

Loving 1701

Chapter 1701. Festival (4)

“You put too much pressure on yourself and have too high of expectations, that’s why you feel pressured.”

Dongfang Gan glanced at her and sat down on the side. After some thought, he continued, “You should be like me, support Liuyun fully. She’s still the one who has to walk this path in the future. In my opinion, Qi Lei is quite compatible with her. According to my recent observations, ever since she married Qi Lei, she seems to be doing well.”

“You’re on her side, so I can’t beat you. I’ve got nothing to say about Qi Lei’s performance as a son-in-law for now, it’s just that...”

“Then you’ve underestimated the Qi family. Do you think that a family that has a history of more than a hundred years can really be completely wiped out even after it’s whitewashed? Why did the Wang family insist on a marriage alliance with the Qi family in the first place? Furthermore, with Wang Qin’s personality, Qi Kai alone might not be enough to make her have to rely on Qi Qiming. The Wang family is also a powerful family.”

Dongfang Gan did not continue after that.

Song Siting thought for a moment and seemed to have thought of something. However, she could not say anything. She thought for a moment and asked, “What happened? Back then, the Wang family suddenly retreated from City z. I also felt that it was quite strange. I don’t know what exactly happened. I just think that it doesn’t really make sense only because of what happened to Wang Qin.”

“Other than the Wang family, Qi Qiming is probably the only one who knows about this. Even Qi Lei might not know. I’ve tried to probe Qi Lei before, but he doesn’t know about this. But Qi Qiming’s current situation isn’t very optimistic. Whether he’ll regain consciousness or not is unknown. Sigh, speaking of which, Qi Lei’s story is quite heartbreaking. Based on our relationship with the Wang family, we should watch over him more.”

Dongfang Gan thought about it and naturally wanted to convince Song Siting.

Song Siting was silent for a moment before she finally took a breath. "I don't have any prejudice against Qi Lei, it's just that..."

"Since you don't have any prejudice, then open your heart as a mother-in-law and accept him. I think he should be a pretty good son-in-law. This way, your relationship with your daughter will also be eased. We're both old, you can't control the children's matters even if you want to. Why don't you just save your worries and restrain yourself a little? Isn't it better to seek harmony in the family?"

It was rare for Dongfang Gan to say this to Song Siting.

Even though Song Siting was a little unhappy, she could only nod in the end.

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The husband and wife chatted for a while before they went to the kitchen to get busy with dinner.

They made a table full of good dishes.

It was Reunion Festival today. According to the usual practice, if the servants and the butler did not take leave, they would rush to join in the fun and have dinner around the table.

When Dongfang Liuyun and Qi Lei's car slowly drove into Tanshan Villa district, it was already close to evening.

"Miss, President Qi!"

"Miss! Master!"

The butler and servant quickly came out to welcome them.

"M.m, move all the things in. My parents are at home, right?"

Dongfang Liuyun got out of the car and took the umbrella from the servant. As she walked to the driver's seat, she held the umbrella for Qi Lei.

"Yes, Miss! President Gan and Madam are preparing dinner in the kitchen. Knowing that Miss loves seafood, President Gan asked the servant to prepare the freshest ingredients early in the morning."

The butler instructed the servants to move the gifts into the house as he spoke.

Dongfang Liuyun nodded and let Qi Lei to take the umbrella. The couple walked home side by side.

Just as they entered the living room, they saw Dongfang Gan walking out of the kitchen. He was dressed in loose casual clothes and looked very energetic. When he saw his daughter and son-in-law, a smile appeared on his face—

"You're back! Your mother cooked crabs. They're quite fresh. Have a taste. Come, Qi Lei!"

Dongfang Gan carried a large bowl of freshly cooked crabs and placed it on the table at the side.

Qi Lei nodded modestly. Dongfang Liuyun, on the other hand, did not stand on ceremony at all. She pulled out a chair at the side and sat down. She wiped her hands, picked up one, and started peeling it—

"We'd have this every year. Where's Lan Xiu? Isn't he back yet? Leave some for him."

As Dongfang Liuyun spoke, she handed the peeled crab to Qi Lei.

"There's still some in the pot, but he called just now. He probably won't be coming tonight. Let's eat."

Dongfang Gan's tone contained a hint of a lament, but as he spoke, he looked at Qi Lei and explained, "Lan Xiu is a frequent visitor in the family. Every time there's a festival, he would come over and take care of Liuyun like a big brother. I'm afraid you haven't seen him before, right?"

“Father, you’re overthinking. I’ve met Lan Xiu before. He’s a pretty good person,” Qi Lei replied very modestly.

“You’ve met him?”

Dongfang Gan looked at Qi Lei in surprise. After a while, he glanced at Dongfang Liuyun who was beside. Dongfang Liuyun was currently focused on peeling crabs, as though she did not pay attention to their conversation.

Qi Lei nodded and subconsciously looked at Dongfang Liuyun.

After a moment’s thought, Qi Lei suddenly turned around and reached into his pocket—

“Excuse me...”

Before Qi Lei could finish, Dongfang Liuyun had already reached out and grabbed his wrist.

“Let me do it, Qi Lei!”

Hearing this voice, Qi Lei paused for a moment. When he turned to look at her, she had already stopped what she was doing. She took her phone and quickly dialed a number—

When the phone rang, Lan Xiu was still working overtime at the company.

It was a holiday, yet he had nowhere to go, so he could only work overtime at the office. He did not want to stay home alone and enjoy the so-called silence and loneliness.

Looking at the caller ID on the phone screen, Lan Xiu hesitated for a moment. Then, he could not help but take the phone and swipe the answer button—

“Hello, Liuyun?”

Lan Xiu’s voice was immediately transmitted over.

“Lan Xiu, dinner is almost ready. When you get back, we’ll have dinner. Are you trying to stop me? Or are you trying to stop someone else?”

Dongfang Liuyun’s cold voice was transmitted over, causing Lan Xiu to instantly frown. He was thinking of an explanation—

“Liuyun? Listen to me, I...”

“I don’t want to hear any explanation right now. This is the time for a reunion dinner. Don’t tell me you don’t have time. This isn’t your style, Lan Xiu.”

It was not hard to hear a hint of dissatisfaction in Dongfang Liuyun’s voice.

“You should come back immediately. Otherwise, the whole family will go hungry. That’s all for now.”

Before Lan Xiu could say anything, Dongfang Liuyun had already hung up.

Lan Xiu looked at the darkened phone screen and frowned. After hesitating for a moment, he could only pack up and take the car keys before leaving the office.

Chapter 1702. Festival (5)

Dongfang Liuyun put away her phone. When she looked up, she realized that Dongfang Gan and Qi Lei were both looking at her quietly.

“Why are you looking at me? Aren’t you going to eat?”

Dongfang Liuyun looked at Qi Lei and asked.

“Enjoy yourself. Qi Lei, come with me to the study. I have something to talk to you about.”

Dongfang Gan glanced at his daughter before patting Qi Lei on the shoulder. The husband and son-in-law looked rather harmonious.

Dongfang Liuyun narrowed her eyes at them, but they already turned around and walked upstairs to the study.

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“Sit down and drink some water. It’s almost time for dinner. Don’t drink the tea.”

Dongfang Gan poured a cup of warm water for Qi lei. His tone was rather amiable.

“Thank you, Father.”

Qi Lei politely took the water from his hand.

“Actually, it’s still about the South River Project.”

Dongfang Gan also spoke directly.

Qi Lei paused for a moment and lowered his head to take a sip of water before replying, “Wang Chun told me about this matter. I’ve also read the information and plan. I’ve looked into some of the data that Liuyun has been processing recently.”

“That’s good. Then you should be very familiar with this project,” said Dongfang Gan.

“Liuyun’s subsequent proposal is pretty good. Later on, Wang Chun will go over to discuss the specifics of the collaboration. Oh right, Dongfang Rou’er came to look for me at my company. I met her.”

“Rou’er? Was it for the South River Project?”

Dongfang Gan’s tone was filled with a hint of certainty.

Qi Lei nodded. “That’s right. It was about the South River Project. In fact, she’s come a few times before. Father should be able to guess her purpose for coming over.”

“She wants you to appoint Dongfang Ren directly, right?” Dongfang Gan said nonchalantly.

There was no change in his expression. “This matter has been tough on you.”

“Father is being too polite. Let’s follow Liuyun’s plan. Dongfang Ren will execute it and Dongfang Yi will supervise. In fact, the quality of this project might be more guaranteed,” said Qi Lei calmly.

“I’m sorry for making a fool out of you.”

“No, Father, I understand. Actually, you handled these matters very well. You’re very wise,” said Qi Lei very humbly.

He did not flatter Dongfang Gan so much. Indeed, a person like Dongfang Gan could sit firmly in his position. He could easily push Dongfang Group to a new height between Dongfang Ren and the others. Qi Lei was very clear about the difficulties involved, was that not what the Tai Yu Corporation had gone through too?

“It’s not wise, it’s something that has been nurtured. Let’s not talk about it. You’re already married to Liuyun, no matter what, you’re still our Dongfang family’s son-in-law. You probably don’t know much about the Dongfang family’s matters, right? Has Liuyun told you about the Dongfang family’s matters?”

Dongfang Gan looked at Qi Lei and asked in a low voice.

Qi Lei nodded. "She told me a little, but she didn't discuss it in depth. I have a general idea of the situation." Qi Lei said very sincerely.

"It's good that she took the initiative to tell you. Liuyun doesn't like to talk about family matters. Even if it's Lan Xiu, she might not be willing to talk about family matters with him. Since she took the initiative to mention these matters to you, it means that she truly has set her mind on you."

"The Dongfang family has quite a long history. In the past, we relied on antiques and jewelry to start their business. Our foundation is similar to the Qi family. In the early years, the Dongfang family was practically a monopoly in this area. Just like the Qi family's glory at that time. However, in the end, your Qi family had no choice but to whitewash your business because of the circumstance. Our Dongfang family wasn't affected much."

"Yes, I heard about the history of the Qi family from my grandfather before. After the family's businesses were whitewashed, the family's forces were actually also vigorously reduced."

"Yes, it was greatly reduced. However, all that is left behind were all elites. Your grandfather wasn't a fool, he has been in the underworld for so many years. It doesn't mean that he can truly abandon the life an outlaw just because he's left it. When there is a potential threat, he must save some strength to survive. Of course, the development of Qi Kai Group has also made everyone look at him in a new light. Your grandfather was a person with good skills and wisdom."

"Was Father very familiar with my grandfather?"

Qi Lei was a little surprised by Dongfang Gan's words, so Qi Lei asked the same question.

Dongfang Gan shook his head, "Not really. Our Dongfang family doesn't actually have much interaction with your Qi family, we've only met each other at public occasions. However, the Qi family is in the same scene, we've more or less heard of you, and we have to be polite to you too."

"Those are all things from the past."

Qi Lei smiled.

“M.m. I’m actually not very familiar with your father, Qi Qiming. I’m also deeply moved by the Qi family’s experience. However, I’m glad that you, Qi Lei, have endured it to this day. This is also the most important reason why I’m sure of you.”

Qi Lei was silent, but his gaze became a little profound.

“Please don’t worry, Father. Leave Liuyun to me. I’ll be responsible for her to the end.”

After that, Qi Lei said this in a deep voice.

Dongfang Gan nodded. He lowered his eyes and said in a sincere tone, “I’m not asking you to show your loyalty. I just hope that Liuyun’s choice is right. She mustered a lot of courage to have gambled her entire life on you, you must not let her lose the bet. That way, her mother and I can be at ease. After the Mid-autumn Festival, I’ll make a trip to Myanmar immediately. This trip will probably take a long time before I return. I’ll get Vice President Zhang to follow up on the South River Project. He’s my man. Take care of things here, especially on Liuyun’s side. Without me here, I’m quite worried that she won’t be able to carry out her work.”

“Father is going to Myanmar?”

Qi Lei frowned and thought for a moment before replying, “It’s not very peaceful over there now. Can’t you postpone it to see how the situation goes first?”

“Can’t postpone it. If it wasn’t for the preparation of another important project of the company, I’m afraid I would have rushed over long ago. Things are a little tricky and can’t be delayed. Don’t worry, if things go smoothly over there, I should be back soon. Right, you might be in time for your grandmother’s birthday. You need to put in some effort. Otherwise, suppress the news first. I can bring you guys back to visit her when I return.”

Dongfang Gan still looked at Qi Lei worriedly, “Liuyun’s grandmother isn’t an ordinary person. Even if I, her biological son, was in front of her, she might not give you any face. Besides, she’s like your mother-in-law, she’s always wanted Fujiwara as Liuyun’s husband. However, your abilities are clear too, she won’t be too harsh on you, so you don’t have to worry too much.”

“Father, when are you planning to leave?”

“I’ll need a few days to handle the company’s business, might only be able to leave on the 20th or 21st of this month.”

Chapter 1703. Festival (6)

Dongfang Gan only spoke after careful consideration.

“Then, please leave on the 21st. The 20th is an auspicious day, I plan to come to the house to betroth her. Although Liuyun plans to postpone the wedding, she won’t be wronged by these matters.” Qi Lei said in a low voice.

Dongfang Gan smiled, “It’s fine. We’re not those old fogeys. As long as you can make Liuyun’s life a little happier and easier, that would be better than anything else.”

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When Lan Xiu drove over, dinner was almost ready. However, Dongfang Gan and Qi Lei were still talking in the study, Song Siting was still preparing dinner and Dongfang Liuyun was alone in the living room.

“Why are you alone? Where’s Uncle Dongfang?”

Standing by the sofa and looking down at Dongfang Liuyun for a long time, Lan Xiu finally broke the silence.

“Discussing something with Qi Lei in the study. Have a seat, it’s about time for dinner.”

Dongfang Liuyun said calmly as he poured him a glass of water.

Lan Xiu sat down obediently.

“You just came from work?”

“Yes,” Lan Xiu replied.

“I hope that the relationship between us, between you and our family, won’t change. It will still be the same as before, unless you no longer need it.”

Dongfang Liuyun bent her body slightly and crossed her hands on her knees. She looked sideways at Lan Xiu without blinking. Her cold eyes were sharp.

“Do you know the biggest difference between you and Lan Qi?”

Dongfang Liuyun rarely took the initiative to tell Lan Xiu about Lan Qi. Now that he heard Dongfang Liuyun say this, he was stunned. He could not help but look at Dongfang Liuyun with a dazed expression.

“Both of you brothers value friendship and loyalty, but Lan Qi has more courage and boldness than you. Sometimes, being timid and thinking too much will only increase your own worries. Back then, you rejected me because you wanted to maintain the current situation, right? Now, everything is going according to your own wishes, but you’re holding back. Lan Xiu, this isn’t the you that I know.”

Dongfang Liuyun’s brows furrowed as she spoke.

However, a smile appeared on the corner of Lan Xiu’s lips. That smile seemed a little lonely as he spoke in a low voice—

“Liuyun, you know very well that I’ve never been able to remain calm as usual when it comes to you. There are some things that I don’t want to say anymore. You’re married to Qi Lei. As long as you’re happy, I’ll definitely respect your choice, just like how I silently supported you and Fujiwara back then. I just want to return to the safest position. That way, there won’t be any problems between us and Qi Lei.”

“We can’t control our feelings. Naturally, I don’t want to destroy this peace.”

“However, based on your previous considerations, you’ve already destroyed the peace. You didn’t see the disappointment on my father’s face just now. He has always treated you like a son. What you’re doing is actually making us all feel even more unhappy. Also, you don’t feel good about it either, let alone Qi Lei. You should know that my parents didn’t agree with his attitude to begin with.”

Dongfang Liuyun naturally protected Qi Lei in her heart. In fact, she could not describe what she felt. All this while, whenever she saw Qi Lei, she could not help but feel protective over him, whether it was before or now.

Perhaps it was because she could see her past self in Qi Lei. When she thought of the similar pressure and depression in their hearts, and how he could still be as pure despite having struggled in such an environment, she could not deny that she did feel a faint sense of pity.

“You care about him a lot, Liuyun...” Lan Xiu looked at Dongfang Liuyun and said.

“He is now my husband, the son-in-law of the Dongfang family. How can I not care about him?”

Dongfang Liuyun looked at Lan Xiu, “I’ve decided on this matter. You must become friends with him, and you can only be friends. Unless you are determined to go against me. Otherwise, you can continue to remain calm and not interfere in the Dongfang family’s matters anymore. We are still friends, clearly friends.”

“Liuyun...”

“Tell me your answer, Lan Xiu.”

“You clearly know that I cannot ignore you or Uncle Dongfang.”

“You have chosen the first answer, then?”

Dongfang Liuyun narrowed her eyes and asked indifferently.

Lan Xiu was silent.

“In the future, come home often and sit down. Just treat it as filial piety on my behalf. I know that I am not a good daughter, but you are a good son. Lan Xiu, will you always treat us as your family?”

Hearing this, Lan Xiu’s grip on the cup tightened. After a moment of silence, he finally nodded, “Of course.”

“That’s good. Remember what you said. We’ll be family. You’re not alone. Love isn’t everything. To me, some things are more important. In my heart, you’re as important as Qi Lei. It’s just that the roles you play are different. He’s my husband, and you’re my brother.”

Dongfang Liuyun had also made things clear.

“In the future, will you go against me or Qi Lei?”

“No.”

He could hurt himself and not her, so how could he go against her?

Thinking of this, Lan Xiu took a deep breath and closed his eyes. After calming down for a while, he said, “I’ll be fine. Alright, Liuyun, I know what you’re trying to say, and I know what you’re thinking. Don’t worry, we’ll be good again. We’ll be as united and friendly as family. I personally admire Qi Lei very much. We’ll definitely become good friends in the future. I’m not the kind of person who’s narrow-minded and unconventional. I know what I should do. There won’t be any conflict between us.”

As soon as Lan Xiu finished speaking, a round of applause suddenly sounded. Lan Xiu was stunned for a moment. He hurriedly raised his head and looked in the direction of the sound. Only then did he realize that Dongfang Gan was walking down the stairs, followed by the profound-looking Qi Lei.

“Well said, Lan Xiu!”

Dongfang Gan looked at Lan Xiu approvingly. There was a kind smile on his gentle face.

“It’s good that you can think like that. I was worried about you too, but now it seems that you didn’t disappoint me. From now on, Liuyun is your biological sister, Qi Lei is your brother-in-law, and you are the Elder Brother. You have to protect the two of them.”

“Uncle Dongfang!”

Lan Xiu stood up subconsciously.

“Sit down.”

Dongfang Gan sat down. “I wanted you guys to meet each other. I didn’t expect for you two to meet already. That’s good.”

“Dinner’s ready!”

At this moment, Song Siting’s voice came from the side.

When he turned around, the table was indeed filled with a sumptuous table of dishes.

The whole family sat down around the table...

Chapter 1704. Gradually Thickened (1)

The reunion dinner was quite harmonious.

Song Siting also restrained herself. She actually did not have much prejudice against Qi Lei. She just felt that he was not as suitable for her daughter as Fujiwara was. She actually quite admired Qi Lei herself.

As for Lan Xiu, after his conversation with Dongfang Liuyun, the atmosphere eased up quite a bit.

The rain outside had stopped a long time ago. After dinner, although the night sky was not clear, one could vaguely see a faint moon hanging in the distant sky.

The air after the rain was very fresh, but it was also a little cold.

Qi Lei and Lan Xiu had been called over by Dongfang Gan to play cards, and the three of them just happened to be enough players for 'Fight the Landlord'.

Dongfang Gan liked to play this game. Usually, Dongfang Liuyun would be pulled over to make up the numbers when there was a shortage of one. Dongfang Liuyun was naturally not too happy because she did not really like this game, she preferred Pai Gow[1].

The night was cool as water. Dongfang Liuyun drew open the curtains. As she walked out of the rooftop, she saw gorgeous and dazzling fireworks blooming in the sky. The sound of them rang in her ears.

The colorful fireworks lit up the entire silent night sky, making the moon hanging in the sky appear even more hazy.

Dongfang Liuyun walked slowly to the railing and stopped. She leaned against the railing and looked at the cold moon in the sky.

After a long silence, she took a deep breath, crossed her fingers, and bowed. She closed her eyes and prayed piously. At this moment, she looked peaceful and distant.

The cold wind blew at the corner of her clothes. She looked like a curled and swaying cloud. Her indifference was like the wind that passed through her fingers.

"Are you mourning him?"

Qi Lei's deep and slightly emotional voice suddenly came from behind her.

Dongfang Liuyun did not move. Instead, she maintained her gesture and continued to recite something silently. It was not until Qi Lei stopped beside her for a long while that she slowly opened her eyes.

“Who is it that you’re referring to?” She turned around and asked softly with her bright eyes.

“Grandfather?” Qi Lei asked tentatively.

Dongfang Liuyun shook her head lightly and looked away to look at the cold moon in the sky.

“Grandfather passed away, so there’s nothing to regret. Sooner or later our day will come too. As long as he’s doing well over there.”

“Mmm, then what are you praying for?” Qi Lei asked.

“I suddenly remembered a good friend who passed away. He was a very warm person, the classic warm personality of the boy next door. If you had known me a few years earlier, you might have become good friends with him. He’s Lan Xiu’s older brother, Lan Qi. The three of us grew up together. He’s a few years older than me, and Lan Xiu is a little older too. It was them who took care of me.”

Dongfang Liuyun calmly mentioned this name.

Qi Lei did not say anything. He just looked at her quietly.

“If he hadn’t left, I might have married him.”

After a moment of silence, Dongfang Liuyun suddenly said this. Her long eyelashes fluttered slightly. Qi Lei could not hear anything from her tone, but he could not deny that he felt a little uncomfortable hearing her say this.

“You... You liked him?” Qi Lei asked softly.

Dongfang Liuyun smiled sadly and shook his head, "No, I respect him like an elder brother. Theoretically speaking, I'm still considered his fiancée. It was just a verbal agreement, so it can't be taken seriously. When he proposed to me, I was hesitant then, but he left without waiting for me to answer. Actually, I wanted to agree to it, but I was also afraid, just like what happened with Lan Xiu."

"So, many times, life is like this. You can't control your fate. Even if you accept your fate, you can't admit defeat in your bones. Otherwise, we'll fall. Don't give yourself any excuses."

Dongfang Liuyun sighed. "Okay, let's not talk about these things. Tell me what you talked about with Father."

"The South River Project, and that he's going to Myanmar in a few days, but after I give you the betrothal gift." Qi Lei said in a low voice.

"Betrothal gift?"

Dongfang Liuyun frowned in confusion.

"I told you before. On the 20th of this month, I'll give you the betrothal gift. I'll marry you openly and give you a wedding that you'll never forget."

Dongfang Liuyun paused for a moment. After some thought, she asked, "Do you really want to have a grand wedding with me?"

"Of course!" Qi Lei immediately replied.

Dongfang Liuyun suddenly smiled. After pondering for a moment, she nodded. "That's fine too. But it's already August, so I won't be able to make it in time. At the end of the year, you can marry me to get through winter, I'll have someone to warm my bed."

"Haven't I been warming your bed? And it's exclusive too."

Qi Lei gave her a sideways glance and stood with his hands crossed against the railing.

“Then we’ll do as you say. Let’s make it the end of the year. If we make it in time for the Spring Festival, we’ll go on our honeymoon overseas. I’ll accompany you to wherever you want to go and do whatever you want to do.”

Qi Lei would definitely follow her orders on this matter.

“Yes, okay,” she replied indifferently and suddenly turned to look at him. “Will you regret signing our marriage agreement?”

“Regret?”

He muttered softly and suddenly reached out to hold her hand. He looked at the ring on her slender fingers, before he replied in a deep and emotional tone, “I’ve never made such a decision before. It must be the most right thing I’ve ever done in my life.”

Looking at his deep and determined look, Dongfang Liuyun chuckled. “I also think that I’m quite lucky. You’re really great. Compared to all the men I’ve met, you’re the only one who makes me feel like I can catch my breath.”

“So, I’m your stress relief package?”

Qi Lei was amused.

“I’ve said it before, we’re two people who seek warmth from each other. You’re alone, and I’m all alone in the world. Think about it. How similar are we now from how we were in the game?”

Dongfang Liuyun’s slender fingers casually fiddled with Qi Lei’s crystal-glazed cufflinks as he spoke.

“You have the care of your parents and the care of Lan Xiu. As for me...”

At this point, he suddenly paused and turned to look at her, “You’re probably the only one I have. You’re not going to abandon me, are you?”

It sounded very calm and casual, but Dongfang Liuyun’s sharp ears caught a hint of desolation.

She took a breath and suddenly tilted her head to lean against his shoulder. She said softly, “We have a lifetime...”

Chapter 1705. Gradually Thickened (2)

Qi Lei listened and suddenly felt a little soft in his heart. He could not help but lift his arm to wrap it around her shoulders.

The refreshing fragrance caressed him, making him take a deep breath in enjoyment, but he did not forget to care for her—

“Are you cold?”

“A little. I won’t be as cold if we’re closer. Today’s autumn seems to have come quite quietly. It’s already Mid-autumn Festival before we know it. At this time in the northern city, autumn was beginning to show.”

Before she could finish her sentence, Qi Lei hugged her even tighter.

“Yes, but with your physique, I’m afraid you won’t be able to withstand the cold over there unless you hide at home and don’t come out. I actually quite like our capital. I went there once a few years ago and stayed there for a month. I rented a courtyard house in the alley at the end of the street. The environment was very nice and quiet. It just didn’t snow in winter.”

“Why don’t we go north for the wedding? A wedding in the snow?”

“No, it’s too cold.”

“Wear more clothes, just like how you always roll yourself up like a silkworm baby in the morning.”

“I haven’t rolled myself up like that in the past few days!”

“Really?”

“Yes!”

...

When he rushed back to the Grand Lake Villa complex, it was already past 10 o’clock at night. Fortunately, it was still a rest day tomorrow, so he did not have to rush so much.

Dongfang Gan and Song Siting sent Qi Lei and Dongfang Liuyun to the car outside the door.

“Liuyun, take these dishes. They’ll be ready to eat once you heat them up when you get back. Your mother has already prepared them and packed them up. You’ve been quite tired these past few days. Tomorrow’s activity is at night, so you can go there later in the morning.”

As Dongfang Gan said this, he took the food box that was well-packed from Song Siting’s hands and handed it to Dongfang Liuyun.

Dongfang Liuyun nodded, “Thank you, Father and Mother.”

“Go home early. It looks like the weather will be the same for a while. Get the servants to boil some hot soup to drive the cold away. Otherwise, it’s easy to catch a cold in this weather.”

Song Siting was also concerned. Unlike her previous attitude, she was much more relaxed now.

“Okay,” Dongfang Liuyun answered simply and handed the car keys to Qi Lei beside him.

Qi Lei accepted them tacitly. He took the food box with one hand and placed it in the trunk of the car.

“We’ll go home now then. When Mother and Father are free, you should come over to visit,” said Qi Lei very politely.

“Okay. Drive carefully on the road. Remember to give us a call when you get home,” said Dongfang Gan kindly.

The two of them nodded and then got into the car.

The car soon left Dongfang Gan and Song Siting’s line of sight, gradually disappearing into the night.

...

It was almost 12 midnight when they got home and showered. Naturally, the couple did not do work. Dongfang Liuyun was lying leisurely on the sofa in the side hall, putting on a mask, when she saw Qi Lei walking over in a pyjamas, she asked kindly...

“Do you want one?”

“Enjoy yourself.”

Qi Lei glanced at her and only applied some moisturizing cream on his hand.

“I remember giving you a diamond card earlier. Why didn’t you go? Isn’t that a paradise for women? I remember Xiaye and Ji Zitong often go there.”

Qi Lei looked at Dongfang Liuyun doubtfully.

“That depends on whether I have the time too. I’ve basically been working through night and day, I haven’t been able to rest properly on the weekends either. If I really had time to relax, I wouldn’t just go to the spa, I’ll definitely take care of all of my health.”

Dongfang Liuyun narrowed her eyes at him and did not hide it at all.

“Since getting to know you, I now know what it means to not judge a book by its cover,” said Qi Lei meaningfully.

“Yang Sheng will go over to help tomorrow morning. You can go over after lunch. I’m going out tomorrow and have an appointment with a client. I’ll rush over in the evening. You should be at the venue by then, right?”

Qi Lei poured a glass of water, lowered his head, and took a sip as he said.

“Yes, I should be over there. You can go there right away. Call me when you get there, it’ll be very lively over there tomorrow, and there’ll be many people. I’m worried that I might not be able to handle it then.”

“It’s fine. I’ll get them to prepare a dress for you. If it’s suitable for the theme, will a Qipao be okay?”

Qi Lei looked at her inquisitively.

“Qipao? I don’t wear it much. Do you think it’ll be suitable for me?”

“You have a good figure. You’ll look good in anything.”

“Alright, it’s just a perfunctory thing. There’s no need to prepare. I’ll just go straight to the dress in the wardrobe tomorrow. It’s not like I’m in a hurry to go to the beauty pageant, it’s Dongfang Rou’er who won’t miss the chance to show off her beauty. I’m a married woman, so I’ll save it.”

As Dongfang Liuyun said this, she extended one of her legs towards Qi Lei’s thigh.

Qi Lei, on the other hand, began to massage her.

“I absolutely believe in your loyalty, Madam, but I think what you said is absolutely right!”

“How dare you!”

..

And it was also in the dead of night.

In Su Chen’s villa.

The couple had gone back to the old mansion for dinner tonight. They had just rushed back to take a shower. The couple was having a delightful exercise before bed, but their phone by the bedside was vibrating non-stop.

Su Chen had no choice but to stop for a moment. He hugged Ji Zitong tightly and tried his best to calm down. Then, he reached out to grab the phone by the side and answered the call—

“Zhou Zimo, you better have something important! Otherwise, I’ll chop you up right now!”

He gritted his teeth.

On the other end, Zhou Zimo moved his phone away.

“What’s wrong? It sounds like you’re not satisfied with your desires. Would I call you at this time if it wasn’t important?” Zhou Zimo said.

“Then hurry up and say what you have to say!”

Su Chen gritted his teeth and said—

This bastard must have done it on purpose. He did not know how hard it was for him to endure!

He has done this several times!

Several times when he was in the middle of something, this fellow would called. Why did he not see him harassing Ah Chen like this?

“Did you eat a bomb? My ears have been deafened by you!”

Zhou Zimo rubbed his ears and said with a frown.

“I think I saw Qin Su, Su Chen...”

Zhou Zimo’s low voice sounded with a hint of confusion.

However, after Zhou Zimo said this, Su Chen’s side immediately quieted down.

“Hello? Su Chen, are you listening? Qin Su, I said I think I saw Qin Su. Back when we were carrying out our mission, that woman who almost blinded you, Qin Su! Do you still remember? That woman who saved my life and whom I’ve been looking for for a long time, Qin Su, the very pretty one! Do you have any impression of her?”

Zhou Zimo’s tone was a little hurried as he spoke.

“Hey! Say something. Can’t you get lost later? Su Chen! Su Chen! If you’re not dead, just let me know!”

When he did not hear Su Chen’s voice for a long time, Zhou Zimo said this.

Chapter 1706. Struggle (1)

Su Chen naturally did not make a sound. He had heard Zhou Zimo's words clearly just now—

Qin Su!

At this moment, his heart was filled with anticipation!

After some thought, Zhou Zimo's eyes were already burning with excitement. He cleared his throat and said playfully, "Qin Su? Which Qin Su? I don't really remember her. Why do you remember her so clearly? Also, I'm not as shallow as you make me out to be."

"F*ck off!" Stop it! You must have remembered. You just don't dare to admit it. Don't worry, I won't tell Ji Zitong! Anyway, you're a married man now. Who can be more certain about what happened before? I bumped into her on the road today. She was at Jiefang South Road. Hurry up and check if she's transferred somewhere or if she's just back on vacation. I'll leave this matter to you. I'll go to your place next week and ask for the results."

Zhou Zimo immediately gave Su Chen an explanation.

Su Chen immediately raised his eyebrows and said unexpectedly, "What do you mean! If you want to find out about her, you can just do that yourself. Why do all of you treat me like your intelligence agency?"

"We're not treating you like that, you are our intelligence agency. Hurry up and give the instructions, isn't it easy enough for you to investigate this?"

"Are you a fool? Your father is in the army, why don't you use that kind of network? I'm sure it'd be fast enough to find someone in the army for Master Zhou."

"If I could do it myself, why would I look for you? Alright, this matter is settled. I'll look for you next week, continue on with what you were doing!"

Zhou Zimo said impatiently. After that, he did not wait for Su Chen to reply and hung up the phone.

This time, Su Chen could not help but rub the space between his brows!

As expected, this guy really missed this Qin Su. Although it was not that kind of so-called relationship, by the looks of it, this was definitely a good sign!

At this moment, Su Chen could not help but admire Mu Yuchen.

How did this guy know that Zhou Zimo was still thinking about this? Qin Su had indeed saved Zhou Zimo's life before. Was this the so-called fate?

When he thought about this, a meaningful smile suddenly appeared on Su Chen's lips. It was not until Ji Zitong, who was pressed under him, pushed him that he finally reacted.

...

At this moment, on Zhou Zimo's end.

Zhou Zimo had just hung up when there was a knock on the door. Before he could answer, the door was pushed open and Liang Jing came in with a glass of milk.

"Mother? Why are you still awake in the middle of the night?"

Zhou Zimo quickly tied the belt around his waist as he spoke to Liang Jing.

"I saw that the light in your room was still on and knew that you weren't asleep, so I came up to take a look. Drinking a glass of milk will help you sleep better. Here, drink this."

As Liang Jing spoke, she passed the glass of milk in her hand to Zhou Zimo.

Zhou Zimo frowned, "Mother, you know I'm not used to drinking this stuff. I'm sick of even the smell."

Zhou Zimo looked at the milk with disdain.

"I'm telling you to drink it, why so much nonsense?"

Liang Jing looked at him unhappily. This time, Zhou Zimo had no choice but to reach out and take the milk. He stared at the milk for a while and almost finished it while holding his breath. Then, he immediately poured a glass of water and drank a few mouthfuls.

"When is Father coming back? He's been gone for so long."

"He didn't call me, how would I know? You know, your father is very mysterious when he works. I can't be bothered to care about his stupid things. But he has indeed been gone for so long. Why is there no news of his return? Your grandfather has asked him several times. When you went to the Military District today, didn't you ask your Uncle Hu or Uncle Zhang?"

At this moment, Liang Jing asked with a slight frown.

"I ran into them. I wanted to go over and take a look, but they had guests, so I left on my own," Zhou Zimo replied indifferently. At this moment, he was a little absent-minded—

Because he thought of Qin Su whom he had met on the way.

He remembered that Qin Su was from his father's Military Region, right?

He had heard that there was a transfer of personnels a while back. He did not know if Qin Su had been transferred back. It was a pity that she had left in a hurry at that time and was caught in such a heavy rain. Otherwise, he would definitely have been able to stop her, he still owed her.

"What are you thinking about? You were out of it for a long time!"

Liang Jing patted his shoulder, and he finally recovered.

“What’s wrong?”

“Are you listening to what I’m saying? The daughter of my good friend who I told you about two days ago just came back from Australia. She’s a Senior Actuary. She’s good-looking and has a very good temper. I was worried that she didn’t meet your standards, so I went to meet her. As expected, she’s really good-looking and capable. You should find a chance to meet her next week. If it works out and she joins the company to help you, you’ll be able to relax a little, won’t you?”

Liang Jing looked at Zhou Zimo with hope.

However, Zhou Zimo suddenly frowned and looked at Liang Jing with doubt and displeasure, “Mother, didn’t I tell you about this? I don’t want to go and I won’t go. No matter what, I don’t need to go on a blind date! If you really can’t wait, I’ll find a random woman to marry tomorrow. Is that alright?”

“Zimo, I’m not rushing you, I’m just worried about you. You say, this Zhang Yue is actually quite good. She’s innocent and cute, and she likes you so much. Yet, you’re not satisfied with her, and the introductions are all oka, but you either think that they aren’t pretty enough or have a bad temperament. Zimo, what kind of girl do you want? I think those girls are all pretty good, but you’re the one who’s too picky. You don’t like them, but you should also look at yourself too, I don’t think you’re that great, my son.”

Liang Jing could not help but sigh. When she mentioned this, she could not help but feel a little dejected.

“Those in my generation in my department have all become grandparents. I’m the only one left. I’m going to retire soon, and I’ll probably only have time to return to the outpatient department. Right now, I’m counting on you to quickly get married and have a child. Then, I won’t care about the world of young people anymore. I’ll take care of my grandson. Is this really a difficult request? You’re going to be 34 soon. Aiyo, I’m too embarrassed to mention your age. I’m dying of anxiety! Zimo, not to mention your grandfather! Your grandfather is already a man of old age, it’s just a small wish. You have to think of a way to satisfy him, right?”

Zhou Zimo listened and slightly clenched the cup in his hand, remaining silent.

“Son, say something? Do you have someone in your heart? Otherwise you wouldn’t have not liked any of those many girls, . Those girls are all carefully selected, they are all girls with good qualities, you...”

Chapter 1707. Struggle (2)

“No, Mother, don’t let your imagination run wild. I just don’t have any expectations for marriage. I’m used to being free.”

Before Liang Jing could finish her sentence, Zhou Zimo had already cut her off.

“Then you have no reason...”

“Do you think that every person who doesn’t get married is thinking of someone else?”

Zhou Zimo retorted with a question that was rarely seen on his gentle face, his eyes were as silent as the stars in the silent night—

“I’m not, so don’t project your speculations on me. I’ll take your considerations to heart. I’ll find a wife that everyone is satisfied with as soon as possible.”

After a long silence, Zhou Zimo replied in a low voice.

This time, his tone was not as perfunctory as before. Instead, it sounded a little serious.

“Don’t worry about me anymore, if you don’t want me to never get married in my entire life. I know myself better than any of you, if there’s one that I’m satisfied with, I wouldn’t let it go. If I don’t even like them, there’s no point in marrying them. I don’t have the courage to be like you and Father. Father is very broad-minded, and I have too many things to consider. Besides, not every woman can be as sensible as you, Mother.”

Zhou Zimo said in a deep voice.

“Pfft, do you hear what you’re saying. It wasn’t easy to say for your Father and I. In all these years, there have been times when we’ve quarrelled. Fortunately, your Father hasn’t been so calculative with me.

He's just a pain in the neck, no matter how much you make a fuss, he can't be bothered with you. Later on, your anger will just fade."

When Liang Jing talked about her husband, Zhou Zhenjun, there was a gentleness in her eyes.

In fact, back then, love was really simple for them. Instead now, with the development of the times, the relationships of the younger generation have made it difficult for them to see clearly.

"Your relationship with father at that time was more pure. I heard from father that you had quite a lot of choices in the beginning?"

Zhou Zimo did not know much about his parents' relationship, but when Liang Jing brought it up, he was a little curious.

"Of course. Your mother was young and pretty at that time. Your father's criteria for choosing a partner was the same as yours. He was an extremely arrogant playboy back then, he only had eyes for young and pretty girls. Before he was with me, your father had a few girlfriends. Did he think that I didn't know about his affairs? I'm Liang Jing?"

Liang Jing narrowed her eyes and said.

"Also, let me tell you, I had a partner at that time, but it was because I was in a different city..."

"Because you were in a different city, so you guys just let it go. Later on, my father forcefully conquered you?"

Zhou Zimo raised his handsome eyebrows and could not help but say this. A smile also appeared on his face, but that smile seemed a little lonely, "Actually, I do long for the kind of love that the two of you had back then. After you and Father got married, Father was not always by your side, but the two of you could stay together until now. However, not everyone can do the same."

“This also depends on the person. If it wasn’t for the fact that your father treated me fairly well and that your grandma and grandpa were on my side, I wouldn’t have been able to endure it. I didn’t suffer much before, it’s after marrying your father that it was hard, especially after giving birth to you.”

“Father is quite accommodating.”

“If he isn’t accommodating, the sky would turn upside down! With your father’s character, sometimes I even wonder if I married the wrong person.”

Although Liang Jing said this, the gentleness on her face was even more intense.

Zhou Zimo also lowered his gaze and smiled.

“Mmm, just admit that for the rest of your life, you’ve fallen into my father’s hands.”

“Yeah, in the blink of an eye, more than half my life has passed just like that. Time flies, I feel like I haven’t done much yet. So, son, you have to hurry up, you’re really not much younger anymore.”

As she said this, Liang Jing could not help but worry again.

“Okay Mother, I got it. It’s late, you should go back and rest early.”

“Okay, you should also wash up and rest early. You’ve been pretty tired these past few days. I can see that you have dark circles under your eyes.”

“Okay, goodnight, Mother!”

“Goodnight!”

Only then did Liang Jing get up and leave.

...

'Bang—'

The sound of the door closing could be heard. Zhou Zimo took a deep breath and leaned back on the sofa behind him. He could not help but feel a headache coming on.

The current him felt like he could not land on his feet, he felt lonely and adrift.

Usually, he would call Su Chen or Qi Lei to come out for a drink, but now...

His buddies had their own lives, and he was the only one left.

Get married?

This was something that had always felt far away for Zhou Zimo. At least before this, he had never thought of spending the rest of his life with a woman.

However, in the end, being alone was not as carefree as he had imagined.

Otherwise...

...

Mu Yuchen only found out about Zhou Zimo and Qin Su from Su Chen the next day—

In the backyard of Maple Residence.

Mu Yuchen woke up early and was pruning the plants when the butler suddenly came to report.

“Master, Master Su is here!”

When he heard this, Mu Yuchen did not stop moving. Instead, he responded with a grunt.

When the butler left, Su Chen’s footsteps could be heard.

“The chrysanthemums in this courtyard seem to be blooming quite well. I just came in and smelled a refreshing fragrance. Why are you alone? Where are Xiaye and Mu Xiaocheng?”

Su Chen’s voice rang out, and he stopped behind Mu Yuchen with a few big strides.

“Back to the Shen Residence. Why are you here now?”

Mu Yuchen put down the scissors in his hand and took a towel to wipe his hands. Then, he turned around and sat on the rattan chair behind him.

Su Chen had already leisurely poured the chrysanthemum tea that was brewing on the side. He took a sip before saying, “What if I said that I came specially to see you?”

Mu Yuchen picked up the tea and glanced at him from the corner of his eyes, then quickly averted his gaze.

“It’s not like you, Su Chen, to talk about these things for fun. Besides, it was just the Mid-autumn Festival yesterday. You should accompany Ji Zitong back to your father-in-law’s house at this time,” said Mu Yuchen calmly.

“You didn’t accompany Xiaye back to the Shen Residence either?”

Su Chen raised his eyebrows and looked at Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen did not answer. He just put down the teacup in his hand.

“Alright, enough with the opening remarks. I did come here today because I have something on my mind, guess what.”

Su Chen looked at Mu Yuchen with interest.

“The reason you’ve been looking for me lately is usually because of Zimo’s matter. This time, it should be no exception.”

Mu Yuchen’s sharp eyes glanced at Su Chen as he said casually.

When he said this, Su Chen raised his brows and could not help but laugh. “You’re really good at reading my thoughts. You really guessed it right!

Chapter 1708. Struggle (3)

Mu Yuchen casually leaned back in his chair and closed his eyes.

“Why don’t you guess what it is again?”

“I don’t serve food here.”

Mu Yuchen did not even lift his eyelids as he said calmly.

Su Chen then glanced at him and laid down as well.

“Zimo called me in the middle of the night last night. He said that he bumped into Qin Su in the afternoon and asked me to investigate her. I can tell that he still misses Qin Su, but I don’t remember when Zhou Zimo became such a grateful person. I think it’s not impossible that Zhou Zimo wants to give his life to her. Besides, I think with Qin Su’s beauty and ability, it’s very possible for Zimo to be moved.”

Upon hearing that, Mu Yuchen was silent for a while before he slowly opened his eyes.

“You’ve become a love analyst. Since we’re in the same city, it’s only a matter of time before they bump into each other. Since he wants to find information on Qin Su, that is a very good sign.”

“So, you’re asking me to really help him investigate Qin Su?” Su Chen asked.

“Do you think you can not give him the results?”

Mu Yuchen replied, then he squinted at Su Chen before continuing, “On this matter, I advise you not to be too enthusiastic. Zimo isn’t a fool. When he gets smart, even I can’t do anything to him. However, with his personality, it’s not easy for him to develop any feelings between him and Qin Su.”

“Qin Su didn’t take Zimo’s matter to heart. To be more specific, she might not have a good impression of Zimo. In terms of personality, their personalities are practically polar opposites. I can only say that Zimo has to pray for himself now.”

Mu Yuchen held the teacup in his hand and said calmly.

Su Chen nodded in agreement. “I agree with that too. However, I’m a little worried about Qin Su’s side now. I’ve probed her a while ago and she seems to be against marriage, so...”

“Didn’t you say that you were against marriage before? What happened in the end?”

Mu Yuchen looked at Su Chen meaningfully.

Su Chen cleared his throat before he took a deep breath. He combed his hair with his fingers and replied, “My situation was special, not everyone is like me. Otherwise, how would there be so many people against marriage in this world? There are many people who have never married.”

“Zimo’s luck has always been better than yours.”

Mu Yuchen chuckled softly as he rested his hands behind his head.

“F *ck you. If you make a mistake this time, you have to take full responsibility!”

Su Chen glared at Mu Yuchen.

“Just do as Zimo says and see how it goes.”

“Mmm, I got it. But on Qin Su’s end, I really don’t have much confidence. It’s very difficult for a woman like that to admit defeat, let alone...”

“She can’t only think about herself for some things.”

“Anyway, think of something. I know you had a pretty good relationship with her back then. Most of the time, your ideologies were basically the same.”

“If it was really that simple, I would’ve done it long ago. If it were you, what would you think? In the end, Zimo still has to rely on himself.”

Mu Yuchen paused for a moment. “And what we can do is just give him some guidance.”

“I know how to add fuel to the fire. Forget it, I don’t think we can do anything about this. We can only pray that the two of them can succeed. Initially, we planned to create a fortuitous encounter between the two of them, but it seems like there’s no need for that now. On the other hand, Mother Zhou said that she would give Zimo some pressure. I’ve been thinking about this fellow and I’m guessing that he’s very puzzled right now.”

“How else do you think he would feel?”

Mu Yuchen seemed to understand this feeling too—

Grandmother had urged him like this before...

If she was still alive..

When he thought about this, Mu Yuchen could not help but feel his head getting a little dizzy.

Mu Yinan's health was starting to deteriorate.

In fact, ever since grandmother left, he had suddenly become much older. Even though he himself had struggled and walked out of this shadow, it could not be denied that grandfather's heart had already left with her.

Fortunately, his son, Mu Xiaocheng, and Mu Zirui could make the old man happier.

"I heard that Grandfather Mu has been feeling unwell recently. What's wrong? is he feeling better?"

Su Chen suddenly remembered this.

Mu Yuchen's eyes darkened as he said, "He's fine now. He caught a cold a while ago and had a fever later on. He's feeling better now, but his spirit isn't as strong as before. Xiaye took him to the hospital two days ago for a comprehensive check-up. The doctor said that he's not in great condition."

When he heard this, Su Chen frowned and said worriedly, "How did this happen? I remember that Grandfather Mu's body has always been quite strong. He doesn't even catch a cold!"

"When grandmother was still around, she would take him out for a walk every day. Now that she's gone, he's slacked a lot. Plus, he misses grandmother, it's quite a torture for him."

Mu Yuchen rubbed the space between his brows and replied.

“Especially during this period of time, every time he goes back to the old residence, he’s mostly telling us about how he’s getting old and that he’s not as strong anymore.”

“The Elder and your grandmother were close. Grandma left too suddenly, and he...”

Su Chen could not help but sigh as well.

“If you have time, don’t think too much about the company. Go back and spend more time with him. I really wanted to freeload at your place, but now I’m afraid I can’t. I have to go to the Mu family’s old residence. I haven’t seen the Elder in a long time.”

Su Chen stood up as well.

“Let’s go together, I have to get back too.”

Mu Yuchen put down the teacup in his hand and propped himself up.

“Okay. We can chat while we’re at it. Call Zimo over too. We’ll go buy some good dishes.”

“Let him calm down. Don’t disturb him with these things for now.”

Mu Yuchen then walked forward. He took his phone and made a call to Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye quickly picked up.

“What’s wrong?”

Xi Xiaye’s calm voice came through.

“Go back to the old residence with Su Chen. You and the children have dinner there. I’ll pick you up tonight.”

When he heard the woman’s voice, Mu Yuchen’s handsome face softened a little.

“Mmm, alright. Don’t drink.”

Xi Xiaye reminded him.

“Don’t worry. The driver will drive.”

Mu Yuchen replied, “Is Grandfather alright?”

“Nothing much, just missed you since you didn’t come back with me.”

“I’ll go back to visit next time.”

“Mmm, got it. Alright, I’m talking to Father about something. You do your thing, see you tonight.”

“Okay.”

When he heard a busy tone from the other end, Mu Yuchen put away his phone.

Chapter 1709. Struggle (4)

Initially, she wanted to rush over after lunch, but Dongfang Liuyun was still worried. After a simple breakfast, she went to the International Exhibition Center. Qi Lei also went afterwards.

On South River’s end, Qi Lei had just finished negotiating with the client. Yang Sheng wanted to remind him to return to the company, but Qi Lei still came to inspect the project.

At this moment, Qi Lei was leaning against the railing by the South River. Between his slender fingers was a cigarette that he had just taken out. The river was covered in misty rain.

“Master Qi, look over there. In just a few years, there has been a huge change. There’s also the South River Project over there. It’s our company’s. In another two years, it will definitely be prosperous over there. The housing prices here have already risen a lot compared to a few years ago. Fortunately, Vice President Wang had the foresight to buy a piece of land over there. There’s also the land in the east of the city. The Jin family has always been thinking about it.”

Yang Sheng stood behind Qi Lei and looked at him as he spoke with a smile on his face.

Qi Lei lowered his head and turned on his lighter. He lit a cigarette and took a leisurely puff. Qi Lei did not say anything in the midst of the lingering smoke.

“The Jin family has already sent people over to inquire many times. I heard from Vice President Wang Chun that Master Jin has come here before.”

Yang Sheng continued.

Qi Lei’s eyes turned cold when he heard that. Yang Sheng could see a hint of amusement in his eyes.

“Since when was he interested in this area? The Jin family wasn’t in the real estate business before this.”

Qi Lei’s calm voice came through.

“Many businesses aren’t easy to do. Some people with foresight don’t just think about developing their own industries. They want to diversify their industries. I heard that they want to partner with the supermarket.”

“The Jin Family? They did not have that much money. Even Glory World on Mu Yuchen’s end did not dare talk about the supermarket easily. Moreover, that was an old city area. The government would not approve it easily unless they were confident that they could get the government to approve it.”

Qi Lei answered very quickly.

“Yes, this project is very difficult, but once it’s completed, the profits will be very generous. I think they’ve thought of this too. Master Qi, actually, I think this project is pretty good. We can...”

Before Yang Sheng could finish his sentence, Qi Lei had already raised his hand to stop him.

“Yang Sheng, you’ve been by my side for many years. You should know my style of doing things. You can’t bite off more than you can chew. Currently, Tai Yu Corporation has quite a number of industries, and there are quite a few large projects in operation. Although there aren’t any funding problems now, we still need to be cautious. Every project needs a strong fund to support it. It won’t be so easy to calculate the manpower and material resources.”

Qi Lei exhaled and paused for a while before continuing, “Anyway, the land is there, so it’s only a matter of time before we develop it. In these next two years, we’ll first complete the projects on hand one by one, and then we’ll consider new projects later.”

“Yes, Master Qi! I was too impatient and was afraid that someone else would seize the initiative!” Yang Sheng said.

However, Qi Lei smiled.

“In the entire City Z, there probably aren’t many who would dare to take down such a huge project, right? If the government wants to bring in outside resources, just the approval alone will take a long time. Moreover, we have ready-made land now. If they want to move it to another place, the land acquisition will be enough to give them a headache. Don’t worry. Things aren’t that simple. If they’re really interested, we’ll wait until the film and television base in City B is completed. Then, we’ll see if Mu Yuchen is interested.”

“Master Qi, you can definitely take it down with Missus!”

Yang Sheng’s face was filled with excitement.

Qi Lei glanced at him and thought about it before looking at Yang Sheng meaningfully—

“You have other things in mind.”

Then, Yang Sheng smiled.

“Of course. I think that Master Qi and Missus really need a chance to mix together, especially when it comes to the Dongfang Group and our Tai Yu Corporate problem. If Master Qi wants to help Missus take down the Dongfang Group, it won't be easy.”

As Yang Sheng finished, his expression turned slightly solemn.

“Especially at this time, there's quite a lot of pressure on Missus' end.”

“Of course I understand what you're saying. Don't worry, they shouldn't be in the mood to create trouble for the time being. Has the investigation come to a conclusion?” Qi Lei asked.

“It's already out, but the person hasn't been found yet. He owes nearly 300 million in gambling debts in our casino, and the interest is rolling in. Now, it's probably an astronomical figure. However, no one from the Lin family knows about this for the time being. The deadline for repayment is near, and Lin Yonghua is most likely unable to come up with this amount of money. In addition, the Lin Corporation hasn't been operating properly all these years, and the gap in capital was already quite huge, right now it's only holding on.”

Yang Sheng quickly reported to Qi Lei.

Hearing this, Qi lei nodded slightly, “Very good. Cut off Lin Yuanyuan's wings first. When the Lin Corporation is facing bankruptcy, Dongfang Ren's side will have fewer guards of honor. Let Wang Chun handle it. Find a way of letting Dongfang Yu know that Lin Yonghua has a huge gambling debt with the casino and is hiding. Make them believe that what Lin Yonghua couldn't resist because he was lured by Dongfang Yu. If you tell Wang Chun what I mean, he'll understand my intentions. Let him come to my office tomorrow.”

Yang Sheng was stunned when Qi Lei said this. He thought about it seriously for a while before he finally understood what Qi Lei meant. He could not help but laugh, "Master Qi, this is really a good idea. Those people wouldn't know even if they racked their brains. We'll be the mastermind. Not many people know about the behind-the-scenes boss of the casino."

"Don't take any chances. We have to be more vigilant at this time."

Qi Lei did not seem relaxed. He looked rather solemn.

"I understand, Master Qi! Oh, right, Vice President Wang Chun sent people over today in the name of protecting the company. He said that Master Qi can feel rest assured."

"Okay, that's enough. You go over and help out first. I'll stay here for a while and go over directly later. I'm afraid she won't be able to handle it on her end."

"But Master Qi, Missus isn't letting me appear in public because..."

"I know. If our relationship is exposed, a lot of things would get hard to do. Just do as she says," replied Qi Lei.

Yang Sheng nodded. "Alright, Master Qi, I understand. I'll head over first. Do call me later when Master Qi comes over."

"Oh, right, Master Qi. I wonder if Master Mu and the others will come over?"

"They never had lots of dealings with the Dongfang family. There's no need to drag him into this."

Qi Lei calmly replied.