

Loving 191

Chapter 191. Sprouting Doubts (1)

Xi Xiaye watched the car until it disappeared at the end of the road. Just as she was about to get into her car, the phone inside her pocket started ringing.

It was Wang Hui calling. She was urging Xi Xiaye to go over soon, so Xi Xiaye gave her a brief reply before hanging up and rushing over.

Wang Hui was sitting on a long bench beside the public square waiting when Xi Xiaye arrived at the New Era Plaza. What surprised Xi Xiaye was that Mu Yinan had come over as well.

“Grandfather, Grandmother! Have you guys been waiting for a long time?” Xi Xiaye called out to the old couple who were chatting to each other as she went over to them.

The old couple stopped talking and looked towards the direction of the voice calling out to them. When they saw Xi Xiaye’s face flushed from rushing over, Wang Hui and Mu Yinan traded glances and laughed. “Not really. Have you had lunch?”

Xi Xiaye nodded. “I went back to the Shen Residence with Mu Yuchen. My mother made lunch for us.”

“Then, what about Chen Er? Where is he?” Wang Hui looked around but Mu Yuchen was nowhere to be found.

“He said he needs to be at the council office and he’ll head straight back to the Mu Residence at night. Where do you two want to walk around?” Xi Xiaye handed Mu Yinan his walking cane as she asked.

Mu Yinan took the cane from her with a smile. “I’ve never really had the time to visit after this place started running. I heard from your grandmother that this place is doing well, so I decided to tag along to take a look.”

“I’m pretty sure he saw President Elder Wang looking pretty suave in a Tang suit several days ago and wanted one himself, so he came along to shop today. Just how old are you already? Still not changing

that side of you! Yet you try to make yourself sound cool!” Wang Hui rolled her eyes at Mu Yinan and grabbed Xi Xiaye’s hand as she mocked him.

Mu Yinan was unhappy when his wife made fun of him. “Aren’t you too? Didn’t you think about getting some custom-made qipaosas well? Xiaye, your grandmother’s mind is going dull. She’s even going to sign up for a Latin dance class later. Trying to flirt around even at such an old age! Do you know that at Elder Wu’s birthday banquet, they were both dancing so happily? He was your grandma’s comrade from last time and he wrote a disgusting love letter to her before. I can still remember it now!”

Mu Yinan was suddenly triggered and ignored Wang Hui’s clouded expression as he recited the content of the love letter from his memory.

“You’re the wind that passes through flowers like the sunset of that spring evening, bringing along the elegant fragrance, gently moving through my metal gun. Oh my lady, you’re...”

Before Mu Yinan could finish, Wang Hui jumped onto Mu Yinan, blushing furiously. “Mu Yinan! Shut up! You think you’re the only one good at picking up girls! Do you want me to reveal everything about you in front of our granddaughter-in-law?”

“Sure, I’m good at it anyway!”

“You!”

...

Xi Xiaye stood aside as she watched the old bickering couple with a smile. She did not stop them and just observed quietly.

After a while, they stopped.

“I’m not talking to you anymore!”

“Hmph!”

The two of them looked away angrily.

Finding herself in such a funny situation, Xi Xiaye had no idea which side she should be on. After a brief moment, she tried to smooth things over. “Alright, Grandfather and Grandmother, this is actually pretty easy. Since Grandmother likes to dance, why don’t you become her partner, Grandfather? I remember that you dance pretty well, and with this, you can train yourself too, so why not?”

The old couple found the suggestion acceptable, and the war ceased. The three of them walked around together.

They went into a retro shop and the owner welcomed them passionately when he saw Mu Yinan. With Wang Hui’s encouragement Xi Xiaye tried on several qipaos.

While she looked skinny, she had a nice figure. Everyone thought she looked great as she put on the qipaos, and Wang Hui got the salesperson to pack it up immediately.

“Grandfather, this section consists mostly of foreign brands. It’s one of the higher spending areas, kind of similar to Imperial Sky Fashion City, but this isn’t the company’s main focus this year anymore...” Xi Xiaye walked forward as she briefed Mu Yinan.

Mu Yinan nodded from time to time in satisfaction. “Mmm, that’s pretty good. I’m not worried about leaving the company to you two at all.”

...

At 6 p.m. in the evening, the sky turned dark and the three of them came out from the shopping area. There were also several servants behind them who were called from home on short notice to help carry the things they had bought.

When they arrived at the public square, Xi Xiaye told Wang Hui and Mu Yinan to rest on the long bench while she went to get the car. Unexpectedly, she ran into two people she was not pleased to meet.

They were Han Yifeng's mother, Huang Ziyao, and Huang Shanshan.

Huang Ziyao's impression of Xi Xiaye had always been quite positive before. She also knew that Xi Xiaye treated her son very well, but she seemed to be fonder of Xi Xinyi after finding out what had happened between them.

For some reason, Xi Xinyi just fit her standard of a daughter-in-law better. Also, her son liked her more.

However, she felt mixed emotions when she saw Xi Xiaye, especially after reading the news on the papers for the past few days. She gave it some thought before walking over to Xi Xiaye who was getting her car.

"Xiaye?"

"What's the matter, Mrs. Han?" Xi Xiaye was pretty calm herself because she did not really have any feelings towards Huang Ziyao.

"You really overdid it, Xi Xiaye. You're even attacking your own sister! Just who is that Caitlyn? You chose her! What exactly did she give you?"

Huang Shanshan was really angry, ignoring the fact that Huang Ziyao was there, she already started yelling at Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye glanced at her and laughed coldly. "Do you think that the ambassadorship was already decided for Xi Xinyi? If that's what you think, then I can tell you that you're right. I did it based on my personal feelings. I didn't want Xi Xinyi to get it, so what?"

"You! Witch! Aunt, look at her!" Huang Shanshan glared at Xi Xiaye before turning to Huang Ziyao.

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Huang Ziyao's eyes seemed to have mixed feelings as she looked at Xi Xiaye in disappointment. "Xiaye, why won't you let it go? I'm not really willing to intervene between you youngsters, but your behavior is

really disappointing. No matter what, it's impossible between you and Yifeng anymore. Why do you have to take revenge...?"

"Mrs. Han!" Before Huang Ziyao could finish her words, Xi Xiaye interrupted her. "I think I've made it clear to Han Yifeng that from the moment he chose Xi Xinyi, it was over between us. As for whether I'm taking revenge or not, it's between the Xi family and me. It has nothing to do with you. I hope you don't interfere, or else, you might be affected as well."

Her tone was cold and unfriendly. Huang Shanshan had been enduring her many times, and she could not hold it in anymore since she kept attacking them offensively.

"Xi Xiaye! How dare you!?" Huang Shanshan's tone was stern while she glared at Xi Xiaye.

"Xiaye, how could you say that? I don't remember you being like this in the past!" Huang Ziyao frowned as she looked at the aloof Xi Xiaye.

"How was I like in the past? Listening to whatever everyone says? Or what? If Xi Xinyi wants to get back at me, ask her to come by herself. I'll deal with her personally."

Xi Xiaye's tone sounded condescending as she glanced at both of them. "If you guys still think that I'm clinging onto Han Yifeng, you two can go back and ask him if he's still qualified. Why does he feel so great about himself?"

"What did you say?!" Huang Shanshan's face turned ferocious when she heard Xi Xiaye's words.

"I'm saying that you, Huang Shanshan, think you're pretty smart, but you don't even know when you've been used." Xi Xiaye smirked with a faint light in her eyes. "Didn't you like Wang Ziluo before? You've written quite a few love letters to him as well, haven't you? But Wang Ziluo gave you no reaction at all, yet you treated me like a sore thumb because of this matter... Moreover, did you know that he's back already?"

"I'm going to bet that Xi Xinyi didn't tell you. Do you want to know why Wang Ziluo didn't respond to you at all?" Xi Xiaye lowered her body slightly and whispered into Huang Shanshan's ears.

Huang Shanshan's expression froze. She seemed embarrassed, but at the same time, she was curious as well. Her eyes darkened as she stared at Xi Xiaye, expecting her answer.

"Because the letters you sent to Wang Ziluo were similar to the letters Wang Ziluo gave me. They turned into ashes at the hands of someone. Wang Ziluo never received your letters. If you don't believe me, I can give him a call now..."

"Impossible! This is impossible!" Huang Shanshan's expression darkened as she yelled before Xi Xiaye could finish her sentence. She glared at Xi Xiaye angrily.

Xi Xiaye stood up straight with satisfaction when she saw Huang Shanshan's frustrated expression, and she smiled. "You don't believe me? Okay, I remember another thing as well. On your twentieth birthday party, the diamond necklace your cousin gave you vanished. Then, Xi Xinyi gave you her necklace, didn't she? Don't you want to know where your necklace went? Go back and ask your best friend. Maybe she might accidentally tell you... Haven't you realized that she seems to come to your aid ever so conveniently every single time?"

Huang Shanshan's expression turned odd and Xi Xiaye smiled. She then went into her car without looking at the two of them.

The moment her car arrived in the public square, the servant's voice reached her from outside. "Missus, it's a call from Master!"

Xi Xiaye turned around to see the servant running towards her with a phone in her hand.

Her phone battery had died and Mu Yuchen had probably called Wang Hui to reach her. Xi Xiaye took the phone after she got out of the car to answer the call. "Hello..."

"Mmm, it's me." Mu Yuchen's voice came from the other end. "I'm not going back to the Mu Residence tonight. There's something I need to attend to. I'll go right back to Maple Residence later. I'm just letting you know, so you can go home earlier after dinner later."

Su Chen and some others had dragged Mu Yuchen along for drinks. Even Zhou Zimo joined them as well. He was probably in a room with them right now as Xi Xiaye could hear the noise of glasses over the call.

Xi Xiaye went silent for a moment before replying, "Mmm got it. Don't drink too much. There's a meeting early tomorrow."

...

On the other hand, Huang Shanshan was still beyond herself after she heard what Xi Xiaye said. She was doubtful even long after Xi Xiaye's car vanished. Only after Huang Ziyao called out to her several times did she come back to her senses.

Huang Ziyao was a little shocked to see Huang Shanshan's haunted expression and asked, "Shanshan, what did Xiaye mean? Why do you look so unwell? Are you alright?"

Huang Shanshan tried to shake it off, her eyes returning back to normal.

Xi Xiaye must be trying to weaken her relationship with Xi Xinyi, but she, Huang Shanshan, would not fall into the trap!

That must be what was happening!

Huang Shanshan clenched her fists as she told herself even though there was a hint of uncertainty that flashed through her mind.

"I'm alright, Aunt! Let's go!" Huang Shanshan said after a while as she suppressed her emotions. She clung onto Huang Ziyao's arm and walked ahead together.

...

At night, in the Mu Residence.

Wang Hui was sending Xi Xiaye off at the entrance. The butler had tucked several big bags of stuff inside the car. She held onto Xi Xiaye hands and said kindly, "Xiaye, remember what Grandmother told you

tonight. Have more of these tonics that I gave you. Otherwise, you'll suffer much more when you become pregnant. When your mother-in-law had Chen Er back then, she almost lost him because she overexerted herself. Your father-in-law forced her to rest at home for half a year and at last, she gave birth safely. The red bag is for you, the blue bag is for Chen Er. I know the both of you are busy with work and don't really care about these things, so I've prepared them for you guys."

Xi Xiaye was a little embarrassed when she heard Wang Hui's words. The topic throughout the night did not move away from having kids at all; it was obvious that she was desperate for grandchildren.

"Also, don't let Chen Er drink and smoke..."

"I got it, Grandmother. I'll let him know!"

Xi Xiaye could not stand it anymore, so she quickly nodded as she stepped into the car. "I'll head back now. Grandmother, you should go back too. Goodbye!"

"Okay. Come back whenever you're free..."

Chapter 193. Incident (1)

When she returned to Maple Residence, it was already past 9 p.m. at night, and the villa was still quiet while the streetlights in the front yard were automatically switched on.

Mu Yuchen was not back yet.

Xi Xiaye dragged her exhausted self into the house, casually setting the big bags onto the table before walking upstairs. She took a simple shower and felt a wave of fatigue, so she did not have the mood to persist looking through documents as she usually did.

Because of the launch, she had not had proper rest for the past few days. In the afternoon, after accompanying Wang Hui to shop for quite a few hours, she was quite worn out.

After lying down for a short while, she fell asleep right away.

On the other end, in a luxurious private room of a certain high-class entertainment club, things were getting lively.

There were a total of 12 people in the room: seven men and five women. A man and a woman were happily singing away as Mu Yuchen, Su Chen and Zhou Zimo were playing cards at the bar while two fresh and beautiful girls were blushing as they watched them.

“Again, Ah Chen, how many cards do you have?” Zhou Zimo tossed out one of his cards as he squinted at the cards Mu Yuchen held.

Mu Yuchen followed up with a card as he said plainly, “I still have three. I think the two of you should start counting how much money you should be banking in to me this time.”

Then, he straightened up and leaned gently against the wall behind him, casually tossing out the last three cards in his hand.

“Master Mu, you’re so amazing! How about you teach us how to play!” One of the girls smiled and leaned closer, her eyes twinkling with adoration and admiration as she handed the drink in her hand to Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen just raised his hand slightly to stop her. He said as he got up to pick up the windbreaker beside him, “It’s not early anymore, so I’m going home now. I still have an early meeting tomorrow.”

“It’s not even 10 p.m. and already you want to go? Master Mu, what a party pooper!” The rejected girl leaned over and threw a little tantrum dejectedly.

Mu Yuchen pushed the girl that closed in to him away with one hand as his gaze fell onto Su Chen and Zhou Zimo. “You guys should go back too. Otherwise, the elders are going to call me.”

Su Chen and Zhou Zimo then sulkily tossed their cards away, picked up their coats, and got up too.

Mu Yuchen bade a few other people farewell and paid the bill before the three buddies walked out of the club...

“What do you think? Do you feel like you’re especially tied down after marriage? Usually, at this hour, we buddies would be happily having fun. Now, you just miss your woman at home.”

Outside the club, Su Chen took a cigarette out and lit it. Then, he handed the cigarette box to Mu Yuchen who slide one out for himself and took a light drag. He looked up slightly at the neon lights that flickered from the tall building across.

“I find it pretty good actually, so you guys should try it too.”

He took a few puffs before picking up his pace and walking down the stairs. His clear and eye-pleasing tall figure quietly passed under the dim streetlights. Quickly, he got into his car and drove off.

As they watched the car drive further away, Su Chen shrugged. He turned a little helplessly to Zhou Zimo and said with puzzlement, “Bro, he’s gone. We haven’t even had enough fun yet. I think we’ll talk about this marriage thing in another few more years!”

When he heard this, Zhou Zimo’s handsome face instantly flashed with a smile. “You really can’t tell with such things. Didn’t this fella just say two months ago that he’ll be pursuing the singlehood ideology? But, look at him now!”

Then, he put on the coat that was on his shoulder and walked down the stairs. “I’m leaving too. I still have work tomorrow morning. Come over to my place this weekend for drinks!”

...

It was getting late in the night, and the French window on the side did not seem to have been closed tightly, so one could faintly hear the sound of the night breeze brushing through the treetops.

Xi Xiaye did not know how long she had slept for either. She just knew that while she was deep in her sleep, she seemed to have heard the door open and then the sound of water bubbling.

After what seemed like a decade had passed, she felt the blanket beside her being pulled open. She then woke up in a daze from her deep sleep while at this moment, the man beside her had already pulled her into an embrace and turned to pin her under him. The familiar fresh fragrance came to her as a cold kiss had already fallen like dense raindrops on her lips.

She struggled for a little before opening her eyes. She saw through the blurriness and borrowed the weak light to see him restlessly messing around.

“Why are you so late? I’m really tired... Let’s not do this tonight...”

Before she could finish, the sleeping gown on her had come undone. His raspy and sexy voice came through. “It was all pretty close buddies and friends. I couldn’t leave so early... Let’s just do it once tonight... Hmm?”

Then, without waiting for her response, he started on his own. When Xiaye finally reacted, she already could not reject him, and then she thought about the big pile of things on the table downstairs. She sighed to herself because she could only tell him after they were done.

The temperature in the air suddenly burned up and she could not resist his increasingly skilled teasing. Helplessly, she could only quietly accept and respond...

After the sex, she panted slightly while being engulfed in his embrace. Looking up with unsteady breath at him looking pleased as punch, after calming down, she said with a raspy voice, “Did you see the pile of things on the table downstairs?”

“Hmm, what things?” He hugged her tightly and asked softly. His eyes closed gently to rest, and he looked like he had enjoyed the session.

“It’s what Grandmother prepared. She said... She said it’s for us to have... Uhh... that sooner...” Xi Xiaye turned scarlet and started to feel a little shy as she spoke.

Could she ask him if they could have a child later on? Now, they still had so many things to do. They should wait until they were more stable, so it would be better for everyone. However, this time, they did not seem to have any protection...

When he heard her tone, he suddenly squinted and fixated his gaze on her beautiful face as he asked in a lowered voice, "Aren't you willing?"

"I... It's not that... I was just thinking about waiting until we're more stable before..."

She did not finish her sentence because she realized that his gaze made her feel a little uneasy. She looked at him for quite a while, then suppressed what she wanted to say after that. She let go of his arm in a daze, quietly turning around so that her back faced him.

His large hand reached out and instantly pulled her into his arms again, turning her around and making her face him. His jet black eyes condensed with a profound light as he looked at her. "Or do you think that I'm not as good as him? You can't forget him, so you aren't willing. Is that so?"

"I'm just worried that if we aren't stable, our child will be like me in the future..." She could not help but sigh and did not mind spilling her guts for him to listen.

Chapter 194. Incident (2)

Mu Yuchen squinted as she finished her sentence, and she felt a little uneasy as he stared at her. She could tell that her words made him unhappy.

She could not move away from his grip, so she averted her gaze away from his sharp eyes.

"So, you think we're still unstable?"

His deep tone was afflicted and Xi Xiaye was feeling really anxious about it.

"Look at me, and answer the question!" Mu Yuchen was not letting her get away with this. His hand around her waist tightened.

Xi Xiaye felt pain with the strength he was exerting. She frowned and stared at him, unable to give him an answer.

“We’ll continue stabilizing it then!” His eyes darkened as he saw the hesitation in her eyes. He turned over and covered them up. Soon, the war began once again.

“Don’t be like this... Mmm!”

Xi Xiaye wanted to say no, but Mu Yuchen shushed her and forbade her from continuing to talk.

Xi Xiaye went along with him helplessly. After that, she just passed out into slumberland right away.

Mu Yuchen hugged her with a clear mind. While he watched her with complicated feelings inside him, his eyes suddenly turned blur as well.

She was very frail and did not feel very solid in his arms even after what they just did...

“We’ll be stable...” He murmured after some time as a lonesome sadness appeared in his quiet eyes. He hugged her tightly and felt some of her body warmth, still feeling that what happened between them was real.

...

Afterward, as if they understood each other, no one brought up that topic at all.

Xi Xiaye only remembered that the morning after, Mu Yuchen told her they should just let things proceed naturally and that there was no harm having another person to care and miss.

She did not know how to answer, but then she thought to herself that since things had turned out like this, why should she not just make more changes?

She gave it some thought before nodding silently in agreement.

They were married anyway, so what else could they do? That was bound to come sooner or later. Was this not a sign of them getting along?

After the New Year, they were busy for quite a few days. The next day was the weekend, and they finally had some time to relax.

It was already 4 p.m. after Xi Xiaye handed the stack of documents she signed back. After she gulped some water from the glass, she then started packing up.

“Director Xi, are you going to the north of the city?” Assistant Xiao Mei knew about Xi Xiaye’s habit, so she asked with a smile.

Xi Xiaye grabbed her windbreaker from the clothes hanger and nodded. “I want to go and have a look.”

“Director, you seem to really like those children, but I feel happy when I see they are having fun too.”

Xiao Mei helped Xi Xiaye take the things out from the cupboard that she had been instructed to prepare before. There were two full bags of them.

“I’ll help you get to your car, Director Xi!” Xiao Mei offered when she saw Xi Xiaye holding her briefcase in hand.

Xi Xiaye glanced at the two big bags, then looked at the briefcase she was holding before she nodded. “Okay, thank you.”

“Sure! Most of the things are done anyway. Please rest well during the weekend, Director Xi. You must be exhausted working on the South River project for the past few days.”

She picked up the bags and walked outside. Xi Xiaye smiled as she grabbed her stuff and followed her.

The sun was setting by the time they walked out of the office. It dragged their shadows really long across the pavement and it was a little chilly as the cold wind breezed through.

Xi Xiaye walked forward as she took the car keys out from her pocket. Xiao Mei followed behind her as she went towards the parking lot.

Xi Xiaye unlocked the car and opened the door to the passenger seat. Just as she was about to retrieve the stuff from Xiao Mei, she noticed her assistant staring at her with wide eyes.

Was this not Chairman Mu's car?

Xiao Mei's eyes glittered and looked at her boss in surprise as she asked, "Director Xi, isn't this...?"

Xi Xiaye then realized her mistake. She answered after a brief moment of silence, "I borrowed it from him."

She then took the bags from Xiao Mei and stuffed them on the passenger seat.

"Oh..."

As if Xiao Mei understood something, she glanced at Xi Xiaye ambiguously with a smile. "Director Xi, actually you look great with Chairman Mu. It's fine if you two aren't really close relatives! Everyone in the office feels that the both of you are a matching pair!"

"Why do you guys think we're a pair?" Xi Xiaye frowned and asked.

She remembered Su Nan having said something similar before as well, but she thought that Mu Yuchen and her just happened to be together. They respected and understood each other. Aside from the relationship between an employee and employer, they were just room buddies...

"Hmm... I'm not sure! We just kind of feel comfortable watching the both of you together! Director, if you really become the chairman's wife, then our departments will become in-laws. Will we be considered first when there are any benefits?" Xiao Mei voiced out her cheeky thoughts as her eyes lit up.

Xi Xiaye laughed. "Always thinking of such things! I'm leaving now. You can go back first."

She then quickly got into the car and drove away, heading towards the road up front.

Xi Xiaye gave Mu Yuchen a call after she was on the road. She told him she might be back a little later tonight.

Mu Yuchen and Ah Mo went to the location of the developing Movie City for inspection. He had left Maple Residence early in the morning and did not drop by the office at all.

It was not time for everyone else to leave work yet, so there was no traffic. Xi Xiaye arrived at the north of the city about an hour later. She stopped the car beside the rundown and desolate orphanage.

She got down from the car and glanced inside through the rusty steel bars. The playground was unusually empty and the whole place seemed quiet.

After staying silent for some time, Xi Xiaye grabbed the two bags and went inside after locking the car.

Chapter 195. Incident (3)

"Miss... It's you!"

There was a surprised voice as Xi Xiaye walked past the cemented path. She raised her head and saw the elder chief of the orphanage, Lady Wang, as well as Teacher Li.

"It's Ms. Xi!" The old chief put on a smile and greeted her.

The chief only knew Xi Xiaye's surname. Although she wanted to get her name in the orphanage to thank her for all the donations she had given, Xi Xiaye had declined her.

Every time she came over, she would just leave the items aside and watch the children outside for a while before leaving.

“Happy New Year! I was working nearby so I came over to take a look.” Xi Xiaye’s face softened and she greeted them respectfully before she handed the things to Teacher Li. “These are some gifts for the children. Are they doing alright?”

Teacher Li was startled for a moment before accepting the two bags with a smile. There was some warmth in her voice. “Thank you, Ms. Xi! The children are doing well. Don’t worry, but...”

Suddenly, Teacher Li stopped talking. She turned around hesitantly and looked at Lady Wang. There was an unspeakable sorrow in her eyes.

Lady Wang seemed depressed as well and her weary eyes darkened as she let out a long sigh. “Ms. Xi, you should go and take a look at those children. This place is going to be demolished in a few days...”

“Demolished?” Xi Xiaye frowned after she heard Lady Wang’s words. Her eyes turned dull and she asked, “What happened?”

“This is an old area, after all. Long ago, the government had plans to rebuild the area. We thought the official paperwork would only be approved several years later and I’ve been working hard on upkeeping this place recently. However, the document was approved before I could get any results from my efforts. This place has been bought and we need to move away by next month...” Lady Wang shared in a depressed tone. Raising her head and looking at her familiar surroundings, she felt like she missed this place already.

It had been several decades!

In the end, they were still going to lose it!

“Then, what will happen to the children?” Xi Xiaye’s heart sank and her eyes seemed concerned.

“We’re having trouble with that too. If we can’t keep this place, we don’t really know what to do as well. We can only send them to welfare agencies temporarily and think of an alternative later on. The chief gathered some people to ask around and see if there are any families willing to adopt some children. At least, we can still do something...”

Teacher Li said in a worried tone, "Some of the children are still young. Xiao Hu and Xiao Qing have rather poor health conditions, so I'm really worried about sending them to the welfare agencies..."

Xi Xiaye grimaced. After a moment of silence, she asked, "Isn't there any other way? Can we keep the place?"

"The buyer is almost done getting all the approval from the government. I'm afraid there's no other way. This old area was going to be reconstructed anyway. I was thinking of using my savings and getting a new house for the children. In the end..."

Lady Wang sighed to Xi Xiaye, "Thank you for your love and care for the children over the years. I thank you on behalf of the kids. You're a good Samaritan and you'll surely be blessed. Go in and take a look at the children. I'm afraid they'll all be separated in a few more days..."

Xi Xiaye felt pain blossom in her chest when she heard Lady Wang's words. She related too much to these children because they reminded her of her lonely self back when she was still studying at boarding school.

She closed her eyes and took a deep breath before asking, "Who bought this place?"

Lady Wang shook her head. "There was no information. It was so sudden that we still aren't sure what happened! Go take a look at the kids, Ms. Xi. They are in class now. We started preparing them for classes earlier..."

Xi Xiaye nodded and followed Lady Wang to the school building.

As they went nearer, the voices of the children's reading reached their ears.

'The sun beyond mountains glow, the Yellow River seawards flow; to enjoy grander sights, climb to greater heights—'

She felt sad as she stood near the back door and watched the children focus in class and make notes!

All these innocent and happy faces should be living with a happy family, but now...

Some of them had been abandoned by their parents because of birth defects while some of them lost their parents because of accidents, and some were children who wandered off and got lost...

How could someone be so cruel to make them lose a permanent home once again, and take away their place to stay?

Xi Xiaye never thought of herself as a kind person. She could watch a poor beggar die of hunger at the end of the street, or watch a crazy gambling addict be pushed to their wit's end.

However, there were some things she still had to do.

She had no idea if it was right or wrong, but if something touched her, she was strongly convinced that she needed to do something about it.

She went back to her car depressed. The sky was already dark when she was about to return to Maple Residence and the street lamps were lit up.

She took her phone out from the pocket and gave Shen Yue a call.

Shen Yue was on the way back home from his office when he received Xi Xiaye's call.

"CEO, it's Ms. Granddaughter's call!"

Lan Zilang handed the phone to Shen Yue in the back with a smile. "It seems that Ms. Granddaughter has been contacting home a lot ever since she got married. She misses both you and Miss a lot more than before."

Shen Yue beamed as well. He nodded and replied, "That's right, I guess it's all to Chen's credit. I'd better reward him sometime, haha..."

He pressed a button and answered the call. "Hello? Xiaye?" Shen Yue's loving voice came through.

Xi Xiaye guided the steering wheel with one hand and slowed down. Her eyes were focused in front while her voice softened slightly. "It's me... Grandpa..."

"What's wrong? Why did you call me at this time? Are you coming home? I'll ask your mother to prepare some dishes for you..."

"No, Grandpa... I need to ask you for a favor," Xi Xiaye interrupted Shen Yue.

"What's the matter?" Shen Yue asked.

"There's an orphanage in the north called Ning An Orphanage. A mysterious buyer bought it and is going to demolish it. I want you to check who bought it..."

Chapter 196. Compel (1)

Shen Yue's face appeared tense after he hung up on the call with Xi Xiaye. He looked at Lan Zilang in front and said quietly, "Ask them who bought the land Ning An Orphanage is sitting on in the old area of the north of the city."

"Got it, CEO!" Lan Zilang immediately made a call.

After the call, Lan Zilang suddenly thought of a matter and asked, "CEO, I heard that Mr. Mu is interested in the South River project, and this project is handled by Ms. Granddaughter. Are you considering it?"

Shen Yue raised his hand to stop him, only replying after a while, "Let her do it herself. She's still young and needs to be trained. If not, she might get crushed if I hand Fuhua over to her. Although Chen is good, I still hope that she can be more independent."

"CEO, I've heard that Ms. Granddaughter took the document from Miss, and Miss signed it too. It seems that Ms. Granddaughter wants to get Yueying..." Lan Zilang hesitated for a moment before reporting.

Shen Yue paused and sighed as comfort passed in his eyes. "I'm happy that they realized it. Wenna never actually walked away from her past trauma. Her mother doted on her too much and just let her do whatever she wanted. If not, things wouldn't have turned out this way. However, it's great now that she's staying by my side."

"What about Yueying then?"

"Let the youngsters do their own thing. We can't break their wings, so let them fly freely and just look after them a little."

Lan Zilang could hear the exhaustion and comfort in his voice. He understood that Shen Yue was probably reflecting on himself from Shen Wenna's incident.

One might lose something more easily by gripping onto it too tightly just like the sand in one's hand...

Mu Yuchen was not back yet when she arrived at Maple Residence. Thinking that he was still busy, Xi Xiaye put her stuff away and went into the kitchen.

She did not know to cook many dishes, so she just made some simple ones and a pot of soup.

She was placing the pot on the dining table when Mu Yuchen came back. "Scoot over a little... It's hot..."

Mu Yuchen dodged her rushing towards him and he also pulled a chair out for her.

"What delicious dishes have you made?" Mu Yuchen grabbed a wet handkerchief and wiped his hands as he looked at the dishes on the table. While the presentation could have been better, the aroma was tantalizing. He sat down on a chair while she scooped the soup into bowls.

"I simply made them. Tell me if they are good but don't say anything if it's not nice. I like to be praised and not criticized. Otherwise, I won't make any meals ever again," she said straightforwardly as she put a bowl of fresh, piping hot soup in front of him.

He laughed quietly and accepted the bowl of soup. "Don't you want to hear my praises?"

"I'm not that shallow."

She got herself a bowl of soup as well before sitting down and handing him a pair of chopsticks. "It's the weekend tomorrow and we've promised to relax. Su Nan has sent the invitation card to the company today. Here it is. What gifts do you think we should get her?"

She put her bowl down and then took out a red invitation card from her bag to hand it to him.

Mu Yuchen grabbed it and studied it. "Can't we just give them a big red packet?"

"What poor taste!" She rolled her eyes at him.

"Then, you tell me what's a gift of good taste? Isn't something solid better?" He replied as he took some food and put it into his mouth elegantly.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath. "Well, giving a red packet with a prosperous number seems like a good idea as well."

"I'll get Li Si to prepare it. Check if you still need anything prepared. I have no idea what women like, but I can go shopping with you tomorrow." He then continued eating quietly.

She gave him a brief reply before she grabbed her bowl and started eating.

After the dinner and a shower, the couple sat on the sofa together with the television turned on and a pot of tea beside them. He was reading a book while she was watching television beside him.

Suddenly, Shen Yue called her. It must be about the orphanage.

Xi Xiaye saw the caller ID and her eyes brightened. Immediately, she sat up straight before answering the call. Before Shen Yue could say anything, she asked worriedly, "Hello? Grandpa? How is it?"

Xi Xiaye's questions got a heavy sigh in return. After a while, Shen Yue replied, "I've found out about it. Zilang called me and said the Han Corporation bought it. It was Han Yifeng... Have you been in trouble with him lately?"

Han Corporation...

Han Yifeng had bought it!

Xi Xiaye was shocked when she heard that name. Her hand froze up and she started to miss out on what Shen Yue was saying as his voice faded in her ears. She could feel her heart sink and a sense of pain throbbed inside while her eyes darkened.

Why would it be Han Yifeng?

After a while, she came back to her senses when she heard Shen Yue's voice. She replied quietly, "Okay, I got it, Grandpa. It's alright. It's late now and you should go and rest. Goodnight!"

The man beside her with sharp senses could feel something was not right. He took his eyes off the book and glanced at her, his eyebrows furrowing when he noticed she was frowning as well. "What's wrong?"

Xi Xiaye quickly put her hand on her forehead and placed the teacup on the table. She took a deep breath in. "Nothing. It's just about the orphanage... I'll tell you once I find out more about it."

She then quickly made a call. "Hello? Senior Chu? It's me, Xi Xiaye..."

"Can you please help me check at which stage has the paperwork been processed with the orphanage land in the north of the city that's been bought by the Han Corporation? Yes... It's there. I just found out they bought it, but the documents still need the approval from the government. Please help me check who's handling it. I need the people from both sides, yes..."

Mu Yuchen's frown got deeper as he heard her conversation. He could somewhat piece the information together and he asked after she hung up on the call, "Is Han Yifeng messing with you?"

Xi Xiaye put her phone away and mumbled, "The Han Corporation bought the orphanage land. While it's known that the place will be demolished and will be redeveloped into a new housing area or a new supermarket, the Han Corporation isn't involved in these areas, so why would they suddenly buy that place?"

Chapter 197. Compel (2)

This really was an enigma to Xi Xiaye.

As Mu Yuchen listened, he lowered his head and pondered thoughtfully while Xi Xiaye said with slight waning enthusiasm, "Forget it. Let's not think too much about it. I'll see if Senior Chu can get a clearer picture on this tomorrow."

"Senior Chu?" Mu Yuchen very quickly caught onto the keywords.

Xi Xiaye smiled calmly. "Director Chu from our company. He used to be from downtown too. He's three years older than Su Nan and I, and he's very good friends with Ruan Heng. Previously, I wasn't close with him either. Later on, after he joined Glory World, he's been following VP Liu and we've collaborated quite a few times, so we started to get close."

"I can see that you're pretty close to him." The man meaningfully narrowed his eyes at her and smiled faintly.

Xi Xiaye thought about it earnestly, then gladly nodded. "I guess. Senior Chu does look out for me. Back then, when I just joined the company, I had him to thank for all the help."

"I couldn't tell. You're pretty wanted in the market! And there's that Wang Ziluo..." He laughed and his gaze started to look at her with interest.

Xi Xiaye shrugged as she raised her brows. "Wang Ziluo is from a few centuries ago! In fact, I heard that he already has a fiancé. As for Senior Chu, VP Chen from our department is going after him rather eagerly..."

...

The next day, when Xi Xiaye woke up it was already close to 10 a.m., so the husband and wife simply tidied up the room a little. After lunch, just as they were about to leave the house, Xi Xiaye unexpectedly received someone's call. It was Deng Wenwen!

"Take a trip out. There's something you should be quite interested in. I'll be waiting for you at the New Era Plaza. Otherwise, I can also go look for you at Glory World Corporation!"

Deng Wenwen still sounded so powerful and high and mighty when she said this. Without waiting for Xi Xiaye to answer, she hung up.

Xi Xiaye stared at the screen that dimmed as her starry eyes went cold. She suddenly tightened her grip on the phone and hostility appeared on her beautiful face.

She took in a deep breath and put on an icy smile. Then, she tossed the phone aside and then started the car. "Let's make a trip to the New Era Plaza first."

"Did something come up from the other side again?" Mu Yuchen, who was reading a magazine on the front passenger's seat, saw that she looked upset, so he asked as he casually flipped another page.

Xi Xiaye did not answer and just calmly sped up.

When they reached the New Era Plaza, Xi Xiaye found a parking spot underneath the coffee shop. Unbuckling her safety belt, she then turned to say to him, "I'll be going up for a bit, but I'll be back down very quickly. Just wait for me here."

Mu Yuchen, who was closing his eyes to rest, slowly opened his eyes. His deep eyes took a look around and looked towards the coffee shop outside the car window. Then, he nodded. "Go then."

When she found Deng Wenwen, the woman was leisurely drinking her coffee. It seemed that she had waited for quite a while.

“Why did you take so long?” When she saw Xi Xiaye, Deng Wenwen did not look too pleased. Xi Xinyi’s scandal was now worsening and everything had stemmed from Xi Xiaye before her. Naturally, she was resentful.

“If you’re not happy with waiting for so long, you didn’t have to keep waiting.” Xi Xiaye was not courteous as well. She just sat right across her, and facing Deng Wenwen with a threatening aura, she remained extremely calm as she usually did.

“If there’s anything, just spit it out. I’d like to hear what important thing you have to tell me.”

“I know that you’re not very happy about me looking for your mother to ask for that document back. If that document is with you, I hope that you can hand it over. Otherwise, it would just be useless with you.” Deng Wenwen did not mind getting right to the point either.

Indeed, it was about this again!

“Yueying’s 20% of shares... That was compensation for my mother from Father. Why should you be asking us for this? I don’t mind telling you either that the document has already been signed and is in effect. In fact, I’ve already sold it to someone else.”

“Sold it to someone else? Who did you sell it to? Yueying is our Xi family’s property. How dare you sell it as you wish? I hope that you can hand it over yourself. I can compensate you. Just give me a copy. For the sake of you mother and daughter both, I, Deng Wenwen won’t treat you unfairly! No matter what, the 20% of shares can’t be sold! You should remember that this is enough to waver the foundation of my Yueying!” Deng Wenwen demanded with a stern voice and a hardened expression on her aged face.

“Previously, I seem to have mentioned to Yue Lingsi the price: one billion. If you can, then show me this sum of money and maybe I’ll consider it, CEO Deng.”

“Xiaye, you’re really asking for a lot. You’re all grown up now but you even dare to say such things to me! You’re too much!”

Deng Wenwen felt her blood pressure rise hearing Xi Xiaye. Her eyes leaped with fireworks and fury was apparent in her entire body language.

“Back then, when you forced me to sign the document, weren’t you even worse?” Xi Xiaye was not moved and she retorted coldly.

“Okay! Okay! Initially, I didn’t want to make things this miserable, but since you won’t understand my earnest efforts, don’t blame me for being rude! Yueying is my life’s work. It’s my life! Whoever dares to touch it means that they’re asking for my life, and whoever wants my life, I won’t be courteous with! Whoever that may be!”

As Deng Wenwen asserted this, she tossed a document to Xi Xiaye. “This should hold enough weight!”

Xi Xiaye’s starry eyes squinted. She shot an indifferent look at Deng Wenwen, then calmly took the file and opened it. She pulled the document out from within and casually flipped it to skim through.

However, she had only taken a few glances when her beautiful face sank. Her eyes were instantly condensed with gloominess and bitterness. She quickly flipped through it a few more times before she looked up with hostility, staring in disbelief at Deng Wenwen.

As if she was very satisfied with Xi Xiaye’s reaction, Deng Wenwen’s aged face flashed with a victorious and delighted smile. “I know that you care quite a bit about that orphanage. All these years, you’ve been sponsoring them too, so it should be quite special to you. Coincidentally, it’s about time for its demolition. If you’re willing to hand over the document you have in exchange for it, then this land will be yours. Now, this should be quite worth it, shouldn’t it? If you still think it’s not enough, I can add on another five million, but this is as far as my kindness goes!”

Xi Xiaye clenched onto the document until the tips of her fingers turned pale and she trembled slightly. Then, she suddenly breathed in and there was a tight pain in her chest that could not be suppressed. Despair and pain appeared in her twinkling eyes that had endured so much while she glared in disbelief at Deng Wenwen who smiled with such lack of regard...

It was not sure how long passed before she suddenly lowered her head. Her beautiful, long hair had already covered her pale little face as an indescribable feeling of repressed emotions started to expand.

It seemed like despair and sorrow, but even more so, it seemed like coldness...

Chapter 198. Xiaye's Trick!

Deng Wenwen stared at Xi Xiaye before her with a hard expression. When she saw the despair that could not be disguised in her eyes, her heart seemed to calm down. She thought about it before continuing, "Don't forget. You're part of the Xi family too! Regarding Xin Er, I know you're doing something from the inside. I also know that about the matter with Yifeng and Xin Er, they did do you wrong, but if you're going to go against Yueying because of these things, then I definitely won't let you go so easily! Xiaye, you and Xin Er are sisters. No matter what, you shouldn't treat her like that!"

"Do you know how she has treated me then? You've always been playing the role of an accomplice. Obviously, you wouldn't understand. If I guess correctly, this thing you brought for me today must have been handed to you by her, wasn't it?"

Xi Xiaye raised the document in her hand and glared coldly at Deng Wenwen.

When she heard her question her like that, Deng Wenwen's expression changed slightly, yet her gaze on Xi Xiaye did not turn less imposing.

When she saw Deng Wenwen's reaction, the answer was obvious. Xi Xiaye straightened up slightly and smiled. "To achieve your goals, you really have used all sorts of tricks up your sleeves. I really don't understand. How can such a kind and innocent Xi Xinyi do such a thing? Doesn't she know that once the orphanage is demolished, all the children from the orphanage would have no place to stay? Could all of her kindness and understanding previously be lies?"

When she said this, Deng Wenwen instantly looked upset. "Xin Er's just trying to help me get Yueying through this tough time. You don't have to criticize her!"

"Then, you can justifiably bring me these things to threaten me, so that I will obediently hand the document over to you?" Xi Xiaye's eyes flashed with mockery as her thin lips faintly sneered. "Did you guys forget how evil of a person I am? For such a program, the roles should be reversed. Why do you think I'd bring this document to exchange with you?"

Xi Xiaye waved the document in her hand and her tone instantly turned cold as ice. "If you want to make me hand the shares over, it'd be quicker to dream on. Initially, I didn't want to take Yueying down, but you forced me to. Now, you will watch for yourself how I destroy Yueying!"

There was a ripping sound.

She tore the document in her hand apart, turning it into paper shreds in her hands, and lastly tossing them before Deng Wenwen coldly. The fluttering paper shreds fell like snow.

“You! Very well then, you... You have guts!”

Deng Wenwen did not expect Xi Xiaye to do this at all. Suddenly, she could only widen her eyes and fix her gaze onto Xi Xiaye. Her wizened face turned red from anger while her clenched hands trembled.

“Whether or not I have the guts, it’s not the first time you’re witnessing it, isn’t it? Oh, right, I heard that Father and the government are organizing some charity event for children, aren’t they? It sounds pretty huge. There’s a lot of attention from the media. What do you think the Han Corporation would do if I made a call to the media or to the government? What would Xi Xinyi do?”

After Xi Xiaye spoke, she disregarded Deng Wenwen’s worn face that continued to sink and she made a call right away.

“Hello? Is this Director Zhang of Time Magazine? Mmm, hello, I have a news that I’d like to report to you. The Ning An Orphanage north of our city...”

Before Deng Wenwen could react, she had already calmly finished a phone call. After that, when Deng Wenwen realized what was happening, it was already too late for her to stop her!

Xi Xiaye calmly put her phone away and smiled at Deng Wenwen. “Great! Now, what’s left is for you guys to do. I’d like to see how much longer your brilliant image can be maintained. I know that you’ve been recently rushing to arrange for Xi Xinyi to join all sorts of charity banquets to wash away all those scandals, haven’t you? This time, I’ve given her another excellent opportunity. I wonder how she’ll thank me.”

“Xiaye! You’re really vicious! You... You...”

Deng Wenwen felt her chest tighten. Suddenly, she could not breathe and she quickly dug out her medication from the bag in a panic. She poured out a few pills to swallow and then calmed down after a while.

Across her, Xi Xiaye's eyes were filled with darkness and ridicule. She got up with an indifferent expression and scattered the paper shreds in her hand. She looked down at Deng Wenwen and said extremely firmly, "I've told you. If you won't let me live, don't expect me to let you guys either! Whatever Yue Lingsi and her daughter have stolen from my mother, I'll surely make them pay back in double to me."

When she said this, she suddenly bent over and lowered her voice to say, "As for Xi Xinyi, you can go back and tell her that she can bring out whatever tricks she has. To fight with someone as mean and as ruthless as me, she should raise her tricks a bar higher!"

"I've given you guys the chance, but you just didn't want it... You'll see how Yueying will end up in your hands. Just wait and see, CEO Deng!"

Xi Xiaye stormed off with these words. She was very satisfied to see Deng Wenwen tense up and tremble in anger, and she could not help but feel smug. She could already guess that within a few hours, the news regarding the orphanage would spread with all sorts of versions.

Their attacks would all point to the Han Corporation. She was sure that those reporters must have used their gossip skills and dug pretty interesting inside stories.

Xi Xinyi, since you want to play, let's go big. I'd like to see how you can calm this storm this time around!

As for Han Yifeng, the other day she had already very clearly warned him. Since he had chosen to support Xi Xinyi, she would not be kind for old time's sake.

Coincidentally, harping on the public opinion and media's power this time, she could get Glory World acclaimed and seize the opportunity to set up a Glory World foundation to be used in the future as an aid for these orphans and grabbing the attention of the whole society. That way, there would be an even larger benefit for these orphanages. At least, they would not be helpless when they faced a crisis as they did right now.

In fact, the next time, she was sure that Xi Xinyi would not be able to use such tricks against her again!

Once this incident was exposed, no matter the outcome, Xi Xinyi's image would suffer a huge loss on top of her recent continuous scandals. Let her have a taste of one disaster on top of another!

Xi Xiaye was not afraid of any rumor or slander, but could Xi Xinyi pretend not to care?

She made her way towards the staircase step by step with a resounding gait, her thin and slender figure very quickly vanishing downstairs. Deng Wenwen had yet to calm down, her rising blood pressure almost making her faint from anger.

Quite a while after, she suppressed the anger inside and forced herself to calm down. Then, she quickly took out her phone to make a call. Otherwise, everything would turn worse if she was too late!

Chapter 199. Scandal Crisis (1)

When she returned to the car, the man was still leaning comfortably in the seat with his eyes closed to rest. He faintly felt that there was a stifling air after she got in, so he slowly opened his eyes to look at her.

Her beautiful, fair face had a faint blush while her gaze looked a little cold and indifferent. He could tell that she seemed down and rather enraged.

"Did she make you angry? Why do you look so angry?" The soft voice came through and before she could calm down, he had already handed her the Thermos of water prepared in the car. His dark eyes were intertwined with a faint gentleness.

Xi Xiaye just took it to open it and drink a few gulps before handing the bottle back to him. As she started the car, she frowned. "I'm fine. It's about the orphanage. I have an idea that I want to share with you, but I'm not sure if you'd be interested."

"Let's hear it," Mu Yuchen set the Thermos aside and answered calmly.

Xi Xiaye slowly drove the car out of the parking and then said, "Riding on the rumors at this moment, how about we set up a charity foundation? With our company's influence, it shouldn't be a problem for

us to raise funds for the foundation. The collected donations will be used for aiding places like orphanages. This should bring quite a lot of benefits to our company's image..."

"Are you saying you want to set up a Glory World Foundation?" Mu Yuchen immediately saw through her.

She nodded gently. "Mmm, actually setting up the Glory World Foundation would bring us quite a lot of benefits. In fact, I'm sure you know this yourself. I remember previously before you returned to the country, Grandfather did mention such an idea at a higher management meeting. However, because everyone was quite busy with the projects then, it was set aside. Now, if we can seize the opportunity and pass the agenda, it should turn out pretty well."

"I'll mention it to Director Wen. Since you're in charge of the South River project, you don't have to worry about these things. Aren't you planning on letting me know what just happened?" He watched her clear, unsympathetic, little face and asked softly.

Xi Xiaye frowned and pondered momentarily, then she could not help but sigh. She looked calmly at the road ahead. "It's about the orphanage. Han Yifeng bought the land where the orphanage is. Previously, the government planned to demolish and rebuild that place. Initially, Chief Wang was planning to fight for it again..."

"Then, did they use this land to make an exchange with you and make you hand over the document for Yueying's shares?"

She did not need to continue. Being the wise and profound man who could see through everything, he had caught onto the heart of the matter. A dim light appeared in his dark eyes, yet his handsome face was calm as usual.

Xi Xiaye was startled for a moment. She inhaled slightly and nodded as she lamented, "I don't know how else to handle this. I keep thinking about this matter. In the end, I could only call Time Magazine, hoping that this time through the storm of public opinion, I can make them give it up on their own..."

Mu Yuchen looked at her in shock. Then, there was instantly a flash of admiration in his eyes. He agreed with her actions gladly. Noticing an endurance of melancholy in between her brows, he fell silent for a

moment. His long and slightly chilly hands reached out, gently holding onto her hand that was on the gear.

His low yet sensitive voice slowly entered her ears. “Okay, it’s not too huge of an issue. They weren’t courteous with you, so there’s no need for you to be kind and think twice. You’ve already done it anyway, so is there any use regretting now? Isn’t it better this way?”

Listening to his low and gentle voice carry a hint of consolation, she suddenly felt worse. Again, she breathed in and blinked her slightly heated eyes. Then, her beautiful face suddenly flashed with a faint smile. She sounded like she was sighing as she asked, “Do you think that I’m quite mean and malicious?”

As she said this, she turned to look at him, yet he did not answer. He only looked at her with quiet and calm eyes.

Seeing that he did not answer, she quietly looked away and turned towards the alternately flickering traffic light ahead, and casually said, “I heard Grandpa say that when Mother was young, Grandma always liked to talk about intellectual elegance. She said that an intellectually elegant woman mustn’t lack four things — the confidence on her face, the kindness deep in her heart, the guts in her blood, and the resilience that is carved into her life. I suddenly realize that I haven’t been able to do a single one of these things. I’m quite terrible.”

When she finished, he instantly chuckled softly. His hand reached up and could not help but gently hug her shoulders. “Nobody’s perfect, so what’s the point of mulling over it too much?”

Xi Xiaye looked at the traffic light that turned green ahead. She stepped on the accelerator as the corner of her indifferent lips flashed with a faint smile of self-mockery. “I don’t want it to be like this either. I wanted to study properly and get good grades. I wanted to be an obedient, kind, and likable child too, but no matter how hard I tried, I couldn’t perform in my studies. No matter how I tried to get close and blend in with them, I was just that uninteresting. They all didn’t like me...”

Her voice suddenly dropped and she quietly blinked at the road ahead. She tightened her grip on the steering wheel and did not continue.

Witnessing her vulnerability like this, something suddenly shifted in Mu Yuchen’s eyes. There was a pity that could not be concealed as the hand around her shoulder tightened a little, and he chuckled softly,

“Okay now. How old are you already, still sadly asking about why people don’t like you as if you’re a little girl? Just think of them as people with terribly low EQ and IQ that it raises people’s hackles. Their aesthetic point of view is a little weird, and their standards of distinguishing people didn’t evolve well, that’s why they didn’t realize the splendor of the pearl that you are...”

Hearing him say this, the sad spell in Xiaye’s heart broke. She suddenly could not help but shoot him a side look and ask a little gloomily, “Do people really console others like that?”

He laughed out loud, the smile on his handsome face entering her sight and making her heart feel warm all of a sudden. She shot him a side look, then forced herself to avert her gaze, not forgetting that she was still driving at the moment.

The place that Mu Yuchen mentioned was a luxury hot spring center. It was local in the secluded outskirts of the north of the city and was in the same direction as the Grand Waves Villa area.

Xi Xiaye followed Mu Yuchen’s directions and they soon steadily stopped the car outside the center.

They had just stepped into the center when someone walked out to receive them.

“Master Mu!”

Mu Yuchen nodded slightly, indicating for him to lead the way.

The husband and wife quickly followed him to a private changing room.

A bath, a change of clothes, and they got into the hanjeungmak [1] ...

When Xi Xiaye walked out of the sauna sweating all over with her moist hair, she noticed that he was reading a magazine on the sofa in the corner.

The husband and wife were both wearing bathrobes.

“Master Mu, I’ll look for two of our...”

When she saw Xi Xiaye come out, the attendant was about to suggest getting two skilled masseurs, yet before she could finish her sentence, Mu Yuchen, who was reading the magazine with his head bowed, spoke up, “Just get one for her.”

Chapter 200. Scandal Crisis (2)

On the other end, after Xi Xiaye left, Deng Wenwen had quickly called Yue Lingsi and the rest, telling them to suppress the news.

However, did she even realize what a huge media house like Time magazine was?

As long as it was worthy news, they would not let it go. Right after Xi Xiaye hung up, the people from the magazine begun working on it. They were so quick that one could not react soon enough!

When Deng Wenwen arrived the orphanage, the reporters had already swarmed into the orphanage. They wanted to stop them, but it was too late.

At this moment, inside Han Yifeng’s villa, Xi Xinyi was planning to make a loving dinner for Han Yifeng. However, just as she was washing her hands and getting ready to cut the ingredients, Yue Lingsi suddenly called.

“Mother? What is it?” Xi Xinyi picked up the phone.

From the other end came Yue Lingsi’s panicked and anxious voice right away. “Xinyi? Where are you right now?”

“I’m at Yifeng’s place. What’s wrong? Did something happen?” Xi Xinyi could obviously hear Yue Lingsi’s panic, so she instantly asked with puzzlement.

“Xinyi, bad news! Something has happened! Your grandmother just went looking for Xi Xiaye that witch. Initially, she wanted to use the orphanage documents to trade with her, yet unexpectedly, not only did she not take it, but she even called Time magazine and some of the media, saying that it was your idea.

Now, the media has already rushed straight to the orphanage. We wanted to stop them, but it was too late. What do we do?"

Yue Lingsi was nervous with worry. At that moment, she was at home in the living room, pacing back and forth restlessly before she called Xi Xinyi in a moment of desperation.

In the meantime, Deng Wenwen had gone to the office, afraid that something was going to change.

"What did you say? She called the media?" When she heard Yue Lingsi, Xi Xinyi was immediately stunned and could not react right away. Her beautiful eyes flickered with disbelief.

"Yes, Xinyi! Xi Xiaye this witch is evil! She knew that right now you are at your lowest, yet she still wanted to hit you below the belt! If she wasn't willing, she could've just said that she wasn't. Why did she have to hurt you further!? Do you see now? She's just that cruel! I heard from your grandmother that the company's already been holding off many calls from the media. Many of the reporters are waiting for you near the office, so you mustn't go to the office!"

Yue Lingsi's voice through her gritted teeth sounded uneasy. "Also, I'm afraid Yifeng will be in trouble too. You two must be careful. I'm discussing with your grandmother on whether there's a way to manage this news. The orphanage is being clogged by the media. I'm afraid this matter can't be concealed. If that's the case, I'm afraid us Yueying would have to suffer another storm. Xinyi, I'm panicking right now. I don't know what to do! It's all Xi Xiaye's fault! All her fault!"

Xi Xinyi naturally knew the reason Yue Lingsi was worried. Apart from all the reasons she had mentioned, there was also her father, Xi Mushan's side, and her grandfather's side. If they found out about this, that would truly be disastrous!

Xi Xiaye had actually called the media!

This outcome was far beyond her expectations. At first, she thought that even if it was useless, she would just be angry and talk tough, yet this time...

Xi Xinyi felt her entire body tense up and her delicate face looked miserable. Her beautiful eyes flickered with a downcast light as the hand that gripped onto the phone trembled lightly. Quite a while after that,

she answered, "I got it, Mother! Don't worry first. Don't panic. We'll see the situation with Grandmother and the media's end. Let's do that first. I'll be home soon."

Then, she hung up because she heard the footsteps from outside. Han Yifeng should be coming downstairs.

Taking this document from Han Yifeng was initially the engagement gift that she had asked for from him. Back then, she had unintentionally found out that Xi Xiaye seemed to have special feelings for this orphanage, so...

Han Yifeng did not know about this. If he found out that she had taken this document to make Xi Xiaye hand the document for Yueying over, what should she do?

When she thought about this, Xi Xinyi's eyes instantly dimmed. She hesitated for a moment, then turned around to walk out of the kitchen. She wanted to discuss it with Han Yifeng, yet just as she walked out of the kitchen, she saw that he was already downstairs. As he walked towards the sofa, his phone in his hand was ringing.

Xi Xinyi realized something, so she quickly rushed over and wanted to stop him from answering the call. However, Han Yifeng was pretty swift, and with a slide of his thumb, the call was through.

It was from his personal secretary.

Once the call got through, Secretary Wang's strained voice immediately came through. "CEO Han, we have a problem!"

"What happened?" Han Yifeng slowly sat down on the sofa and poured himself a glass of water as he asked.

...

Xi Xinyi watched as Han Yifeng quietly listened to the person on the other end of the phone. His handsome face sank bit by bit. Finally, his handsome brows turned into a knot and he unknowingly clenched the glass tightly in his hand as his dark eyes flickered with an uncertain light.

A century passed before Han Yifeng finally hung up on the call. His entire being was also covered with a cold hostility that made her feel very uneasy. She walked over with light footsteps, slowly going over, and calling out softly, "Yifeng..."

When he heard Xi Xinyi's voice, Han Yifeng then took a look at the phone that he already hung up. Then, he turned his head unhurriedly before fixing his gaze on Xi Xinyi. There was a mix of emotions that could not be concealed in his eyes. "Xinyi, where's the engagement gift that you made me give you?"

Indeed!

Xi Xinyi was stumped. She subconsciously halted in her steps as her charming face instantly paled. There were gloominess and sadness that could not be hidden in her eyes while she bit onto her plump lips out of habit and she met Han Yifeng's deep eyes. After a long while, she lamented, "Don't you already know? I'm sorry, Yifeng! I saw that Grandmother and Mother kept fretting over this issue, so I wanted to help them out a little. Initially, I thought that document could be used to compensate Sister, yet I didn't expect that she'd immediately call the media without caring about family's sake..."

"How did you know if the document was important to Xiaye or not? That it could even be used as something to compensate her?" Han Yifeng frowned, his gaze locked onto Xi Xinyi's pale little face.

"I..."

Xi Xinyi's expression changed. Unexpectedly, she did not know how to answer, so she bit onto her plump lips until they almost cracked. "Yifeng... I'm sorry... I didn't know that Sister would do that. Now, even the media knows... Yifeng, I really didn't do it on purpose. I... I just wanted to find the best way to resolve the issue. I never would've thought that it would turn out like this, Yifeng..."