

Loving 1561

Chapter 1561. Illusion (1)

Qi Lei turned on the speaker and continued enjoying his noodles as he asked his question.

Dongfang Liuyun said softly, "I wasn't going to call, but I didn't think it was appropriate not to, so I did. Since you also mentioned carrying out my role, it means I do have such a responsibility."

Qi Lei paused but did not answer.

"What are your parents' standards for a son-in-law?"

He suddenly remembered Song Siting, whom he had met at the airport this morning. She looked like an extraordinary woman who had set high standards for herself and her daughter, so she probably had high standards for her son-in-law as well.

As soon as he asked this, Dongfang Liuyun paused and smiled. "Why? Are you worried that you can't get through my parents?"

"I obviously have my worries. Since I'm now their son-in-law, I have to be someone they will be proud of. Now tell me so that I can make all the necessary preparations in advance. It's going to be Chinese Valentine's Day soon after all," Qi Lei replied.

He seldom spent his time dealing with things like that, and he had never thought about pleasing or honoring his parents before. Now that he had parents-in-law, he certainly had to spend more effort and time to make a good first impression.

"As I told you, there's no way to communicate with my mother. You just need to be polite to her. My father is a very kind person. He's a friendly old gentleman, so you don't need to worry much about that."
"

"Tell me about their hobbies," Qi Lei said with persistence in his tone and his eyes flickered.

Dongfang Liuyun was sitting in a car on her way back to the hotel at the time. When she heard his question, she raised her hand and rubbed her forehead. After thinking about it for a while, she replied calmly, "Mother believes in Buddhism. I think it's probably because she's committed too much evil."

A hint of sarcasm could be heard in her tone, but Qi Lei found it a little strange. He remembered the haggard and weary Song Siting he had seen that morning.

After a pause, he was about to say something but Dongfang Liuyun continued, "My father likes antiques, especially sculptures. If it weren't for his identity, I think he would've been a master sculptor. However, he had to give up on his dream in the end."

When she spoke about this, she seemed to suddenly remember something that made her sigh. "Do you remember what I said about you? Actually, I can see my father in you sometimes. There are too many people who had to give in to destiny, and that includes my father and you, even myself. We were given a life that we had to live, and it's actually very unfair for us humans. I think we were all born to enrich our lives and change our destinies."

He heard what she said, and at that moment, he suddenly felt like he found his purpose. Warmth flooded his heart. He rarely understood this kind of feeling, but he was glad that she could think this way.

"But I'm not your father. I'm your...husband and your life partner," Qi Lei reminded her.

Dongfang Liuyun was in a daze as she looked outside of the car window and she chuckled. "I know. Let me tell you the truth. I actually felt sympathetic towards you at the beginning because of what happened to you and your personality. However, I thought about myself and suddenly realized that it felt like the pot calling the kettle black."

"Talking to you is no fun at all. It feels like I'm being observed because you're so sharp and that leaves me nowhere to escape to, Mrs. Qi."

When he heard that, he smiled indifferently as he swallowed the food in his mouth. "Mrs. Qi" did not sound odd at all. "To be honest, I feel like nobody in front of you."

“You’re a rising star in the business, and I can’t ever compare to that. Also, aside from having any sense of accomplishment, I’m just a woman no matter how powerful I am. Women are inherently weaker compared to men,” she said modestly.

Qi Lei felt comfortable talking to her. He agreed, “I also agree that by nature, women should be protected, but I’m very curious why someone like you would feel this way too.”

“Well, can’t I?” she asked back.

“That’s not what I meant. I just think...” Qi Lei wanted to explain something, but he did not know what else he could say, so he gave up.

Dongfang Liuyun did not say anything at all. They were silent for a while, but Qi Lei ended up reaching for the phone. “It’s late now, so go back early and get some rest. By the way, I’m a little busy these days, so I may not go online. As for the equipment, you can just log in to my account and send it as a gift or transfer it to yourself. The password is ‘easterngust’ in lowercase plus the first four digits of my phone number.”

“Okay, got it. If I go online, I’ll help you with your account too,” she smiled and replied.

“Okay.”

“Anyway, enjoy your noodles. Bye.”

...

After the phone call ended like that, he could not really tell what he felt. Qi Lei felt that he was probably feeling joy because he realized that there was someone thinking about him. Therefore, no matter what reason it was, he felt elated.

It was much better than not having anyone who cared about him and being forgotten by everyone.

'She's a good woman, so you should treat her well. If she can really be with you till the end, you should be willing to give her everything...' Qi Lei said to himself in his heart.

He had to admit that sometimes, he was also afraid of loneliness because he was alone...

After pondering for a long time, he took a breath and calmed down a little before lowering his head to finish the noodles in his bowl. However, at this very moment, it was not just him who had thoughts running through his head.

Inside the car, Dongfang Liuyun silently squeezed her phone as she looked at the darkened phone screen in her hand.

"Miss Dongfang, shall we go back to the hotel now?" the driver in front suddenly asked.

She snapped out of her trance and turned her head to take a look at the street outside before responding, "Go back now."

"Mr. Ge and the rest are waiting for you in Dynamic Entertainment City. When the salon is over, they will be taking a trip to the Maldives. They'll probably discuss some travel plans..."

"Go back and tell your boss that I'll return to City Z immediately after the salon. Mr. Lan Xiu will come personally in a few days," Dongfang Liuyun cut the driver off.

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"But, Miss Dongfang, our boss wants to talk to you personally about something." The driver in the front hesitated and decelerated the car slightly.

"It's okay. I'll send him a message to explain when I arrive at the hotel. All you need to do is just drive me back to the hotel," Dongfang Liuyun responded indifferently, and at this moment, the driver could only give up.

This night seemed the same as before, but what made Dongfang Liuyun feel that there was a subtle change was that she would actually call Qi Lei. In her opinion, no matter what led her to do so, it was all a little...

The night was getting later and later. After putting the kids to sleep, Mu Yuchen went back to the bedroom tiredly and took a bath. Just as he lay down, the phone on the bedside vibrated, and he knew who was calling him without guessing, so he pressed the 'answer' button without glancing at the caller ID.

"Why did it take you so long to answer the phone? Have the kids gone to bed?" Sure enough, the voice of a woman complaining came through, and Mu Yuchen also leaned back on the bedhead with the blanket. He grabbed the book on the side with one hand, opened it, and replied, "They've slept, and I just finished showering. Are you back in the hotel? Don't socialize until too late in the night. Get them to drive you back to the hotel when it's time."

He was very worried every time she was on a business trip and always felt troubled because he was not there to watch over her.

"It's okay. I just got back to the hotel. Today's banquet was quite a large affair. I had a few drinks, so my head is a little groggy at the moment." Xi Xiaye sighed lightly as she sat on the sofa, raised her hand, and rubbed her glabella.

"Your drinking capacity has regressed. It seems that you've become more finicky, Director Xi." A faint smile flashed across the corners of his lips while he turned a page with his hand and replied to her, "Ask the front desk to get you a mug of ginseng tea, then take a good bath, and rest early."

"Aren't you the one who has been spoiling me? I used to have quite a high tolerance level when it comes to drinking, but now I can't do it anymore. By the way, Uncle Lan should've sent you the information about the South River project, hasn't he?" Xi Xiaye remembered this all of a sudden after she had had the time to alleviate the discomfort.

Mu Yuchen paused for a second and quickly recalled the document that Li Si had handed him in the evening. He then put down the book in his hand, got out of bed, and walked towards his study.

"Let me go and take a look."

“The first phase of the project is almost over. You should talk to Qi Lei about the rest of the project and see if bidding is a more suitable way to go at it. Since you’re closer to him, you’ll be able to rest assured if you leave the project to him.”

Mu Yuchen quickly went to his study and found the document on the shelf. Then, he opened it and went through it attentively.

“There aren’t many problems with the data. I’ll arrange for the inspection team to conduct another system check. Then, I’ll go to Qi Lei once it’s deemed problem-free. When will you be back?” His eyes stopped on the files in front of him as he asked her that question on the phone.

“Well, this matter is rather urgent, so figure it out yourself. I was a bit too busy back then, so you’d better be warier when it comes to the data. Be careful that I might’ve tricked you.”

“I’ve always been waiting for you to trick me, but I haven’t seen you in action. Don’t worry. I’ll take care of it and come back as soon as you’re done. The children have been looking for you these few days.” He closed the files in his hand whilst there was a hint of sentiment in his deep tone.

“Then...how about you, President Mu?” she lowered her voice and asked softly.

“What do you think?” he raised his good-looking eyebrows and asked rhetorically.

“How would I know what you’re thinking about? However, I feel very bored just thinking about staying here for several days.”

“It’s only been a few days and you seem to be having a bad time over there.” The smile on the corners of his lips became more and more obvious, and there was deep affection in his eyes.

“I admit that I miss someone very much, and I often wake up from sleep at night. I’m especially grateful to God for bringing him to my side and letting me be with him...Do you think I should thank him well?” She smiled and played along with him.

“Didn’t I say that there’s no need to thank me? But if you can give me some substantial rewards, I’d certainly feel extremely honored,” he said in a low voice.

“So, do you also think that I should thank my sons? Then, I’ll take them and Weier to a nearby beach for a vacation when I go back. The weather recently should be fine.”

“Oh? So, now that you’re more capable, you’re thinking of leaving me alone when you have plans like this?” he said irritably, secretly annoyed that he actually fell for the verbal trap that she set.

Xi Xiaye just gave him a faint laugh from the other end of the phone call...

...

The husband and wife talked for a long time until Mu Yuchen got an incoming call, and they had to hang up.

It was from Li Si.

“Master, I’ve sorted out Dong Wentao’s information. Shall I send it to you now?” Li Si’s deep voice came through.

Mu Yuchen’s eyes lit up as he slowly leaned back in the chair behind him and replied, “Just send it to my email.”

“Okay, Master. By the way, I heard from Miss Su Yu that Master Su and Miss Ji just had a fight, and Wang Yanran is now going back too. Do you want to...” Li Si asked for instructions cautiously.

Mu Yuchen thought about it for a moment and then responded after a while, “You don’t have to worry about this matter when I didn’t instruct you to do so. Since it’s a family matter, we can only let them solve it by themselves, and try not to let the old man know about this matter. As for what happened yesterday, please take care of that. I don’t want to hear rumors that shouldn’t be out there.”

Mu Yuchen had learned something in the officialdom from Mu Tangchuan, so he knew that Su Zhengxun had been caught in a critical moment recently, and if nothing were to happen, the latter would soon be the one who would move upward in his career. Nothing should go wrong at this critical point, so Mu Yuchen could only suppress this news as much as possible.

“Besides, you should investigate whether the matter between Wang Yanran and Ji Zitong was an accident or if someone deliberately did it immediately.”

Mu Yuchen’s tone sounded unusually cautious, so Li Si naturally understood his master’s concerns when he listened to his instructions and quickly nodded. “Yes, Master! But do you want to let Master Su know about this matter?”

“Since he came to me and asked me to investigate Dong Wentao, he must know it deep down. After all, he has been in the scene for many years and is far more sensitive to these things than us. It’s better to talk less and let actions speak for themselves.”

Naturally, Mu Yuchen did not worry about Su Chen’s affairs. What bothered him was his temperament as it seemed that this unpleasantness would not pass so quickly.

Among the three brothers, Mu Yuchen was the calmer one, but Su Chen was different. There had always been a bit of male chauvinism in him. He was decisive and always meant what he said. He also tended to be rather impulsive, scrupulous, and methodical while Ji Zitong was also a stubborn person. The couple was now living together with such personalities, so naturally, Mu Yuchen would not believe it if there was no conflict.

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In fact, if he were to think about it himself, he actually did not think Su Chen and Ji Zitong were the most suitable for each other.

However, suitable or not, it required breaking in, so he would not personally interfere with his buddy’s relationship choices.

The two of them had been married for more than a year now, and he could see the changes in Su Chen. Even though there were unhappiness sometimes, he felt that he was doing better than before.

“Yes, Master, I know. I’ll send the information over to you right now,” Li Si responded, then Mu Yuchen hung up and opened the laptop before him.

After a while, Li Si sent an email. Mu Yuchen briefly read through the information and began to frown slightly. He thought about it for a long while before sending it to Su Chen.

...

The weather remained warm, and Chinese Valentine’s Day was closing in. The entire City Z seemed livelier than before.

The atmosphere of Chinese Valentine’s Day was quite lively in City Z. As one of the country’s traditional festivals, it was quite important to everyone. It was the so-called Valentine’s Day for the people, thus despite just beginning July, the road was already packed with more people selling flowers than before at night.

The lights were already waning before Ji Zitong unhurriedly packed up the documents to walk out from the office. When she passed through the lively street, many of the children came up to her and asked her to buy flowers.

While as she watched the blossoming red roses before her, Ji Zitong only had a dazed expression. In truth, she had not been doing too well in the past few days.

Since that night when Su Chen left sulkily, he never sent her a text. He merely sent two quick-witted servants over from the old residence to serve her.

Ji Zitong obviously felt quite terrible over this, but...

Maybe he did not care about her as much as she thought he did.

She took a deep breath and thought this to herself.

After being married to Su Chen for so long, the two of them were actually quite careful. When they interacted with each other, they still had some reservations. He was good to her, but Ji Zitong kept feeling like she could not touch his heart while she herself also...

In a daze, she suddenly heard someone call out to her from behind, "Zitong?"

Ji Zitong then stopped walking and turned around. She then realized it was Su Yu standing behind her!

"Sis? Why are you here?" Ji Zitong's beautiful eyes flashed with a puzzled look as she stared stunned at Su Yu who had suddenly appeared.

"Why? I was waiting for you. What were you thinking about? I was calling out to you for quite a few times but you didn't respond. Are you too tired from work? Or are you still thinking about that b*stard, Su Chen?" Su Yu's face brimmed with her warm smile and she walked towards Ji Zitong.

When Ji Zitong heard that, her eyes fell silent for a moment, then she smiled. "It's because of what happened the other day, isn't it?"

Su Yu smiled and nodded, not hiding it. "Since you know then that's good, I'm sure you haven't eaten since you've been working till now. Let's go have supper together first!"

"I'm not very hungry..."

"Just accompany me then. That shop over there isn't bad. Let's go." Su Yu went up and pulled Ji Zitong towards the restaurant.

She ordered a pot of pomelo tea and some delicious dessert. The two of them then sat down and the waiter soon served the food.

"Come have some. The dessert here is quite good." Su Yu poured Ji Zitong some tea.

Ji Zitong nodded and quietly accepted it.

When Su Yu saw that Ji Zitong did not look too good, she had to admit, “Actually, I didn’t just leave the other day. I waited for Su Chen for a while and then sent him back to his bureau. I know how my little brother’s temper is like. He’s been like that since young. If he makes you unhappy, put up with it a little. I’ve already lectured him.”

“Sis, don’t worry about this. We...”

“I can’t not worry knowing that the two of you haven’t been doing well these past few days. Initially, your marriage was something that we only found out after you got married, and while the Su family doesn’t care about family background or anything, we do hope Su Chen can live a happy life. So, since you are his choice, we choose to respect the two of you too.”

“I know. Thank you for your understanding.” Ji Zitong looked gratefully at Su Yu.

“Su Chen hasn’t called you these past few days, has he?” Su Yu took a look at the phone that she had cast aside and asked.

Ji Zitong paused without answering and only lowered her head quietly to drink tea. Her answer was clear.

When Su Yu saw that, she could not help but sigh inside. Indeed, it was true to Su Chen’s way of doing things!

“Are you feeling a little tired of this marriage already?” Su Yu asked softly as if she could relate to her sister-in-law’s feelings.

At this, Ji Zitong smiled bitterly. “Maybe a little. Even though we were never like other marriages before this, right now, it feels like the passion has faded and cooled down. We...”

“Marriage is like that. As heated as feelings can be, they will eventually cool down. That’s marriage for you. Little irrelevant things can erode your passion. The two of you should understand this philosophy, right?” Su Yu said with a smile.

Ji Zitong lowered her gaze and said gloomily, "I'm worried that he and I might not be compatible in personality. I'm not understanding enough. Someone of his status should find a better wife that's better at being understanding. I..."

Before Ji Zitong could finish, Su Yu had already looked at her a little reprimandingly and cut her off. "Don't you just go about saying such things!"

"What do you mean he should? Look at Father and Mother. Ask yourself, do you really think their personalities are compatible? Look at Mother. she's like a little girl who can never grow up while Father is a calm and serious person. Haven't they made it through though? Don't think too much. Since you're already at this point, you should continue with this. I don't want the two of you to end up like me and your brother-in-law."

When Su Yu said this, her eyes could not help but dark slightly. Clearly, some not too happy memories had been brought up for her.

"Brother-in-law?" Ji Zitong looked at Su Yu with a puzzled look.

Had the two of them not been getting along very well?

Su Yu nodded. Her tone was helpless as she said, "Yes, you probably don't know this, but your brother-in-law and I had an unhappy period of time, and we almost got a divorce. You have no idea how disgusted I felt every time I finished work and had to go home to see that face of his. I only thought that he looked extremely ugly, and when I thought about how I had to spend many more long decades with him, it made me feel nauseous and depressed!"

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In the blink of an eye, it was already the weekend.

Since the matter was finally resolved, she originally planned to go back earlier, but the change in the itinerary was so last minute that there was no plane ticket left. Therefore, Dongfang Liuyun could only wait to rush back on Monday.

The morning in City C was very pleasant and beautiful as the sun shone faintly and the breeze was very cooling. There was also the mild and elegant fragrance of orchids.

When Dongfang Liuyun opened the window to look at the scenery, she could vaguely hear a melodious flute playing from outside the window. The melody sounded very familiar as it was a classic: "The Sound of Silence".

She subconsciously followed the sound, which led her to discover a few elderly people sitting by the lake not far ahead, and some of them were playing the flute. Meanwhile, the young florist had already started to work hard on the flat and clean path by the side.

She inhaled a deep breath, took two sips of tea from the cup, and gazed down at the morning ensemble. She was in a good mood, which was rare for her. So, perhaps, it should be shared.

A thought came to her when she glanced over to the side and saw a certain book that she had already read. Then, there was a rare warmth flashing across her delicate and fair face, and she took the cell phone from the side to dial a number.

When the phone vibrated, Qi Lei was preparing breakfast in the kitchen. He was surprised to see Dongfang Liuyun's call so early in the morning, but he immediately picked up the call.

"Hello? Mrs. Qi?" Qi Lei carefully flipped the fried eggs in the pan with one hand while responding.

"Are you making breakfast? How come you're up so early on the weekend?" Dongfang Liuyun's ears were very keen, and she soon heard the sound of oil popping over on the other side of the phone.

"Wow, my wife is definitely wise. Master Qi is frying eggs, and the milk is still boiling on the stove by the side. Have you had your breakfast?" Qi Lei carefully placed the fried eggs on the plate and turned off the stove while asking.

"It seems that you're in a good mood and enjoying yourself. I'm having tea with dim sum. Since I'm feeling upbeat, I called you. I'll be going back tomorrow and I'll arrive at 4 p.m. Come to the airport to pick me up. Is there any gift that you'd like? I can bring something for you as a reward. Do you need anything?"

Dongfang Liuyun acted as if it was a natural thing to ask that question. Maybe it was because the two were too familiar with each other or because they had already gotten used to the way they got along as friends from before and nothing had changed.

However, it did not seem to be the same. Both of them knew the fact that they were now husband and wife.

“Of course, I won’t say no to a souvenir. I don’t want the inexpensive ones or anything with bad taste, so you should figure it out yourself.”

“Well, cologne or a watch? Or maybe a leather belt? It seems that women usually give things like these to men, right?” Dongfang Liuyun started considering it seriously.

“I don’t use perfume, I don’t like wearing watches, and there are dozens of belts in the cloakroom, so you’ll have to think harder.” A wicked smile appeared on the corner of Qi Lei’s lips. He really made it difficult for her.

However, came to think about it, it seemed that something was wrong.

How come he felt that the roles between him and Dongfang Liuyun seemed to have been reversed? He had become a woman staying at home while she had become the husband that handles the external affairs.

This could not be.

Where was his self-esteem?

“No, I don’t want anything. Now tell me, what gift you want. I’ll buy it for you. Take it as a wedding gift from me!”

“I like money,” Dongfang Liuyun smirked and replied when she heard his question.

That was direct.

Qi Lei could not react to that and was taken aback for a moment. He then recovered from the trance, cleared his throat, and replied, "Do you mean that you want control over the finances of the family?"

"What do you think?" The smile on Dongfang Liuyun's face became more and more obvious, and she could imagine the expression on Qi Lei's face at the moment. "Why? Are you hesitating?"

"No, no, I'm totally okay with it. I'll get Yang Sheng to count all my properties and hand them to you when you come back. As long as you don't ask me hypothetical questions like if you and my mother were to drop into the water at the same time, who will I save first, it doesn't matter to me."

Anyway, he had a lot of private pocket money, and a lot of money was being deposited into his personal account every month, thus it did not matter if the finances were handed over to her. Furthermore, she was his wife, right...Right?

Hearing that, Dongfang Liuyun chuckled lightly and quickly continued, "Since you asked, who will you save first?"

"Of course, it would be my mother. She can't swim, but this assumption won't hold anymore," Qi Lei answered very honestly.

Dongfang Liuyun nodded, and her chuckle continued. "Don't worry. I'm very content with your answer, and there won't be such situations as I can swim. As a matter of fact, I even won a swimming championship before this. Only stupid women would ask such a question, especially in those old-fashioned romantic dramas."

"I'll leave the finances to you since I know you're an expert in finances. I'm even planning to transfer some of my personal savings to you so that you can help me invest, but let's be frank upfront. If you've made some earnings, I'll take all of them, but if there's any deficit, you have to fill it up for me. I only run businesses that make a profit," she said boldly.

“Do you think that I’m a sitting duck just waiting to be taken advantage of? I’ll suffer from both outcomes! I’m not going to do it.” He frowned and refused.

“How about I give you the Heavenly Grass that was stolen from the Holy Land?” Dongfang Liuyun lowered her voice in a negotiating tone.

“The Heavenly Grass? Then what about the set of equipment worth eight million gold coins that you’ve stolen from me before...”

“I’ll return them to you,” Dongfang Liuyun replied generously.

“Okay, deal! How much money can you invest from your private account?” Qi Lei gave it a thought and then nodded.

“A million,” she replied.

“I don’t believe it! I saw the text message on your phone which showed that there are nearly two million dollars. Are you telling me that you have only one bank account?”

“That’s all. I spent the rest on equipment last night.”

“You prodigal mother...”

“What did you say?” Before Qi Lei could finish the sentence, Dongfang Liuyun’s gentle voice had already come through.

“Huh? Oh, I said you’re really brave. You truly deserve to be the legend that even a top-rank player has failed to defeat in the arena.”

...

The husband and wife hung up the phone after a long chat. Dongfang Liuyun stared at the darkened cell phone screen, and just when she was about to put it away, the phone vibrated abruptly. She took a glimpse at the screen.

It was Lan Xiu calling.

She hesitated for a while, then lifted her head and finished the tea in the cup, and picked up the call leisurely.

“Liuyun? Who was on the call with you just now? Why were you on the phone for so long? Have you had your breakfast? How’s your stomach?” Lan Xiu’s concerned voice came from the other end of the phone call.

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Dongfang Liuyun’s gaze fell silent for a while. With one hand propped up on the window sill before her, she silently looked down and responded, “Nothing much. What’s up? Why are you calling me so early in the morning?”

“Nothing, I was just worried about you. I’ve thought about it regarding Mr. Ge’s end. You just do your best. If you can’t, then we’ll just think of other ways. I heard that you didn’t go over that night. I know it’s because of Fujiwara. Anyway, Fujiwara should be arriving in City Z on tonight’s flight. You...”

“Whether or not he comes has got nothing to do with me. Also, I didn’t meet Mr. Ge because I was a little tired and wasn’t feeling well, so I returned to the hotel to rest earlier. Besides, if it’s about the project, I don’t have a need to spend time meeting him either. If he won’t give me the project, there’s no use no matter how much I express goodwill. Your capabilities are right there. In fact, because of Fujiwara, he’s very much likely set on you,” Dongfang Liuyun said as the smile that was on her lips earlier faded away, changing to her usual indifference.

“You seem quite certain. I’m very worried about you, Liuyun.”

As Lan Xiu took a deep breath, he felt uneasy and could not help but say, “I’m afraid that Fujiwara’s return this time around...Between you and him, there’s been a misunderstanding. If you are still...”

“Enough, Lan Xiu. I don’t want to hear the name ‘Fujiwara’ every time I speak to you. This person has long been removed from my life. If you want me to feel better, it’s best if you can think from my perspective as well. As for Mr. Ge, I’ve already spoken to him, but he still has some doubts. It’s best if you make a trip over yourself. This time, I’m really tired. I don’t want to interfere in this anymore. In fact, I’m going to be joining the Dongfang Group quite soon, so you need to watch out for yourself,” Dongfang Liuyun said solemnly while her breathing was still uneasy.

“Alright, I know. I’ll make arrangements for someone to take over from you as soon as possible. Are you rushing back by flight tomorrow? What time is your flight? I’ll go pick you up.”

Lan Xiu’s lowered voice was filled with the warmth of concern, and it did warm Dongfang Liuyun’s heart to hear that.

She and he had always been like this, had they not?

They had always been quietly caring for each other, but they could only be good friends of many years. Perhaps that was a good thing for them, yet it seemed like some things were bound to be changed.

She did not forget the sudden appearance of a man who could be called her husband in her life, Qi Lei.

“No need. I’ve got someone to fetch me tomorrow, so you do your own thing. I’ll go look for you in another two days. Also, about Fujiwara, I hope you can stop caring about that. Just pretend you don’t know him since that’s best for us all,” she reminded.

“Don’t worry. I have my own considerations. Since that’s the case, I’ll go with you. You should be careful.”

“Mmm, I’m hanging up now,” Dongfang Liuyun replied calmly before hanging up. She sighed and tossed the phone onto the sofa beside her. She then walked over and poured herself a cup of tea although her starry eyes could not conceal a slight gloominess.

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Meanwhile, on City Z's end, inside a luxurious manor engulfed by the first rays of the morning sun, Lan Xiu wore a dark sleeping robe and was looking down at the swimming goldfishes in the lake while he propped himself on the railings. His hand held tightly onto his phone that had just dimmed with his brows furrowed tightly, and he tossed some food to the fishes below from time to time.

For some reason, he felt vaguely uneasy.

Something seemed to have happened with Dongfang Liuyun, especially after he rationally rejected her. She seemed to have changed slightly. Of course, he would not be foolish enough to think that Dongfang Liuyun would blame him for this and intentionally distant herself from him.

Instead, something must have happened.

Actually, when Dongfang Liuyun had first asked, he almost did not hold himself back and wanted to agree.

Too many men had been attracted to the excellent Dongfang Liuyun, and that included Lan Xiu. However, he understood that she was not someone that anyone could measure up to. He hoped that she could forever live a happy and carefree life as she did right now.

After all, no one knew better than Lan Xiu the pain and hardships she had gone through.

However, when he heard Dongfang Liuyun's nonchalant tone, he could not help but feel a hint of stifled pain like the illusion of being disappointed about losing something. He was suddenly not sure if he had made the wrong choice. If he had agreed then, would he be secretly delighted right now?

At this moment, his assistant Ah Li spoke and interrupted Lan Xiu's thoughts, "President Lan, this is the information from City C. Miss Dongfang has informed Mr. Ge that you'll be personally going over, and Mr. Ge indicated that he looks forward to your visit."

Lan Xiu turned around and looked at the document that Ah Li handed him. He then took it calmly and flipped through it a few times before handing it back. "Alright, arrange for a trip then. It's best if we can go over next week. Also, find a way to find out Mr. Ge's recent movements, and who he has been in

touch with recently. Arrange for Vice President Wei to familiarize himself with this project as quickly as possible since he'll have to personally take on this project after this," Lan Xiu ordered immediately.

Assistant Ah Li quickly nodded. "Alright, President Lan! I'll go arrange for this right away! Oh, right, President Lan, Miss Dongfang's flight should be landing in City Z tomorrow afternoon at 4 p.m. Do we need to arrange for a car to fetch her? It's your birthday tomorrow, and we've previously made reservations at Xiang She Er restaurant. If we go fetch her, then it will be just in time for dinner.

When Ah Li said that, Lan Xiu paused and gave it a long thought before he said in a lowered voice, "It's fine, I'll pick her up personally. Just get things prepared."

At this point, Ah Li nodded. "Sure, President Lan, what flowers should we prepare for Miss Dongfang?"

"Hyacinths," Lan Xiu thought about it, then answered quickly. As he said this, he sighed and put his phone into his sleeping robe. He began to toss food towards the goldfishes in the lake again.

The assistant nodded and kept the documents away before he softly answered, "Okay, President Lan."

Then, he quietly retreated.

The corridor instantly fell silent, and Lan Xiu watched as the fishes swam in the lake below. His elegant face flashed with a smile, yet he looked lonely...

Chapter 1567. Missed (1)

What if one day, she actually ended her current life and married another man? What should he do?

What should he do?

He really did not know what he should do...

Could he ever get her back?

He did not know...

He could not see clearly in his dream because it was covered in white fog, and he could only feel a dull pain in his chest. The pain was suffocating, and he struggled to breathe...

His face turned pale amidst the light tremors and his long eyelashes fluttered. His forehead and palms of his clenched fists were covered in warm sweat. He struggled with all his might and cried out of shortness of breath. His hoarse voice clearly had a hint of restraint in it as he called out, "Liuyun...Liuyun..."

"President Lan! President Lan! Wake up! Wake up, President Lan! You're having a nightmare!"

At this time, Lan Xiu suddenly opened his eyes after hearing his assistant, Ah Li's voice. He sat up immediately and took a few deep breaths as he looked around, only to find that he was sleeping on the sofa in the living room of his own home and was drenched in sweat.

"President Lan, what's the matter? Were you having a nightmare? You kept calling Miss Dongfang's name. Take this. You look so pale." Ah Li quickly handed him a hot towel when he saw his pale handsome face because he was worried.

Lan Xiu took a few deep breaths before he finally calmed down. He took the hot towel and wiped the sweat off his forehead. After a while, he asked, "What time is it? Why are you still here?"

He often forgot the time whenever he fell asleep, so he was still in a trance.

"President Lan, you didn't sleep at all last night because you wanted to finish reading the project materials you got from City C. When you woke up in the morning, you only had a little porridge. It's your birthday today, so Miss Dongfang will rush back. It's late afternoon now, thus she should still be on the plane," Ah Li said indifferently.

"A day has passed?" Lan Xiu was in a daze as he clearly remembered that he had just finished talking to Dongfang Liuyun.

“Yes, President Lan. You always skip your meals and not get any sleep when you work, but your body will not be able to tolerate that. I’ve asked the servants to prepare some porridge for you in the kitchen. You can have some,” Ah Li said worriedly as he took the towel back from Lan Xiu.

“Just put it aside. I’ll go upstairs and take a shower. Arrange for a car to pick her up at the airport.” Lan Xiu tidied up the clothes on his body and stood up slowly.

“Okay, President Lan, I’ll ask them to make all the necessary preparations,” Ah Li answered.

Lan Xiu had already walked towards the bedroom.

“What happened to Fujiwara? He should be in City Z now, right?” Lan Xiu suddenly remembered this, and he stopped as he turned his head to ask Ah Li.

“Not yet, President Lan. I was about to update you. When Mr. Fujiwara was on his way to the airport yesterday, he had a car accident and ended up with minor injuries. Fortunately, it wasn’t serious, but he was sent to the hospital for observation. His boss has forced him to cancel the trip since it will probably take a while for him to recover. I’m afraid he won’t be able to come to City Z anytime soon,” Ah Li quickly reported.

“A car accident? Minor injuries?”

When Lan Xiu heard this news, he paused and a gloomy light flashed across his black eyes, but he suddenly smiled. “This is interesting. This car accident could’ve happened anytime, but it happened when Fujiwara was on his way here? It seems like there are many people who don’t want him here.”

“Isn’t that good? President Lan, both you and Miss Dongfang probably didn’t want to see...”

“You’re going overboard, Ah Li!” Lan Xiu frowned and interrupted him.

Ah Li’s face stiffened and he quickly bowed his head apologetically. “I’m sorry, President Lan. I shouldn’t have crossed the line. I’ll never do it again!”

Lan Xiu's eyes darkened and he closed his eyes. After he calmed down, he said unhappily, "Just watch yourself in the future. Just do what you should do."

"Yes, President Lan! I'm sorry! I promise I won't do it again in the future!" Ah Li did not dare to even breathe as he could only answer with his head down.

Lan Xiu slowly opened his eyes and he did not say anything as he continued to walk forward.

When Ah Li saw the figure disappearing at the doorway, he finally breathed a sigh of relief even though he was still feeling a little unsettled. He had been with Lan Xiu for many years and knew his temper well.

President Lan seldom got angry and hardly lost his temper, but when he did, anyone would be frightened from the icy aura he radiated without him actually doing anything at all.

Moreover, he could obviously tell what President Lan's feelings about Miss Dongfang were, but he did not understand how both of them could be so oblivious about it.

He thought that President Lan was very compatible with Miss Dongfang, but Fujiwara seemed to be in the middle of it all!

President Lan probably did not like Mr. Fujiwara, but they were good friends before and he did not know how they felt about each other. Also, President Lan seemed to pay a lot of attention to the matter between Mr. Fujiwara and Miss Dongfang. Could it be...

Without thinking any further, Ah Li quickly went over and asked the servant to prepare something for Lan Xiu to eat. When they were almost done, Lan Xiu had changed into a set of grayish-black casual clothes and walked out of his bedroom.

His jet black hair was still a little wet, and his dark casualwear made him look tall and lean. However, his face was still slightly pale.

"President Lan!"

When Ah Li saw Lan Xiu coming over, he quickly pulled the chair for him to sit down slowly.

“President Lan, Dongfang Rouer and Jin Sheng’s engagement party is on the 8th this month, which is in a few days. Dongfang Ren’s secretary personally sent the invitation this morning. Shall we attend it?” Ah Li said as he handed the invitation card he had just received to Lan Xiu.

Lan Xiu had two mouthfuls of porridge. He pulled a napkin and wiped his mouth before reaching out to take the invitation card. After glancing through the card, he sneered, “What a spectacle!”

“We’ve never had much connection with the Dongfang Group. This time they’ve sent this invitation to our door, most probably because they want to befriend you. However, Miss Dongfang doesn’t seem to like it very much...”

Ah Li had not finished speaking, but Lan Xiu had already raised his hand to stop him.

Chapter 1568. Missed (2)

Ah Li was stunned for a moment. He had no choice but to stop talking and stare at him worriedly.

“You only know these things on the surface. I can understand her mindset naturally, but...” When Lan Xiu said that, he did not continue anymore but lowered his head in silence and continued to eat his porridge instead.

After hearing that, Ah Li took back his words and waited quietly at the side.

...

The sun was not very hot in the afternoon, but the summer sun gleamed a large swath of scorching hot rays into the blue sky. There was a faint breeze in the air as clouds passed by occasionally, making it a rare overcast day. In general, the heat was not as unbearable as it had been a few days earlier.

It was almost 3 pm in the office of the president of Tai Yu Corporation.

Qi Lei had just closed the document in his hands. He glanced at the clock on the opposite wall subconsciously and straightened up slightly. He then raised his hand and rubbed his glabella before he took the cooled tea on the side with one hand. After finishing it in a few mouthfuls, he grabbed the car key on the other side and stood up nimbly.

He loosened his cufflinks gracefully and strode out of the office through the door.

“Master Qi!” Just as he was walking out of the door, he ran into Yang Sheng, who was about to come in with some documents in his hands.

“Pack them up if they’re urgent documents. Then, send them directly to my car. Let’s get off work earlier today,” Qi Lei said without stopping his pace.

“Master Qi, do you want to leave work early? Miss Han asked you out for dinner last week and I’ve made an appointment for you. Now, she should...”

“Then, you can accompany her to dinner by yourself.” Qi Lei squinted at him and walked ahead.

“Master Qi...Master Qi, but she...” Yang Sheng was a little puzzled right now. He had mentioned something that he should not have! Their master now had a wife!

Miss Dongfang!

Yes, the legendary woman was now their young lady. Come to think about it, the two of them must be a good match, were they not?

Yang Sheng could not help but think about a scene in which Qi Lei and Dongfang Liuyun were together. Such a scene was just so beautiful no matter how he looked at it!

Unexpectedly, Master Qi’s skills at picking up girls had not diminished at all, and they had become more and more proficient instead. However, Dongfang Liuyun did not seem to be a simple person. Although he had asked some parties to investigate her, there was no news about the progression so far. The Dongfang family was not as simple as they seemed to be.

He just did not know how Master Qi...

At this moment, Yang Sheng could not help but worry about Qi Lei because he was very aware of his overwhelming pressure. He had experienced too many tragedies before this, and he was now going to be dragged into all these turmoils again.

Thinking of this, Yang Sheng could not help but sigh. However, Qi Lei naturally did not know the details that bothered Yang Sheng, so he disappeared in the aisle ahead before the latter could even react.

After a while, Qi Lei had left Tai Yu Corporation in his car and headed straight for the airport.

Tai Yu Corporation was very far from the airport, hence it would take an hour to arrive even if one avoided the traffic, not to mention if there was a traffic jam, especially the one on the Northern Ring Freeway.

Ten minutes had passed, and the car had hardly moved. Qi Lei could not help but feel helpless in the car. Stealing a glimpse at the time, he noticed that it was almost 4 p.m. soon. He called her, but her phone was still turned off.

However, at this exact moment, at the airport exit, a white luxury sedan slowly pulled over at the arrivals gate, and the door was quickly opened.

Ah Li, who was in the front passenger seat, quickly got out of the car and came over to open the door for the person in the rear seat.

Lan Xiu got out of the car swiftly to stand steadily, taking a quick look around. Then, he glanced down at the watch on his wrist and walked towards the arrival gate. Ah Li grabbed a large bouquet of purple hyacinths on the back seat of the car, placed it in his arms, and caught up with him.

...

The plane landed on time.

Dongfang Liuyun did not have much luggage apart from the black backpack which she carried on her shoulder.

Wearing a pair of black trousers and a blouse, all her hair was hidden under a black cap. She also had a large pair of black sunglasses on her face, which made her delicate and alluring features even more mysterious.

She did not make more stopovers after the plane had stopped at the apron. She just took her backpack and got off the plane while taking out the cell phone in her pocket. Then, she turned it on and called Qi Lei. However, what surprised her was that the phone prompted her that the phone number was temporarily unavailable.

After trying several times in a row, she could not help but wonder why Qi Lei had blown it at such a critical time.

She did not think too much as she lifted the backpack on the shoulders, accelerated her pace, and walked out.

'Let's go outside and wait and see,' she thought deep down.

"Miss Dongfang!"

As she walked out of the arrival gate, a familiar voice pierced through the crowd and reached her. She immediately raised her gaze and looked in the direction of the voice. Soon, she found Lan Xiu and his assistant, Ah Li, in the crowd ahead.

Her eyebrows were knitted while she walked directly over.

"Why are you here?" Dongfang Liuyun was naturally a little surprised.

"Just take it as my honor. I've come here to pick you up specially. Are you tired?" Lan Xiu gazed deeply at her. With a chuckle, he took a tissue out from his pocket and handed it to her.

Dongfang Liuyun raised her eyebrows, but she grabbed it naturally to wipe her hands and handed the backpack on her shoulder to Ah Li, who was on the side. “Are you here to know more about the project, or is there any other purpose?”

“Do you remember what day it is today?” Lan Xiu asked with a smile.

Dongfang Liuyun shrugged while taking out a brocade box from her pocket and handing it to him. “I know it’s your birthday, and I’ve prepared a gift for you, but I’ve been very poor recently, so just put up with it.”

“It’s okay, all your gifts are priceless. You must be hungry. I’ve already reserved a spot at Xiang She Er, so let’s go there and eat something first. Some big guns will come over later, and you should have a chat with them since it’ll benefit you when you enter the Dongfang Group in the future.”

As he spoke, Lan Xiu turned his body slightly, standing side by side with her, and motioned her to go first.

However, Dongfang Liuyun was taken aback for a while. She then turned her head subconsciously and searched around for a while, but she did not see Qi Lei’s figure. Therefore, she raised her hand and rubbed the space in between her brows in desperation. Then, with a nod, she walked forward.

“Let’s go.”

A smile flicked across Lan Xiu’s face and he caught up with her.

The car was stopped just outside the airport, and Ah Li quickly stepped forward to open the door for the two of them.

As soon as he got into the car, Lan Xiu handed Dongfang Liuyun the bouquet of hyacinths.

“Take it. It’s for you.”

Stunned, Dongfang Liuyun stared at the beautiful bouquet in front of her in surprise. She did not take it after a long time...

Chapter 1569. Missed (3)

Her calm gaze contained a hint of surprise as it paused on Lan Xiu's handsome face. That sharp and clear gaze seemed like it could see through the deepest depths of his heart. Feeling at a loss, he could only turn away and look out of the car window.

"It's quite rare to see you present me with flowers," Dongfang Liuyun said as she finally accepted them. She looked down at them and said, "But thank you."

"As long as you like them," Lan Xiu quickly answered, and then gave Ah Li a look before the latter asked the chauffeur to start the car. Soon, the car slowly started and drove away.

However, at this moment, in the car right behind them, Qi Lei had steadily parked the car when he saw the car in front gradually drive away. He frowned slightly.

Lan Xiu?

He would not have seen it wrongly. Lan Xiu had personally come to pick Dongfang Liuyun up...

He fell silent and thought about it for a while. Then, a gloominess that he did not even notice before flashed in his eyes. He sighed deeply and his fingers combed through his hair. He started the car and drove ahead. After a short while, he picked up his phone from the side and checked. There were no messages, so he then tossed it onto the front passenger seat beside him.

At this moment, inside Lan Xiu's car, Lan Xiu turned to look at Dongfang Liuyun who was looking at her phone. He asked, "What's wrong?"

"I've got no signal on my phone. Forget it. I'll just explain when I get back."

Dongfang Liuyun gave up and kept her phone away.

“Jin Sheng and Dong Rouer’s engagement ceremony is happening in a few days. Have you got any plans?” Lan Xiu asked and looked at her meaningfully.

Someone as sharp as Dongfang Liuyun very quickly caught on to the key information. “Did they send you an invite?”

Upon hearing that, Lan Xiu’s lips flashed with a smile as he shot her a look from the side. “Your ability to catch insights is still as terrifying as always. Take a look yourself,” he said and then quickly reached out his hand to Ah Li in front. Ah Li quickly handed over the fiery red invitation.

Lan Xiu took it and casually flipped through it before handing it to Dongfang Liuyun beside him.

However, she just squinted at it and did not take it. She only lowered her gaze calmly. “They’re playing their cards very well. I’m affected right now because of this too, but did they think I’d give in just like that?”

“You have to avoid them as much as possible. After all, you’ve just taken over, so caution is the parent of safety.” Lan Xiu looked at her worriedly.

Nevertheless, she did not make a sound and just silently turned her head to look outside at the view of the streets.

Lan Xiu looked at her from the side and saw that she was still silent, so he did not make any more sound to disturb her and the car instantly fell silent.

When they were rushing to Xiang She Er restaurant, it was peak after work traffic time and the roads were quite congested.

Lan Xiu also made a stop at his office along the way to get some documents before they went over.

When they had ordered the dishes, the sky outside had fallen silent and the early evening lights were lit.

Lan Xiu was pouring a cup of tea for Dongfang Liuyun as he asked in concern, "I know you can't really drink recently, so I didn't order any. Have some tea that warms the belly instead. For my birthday last year, I was abroad and you weren't around which was quite a pity."

Dongfang Liuyun lightly pointed her fingers to indicate her gratitude before accepting the tea and taking a nonchalant sip as she said casually, "That's not the first time anyway. Friends like us are more apart than we are gathered together, but now we've all returned, so there should be many more chances in the future."

"I apologize for our last unhappy encounter. Perhaps I was too serious. If..."

"I can understand how you feel, so you don't have to apologize. You're right! It's better for us to be friends. You've been my playmate since we were young...my true friend, my close friend. This will never change. That's why I feel that I have always been so lucky."

Dongfang Liuyun did not wait for Lan Xiu to finish before she cut him off as she lifted her tea to toast to him.

However, she would not have thought that when she finished speaking, Lan Xiu's gaze would have darkened as he felt an indescribable hurt. Nevertheless, he could only lift his teacup to respond to her toast and smile to say, "It's good that you can think that way."

Still, how was he to say that actually he...

He was hesitant and afraid that he could not give her the happiness she wanted. In the end, he could only watch her be sad. He could not let these things happen to her. He thought to himself that if they could always be like this, it was not too bad. At least, in her heart, Lan Xiu still held a spot.

"I've always taken your care for me to hear. Before this, I didn't consider things through. Even though I'm afraid that I'll fall deep into the pit of the Dongfang family's problems and not make it out, naturally I don't want you to also be pulled into this. In fact, I can understand when I put myself in your shoes."

Dongfang Liuyun sighed softly as her expression remained calm as water, yet Lan Xiu felt oddly stifled.

"I just didn't expect that in the end, I'd even lose my bottom line, so I want to try my best to salvage whatever I can. You know how I am. When benefit is involved, I'm also worried that I...I can't avoid trouble just because I don't want to fight over some things. I've been drifting for so many years now. I think you and I know what it means to not always do things as we like."

"Liuyun...don't give yourself too much pressure. No matter what happens, I'll definitely have your back the way you had my back back then. You're not only my true friend but someone to whom I'm indebted..."

Lan Xiu's eyes contained a heartfelt sentiment that was hard to read, but he fixed his gaze on Dongfang Liuyun.

She just silently lowered her head at this moment and continued eating, not seeing the emotions in his eyes as she said calmly, "It's too much to say you're indebted to me. Just consider that it was because we were playmates. Otherwise, just see that for the sake of Lan Qi, I should have also given my all to help you out. Luckily, you didn't disappoint everyone. You made it till today, and you've come quite far."

"No, you're my lucky star. There's no doubt about that."

"Since that's the case, then give sacrificial offerings to me like a Buddha. You know that I'm someone who isn't satisfied with small gains."

"Of course, the Lan family's properties have always been open to you," Lan Xiu smiled and said dotingly.

Dongfang Liuyun smiled sweetly too. Her brows were raised as she asked, "Am I allowed to bring my family along to enjoy it together?"

When she said this, he paused and thought that she meant Dongfang Gan and Song Siting, so he smiled and said, "Well, of course!"

Chapter 1570. Missed (4)

Dongfang Liuyun trusted him wholeheartedly, so she nodded in satisfaction before raising her arm to pour him some tea.

“Don’t forget what you said today. Let’s start eating. The food here is really good and since today’s your birthday, I wish you a lifetime of happiness.”

“Thank you, Liuyun.” Lan Xiu looked at her and smiled contentedly.

“I’ll be heading back later because I’m a little tired. I’ll meet those people next time. After hustling for so many days, I need some time to relax. I don’t want to do anything else other than sleep all day. You can take care of the matter between Jin Sheng and Dongfang Rouer by yourself. It doesn’t matter if you go or not because I don’t care about them,” Dongfang Liuyun said as she lowered her head while eating.

“I’ll send you back then,” Lan Xiu offered.

“No need. You can go on with your work. I’ll take the subway back by myself to skip the traffic jam. I’ll visit you in two days since I need to go over the project details with you before you go there. Mr. Ge isn’t easy to deal with, so the more you know, the more leverage you have when negotiating. I’ll then leave the matter completely up to somebody else. My father has made all the arrangements for me, so after Jin Sheng and Dongfang Rouer’s engagement, I’ll immediately start working in the marketing department of the Dongfang Group.”

“Actually, revealing your identity right from the start may save you from all the trouble.” Lan Xiu looked at Dongfang Liuyun worriedly.

“It’s okay. No matter how hard and tiring it is, I’ve made it through. It’ll also be better for me in the long run. I’m not afraid of hardships, but I’m afraid when all those hard work goes in vain.”

“Your belief makes you a good entrepreneur since you wouldn’t take any losses. However, this worries me a lot, Liuyun,” Lan Xiu said helplessly as he poured her another cup of tea.

“Well, then when I ask you for help the next time, you just need to be there.” Dongfang Liuyun smiled and glanced at him.

“That’s expected, and you will always be my priority.”

“What a good friend you are.” She grinned in satisfaction.

They finished up their meal quickly as she did not eat much. Then, they stayed for a little while after eating before she got up and said goodbye and Lan Xiu sent her off.

“Do you really not need me to send you back?” Lan Xiu asked again.

Dongfang Liuyun glanced at him indifferently and took her backpack from Ah Li. “No need. There’s a subway station just in front. I’ll just go back by myself, and I’ll see you tomorrow. Bye!”

She walked forward as she spoke and waved at Lan Xiu. After a while, her thin figure disappeared into the city lights.

However, Lan Xiu stood in place for a long time as he watched her figure being submerged in the twilight. His expression was a little dazed and desolate...

Dongfang Liuyun squeezed her way into a busy subway station and hesitated for a long time when she was at the ticket counter.

She did not know where to go back to: to her parents, the Beach Villa, or to Qi Lei’s Grand Lake Villa. After struggling for a while, she remembered the missed call and finally chose the subway station near the Grand Lake Villa area without hesitation.

About 40 minutes later, she finally came out of the subway station.

Dongfang Liuyun navigated her way using the map on her phone and found the location of the Grand Lake Villa area. She was not familiar with this area at all since she was not even familiar with City Z, let alone this small area here.

After walking for about 15 minutes, she finally found the familiar villa.

At this very moment, Qi Lei was sitting in front of the sofa with the freshly cooked egg noodles in the villa. He turned on the TV and watched the news. Just after eating a few mouthfuls, the doorbell suddenly rang, and he quickly slurped another mouthful before putting it aside. He grabbed a napkin and wiped his mouth quickly before having a sip of tea and walking towards the door unhurriedly.

Through the screen on the side, he immediately saw Dongfang Liuyun standing outside the door. As his eyes flickered, he took a deep breath before pressing the button to open the door and waited there.

Her slender figure quickly passed through the clean concrete path. In the blink of an eye, she was already in front of the staircase at the door. When she saw him waiting there, she stopped in her tracks and raised her head to watch him silently. She did not speak either.

They did not speak for a long time. Afterward, Qi Lei made the first move by leaning in and opening the door slightly.

Dongfang Liuyun continued to walk up. As her figure moved past his, she said, "Didn't you go? I waited for a while and I didn't see you, so Lan Xiu went to pick me up."

Qi Lei closed the door and watched her figure for a long time before following behind her. "I was behind your car and saw you getting in. I couldn't have just dragged you off like that, could I?"

"I called you, but the call didn't get through. Later, I found out that my phone was still in airplane mode. Sorry, I didn't mean it. Want some tomato and egg noodles? Have you had dinner yet?"

As she offered, she threw the backpack on her back onto the sofa. Qi Lei had sat down again and continued to eat his noodles. He raised his eyebrows and took the chopsticks on the other side in one hand.

"I initially planned a date with a beautiful woman, but in the end, you were out having fun." He glanced at her irritably and handed her the big bowl of noodles in his hands.

Dongfang Liuyun glared at him and smiled. "I'm so sorry for ruining it. My stomach doesn't feel too good, so no matter how delicious it is, I just can't finish it. Are there still noodles left in the pot?"

She took the bowl and enjoyed it without holding back.

“There’s none left,” Qi Lei responded and gave her a glass of water before getting up.

“Oh, then you can go make the next one for yourself. I’m starving,” Dongfang Liuyun said while holding the remote control and surfing channels.

Qi Lei’s brows were furrowed. How could she be such a natural at this?

Normally, girls would at least give an explanation such as, “Lan Xiu and I just ate together and nothing happened between us”, or “I was just talking to Lan Xiu”. Girls would normally say things like that, would they not?

He frowned and looked at her for a long time. When he saw that she was eating heartily, he inhaled helplessly as he could not say anything. He turned around and walked towards the kitchen.

He was also starving!

However, he ignored her. Dongfang Liuyun was not a typical woman anyway. Since she was not like other women, he obviously should not expect her to do everything as planned.

If he did, then it would be like the sun rising from the west!

That was how he felt about her after having spent over a year with her.