dongfang Liuyun was unconscious, she did not sleep particularly well. Her brows remained furrowed into a knot, and layers of cold sweat gathered on her forehead as if she was struggling against something. She also clenched onto a corner of her blanket tightly, yet her pale lips remained tightly shut.

"Liuyun...what's wrong? Liuyun..."

Qi Lei naturally felt that something was not right, so he quickly got up. Unexpectedly, her cold fingers locked onto his wrist tightly as if she was holding on for dear life and it felt like she could practically break his wrist!

"Liuyun, wake up! Wake up! Doctor, doctor, quickly come and take a look at her! Doctor!" Qi Lei's heart clenched as he quickly pressed on the button by the bed and shouted.

When he finished, the doctor rushed in...

The medical staff got busy for a while and increased the dosage of tranquilizer for her before she recovered.

“Don’t worry, President Qi. The patient’s not too emotionally stable, but she’ll be fine in a bit. She’s fallen asleep for now. She should wake up in six hours. If anything else happens, call us again.”

Qi Lei nodded and waved them away though his heart had clenched up.

...

Yang Sheng had rushed over in the quickest of time with two bodyguards. They quickly handled the procedures as Qi Lei had asked them to before rushing over to the ward, and when they stood at the door they could see Qi Lei by the bed inside...

Chapter 1528. Sick (3)

Yang Sheng stopped at the door and did not enter, he made a hand gesture to signal the two black bodyguards behind him, and the duo stood on both sides of the door knowingly.

‘It turns out that Master Qi left suddenly just now because of this Miss Dongfang.’

When he came to think of it, Yang Sheng took a breath and thought about whether he should reorganize all the information about Miss Dongfang.

He merely wanted to find out who was the player of the in-game character “Swift Snowy” in the beginning, so he had only dug into her general information. If Dongfang Liuyun could really become friends with Master Qi, or even develop a more intimate relationship, then he must investigate the circumstances clearly.

Yang Sheng felt relieved with this idea in his mind. After hesitating for a long time, he was thinking about turning around and walking in, but at this second, there was the sound of the door opening. Taken aback, he raised his gaze at once and Qi Lei’s calm and handsome face came into view. No expression could be seen except a pair of gloomy pupils that were full of depression.

“Master Qi...is Miss Dongfang okay?” Yang Sheng lowered his voice as he craned his neck to look into the ward. He saw Dongfang Liuyun lying on the hospital bed, devoid of any response.

“Her condition doesn’t look very good. How are the procedures?” Qi Lei’s calm voice pierced through the air, and he sat down on the bench at the side as he asked while Yang Sheng handed him the briefcase in his hand.

“It’s done, and Miss Dongfang...she...”

“It’s gastritis and some illnesses from the past. You can go already if you’ve done everything, but come earlier tomorrow, and bring some porridge over,” Qi Lei responded faintly while grabbing the briefcase from Yang Sheng.

“Great, Master Qi, but it’s very late already. You should also go home. I’ve gotten the hospital to assign two nurses here. You haven’t even eaten your dinner yet, and these few days have been hectic. I’m worried that your body will be overwhelmed.”

“It’s okay, you should go.”

“Master Qi...” With not much else to say, Yang Sheng left the hospital, but he went downstairs and brought some supper up to Qi Lei before going back.

...

Dongfang Liuyun could only feel that she was struggling in that long and somber dream again while dark mist covered the whole world. Everything in front of her seemed gloomy and she could not see anything. The only thing that she could feel was the faint warmth in the palm of her hand, and all she could do was hold on tighter to that sensation.

Her name, Dongfang Liuyun, meant flowing clouds that moved with the wind and scattered with the rain, so what was there to hold on to?

It seemed that such a message was being conveyed in the depths of her mind. That was why she released her grip subconsciously, so her hand that was clasping Qi Lei's wrist suddenly let go and retracted. Qi Lei looked down only to realize that his wrist was bruised from all the squeezing.

At this moment, he suddenly discovered that the feeling of loneliness emitted by this person in the hospital bed was so vivid, and it made him think of himself, who always lay wide awake in bed at midnight. Was this not the same feeling?

"You only made it sound simple. I'm afraid that while you were encouraging me, you were also motivating yourself, huh?" he said with a sigh. He then leaned forward, put her arm under the blanket, and sat down on a chair beside her. After that, he took a few documents out of his briefcase and started going through them.

...

The night seemed to have become shorter. The morning breeze was blowing gently while the dim light of the dawn was getting brighter and brighter while its rays, which had a hint of warmth, beamed diagonally into the quiet ward. Dongfang Liuyun finally woke up from the sedation and opened her eyes in a daze.

"Miss Dongfang, you're awake!" As she was about to sit up, a familiar voice came from the side of the bed.

Dongfang Liuyun lifted her head and what caught her eyes was Yang Sheng's face, beaming with joy.

"Thank God, you've finally woken up. That's great!"

"Why am I here?" Dongfang Liuyun carefully shifted her stiff body and took a good glance at the ward. She quickly came to the conclusion that she should be in the hospital at the moment. Then, she thought about it, and every scene from yesterday came into her mind.

She remembered that she had driven home directly after separating from Lan Xiu, but when she was near the intersection of the Grand Summer Bay Expressway, suddenly...

Did she not call Lan Xiu?

How did Qi Lei appear?

...

“You fell ill, and it was Master Qi who sent you to the hospital. He was here the whole night and just left in the morning to go straight to the company because there’s an important meeting at the office this morning. But he told me to wait here for you to wake up. You should drink a glass of warm water to warm up your stomach, The porridge that I brought over is still warm. Here, I shall pour you some. The doctor said that your condition isn’t very ideal and you need more rest. You’ll be hospitalized temporarily for them to monitor your condition, and you’ll be discharged after you’ve stabilized,” Yang Sheng said while turning around and pouring a glass of warm water for Dongfang Liuyun.

Dongfang Liuyun had already sat up against the headboard of the bed. Her eyes were looking around aimlessly, trying to capture and organize every piece of information that she had when she was unconscious yesterday.

However, she was a little surprised. Did Qi Lei really stay here all night?

A lot of information was intertwining in her mind, and her pale face became a little bleak.

“Thank you.” After accepting the glass that Yang Sheng handed over, Dongfang Liuyun thanked him in her hoarse voice. She then lowered her head and took a few sips.

“You’re welcome, Miss Dongfang. Are you feeling better? Oh yeah, there’s the medicine. You have to remember to take it!” Yang Sheng was a little diligent and solicitous as he did have some feelings for Dongfang Liuyun deep down. In fact, it would be perfect if...if...if...

As he was saying that, he handed the packet of medicine that the doctor had given to Dongfang Liuyun.

Dongfang Liuyun nodded her head gratefully as she grabbed the medicine packet weakly, opened it, and took the pills silently. She then opened the blanket and got out of bed...

“What are you doing, Miss Dongfang? You can’t get out of bed and walk around...” Yang Sheng was shocked when he saw that, so he approached her immediately.

“I’m fine. I’m feeling quite good, so there’s no need for hospitalization. Please thank him on my behalf. I shall go home first.” As Dongfang Liuyun spoke, she endured the weakness in her feeble body and staggered towards the door of the ward.

She could not let the news of her hospitalization reach the interested party. Furthermore, she had always hated the hospital, thus she must leave this place as soon as possible.

“Go home? No, Miss Dongfang, you’re in no condition to do that. The doctor said you need to be hospitalized for further monitoring. Plus, you shouldn’t be working...Miss Dongfang...”

Regardless of what Yang Sheng said from behind, Dongfang Liuyun had already stumbled out of the door. With her large white blouse, gray cropped trousers, and her long messy hair, everything made her look extremely haggard and fragile. Despite that seeming the case, her slender figure looked extremely determined.

Chapter 1529. Sick (4)

Dongfang Liuyun did not stay for long and she walked outside the hospital as soon as she left.

In the office of the Tai Yu Corporation President, Qi Lei had just returned to the office after a meeting and was about to briefly read through the meeting documents when he received a call from Yang Sheng. He did not expect Yang Sheng to call, so he immediately picked up.

“It’s me.” His deep voice was a little hoarse because he had not rested recently.

“Master Qi, Miss Dongfang has already woken up, but she went home straight away and asked me to thank you for her...” Yang Sheng said in a low voice.

Qi Lei paused and stopped his hand movement for a while before he responded, “I see. Just go through with the formalities.”

What a stubborn person...

Qi Lei left Yang Sheng with his instructions and hung up the phone. He stayed quiet and continued to look down at the documents in his hand.

Dongfang Liuyun dragged her tired and weak body to take a taxi back to the Beach Villa District. She then realized that she did not have a key with her, and she did not even know where her backpack was. Fortunately, she had set up a fingerprint lock before.

When she got back home, she fell asleep on the sofa before she had the time to do anything.

The day passed quickly. When Yang Sheng knocked on the door of Qi Lei's office, it was already time to get off work in the evening.

"Master Qi, this is the bag that Miss Dongfang left at the hospital, as well as the medicine prescribed by the hospital. Do you think someone should send it to her? The bodyguard drove her car back to De Bao House, so only this bag was left..." Yang Sheng said in a low voice when he saw Qi Lei flipping through an architectural magazine while standing under the bookshelf.

When Qi Lei heard this, he raised his gaze and looked at Yang Sheng to see a black backpack in his hand. "Just put it aside, I'll take it to her later."

'It's on the way anyway,' Qi Lei thought in his heart.

"Okay, Master Qi, then I'll leave it on the sofa..." Yang Sheng walked towards the sofa and put the backpack there as he carefully glanced at Qi Lei. He noticed that he was looking at the book in his hand calmly.

He did not dare to say anymore and carefully left without disturbing Qi Lei.

The night quickly approached though it was not a starry one. There was a rare crescent moon in the sky. The night breeze was refreshing, and it kept blowing the curtains that grazed the ground. The faint moonlight was shining through the French windows and illuminated the floor.

Dongfang Liuyun slept like a log on the sofa. Since returning home, she had slept for several hours but was still groggy. If not for the doorbell that she vaguely heard, she would probably be still asleep now.

She glanced at the video on the side with her heavy eyelids, and when she saw the person standing at the door, she was a little surprised. She pressed the button on the door anyway and pulled the door open.

“Why are you here?” she asked as she watched Qi Lei pass through the clean concrete pathway to the steps in front of her door.

“I came to see you and to bring you this, as well as the car key,” Qi Lei lifted the black backpack in his hand and said. He raised his gaze to look at her standing on the steps.

As the night wind blew, her clothes started swaying, and the shadow on the ground also danced constantly, making her appear even thinner.

“Aren’t you going to invite me in?” When he saw that she did not respond, he gave her a rare smile.

Dongfang Liuyun took some time to react. Her pursed lips relaxed a little and she nodded slightly. She turned around and silently motioned a welcoming gesture to him.

Qi Lei climbed up the stairs and walked in, and Dongfang Liuyun slowly followed behind him.

“Drinks?” she asked after combing her long, messy hair.

Qi Lei walked towards the sofa and put the things in his hands down. He looked at the somewhat messy sofa and subconsciously turned around to look at her. She looked sleepy and her face was still pale. He looked around and did not seem to see any servants in the house. After some thought, he asked, “Haven’t you had dinner yet?”

Dongfang Liuyun was not thinking about food at all, but now that he brought it up, she suddenly felt that her stomach was empty. The hunger pangs made her frown. “Haven’t you had dinner too?”

"I just came from the office," Qi Lei responded.

"Let's go out for dinner. Dinner's on me to thank you." Dongfang Liuyun leaned over the sofa as she tried to find her purse in the backpack, but he had already reached out to stop her. "Well, don't try to act tough if you're feeling sick. I don't actually like dining outside."

Dongfang Liuyun then sat down. When he saw that she was silent, he said, "Is there still food in your refrigerator?"

Surprised, she raised her eyebrows. "Do you want to cook by yourself?"

"Consider yourself lucky. I haven't shown anyone my exclusive secret technique." Qi Lei glared at her and took his coat off leisurely.

Dongfang Liuyun turned her head and smiled indifferently. "Well, since you brought it up, it seems unfair if I don't give you this opportunity. The kitchen is on your right, and there are ample ingredients in the refrigerator, so you can show off your cooking skills as you wish."

"I'll try my best. By the way, you should take your medicine first. You left the hospital in the morning. Do you happen to hate that place too?" Qi Lei said and reached over to pull out a big bag of medicine from her bag. He prepared it for Dongfang Liuyun according to the instructions and poured her a cup of warm water.

Dongfang Liuyun was silent for a long time after hearing what he said. She then reached out to take the glass of water he handed along with the medicine and wash down the bitter taste in her throat. She sighed lightly. "That's where I have experienced life and death countless times, so I'm a little scared."

When Qi Lei heard that, he paused, and then nodded in sympathy. "I can understand how you feel."

For a long time after Wang Qin had left, he was terrified to go to a hospital, not to mention the gloominess and the smell of disinfectant in the hospital that seemed obnoxious to him.

“Sit down. Dinner will be ready soon,” Qi Lei said as he unbuttoned his sleeves and rolled them up before walking towards the kitchen.

Chapter 1530. Not A Simple Banquet (1)

Qi Lei’s movements were quite swift. After so long, his culinary skills were still quite good.

There were sufficient ingredients in Dongfang Liuyun’s fridge were quite sufficient, but in consideration of her health, he just made a few simple and light dishes, and cooked up some plain shredded chicken porridge, but it all looked quite good. With such a tempting aroma, Dongfang Liuyun had just sat down to take a look at the dishes before a look of approval flashed in her eyes.

“How rare for a Master like you to be able to cook.”

As someone who also came from a rich family, Dongfang Liuyun could understand how these families usually conducted themselves. For example, most of the younger generation of the Dongfang family were aloof masters and ladies. Usually, they would not be happy to even serve themselves a bowl of rice, much less cook themselves.

“I didn’t know how to cook before this, but I didn’t want to starve myself all the time, so I just had to learn by myself. Aren’t you the same?” Qi Lei’s tone was calm as he spoke while serving Dongfang Liuyun half a big bowl of porridge.

“I’m not like you. I lived in the villa when I was younger and then returned to City Z after that. My grandma is a native villager who was a teacher when she was younger, and afterward, she became the principal of the primary school over there. She’s a very pure and good-natured person. She taught me many things, including being independent and cooking for myself.”

If one had to use a term to describe Dongfang Liuyun’s life before, then she felt that ‘adrift’ might be the most suitable.

When she was younger and lived in the village, she would frequently go to the city and benefit from her grandmother’s supervision and influence, she had been very clever from a young age. At school, she had very good grades and would always get first place in her exams. In fact, she would be far ahead of the one in second place. You could call her a super top student. She even skipped grades quite a few times and was accepted into a famous school abroad that made an exception for her. However, Dongfang Liuyun herself did not slack off one bit. She remained steady and continued to enrich herself.

In Lan Xiu's words, Dongfang Liuyun's life could only be described with two words: busy and valiant.

However, studies were just studies. In terms of life, she was not that great at it, or at least, Dongfang Liuyun thought so. She was a victorious warrior in academics but was defeated by life and reality.

"Not that different. I used to think that the process was very important, but now I slowly feel that perhaps the results are more important to me. We've all been on the path to chase for results," said Qi Lei with a lowered voice as he nudged the bowl of porridge towards her and handed her a spoon.

Dongfang Liuyun accepted it and lowered her head to have a taste. She was not stingy with her comments, "Not bad. It tastes pretty good."

"Give me face and have another bowl then," Qi Lei replied calmly.

When Dongfang Liuyun saw his delighted expression, she thought about it and made a rare joke, "If someone cooked it and it isn't good, I wouldn't just tell them directly. Otherwise, you won't cook again the next time."

"I have confidence in my culinary skills." He looked at her very calmly and answered, "I used to be quite against it, but after I tried it out, I suddenly realized that it was a good way of passing my time leisurely."

"Are you enlightened by the true meaning of life now?" Dongfang Liuyun raised her brows and chuckled.

"The truth has always been there. Do I need to be enlightened? Have more."

"You have some too. I'm quite hungry since I haven't eaten anything for an entire day."

From last night till now, it had been a day and she had not had anything, thus right now she was starving.

“You should pay more attention to your meals since you have gastritis. Perhaps it’d be better if you hired a servant.”

“I rarely come home usually. Besides, I like living alone since it’s quieter.” Dongfang Liuyun liked her quiet time and was not used to having other people in her personal space. It had been so many years, so she was used to this now.

“The doctor says you need to rest up for quite some time, especially in terms of your diet. Yang Sheng has asked the doctor who said that your gastritis looks like it might be inflamed soon. He suggests that you be more careful. If you don’t want to be hospitalized, it’s best that you be more diligent with your hospital visits. At least, you have to be sure your wound won’t get inflamed. Otherwise, you’re the one who’s going to suffer.”

Qi Lei’s tone had a hint of concern, but he did not ask how the wound came about. He never liked asking people about their past unless there was a need to. Clearly, he did not quite see the need right now.

“Mmm, thank you, I’ll know how to take good care of myself.” Dongfang Liuyun’s expression quieted down, and then she responded with gratitude, “Sadly, I can’t drink right now. Otherwise...”

“Don’t you think about alcohol now. You’ll have to abstain for quite a long while. Your health is your capital to be revolutionary. Without that, you’ve got nothing left. It’s not easy to ask for a life of good health and free of worries. I truly hope that we won’t be people who are too harsh on ourselves from now on.”

Qi Lei sighed as he could not help but think of those unhappy things that had happened a while back, so he felt strongly about this.

Upon hearing that, Dongfang Liuyun agreed. She held up her bowl and lifted it towards him. “As you said, let’s not be too harsh on ourselves. Eat well, drink well, sleep well, and as for the rest, let’s leave them for later.”

Qi Lei smiled and nodded gently too.

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The dinner ended in such a harmonious atmosphere, and both of them were quite impressed. Qi Lei did not forget to leave Dongfang Liuyun some food as supper because eating less but more frequent meals was the way her dietary habit should be.

After dinner, Qi Lei kept the bowls and chopsticks away whereas Dongfang Liuyun felt much more at ease now. When she noticed that the moon looked lovely, she went outside to chill by the balcony.

By the time Qi Lei was done tidying up and walked out, he saw her leaning against the railings.

When she heard the sound of footsteps from behind her, Dongfang Liuyun did not turn around as she said, "The moon looks quite nice tonight. I haven't had a good look at this city's moon for quite a while now. Sadly, it's not a full moon, but it's still quite beautiful."

Qi Lei walked over in two steps and stopped beside her. With both hands propped on the railings, he looked up at the new crescent moon hanging in the sky as well. The light breeze blew and as they stood there, he could smell the faint fragrance coming from her. He vaguely felt something brushing past his ear and turned to realize that it was her long hair...

Her expression was calm and distant just like the first time he met her. He could not forget that scene...