

Loving 171

Chapter 171. Grand Launch (5)

Xi Xiaye went up on stage calmly escorted by the applause and cheering from the crowd. She did not seem flustered at all. Instead, the crowd quieted down when she went up on stage.

Xi Xiaye looked at everyone with a calm expression as her sapphire blue figure packed a strong power within her. She seemed so flawless and confident.

She opened the draft of the speech and spoke, her calm voice reaching everyone.

“Thank you, everyone, for attending the opening night of Glory World’s Imperial Sky Entertainment City. I hereby welcome all our guests on behalf of our employees.”

The crowd applauded again as everybody stared straight at the little sapphire figure. There was no doubt that Xi Xiaye had now become a beautiful view on stage.

Su Nan kept on waving her hands at Xi Xiaye onstage. Ruan Heng was helpless as she was unable to hold her enthusiasm in and shouted loudly.

“Xiaye, all the best! Xiaye!”

“Director Xi is so beautiful!”

...

“Imperial Sky Entertainment City was proposed on XX year XX month. We started developing it on XX year XX month, and we were done on XX year XX month. We’ve received satisfactory results from our trial business run which spanned a total of four years. Long before I took over, Director Chu from the sales department had been working tirelessly on this project. I only took over after Director Chu was transferred away. Many employees have worked hard to achieve the great results today, and I’d like to thank all of them for their hard work...”

Xi Xiaye's confident speech made all the Glory World's employees feel proud of their work and they were really grateful.

Everyone who had worked with Director Xi before would know that even though she seemed notably cold, she was actually very easygoing once you got to know her. They found that she was an amicable person to chat with as well.

It was common to spot her at the canteen, eating the same food as the other employees. At the work site, she would not just stand there and order people around. Instead, she worked with the others, and during emergencies, she would give her all to help as well.

Many people in the company admired this young female director in their company. A large number of male colleagues even thought of her as their goddess, and the female colleagues thought of her as their role model.

Of course, they all cheered passionately as their goddess was giving a speech on stage. The Planning Department and the working group for Imperial Sky Entertainment City were clapping their hardest, so much so that their faces went red. Director Xi had become their representative as she reported their progress.

Xi Xiaye took a pause as she looked at the crowd below. Instinctively, she shot the working group a smile with the applause still going on. She continued, "Imperial Sky Entertainment City was built with Imperial Sky Hotel, Imperial Sky Fashion City, and also Imperial Sky Jewelry City, as well as Imperial Sky VIP Club. Imperial Sky Hotel started running over a year ago, and it's now a five-star hotel under Glory World. Imperial Sky Fashion City started running several years back with a total of..."

Calm, elegant, and professional...

Xi Xiaye left such a positive impression on everyone, unlike the female celebrities who liked to fight for the spotlight onstage. She did not seem like she would lose to them at all.

There was a saying that a man was the most attractive when he was focused on work. At this very moment, to the crowd in the hall, a woman that was focused on reporting her work, more specifically, Xi Xiaye who was focused on her reports was truly shining. Everyone was attracted to her.

Mu Yuchen raised his head and looked at the little figure onstage with a warm smile. It was the first time he had ever listened to a report so carefully and a rare gentleness appeared in his eyes.

Zhou Zimo leaned over slightly with a wine glass in his hand as he spoke to Mu Yuchen quietly, "Your wife seems to suit you a lot. I think you guys look more and more perfect together. I see it's not a bad idea to hunt your own employees. Now, I get why the rabbit would eat the grass near its burrow."

A teasing tone lay in his calm voice. While he was talking, he glanced between Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye onstage with an ambiguous gaze.

"You can imitate me as well. Go and look for a female employee in your company," Mu Yuchen took a sip and replied.

Zhou Zimo shrugged as he chuckled. "If there's someone like your woman in my company, I don't mind, really. But most of the women in my company look like women out here. They gaze at you like a predator every time you walk past them as if they're going to swallow you whole. Look there, just like that woman! She seems to be interested in you —"

Zhou Zimo signaled Mu Yuchen, who turned towards the direction he was indicating, only to see Huang Shanshan making eyes at him with a flirtatious look. Her eyes brightened slightly when she was looking at Mu Yuchen, then she smiled shyly when she saw him returning her gaze. After she raised her wine glass slightly and gave him a toast from afar, she averted her sight.

Mu Yuchen frowned the moment he saw her, unable to hide the coldness in his eyes. He thought that this woman was a little familiar, then he remembered that she had tried to slap Xi Xiaye at Han Yifeng's engagement party.

How could they let people like her come in?

Mu Yuchen stared at her coldly and deflected his gaze. The coldness in his eyes was obvious.

The gentle and refined Zhou Zimo actually teased Mu Yuchen as he looked at him oddly, "Although you're low-profile, it seems that you're still pretty popular now, but you're too anti-social. I wonder how many women would be heartbroken if they found out that you're married."

“Why don’t you take the hit for me?” Mu Yuchen glanced back at him and said.

“I’m not blessed enough to enjoy these. However, it seems that your woman is in trouble. Look there, and there...”

He glanced around when he heard Zhou Zimo. He saw several predatory gazes glowering at Xi Xiaye, including Huang Shanshan just now, who was throwing her an unfriendly stare.

His frown deepened as he raised his head slightly and looked at the petite woman who was still in the midst of her speech. Soon, his eyes darkened.

Chapter 172. Grand Launch (6)

At the same time, Han Yifeng was watching Xi Xiaye from below. The moment he saw her standing on the stage so calmly, he knew that the girl he had been familiar with many years ago no longer existed. She had changed a lot...

It seemed that she had actually never changed one bit. He just never paid enough attention to her and he did not know her well enough.

“Ms. Xiaye is confirmed to have been married. She got registered last year,” echoed the voice of his assistant, Secretary Wang in his ear. He found out that the man who married Xi Xiaye was actually Mu Yuchen.

As he thought of it, he looked over at Mu Yuchen’s direction who was chatting with people around him with a smile on his face while he glanced over to the stage occasionally...

He felt conflicted and suppressed on the inside. In an attempt to hide it, he lowered his head and chugged down the glass of wine.

Xi Xinyi carefully observed Han Yifeng’s reaction as her eyebrows lowered slightly as she tried to hide her emotions under her eyes. She pursed her lip as her facial expression froze up and she glanced up on stage from time to time to study the low-profile yet brightly shining Xi Xiaye...

After Xi Xiaye was done with her introductions, next up was the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The people participating in this were the people from the government sector, Mu Yuchen, Zhang Lan, and the others.

Following that, the atmosphere at the venue was really heated up. Waiters started serving dishes to each table, and performances went up one after another on stage. All of them were invited celebrities who marked the true opening of the banquet!

Xi Xiaye sat back into her seat and was looking for something to drink when Mu Yuchen handed her a glass of warm water. "Let's go back earlier tonight," he said quietly when he saw the exhaustion in her eyes.

Although she understood what he meant, as the supervisor, she had to wait until everything was finished and packed up before leaving.

"I'll get Li Si to prepare some extra hands. We can go back after announcing the ambassador for Jewelry City later."

Only the rave party remained. Both Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye were similar as they did not like parties like those.

The world under the flashy lights was not what they wanted; they could only be themselves after removing the fancy spotlights away from them.

Xi Xiaye was deep in thought for a moment before nodding. Since she had not been resting well for the past few days, she felt pretty exhausted herself and wanted to get decent rest before going back to work the next day.

People at the venue were getting more and more excited, especially when popular stars like Caitlyn and Lin Ling started singing. They gave their all for their audience, hoping that they could grab the spot as Glory World's main ambassador.

When the host called Xi Xinyi's name out, the crowd cheered and she went up on stage like a beautiful and elegant princess. There was no doubt that many people liked her.

Some of the important guests and movie directors were speaking with one another, exchanging their opinions and commenting on the celebrities onstage. At that moment, they were nodding as they looked at Xi Xinyi who was currently singing.

“Who do you think is suitable?”

As Xi Xiaye was sipping some wine, she heard Mu Yuchen’s quiet voice. A little startled, she raised her head and looked at him, then she glanced over at Xi Xinyi who seemed to be struggling inside as her eyes held conflict. She went silent for a while before giving an objective opinion.

“Caitlyn is a truly talented person in the entertainment industry. She’s pretty popular and has a strong character, plus her image is mature as well, so that’s pretty good. Lin Ling became popular thanks to her unique quiet aura as well as her amazing voice. As for Xi Xinyi... She’s more towards the pure and innocent type, a one-of-a-kind princess. Each of them has their own perks.”

He laughed when she gave him such a serious reply. “If I let you decide, who would you choose?”

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows and peered at him. “I get to decide?”

He glanced at her with an odd look as he said in an indifferent tone, “Tell me.”

Xi Xiaye looked over at Caitlyn and the others, then she watched Xi Xinyi. “I’d pick Caitlyn.”

“Caitlyn is pretty fantastic in the entertainment industry. Although she’s now married, her popularity has increased instead. She and her husband are a pair of well-known models as a couple. They’re really in love with each other. Her husband avoided appearing before media for her sake. I followed her in the news some time back. I prefer her because she’s more mature. What do you think?”

Mu Yuchen smiled. “No personal feelings included?”

She shook her head. “Of course not. I’m just telling the truth. But it seems that the PR Department and Vice President Zhang have already decided.”

Seeing how she was just calmly sipping her wine, he smiled without saying anything. He waved his hand and Li Si came over swiftly. Then, he quietly gave some orders to Li Si who nodded and headed straight towards the host on stage.

After Xi Xinyi's performance ended, there was a short silence. The guests were buzzing with conversation. After some time, the music changed into a cheerful tone as the host spoke into the mic full of energy and excitement.

"Dear guests, ladies and gentlemen, we're now having another exciting event for tonight! Next up, let's have Director Xi up on stage. She'll be announcing the annual main ambassador. This lucky person will become the face and representative of Glory World. Please welcome Director Xi!"

Xi Xiaye put her hand on her forehead when she heard the host's voice. So, this was what a supervisor had to go through! She glanced at the man beside her and said, "Do you wanna go?"

Mu Yuchen ignored her as he was talking to Zhou Zimo.

Damn it!

Xi Xiaye frowned. Inhaling a deep breath, she stood up. Once again, she headed towards the stage.

She grabbed the mic from the host as she arrived at the center of the stage and an assistant swiftly handed her a prepared envelope. Everyone hushed down and the air turned tense all of a sudden.

Xi Xiaye opened the envelope with her fingers and took the card out. Peeking at the name, her eyebrows raised and she glanced over at Mu Yuchen's direction.

Chapter 173. Grand Launch (7)

Mu Yuchen just looked back at her calmly as if he was enjoying a movie.

Xi Xiaye went silent for a moment before she averted her gaze back to the card in her hand. Her cold and calm voice reached everyone through the microphone —

“I hereby announce the annual ambassador for Glory World: Ms. Caitlyn! Congratulations, Ms. Caitlyn!”

Xi Xiaye turned to Caitlyn’s direction with smiling eyes. Caitlyn stood up in disbelief, covering her mouth in surprise.

The crowd gave her a big round of applause while cries of approval and words of congratulations went around everywhere.

After a while, Caitlyn came back to her senses and went up onstage amidst the crowd cheering. She soon arrived beside Xi Xiaye.

“Congratulations! I hope we’ll work well with each other.” Xi Xiaye smiled as she congratulated Caitlyn, her eyes brightening up a little. She extended her hand towards Caitlyn.

“Thank you, Director Xi! I’m really honored!”

Although Caitlyn was already contracted with Glory World, she actually had the lowest chance of winning this race for the main ambassador role. It was a known fact within the industry, the news of a celebrity getting married at the peak of her career would lower her popularity. However, Caitlyn still gave it a try.

Xi Xiaye’s smile gave Caitlyn a sense of peace. “You deserve it. I hope we can work well in the future. I heard about you and your husband. I really admire you and am impressed by your courage. I wish you all the best!”

“Thank you! I’m really thankful! This is surprising. I... I’m a little...”

Caitlyn looked at Xi Xiaye gratefully. Having seen her speaking with Chairman Mu quietly earlier, she realized that for her to be able to get this role, Xi Xiaye might have put in a great deal of help.

Caitlyn suddenly started sobbing. Just how many people understood the hardships on the pathway to becoming a star?

For some reason, she felt at ease when she was with Xi Xiaye. She thought that maybe this elegant lady before her understood her.

From the very first time she saw Xi Xiaye, Caitlyn was comfortable with her and felt that she might be someone that she could trust and be friends with.

Suddenly, she could not help herself but engulf Xi Xiaye in a hug.

Of course, Xi Xiaye had no idea what Caitlyn was thinking about, so she was stunned for a moment when she hugged her. Nevertheless, she smiled when she noticed the glitter in Caitlyn's eyes, and she embraced her back gracefully.

And yet, this scene shocked everyone!

While Caitlyn seemed very friendly and elegant, she was known for being prideful in the industry. No one had ever seen her being particularly close with anyone, but now...

On the other hand, Director Xi Xiaye from Glory World seemed to have a cold personality. Upon witnessing these two ladies hugging each other, it became a beautiful scene that touched many people who saw this heartwarming incident.

Xi Xiaye patted Caitlyn's back lightly. "All the best!" She then let go of Caitlyn and walked off the stage slowly.

Caitlyn wiped the tears on the verge of her eyes away. Then, she gave a gratitude speech before singing a classic old song, "Applause".

The atmosphere in the hall had reached its very peak. Many people were on the verge of tearing when they heard Caitlyn's gentle crooning.

As Xi Xiaye went back to her seat, she was reminded of all the struggles she had faced along the way. She related to them deeply, but felt a little sour inside as she turned towards the man beside her...

His expression seemed indifferent and he was calm as usual. However, he put his hand on hers and rested them on her knee as if he was comforting her.

She felt his warmth coming from his palm. It was slowly reaching towards her core and she could feel her cold body temperature slowly rising.

However, while such a scene could make someone happy, it caused a certain person to get infuriated as well!

Several tables away, Huang Shanshan's face darkened. She almost could not suppress the anger within her as she glared coldly at Caitlyn signing on stage. Switching her gaze to Xi Xiaye, she clenched her fists when she saw Xi Xiaye looking at Mu Yuchen.

Beside her, Xi Xinyi looked pale, her eyes appearing frail and disappointed as if she was hurt. She bit her red lips and was trying her best to hide her pain.

"It must have been Xi Xiaye. She must have done something! It's her! Xinyi, did you see that? That woman is just wicked! Just who is Caitlyn? How dare she take away what belongs to you? It must be Xi Xiaye who pulled some strings from behind!" Huang Shanshan was enraged and she clenched her teeth hard.

"Did you see that, Yifeng? This is Xi Xiaye's doing. She's the supervisor for this project, so it was as easy as a snap of her finger to change the name. Xinyi should be the one to win this! And now Caitlyn has grabbed it away from her! Is this what she gets for treating Xi Xiaye like her sweet sister? That's great, Xinyi! Did you see that?"

Huang Shanshan was oddly worked up about it. Furthermore, she felt terrible when she saw Xi Xinyi's pale and injured expression. In her state of anger and unhappiness, she could not help but burst out in rage when she saw Xi Xiaye still appearing calm.

"Sis... Yifeng... I..."

Xi Xinyi seemed disappointed and hurt as she looked at Han Yifeng beside her and sniffed.

Han Yifeng remained silent, his expression cold and his lips pursed. He looked at Caitlyn onstage quietly. Undoubtedly, her singing touched him slightly. He averted his gaze and looked towards Xi Xiaye's direction.

Chapter 174. Why Shouldn't I Marry Him? (1)

As the suave music floated in the air, Glory World's management team started to toast with the guests. Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye got up and walked around too.

They looked just like a couple who were match-made in heaven and became the entire banquet's center of attention.

"Xiaye, you look splendid tonight! You've shocked me!"

When she reached Su Nan's table, Su Nan could not help but walk up to give Xi Xiaye a hug. Xi Xiaye could only smile in response.

Xi Xiaye's slightly raspy voice said softly in her ear, "Thank you, Su Nan."

Su Nan patted her back and let go of her. Then, she looked to Mu Yuchen on the side and smiled. "Thank you, Master Mu!"

Mu Yuchen naturally knew what Su Nan meant. He gazed meaningfully at Xi Xiaye beside him, then turned to lift his glass towards Su Nan in response.

All of a sudden, a commotion broke out up front. A few bright figures entered their sight. When they looked up, they saw that Han Yifeng, Xi Xinyi, and Huang Shanshan had walked over.

Leading the pack was Huang Shanshan who had on a smile on her charming face. Her beautiful eyes twinkled and her steps were light as they walked up to Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye. When she stopped, her gentle gaze did not even look at Xi Xiaye once. It stopped right on Mu Yuchen. She smiled and greeted, "We meet again, Master Mu! The last time, I didn't greet you properly, so I've come with my drink to apologize. Cheers!"

Once Huang Shanshan finished, Xi Xiaye was stunned. Naturally, she did not miss Huang Shanshan's concealed admiration in her eyes which was unexpected to her. Then, she watched the man beside her in amusement, yet the man's expression remained as usual. His eyes were still as water, his gaze brushing past Huang Shanshan and looking ahead as if he did not see Huang Shanshan.

Xi Xiaye followed his gaze and saw Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi walking over.

Despite downing her drink, Huang Shanshan, who did not receive a response, saw how Mu Yuchen did not even take as much of a glance at her as if he did not hear her voice. The awkwardness could not be concealed from her beautiful face, especially when a few people shot her odd glances from the side...

Her face could not help but sink. When she saw Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi walk over, she retreated, feeling upset and seeming embarrassed.

Han Yifeng was a gentleman and he acknowledged as he walked up to Mu Yuchen, "Congratulations, Chairman Mu."

"Sis, you're really beautiful today! I knew that you were always..." Xi Xinyi still looked very pale, but there was a faint smile on her face. She looked so vulnerable that it made one feel sorry for her.

When Xi Xinyi said this, Huang Shanshan's glance turned bitter. She was about to reach out to pull Xi Xinyi away, yet the latter had walked right up to Xi Xiaye. She took a glass of wine from the waiter's tray and handed it to Xi Xiaye. "Sis, I want to make a toast to you to wish you a Happy New Year, and may Glory World take it to the next level!"

Xi Xiaye observed at the wine that was handed to her and raised her brows before exchanging a look with Mu Yuchen beside her. After some thought, she then slowly reached out, yet before she could hold it steadily, there was an outcry —

The sloshing of the wine was heard. At the same time, Su Nan's voice called out, "Xiaye, watch out!"

Xi Xiaye realized something almost at the same time. Her hand reached down at lightning speed and caught the glass that fell by a close shave as the wine that splashed out wet her hand.

A sneer quickly appeared at the corner of her mouth as she looked meaningfully at Xi Xinyi who seemed alarmed and apologetic. Then, she smiled wryly without uttering a word. She only looked at her indifferently, then peered down at the half-empty glass.

“I’m sorry... It wasn’t on purpose,” Xi Xinyi murmured apologetically with her head lowered.

The moment Xi Xinyi said that, Su Nan refuted her, “I think you were doing it on purpose. How repulsive!”

“Watch what you’re saying!” Huang Shanshan immediately rushed over defensively.

Xi Xiaye was calm as usual though. Her smile faintly showed hints of ridicule, yet her twinkling eyes were dense with an indescribable gloominess and even complication. She just inhaled and looked on apathetically at Xi Xinyi who feigned innocence, her cold voice as calm as autumn waters as she lamented, “Apart from using such tricks, can’t you change to something else like ruin my gown? Or did you want the opportunity to tell whoever that I didn’t give you face, intentionally not accepting your glass? To complain before Grandfather and Grandmother about how I crossed the line? Did you forget? You’ve already used this same trick at my 16th birthday banquet. Back then, I didn’t seem to be like this right now. I took the glass you handed, but it shattered all over the floor and even hurt your foot...”

Xi Xiaye paused and watched Xi Xinyi’s face instantly freeze up. She then smiled and continued, “After that, because of this incident, Grandmother punished me by making me face the wall. I knelt in her study room for a whole night. And that other time when the gown was burnt, remember? Xi Xinyi, it seems that every single time, you’d only know how to... mmm, right... just like you are right now, looking very innocent and wronged. Tell us that you didn’t do it on purpose. Don’t you know that an excessive coincidence no longer becomes a coincidence? That’s just ingenuity. Do you think you’re someone who could scheme like this?”

Xi Xinyi’s little face instantly turned pale. She was stumped for words and looked a little stiffly at Xi Xiaye.

The people around could obviously hear Xi Xiaye too. All of them instantly turned around and looked over. Their gaze quickly fixated on Xi Xinyi who was biting her lips slightly while looking weak and at a loss.

“I’m not. I really didn’t do it on purpose. You’re like this every single time! How do I... How do I explain it to you? You don’t even give me a chance to explain properly. When I try to be friendly to you, do you even give me a chance?”

Out of the blue, Xi Xinyi suddenly found the courage to say this to Xi Xiaye while more and more people all around were peering over at the moment.

When Huang Shanshan saw Xi Xinyi reacting like that, she found it difficult to bear. Just as she wanted to walk up to her, Su Nan blocked her and kept her at bay.

Unable to go ahead, Huang Shanshan became exasperated. She glared at Su Nan and snapped coldly, “Su Nan, f*ck off!”

Su Nan smiled in disdain. “I’ve grown to this age, but I still don’t know how to write the words ‘f*ck off’. How about you demonstrate to me how to f*ck off?”

“Su Nan, I’ll advise you that it’s best not to cross the line.”

Su Nan sneered without care. “It’s you guys who’re crossing the line! You’re deliberately trying to pick a fight, aren’t you? Do you see what this launch is? Is it a place for you people to just come and put on a show?”

Chapter 175. Why Shouldn't I Marry Him? (2)

A short silence occurred around Xi Xinyi after she finished her sentence. Xi Xiaye noticed the gazes from all around them and she frowned slightly. She nearly forgot what day it was today.

“What did you do to her? Or what is your aim? Why do you need to befriend her and have her give you a chance?” A quiet voice broke the silence. It was Mu Yuchen who had been silent this whole time.

He spoke as he grabbed a paper towel from Ah Mo, handing it to Xi Xiaye while his eyes were staring at Xi Xinyi. Xi Xinyi felt like she had nowhere to run under his gaze. She looked downwards out of fear and avoided looking into his eyes.

Due to Mu Yuchen's overpowering aura, Xi Xinyi could not stand it anymore and dragged Han Yifeng beside her. She mumbled, "Chairman Mu, Sister and I just have... some misunderstandings, so..."

"Xinyi!" Han Yifeng suddenly called out to her and pulled her closer to him. His eyes met with Mu Yuchen's gaze. Just as he was about to say something, Xi Xiaye emptied the half-filled glass and handed it to a waiter nearby. She told Mu Yuchen, "I'll go and wash my hands."

Mu Yuchen glanced back at her, knowing that she was worried this might mess up the event's atmosphere. He nodded and adjusted the shawl on her shoulder. "Come back quickly."

Her slender figure vanished in the crowd after a brief reply...

"I don't care what misunderstandings you've had with Xiaye in the past, but you're the first one daring enough to pull such tricks right before me," Mu Yuchen stated indifferently as he looked at Xi Xinyi,

Xi Xinyi's face turned even paler. Even though his tone of voice was calm, she could not take the strong aura radiating from his eyes. She fretted while trying to explain, "That's not it, Chairman Mu, Sister and I..."

Mu Yuchen did not bother to listen to her explanation. He glanced over at Han Yifeng and said quietly, "CEO Han, I hope there's no more next time for what happened today."

Before Han Yifeng could react, Mu Yuchen walked past him.

Han Yifeng's expression darkened as Mu Yuchen marched past him coldly. His dark eyes turned icy as he suddenly moved Xi Xinyi's hand onto his arm. He glared at her sharply and made her panic.

"Yifeng, I didn't! You have to believe me!" Xi Xinyi grabbed onto his sleeve out of trepidation while tears appeared on the verge of her eyes. She seemed really frail and innocent.

Han Yifeng stared at her for a long time. His eyes and emotions were getting more and more complicated. After a while, he said, "That's enough. Get back to your seat."

“Cousin!” Huang Shanshan caught up to them and studied Han Yifeng worriedly.

“Let her get some rest. I’ll go out to take a breather.” Han Yifeng put the wine glass in his hand away before leaving.

...

Inside the washroom, Xi Xiaye stood before the tap and washed her hands quietly. She raised her head and saw her somewhat exhausted face. Her eyes had dark rings around them. She splashed some water onto her face and felt refreshed when she looked at her face once again, letting out a sigh of relief.

After she was done, she walked through the long corridor upon leaving the washroom. To her surprise, she saw Han Yifeng smoking in a corner. He seemed lonely as she watched his large figure from afar.

Her steps faltered slightly, but she did not stop at all. She averted her gaze and pretended as if she did not see anything, intending to walk away quietly.

Although that was what she thought, before she could even inch away, Han Yifeng had already turned to her and walked towards her.

“Xiaye...” He called out to her when her head was lowered and seemingly wanted to avoid him as he stepped forward.

“What’s wrong, CEO Han?”

She stopped before him, raising her head and glaring at him directly. “If you’re here to talk about Xi Xinyi, or to warn me not to harm her again, please go back and tell her that I wouldn’t do anything against people who have done nothing to me. If I’m threatened, I’ll surely repay it the same way!”

Han Yifeng’s heart clenched when he heard her words. The light in his eyes quieted down and after giving it some thought, he said, “It’s not about Xinyi. I have something to ask you.”

Xi Xiaye glanced at him coldly. He asked straight before she could even reply, "You... Are you married... to Mu Yuchen?"

His eyes moved downwards as he asked, focusing on her left ring finger. That silver shine was so obvious and bright, strong enough to hurt his eyes.

Xi Xiaye smirked, not hiding anything at all before admitting, "Yes, you're right. We got married long before your engagement with Xi Xinyi, so you don't have to worry that I'll bother you ever again. Are you satisfied with this answer?"

"Why?" Han Yifeng looked into her eyes and asked quietly, "If you're doing so out of spite..."

Xi Xiaye's smile seemed a little empty, but her tone of voice was extremely determined. "You think too highly of yourself, Han Yifeng. I want myself to know that I don't only belong to one person. Starting a new life isn't bad at all."

"Mu Yuchen isn't someone you can control, Xiaye! Do you even know him well? Does Uncle Xi know that you're married? As well as your grandfather and grandmother..."

Xi Xiaye shut him up before he could finish his sentence. "I have no more links to the Xi family anymore. If that makes it clearer to all of you, I don't mind changing my surname to Shen! I don't care who Mu Yuchen is. He's treating me absolutely well, so why shouldn't I marry him?"

"But you don't love him, do you?" Han Yifeng watched her closely and asked.

Xi Xiaye was startled. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath., "One doesn't have to be in love to marry someone. If you don't understand what I want even now... Ah, of course, you wouldn't understand. What I want is very simple. If he can treat me well, I don't care about anything else."

Her voice sounded bitter. Her tiny figure went past him as she spoke, "We're back to our starting point now. Now, we can leave each other alone. I don't want to look back at our past anymore. However, the conflict between Xi Xinyi and I won't just stop all of a sudden. If you continue to support them, I won't go easy on you."

Her voice entered his ears like a sharp wind, stunning Han Yifeng.

Chapter 176. Suffocating Emptiness

She saw Mu Yuchen waiting at the staircase the moment she stepped out of the corridor.

He turned around when he heard the sound of footsteps, glancing at her as he extended his arm towards her.

She looked down as she went down the staircase, going straight towards him without any hesitation. He put his arms over her shoulders as she went near him. "Let's go back. It's late."

She nodded, but after a while, she added, "I don't think you ate anything. Aren't you hungry?"

"I'll go back and cook something," he replied quietly.

"Actually, I wanted to say that I'm not exactly full as well..."

...

When Yifeng chased after her, he saw Mu Yuchen walking along with her under the dim street lights. Ah Mo had already opened the car door without them needing to tell him.

The car started moving through the night while the banquet still went on inside. The lights by the entrance shone in his eyes and the night breeze not only messed up his collar, but it also rifled his emotions as well.

"Yifeng..."

After some time, suddenly Xi Xinyi's voice reached him from behind, Han Yifeng turned around and realized that she was standing right behind him without him noticing.

"Why are you here? It's cold outside..."

Xi Xinyi was concerned about Han Yifeng, her pretty little face still appearing a little sickly.

Han Yifeng glanced at her with a complicated gaze. After a while, he went down the stairs. "Get into the car. I'll send you back."

"Yifeng, can you stay with me tonight?" Xi Xinyi caught up with him and grabbed his hand. "I'm... a little sad..."

Naturally, he knew that it was about Xi Xiaye and what happened just now. Many people must have seen that and some people even started discussing it, especially after Mu Yuchen said something like that. Most of them had thrown odd glances at Xi Xinyi and she only managed to get out by giving an excuse of going to the washroom.

"I want some quiet time alone. Let me send you back to West Park," Han Yifeng replied quietly. Xi Xinyi's face turned even paler as her whole body shivered in shock at Han Yifeng's reply.

It was the first time he had ever declined for her to stay over at his place.

"Yifeng, what's wrong?" She confronted him in shock.

Han Yifeng took a deep breath as he looked at Xi Xinyi before him, Xi Xiaye's voice echoing in his ear.

He could not bear to see Xi Xinyi's morose face as she tried to hide her pain. He then said, "I'm a little tired. I..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Xi Xinyi went forward and hugged him tightly. Her gentle voice was filled with unease. "Yifeng, don't reject me... You know, I really need you right now. I'm really sad..."

Han Yifeng looked downwards at the sallow Xi Xinyi quietly. He could not bear to reject her and he nodded, dragging her away and taking his car keys out from his pocket as he walked towards the car.

Xi Xinyi smiled and went along with him, gently holding onto Han Yifeng's hand...

...

It was around 9 p.m. when they arrived at home.

Han Yifeng took off his coat and tie as he walked into the bathroom in his bedroom. Xi Xinyi sat on the bedside, about to make a call back to West Park. However, her phone rang when she just took it out. Her eyes turned cold when she saw the number and she went out onto the balcony.

She picked up the call swiftly. "Hello? How's that matter?"

"I've sent the documents to your private email. Take a look at it." The cold voice hung up on her after a short reply.

Xi Xinyi frowned and stared at her phone. After a short silence, she deleted the number and went back into the room.

She was tired after a long day. She left her phone on the bedside drawer and just as she was about to look for some clothes, she accidentally saw a glass jar full of stars in a corner...

She was bewildered for a moment as memories flashed back in her mind.

If she was not mistaken, this was Xi Xiaye's birthday present to Han Yifeng back then!

This was supposed to be on the bookshelf. Han Yifeng had placed it on the table when he was rearranging the bookshelf, so why did it change places? And was the jar different now?

Countless possibilities flashed through her mind, each one of them giving her a grave sense of unease. Her hands clenched up and she just stared at the glass jar without moving an inch.

After some time, she came back to her senses when she heard the sound of the bathroom door opening. She peeped over. “Yifeng, are you done already?”

“It’s your turn,” Han Yifeng replied her as he sat down on one side of the bed wearily.

Xi Xinyi got up and went into the bathroom.

After she was done, Han Yifeng was already lying down on the bed.

Xi Xinyi uncovered the comforter and went in, snuggling beside Han Yifeng and suggestively touching his waist as she asked him gently, “Yifeng, I’ve decided on your engagement gift. Do you still want it?”

A refreshing aroma reached his nostrils. Han Yifeng opened his eyes and Xi Xinyi’s pretty little face was right before him. A seductive charm rose from her gentle-looking eyes as she kissed him before he could reply.

For a brief moment, that familiar void came back to him. He was anxious to look for something to fill it up and his eyes started to go blurry when he looked at Xi Xinyi in front of him.

“Of course.” He grabbed Xi Xinyi and turned her around, reversing their positions. He watched Xi Xinyi below him quietly while a voice came from his mind clearly.

The woman right here was the woman he loved dearly!

He pressed down onto her anxiously and started his plunder like a tirade of fierce waves. He had zero consideration for Xi Xinyi at all as he took her violently and ferociously.

The suffocating emptiness came in waves. The more he plundered, the worse he felt about the emptiness inside him. In the end, he stopped his movements and got off Xi Xinyi...

Chapter 177. He Warmed Her Up

At the same time, in Maple Residence.

Xi Xiaye felt much better after taking a shower. Her exhaustion had melted away and by the time she went downstairs, Mu Yuchen was done cooking supper.

Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered that there was a meeting the next day as she had porridge inside her mouth. She lifted her head and studied the man opposite her drinking his porridge elegantly as she asked, "What time is the morning meeting tomorrow?"

Mu Yuchen grabbed a napkin and cleaned his mouth before replying, "9.30 in the morning."

Xi Xiaye nodded, then she replied, "We'll arrive at the office by 9 a.m. then. I'm sure everyone will party late tonight. I've called Xiao Mei just now. They haven't ended yet. It's almost 10 p.m. now and they're just getting started."

"It'll be done by 10.30p.m. Li Si and the others will take care of it. You don't have to worry."

Mu Yuchen suddenly looked at her with his deep and serene eyes. "I'll propose the matter about Yueying on the agenda tomorrow. Vice President Liu might pay Yueying a visit in a few days. In addition to your mother's 20% shares, Vice President Liu is confident in gathering 35% of Yueying's shares, making Glory World the second largest stakeholder."

He discussed Yueying's matter with her.

Xi Xiaye went silent for some moments before nodding. Suddenly, she remembered something and quickly asked, "35% shares? Are we going to make high-priced purchases? Qikai's group is interested in Yueying as well. Tell Vice President Liu to be wary."

Mu Yuchen did not deny it. "We're not the main party developing Movie City, but it's not a bad deal to try the showbiz industry now. I want to let Ah Mo handle this project. What do you think?"

"Ah Mo?" In shock, she slowly swallowed the food in her mouth. "Isn't Ah Mo your personal assistant?"

Mu Yuchen put a hand on his forehead and rubbed it as he said in a tired tone, "Ah Mo has been a foster child under my father since we were young. He's my brother and he's not going to just follow me forever. He should have his own life."

Xi Xiaye went silent again. She then nodded before wiping her mouth with a napkin and replying, "You're right. I have no objections."

"Compile a set of documents for Movie City and Yueying. Hand it to Ah Mo at work tomorrow."

Xi Xiaye stopped Mu Yuchen as he was about to do the dishes. "It's fine. I'll do it. You go upstairs and take a shower."

She could not bear to see his exhausted expression as her heart softened. She then picked up the bowls quietly.

Upon seeing her picking up the bowls and vanishing into the kitchen, he went upstairs.

After doing the dishes, she prepared the documents for Ah Mo as well as the necessary documents for work the next day. By the time he was done showering, she entered the bedroom to see him calling someone by the bedside with his sleeping robe on. She heard phrases like "media" in his conversation.

His phone call ended when she reached beside him.

"Let's rest early."

He switched his phone off and put it on the bedside drawer. He walked to the other side of the bed and lay down quietly.

She switched off the lights and slipped into the bed too. Swiftly, he went closer to her and she could feel his body warmth. After some silence in the dark, she suddenly turned over and called out to him, "Mu Yuchen?"

“Mmm?” He replied quietly, his grip on her waist tightening slightly.

She took a deep breath before continuing, “When I came out from the washroom just now, I bumped into Han Yifeng...”

She had no idea who to tell these things. In the end, she decided to talk to him about it. For some reason, the things that she found frustrating and complicated would all become clear and simple after talking to him about it.

She had to admit that sometimes she just wanted to talk to him without any definite reason at all.

“What did he say?” He asked as his body warmth seeped into her through his chest, slowly warming her up. She wanted to hold onto that temperature, so she slowly moved her body closer to him and soon found a comfortable position as she lay down on his chest.

“He asked if I’m married to you...” She told him quietly.

“Then, how did you reply?” He asked calmly.

She took another deep breath, and then sighed, “I told him we’re indeed married, so I think the Xi family will find out very soon. I just wanted to let you know. I’m afraid they might give you a hard time later on...”

She was well aware that if they found out about it, excluding Deng Wenwen, Xi Jiyang and Xi Mushan might visit him for a talk, so she wanted to let him know beforehand.

He laughed when he heard the concern in her voice. His slightly hoarse voice reached her ears. “Then, how would you like me to coordinate with you?”

As if he could see through her easily, just by mentioning it, he could already guess what she was thinking about. Xi Xiaye was not used to him always knowing what she was thinking.

She was quiet in the dark for a long, long time. Soon, she put her hands on his around her waist. "I hope they can see that we're really in love with each other. Grandfather... is worried about me... It's fine as long as he knows I'm doing well. Also, if they request anything from you, you don't have to entertain any of them..."

"Aren't we really in love right now? Just what are you thinking?" He asked quietly. Then, he continued as he was reminded of something, "Xiaye, no matter what the reason you agreed to marry me back then, I just hope the both of us can now be loyal to this marriage. Time has proven that we're compatible with each other. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

She was startled for a moment, then she nodded. "I understand."

"Good, the things that will come are bound to come. If you can't handle it, I'm always here. Remember that, alright?"

His words of comfort were working on her. Soon, the uneasiness in her heart disappeared.

She nodded as he grabbed his hand. She could tell from his voice that he was exhausted. "Mmm... Good... Go to sleep then. We have work tomorrow morning."

There was no reply from him. Only the sound of his light breathing answered her...

Chapter 178. Going To Work Together (1)

The night did not seem as indefinitely long as before. It was changing quietly and became shorter than before.

Dawn came. People woke up as the gentle sunlight shone upon them and they started their day full of energy, facing new challenges and working hard.

Xi Xiaye opened her eyes and things still seemed blurry for her. Rubbing her eyes with one hand, the other touched the empty side of the bed to find that the man was not there anymore, but some of his warmth remained.

As she grabbed her phone on the bedside drawer, she switched it on and took a look at the time. When she realized it was already half past eight, she jolted with shock!

Oh no!

She needed to go to work today!

She remembered that she had set the alarm clock at eight last night. How did she oversleep?

She left the bed as quickly as possible and put on an outfit. Then, she speedily went into the bathroom...

After she was done and went downstairs with two black briefcases, Mu Yuchen was already reading the newspaper on the sofa. There was also some breakfast on the table, and it seemed like he already had his.

"Why didn't you wake me up?" Xi Xiaye complained when she saw him. It was already nearly nine, and they would probably be late for work.

He raised his head and looked at her when he heard her footsteps coming down.

Dressed in her usual black formal outfit, her waist-long black hair was left untied and she still seemed skinny as ever, but she looked rather well-rested.

He folded the papers and sipped some tea before saying, "I saw that you were sleeping so soundly, so I gave you some extra time. Have your breakfast."

She held the two briefcases with just one hand as she went towards the table and grabbed a slice of bread. Then, she quickly drank from the glass of milk and left it aside. She rushed outside and urged him anxiously, "We're not going to make it. It's almost 9 soon! Hurry!"

She had already disappeared outside before Mu Yuchen could reply.

This woman was very dedicated to her work. Even he was impressed by her passion. Leaving his mug aside, he made a trip to the kitchen when he saw the half-drunk milk on the table.

When he drove to the entrance, she was already waiting for him. She opened the door to the front passenger seat when the car stopped. Then, she put the briefcases aside before continuing to munch on her bread.

He handed her a bottle of warm milk before starting the car.

Xi Xiaye took it from him and gulped it with the bread still inside her mouth. While he was focused on driving at the moment, she informed him, "I've put in the documents for Ah Mo inside your briefcase. It's the one in blue. There are also some digital documents too. Give me his email address and I'll send it to him directly."

She grabbed another morsel from the bread.

"I'll ask him to go to your office after meeting later. Just copy it to him then," he replied quietly before speeding up.

Xi Xiaye nodded and swiftly finished the bread in her hand. She cleaned the crumbs up with a tissue paper before turning on the music player. Then, she started flipping through the papers she had just picked up at the villa entrance.

The moment she glanced at the first page, she saw that it was filled with news about the opening ceremony of Glory World's Imperial Sky Entertainment City. There was also mentions about her conflict with Xi Xinyi last night with a blown-up picture of Xi Xiaye extending her arm the second Xi Xinyi dropped the glass. However, there were no pictures of Mu Yuchen and her last night anywhere...

She suddenly remembered his phone call the night before. It must be about this.

She did not say anything about it, but she lost interest in reading after she saw the news. Instead, she started looking at the scenery outside the car window.

“Right, I forgot to tell you one thing.” After some time, she suddenly remembered that Su Nan and Ruan Heng’s wedding was on the fifteenth. Today was the eighth, so it was not very far away from now.

He slowed the car down as the traffic light in front turned red before replying briefly, “Mmm.”

“Nan Nan and Ruan Heng’s wedding is on the fifteenth. I asked them about the venue yesterday and it seems that they haven’t decided on it yet. Imperial Sky Hotel is just in the city and it’s convenient, so can we let them organize their wedding in Imperial Sky Hotel?” She asked him.

“You can decide on small matters like this. Just show them the card I gave you and they’ll understand.”

He took a pause after replying, and then continued, “These two friends of yours are really great people. You’re really lucky to have friends like them. Get out more in the future and get to know more people, then you’ll start to improve on your pitiful EQ. Don’t always just let your life revolve around work. Shouldn’t you women always hang out at places like beauty shops or spas? Why do I have no recollection of you ever mentioning these places?”

He continued driving.

Xi Xiaye was stunned when she heard him.

Women would be really sensitive towards terms like “beauty” and “spa”, but her first reaction was a frown on her face. She then touched her attractive face and looked at her hands. “Do I look old lately? Am I looking that bad? Is my skin getting worse?”

As expected, it was a typical reaction from a woman. Even Zhuang Shurong would behave similarly whenever Mu Tangchuan mentioned something like that. She would immediately take some time off to visit a spa.

And now his woman was the same too!

He glanced at her and noticed she was frowning like she was thinking hard about something. After a while, she turned to him. “I’m going to a spa this weekend. Why don’t you come with me too? The

masseuse there are pretty good and I know some of them well. We didn't really get to rest during the holidays anyway. It's not a bad idea to relax for a bit."

"Masseuse? Man or woman?" He suddenly demanded.

Xi Xiaye was a little taken aback and looked at him doubtfully. She then replied, "There are a few pretty good-looking guys..."

"I'll bring you somewhere else. You can go there in the future." His tone sounded firm and determined.

Chapter 179. Going To Work Together (2)

Xi Xiaye gave it some thought and after hearing the firm tone in his voice, she mumbled, "But I just upgraded to super VIP. It's pretty expensive..."

He could not be bothered to give her a reply. Instead, he just stared at her, the pressure scaring her. She took a deep breath and then took out her phone. "I'll give it to Nan Nan then, and I'll tell her about the hotel too."

Swiftly, she dialed Su Nan's number.

The call was on hold for some time and no one picked up. Just when she thought that she was probably still asleep, the call connected before she was about to hang up.

"Hello? Xia... Xiaye, what's up? This is super early... in the morning..." Su Nan was panting as if she was exhausted by something.

Xi Xiaye frowned, noticing that this was not normal. "What's wrong? Why did it take you so long to answer?"

She then heard some rustling and the voice of Ruan Heng before Su Nan's voice reached her again, "Xiaye... We're in the midst of something. Ruan Heng, be more gentle... Xiaye... Ruan Heng, you bastard! What's up, Xiaye?"

The intimate sounds came through the phone. In addition to Su Nan's gasping, Xi Xiaye would really be an idiot if she still could not figure out what "in the midst of something" meant!

Her face blushed as she coughed lightly and replied, "Never mind. It's about the hotel for your wedding. Give me a call later after you're done or you can call me at night too."

She quickly hung up.

Her face was bright red. Although it was not the first time she had encountered something like this when calling Su Nan and she had always been able to react calmly, things were different now because Mu Yuchen was right beside her. With Su Nan's loud voice, he must have heard everything they said.

She turned towards him and saw that his expression was calm as usual, so she felt relieved because she thought he must have missed it because he was focused on driving. Suddenly, he said, "Your friends are pretty intimate with each other."

Xi Xiaye's face turned even redder — he had heard it after all!

She went quiet for a moment before replying, "Of course, they've always been close, especially now that they're in their honeymoon period, so they..."

Before she could finish, Mu Yuchen thought of something as he glanced at her tomato-like face and he said gently, "You don't have to be envious of them. I'll satisfy you tonight."

Xi Xiaye was stunned by his words. She only got what he meant after a moment and she stared at him. It was such a perverted phrase, yet coming out from his mouth, it did not seem too flirty at all. In fact, it was almost natural.

She did not respond to him and turned to face outside the window as his laughter reached her ears.

The car was arriving in Glory World's parking lot. Mu Yuchen parked his car at his designated spot. Without hesitating, the woman beside him speedily got out of the car with her briefcase.

“I’ll go in first. Take your own briefcase.”

She looked around and noticed that there were not many people, so she calmed down and walked into the building.

Employees crowded the office elevators early in the morning since working hours had started. She took a glance at the time and decided to walk straight up to the meeting.

Xi Xiaye felt a little helpless upon being late on the first work day after the New Year. For the first time, she had broken her year-long streak of being on time for work

“Morning, Director Xi!”

“Hello, Director Xi!”

“Happy New Year, Director Xi!”

...

Everyone seemed to be merry and many of them greeted Xi Xiaye along the way.

Most of the employees remember this director now after she stood on stage last night. Moreover, she had attended the event as Mu Yuchen partner which was intriguing to some of them.

Xi Xiaye arrived at the elevators and waited with everyone else.

There were several elevators for the employees as well as one for the chairman exclusively. She was waiting in front of an employee lift.

After waiting for a while, waves of greetings came from behind her.

“Hello, Chairman Mu!”

“Good morning, Chairman Mu!”

“Morning, Chairman Mu!”

Xi Xiaye did not turn around when she heard the greetings to Mu Yuchen. Instead, his exclusive scent reached up to her, announcing the arrival of a certain someone beside her. He handed a phone to her and said calmly without looking at her, “You left your phone in the car.”

Xi Xiaye was stunned again. After a while, she came back to her senses after a while and quickly took the phone back before he stepped into his own exclusive lift.

At this moment, Xi Xiaye noticed everyone looking at her oddly.

They were doubtful, shocked, envious, and even ambiguous!

It was obvious that everyone was speculating about her relationship with Mu Yuchen, especially after what happened recently. There were rumors in the company that they were secret lovers, but of course, Xi Xiaye was totally unaware of this. She underestimated the gossip level of her subordinates.

When she arrived at her office, she noticed that Xiao Mei had cleaned up her table and was watering the plants next to the window at the moment.

Xiao Mei turned around to Xi Xiaye and greeted in excitement, “Morning, Director! The PR Department has sent over red packets for the New Year!”

She then pointed at the red packets on the table.

Xi Xiaye nodded before placing her briefcase aside. Checking out where Xiao Mei pointed, she saw an exceptionally large red packet.

“Director, that red packet has the highest amount compared to all the previous years! Chairman Mu is really generous!” Xiao Mei beamed happily.

“Really?” Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows with a grin. She opened the red packet and saw several pieces of red notes inside!

She smiled as she kept the red packet, then she asked, “Did you guys go back very late last night?”

“Not really. Most of us reached home before midnight. Last night was such a blast! We got to hang out with those big shot celebrities. Now, I kind of feel like they are as normal as we are, just that we’ve headed into different career pathways,” Xiao Mei said straightforwardly with a wide smile on her face.

Chapter 180. Tenderness (1)

Xi Xiaye was glad to hear her reply, so she nodded.

“We’ve accomplished our target if you realize that. After they’ve reached certain heights in their career, they impress people. If you guys are willing to put in the effort, one day you’ll reach a new height in your life, and you’ll get closer to them.”

“I’ll keep that in mind, Director!” Xiao Mei replied with a smile.

“Alright, you can go and work on your stuff after you’re done here. I need to go upstairs for a meeting.” Xi Xiaye took out her folder and pen from the briefcase. Then, she opened her drawer and put on her badge before going out with her folder.

Each of the top brass was already present when she arrived. Mu Yuchen was flipping through the documents in his seat as he was giving some orders to Vice President Zhang Lan beside him. Ah Mo was sitting in as well.

After taking a look at the time, Vice President Liu Lingyu signaled everyone to be quiet. The whole meeting room went silent as the group all looked at Mu Yuchen who was still reading the documents.

After a while, Mu Yuchen raised his head and glanced at Xi Xiaye's direction. She opened her folder with her head facing down with a pen in her hand, ready for taking notes. His lowered eyelids concealed the slight tenderness for her.

"A new year of hard work starts today. Everyone's arduous effort earned extraordinary results last year and I'm really grateful. I hope everyone can keep it up in this new year." Mu Yuchen started talking in his calm voice.

He took a pause and grabbed a document from Li Si, then he continued, "Our company's mission this year is tougher as the projects are getting bigger. Aside from Car City which is already in progress, we have the South River Project and Movie City on our hands. These are two highly challenging projects..."

The first meeting of the new year decided on the company's direction for the entire year. It took quite some time to analyze their portfolio. After talking through several projects and concluding them, it was nearly noon when the meeting was adjourned.

Later, when Xi Xiaye went back to her office on the 51st floor, Xiao Mei came in with a large pile of documents for her to sign.

"Director, it's lunchtime. Please go and have lunch," reminded Xiao Mei as she left the documents on her table.

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Mmm, I'll go later. You can go first."

Xiao Mei left the room and Xi Xiaye sat down in her chair to open her folder and start organizing her meeting notes. Lunch break ended at 2 p.m., so she was not really in a rush.

Usually, she would go to the office canteen at 12.30 p.m. for a quick meal, which left her an hour to rest and relax.

It took her half an hour to finish organizing the notes. Then, Xi Xiaye left her office and went to the canteen. Unexpectedly, she found Li Si at the entrance.

“Director Xi! Are you here for lunch too?” Li Si greeted her with a smile.”

Xi Xiaye nodded. Not seeing Mu Yuchen with him, she asked, “Where is he?”

Naturally, Li Si understood who she was referring to, so he replied, “Chairman Mu said he’s not hungry. He’s in the office discussing the project with Ah Mo. Oh, right, Director Xi, Chairman Mu wants you to visit him later. Your USB is still with him.”

Xi Xiaye then remembered that she had handed him a USB this morning. She nodded. “Mmm, got it.”

She went to the counter and ordered two rice sets for takeaway and a pumpkin porridge for herself. Then, she left the canteen immediately.

Mu Yuchen was discussing the details of Movie City with Ah Mo when they heard a knock on the door. He said briefly, “Come in.”

The door opened swiftly. Ah Mo raised his head to see Xi Xiaye’s slender figure. He called out to her in surprise, “Missus?”

Ah Mo’s voice made the man’s eyes avert away from his laptop screen as she went towards the coffee table and put the takeaway there.

“I met Li Si at the canteen and found out that you guys are still busy. Have lunch first. I came here for the USB, so I’ll copy the files for Ah Mo too,” she spoke as she walked towards the office table. Ah Mo who was standing beside Mu Yuchen moved away as she smiled at him by way of greeting.

“Where’s my USB?” She looked at the man who was still staring at the screen.

Mu Yuchen closed the window on the screen as he opened a drawer beside him and handed her the USB but his eyes were fixed on Ah Mo. “Your sister-in-law will copy some digital files for you later. If you have any more issues, go and ask Vice President Liu about it and he’ll walk you through them. Take these documents and familiarize yourself with them first. It’ll take quite some effort. Can you do it?”

Ah Mo nodded. "Don't worry, Master. I got it. I'll go back down first."

"I bought some rice for you too. Have it here before you go," Xi Xiaye said.

"Thank you, Missus. I'll just eat it downstairs."

Ah Mo smiled at her. Of course, he would not want to be the third wheel, so he picked up one of the rice boxes and left the office swiftly.

Xi Xiaye frowned as she saw Ah Mo vanish outside the door. After a while, she said, "I'll copy the stuff first."

She then inserted the USB into his computer and he was quick to help. "Which folder?"

"This one titled 'ys'. The password is XXXXXX. Take a look at them and then copy it into your computer. Then, give a copy of it to Ah Mo afterward."

He was soon finished with it and closed the window before handing back the USB drive to her. Just as she was about to take it, he suddenly grabbed her hand and she fell into his arms.

"What...? Mmm..." She yelled out of shock, but before she could utter any more, he lowered his head and blocked her speech with a kiss...

His refreshing scent filled her. She could not help herself as she wrapped her arms around his shoulder. Tilting her head to one side, she willingly and gracefully embraced him.