

Loving 201

Chapter 201. Scandal Crisis (3)

As he listened to Xi Xinyi, the light in Han Yifeng's eyes darkened and he stared at Xi Xinyi. "That means you did plan to use the engagement gift I gave you to force Xiaye to hand over that document! Is that so?"

"No! No! I initially wanted to give it to her. If she could hand the shares over, that would've been great, but if she didn't, I really didn't plan to force her to. I just wanted to use this opportunity to let Grandmother have a proper chat with her to see if there's a way... Yifeng, you have to believe me..." Xi Xinyi quickly explained, her pale face hinting at her vulnerability.

"Those children are so pitiful. There's no way I could've done such a thing. Initially, I already planned to purchase that land to give it to Sister, but I thought that maybe it'd be better if you did it. After all, it's us who wronged her... You know Yueying's current situation as well. I was so worried that she would really sell those shares off. If that happens, Grandmother and Mother... So, as long as she's willing to yield, everything can be discussed, Yifeng... I really didn't think of..."

She sounded guilty in between her sobs. Soon, she could not help but reach out to hold onto Han Yifeng's arm as tears started running down her cheeks. She looked up at Han Yifeng, her pale and weak little face drawing sympathy from anyone who saw her.

"Now that Sister has just called the media, she's planning to make this thing huge. Yifeng, you know I'm having a precarious time right now. No matter what, I wouldn't dare use my reputation to risk it again, and you know that there's nothing I hate more than seeing you troubled."

Xi Xinyi's words made Han Yifeng's grave expression ease a little. He stared at her for quite a while, then said in a lowered voice, "Whether or not you intended for it to, the matter's already at this stage. It's a little sticky. I'll go upstairs and see if there's any way of suppressing the rumors."

Han Yifeng still did not look happy as he lifted a hand to massage the fatigue between his brows, and gently pulled away from Xi Xinyi hand before making his way to the stairs. "I've told you that you can stop messing around about things with Xiaye. Whatever your intentions are, she has already cut off all ties with us, so why do you have to be so untactful?"

“Well, now she’s... Times are different...” Xi Xinyi said bleakly before his tall and lean figure vanished at the top of the stairs.

As she watched Han Yifeng’s figure disappear, Xi Xinyi unconsciously clenched both her fists with all her might. Amidst her thoughts, there was a hazy pain on her palms.

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When they exited the center, it was already evening. The husband and wife made a trip to the supermarket to buy quite a few ingredients and then made their way straight back to Maple Residence. When they reached the door, Li Si was coincidentally sending a document over.

Soon, the sky had darkened and Maple Residence was engulfed in splendid lights.

Xi Xiaye arranged the flowers carefully in the vase and briefly tidied up the living room. She could not help but feel her stomach rumble in hunger.

When she reached the entrance of the kitchen, she looked through the glass door and meant to ask him when they could eat. Then, she saw that he was still casually testing the ingredients, seeming very relaxed.

She instantly looked like she was about to break down. Pushing the door to enter, she could not help but ask, “Mr. Mu, I’d like to know when will this meal be ready? You’ve been attending to it from evening till now and it has already been close to three hours.”

When he heard her voice, Mu Yuchen turned over slightly to look at her and smiled indifferently. “Hungry?”

Xi Xiaye frowned and did not answer.

“It’ll be done soon,” he answered, then handed over a plate of food. “Bring this out first. I’ll have a look at whether it’s done yet.”

Xi Xiaye then took the plate and shot a side look at the pot that was stewing with a slow fire on the stove. Catching a tempting aroma, the hunger in her was further ignited.

Cooking seemed to have become an art when it came to him. He would always work on it unhurriedly with leisure and tranquility. Sometimes, she really had to admire his patience.

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Finally, a sumptuous dinner was ready. There were her favorite honey sauce steak and wine, but it was not a candlelight dinner.

She picked up her knife and fork and was about to begin eating when she suddenly thought of something and could not help but look up to him. "Next time, we should eat mainly vegetables."

Mu Yuchen was leisurely serving the both of them some wine. He handed her a glass and calmly studied her, his dark eyes flickering with a bright light. "How much did you gain?"

Earlier, when he had seen her standing before the weighing scale, looking all dispirited and upset, he could not help but want to laugh.

When she heard him, Xiaye's little face instantly flushed with scarlet. She took the wine he handed her and took a sip before she mumbled, "The point is it didn't go past three digits..."

He chuckled, and then his long arms reached over to help her slice her steak. "Personally, I don't advocate that being thin is beautiful. You're not a model or a dancer or an actress. Isn't it enough that you're healthy?"

As he said this, he picked up a piece of sliced meat and put it to her mouth. She was stumped for a moment, then she opened her mouth to eat it. She watched as he began continuing to slice her steak. Taking a deep breath, she said, "Mmm... Don't give me that nonsense. Actually, most people judge others by their looks just like us. If our first impression hadn't been positive, we definitely wouldn't have the chance to be where we are right now..."

“Based on what you’re saying, are you hinting to me that the first time you saw me, you already thought I was pretty good? That I met the standards of your ideal Prince Charming and was husband material?”

The man was far from humble as he glanced up at her. His eyes flowered with a faint tenderness and he stuffed a piece of steak into her mouth again as his smile flashed gently.

She rolled her eyes at him, chewing with gusto, and then washing it down with some wine. She said disapprovingly, “My ideal Prince Charming should be cultured, speak humorously and be knowledgeable, low-profile and reserved, mature and steady, knows everything in the heavens above and the earth underneath our feet, tall and dashing, valiant in presence, always appearing when I need him the most, forever thinks that I’m the most beautiful goddess to him, treats me better than he treats himself, and apart from me, he definitely wouldn’t take a second look at another woman... Do you think you can do all of these, Mr. Mu?”

It was almost as if every woman who asked such a question would have such yearnings and hopes. At this moment, Xiaye’s delicate face flashed with a faint vibrance.

“But you’re already great, Mr. Mu. I’m quite satisfied with the life I have right now.” She sincerely lifted her drink, and offered a toast to him.

He smiled and gladly reciprocated the toast. He thought about it, then said, “Missus, even though your Mr. Mu isn’t perfect, he’s really a good person. Prince Charmings aren’t real, but he’s the real dea.

You definitely won’t lose out by going with him.”

Chapter 202. His Wedding Gift To Her

She calmly looked at the gorgeous curve of light that swayed in his wine glass. His bright and smiling handsome face that entered her eyes looked a little bedazzling.

Quite a while after, she nodded with a peaceful and light tone, unlike her usual hostile self. “I will.”

Ding!

Then, she closed in with the glass in her hand.

He picked up the wine bottle and poured her more as he asked, "How are you planning to resolve the issue with the orphanage?"

Xi Xiaye drank a spoonful of soup, her starry eyes twinkling for a moment. Then, she answered calmly, "Just set it aside for now. I'll see how Xi Xinyi's end responds. I quite understand Xi Xinyi's tricks. For the storm this time, if she can't hold on till the end, she'll definitely just toss away that land and pretend to do it in the name of charity. I don't want this storm to just subside like that. That would be too easy on her. In the end, all I'll be doing is let her win with a good reputation instead."

Then, she could not help but look up at him. "Do you have a way of making her suffer a double loss after trying to trick the enemy? Make me feel good too?"

He was always so low-profile and reserved. The way he looked so calm and undisturbed made it hard for her to see through him. She just felt like he was an unfathomable mystery. In fact, he seemed to have his own issues but he had never mentioned it to her.

"If I can let you ruthlessly take revenge, what's in it for me?"

Hearing her question, he suddenly looked up at her with interest, yet he soon allowed his silent eyes to settle on the super huge television screen in the living room. It seemed to be reporting some news on Xi Xinyi and the rest joining some sort of charity event.

Today's news had yet to be reported and she wondered how the situation was.

Indeed, he did not change his inherent quality of a profiteer!

Xi Xiaye ignored him and shot him an annoyed look. Then, she lowered her head and continued to quietly eat the steak that he had helped her slice up.

After dinner, she felt lazy, so she pushed the cleanly picked plates to Mu Yuchen for him to wash, then she went upstairs.

She did not deliberately pay attention to the situation on Xi Xinyi's end and went straight to take a bath after going upstairs. Coincidentally, Su Nan called, then she started chatting with her.

When Mu Yuchen went upstairs, she was still in the bathroom chatting happily away with Su Nan, so he did not disturb her and went straight to the study room.

He had just sat down before the desk when Ah Mo's call came through.

"Hello?" He answered with a lowered voice.

"Master, I found out that Xi Xinyi did get someone to investigate the Missus many times. It's an international number. Xi Xinyi and Wang Ziluo met on a plane to Bali last year. After that, they kept in touch. Xi Xinyi's friend, Huang Shanshan, has always liked Wang Ziluo. Last autumn, Huang Shanshan had specially flown over to visit Wang Ziluo, but he seemed to fancy Missus. Previously, he tried to find out news about the Missus..."

Mu Yuchen listened to Ah Mo report as his long fingers habitually propped up his forehead. After he contemplated for a moment, he answered with a gentle but muffled voice, "Anonymously e-mail the complete details of Xi Xinyi investigating your sis-in-law to Han Yifeng. Get someone to tell Huang Shanshan. Just say that not too long ago, Wang Ziluo and Xi Xinyi had a great time together in Bali."

"Got it, Master! Right, Master, earlier I got news that Yue Lingsi's returned to the Yue residence. I think it must be because of Xi Xinyi's scandal. The government's process of signing the documents have yet to be completed. Thankfully, they just want to retract and straight up deny that it ever happened."

"We can't let the scandal subside just like that. Think of a way to let that document get through tomorrow itself, and let the media have a trace to follow," Mu Yuchen said before hanging up. At this moment, coincidentally, the study room door was pushed open. Xi Xiaye walked in with a glass of water in her hand.

"You go bathe too. I've prepared the water for you."

She put the glass of water beside his hand, then bent over to pull open a drawer and take out a USB from inside. It had the South River project documents on it.

“Don’t look at them now. Rest well these next two days.”

He reached over to take the USB from her and tossed it back into the drawer as he slowly got her to get up with his arms around her.

“I wanted to finish the few graphs...” Xi Xiaye hesitated for a moment and protested.

“It’s the same if you do it during working hours. I have something for you.” His deep voice brushed past her ears. He held her by her slender shoulders and his hand reached over to the tall bookshelf behind. Then, he took a folder down and casually handed it to her.

“What is it?” She looked up in puzzlement at him and asked softly.

His handsome brows raised and he grinned. “Won’t you know once you open it?”

“How mysterious!” Xi Xiaye softly nagged before opening the folder. When she pulled the document out, she saw the details of Yueying Culture Media Company!

Her eyes lit up and she quickly flipped through the document and roughly examined it. A while after that, her beautiful face flashed with a radiant smile. She could not help but look at him with admiration. “How did you get it so quickly?”

He smiled without a word. Obviously, he would not tell her that actually since last year, he had already begun attending to this matter.

“37%? With this, you can already become Yueying’s second-largest shareholder! But why is this 17% assigned to my name?”

Xi Xiaye looked a little shocked as she waved the document in her hand. She could not hide the pleasant surprise in her eyes.

He smiled calmly and lowered his eyes. Gesturing at the document in her hand, his gaze fell onto her delicate little face. "It's my wedding gift to you. Do you like it?"

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye was stunned. She quietly looked at the document in her hand and peeked at that familiar bold and flowy signature at the bottom of the page. A warmth suddenly flashed across her heart and she started to turn misty-eyed.

Quite a while after that, she looked up at him and happily nodded. She said in a slightly raspy voice, "I like it. I... I thought that it would never return to me ever again..."

"Even without that, I could obviously help you fight for it. How would it have never returned to you?"

His sentimental and tender voice spoke, bringing a hint of consolation with it, yet it made her choke up for some reason. Her chest suddenly felt stifled and upset.

Finally, she could not hold back and reached out to gently surround his waist with her arms, submitting into his embrace. She clenched the document tightly in her hand and said in a hoarse voice, "I won't thank you now..."

"I've never wanted to hear those two words from you." He gently patted her head and consoled her, "Next Wednesday is Yueying's general shareholders' meeting. It's best if you attend as Glory World's executive director. I'll get VP Liu to accompany you, hmm?"

Xi Xiaye nodded as she softly answered, "Okay, I'll go."

He smiled gladly and then suddenly squeezed her tightly.

Chapter 203. Be Good To Him With All She's Got

She leaned on his slightly warm chest closely. Her cold fingers that were behind his back suddenly felt a little warmer. It was not sure how long had passed before he finally pulled away from her slowly and lowered his head to watch her. He saw that her eyes had reddened, so he teased a little helplessly, "I only gave you a little gift, but you're already so touched? Is your heart made from water?"

Xi Xiaye blinked as she gripped the document in her hand tightly. Her starry eyes appeared like crystal light as she looked up quietly at him and said in a hoarse voice, "I'm touched because of you. Aren't you happy?"

He smiled gladly and objected, "So, you always get hurt easily. Sensitive people are like this. When someone does something nice for you, you think they're a good person. It's not really a good thing to be so easily moved, Missus..."

"Are you a good person then?" She blinked and asked.

"Only I am the exception. You just have to remember this." His tone was unquestionable while his noble and handsome face instantly turned serious, yet she could not help but giggle out loud seeing him. She then responded in her raspy voice, "Okay then, the entire world's only left with one good person and that's you. Everyone else is bad..."

He happily raised his brows, seemingly quite satisfied with her awareness. "Missus, I realize that you're really getting better and better at judgment! Okay, keep the document properly, then go back to the room and rest well. I'll go and take a bath."

He patted her head again, and then let go of her before walking out of the door.

Xi Xiaye watched his tall figure disappear in the doorway, yet she felt a little distracted. She looked down at the document in hand for a long time before looking up in the direction that he had just vanished...

She had to admit that when he smiled calmly and handed it to her, something indescribable in her heart was moved and softened. Her neglected heart that was riddled with scars had been swayed too.

She did not know how to tell him that apart from feeling moved, she actually felt a faint joy and maybe a little bit of something else too, something she had not had the time to look into.

Sometimes, it was just as he said — she was easily moved.

A very, very long time ago, she seemed to have encountered such soft and fragile feelings before. However, the roles had been reversed. The one giving out love had been her, while the one being loved then had been Han Yifeng...

She already stopped probing all the past that she could not bear. Now, she did not know whether she really loved Han Yifeng and how deeply she had loved him. Ever since she could understand and feel so deeply, she was used to it.

She was used to being good to Han Yifeng, used to loving him...

Later on, she realized that because she was used to loving, once someone else was kind to her, she would not be able to handle it and was easily satisfied, easily moved...

So, if he continued to be this good to her, then should she not also be kind to him with all she had?

She took a deep breath, looked down at the document for a long time, and then quietly put it away.

When she returned to the bedroom, the main light in the bedroom was not switched on. The dim, warm light came from the wall lamp beside the French windows and the faint light from the bathroom.

She walked towards the bedside and switched on the light. When she saw the clock on the nightstand, she noticed that it was only slightly past 8 p.m. She did not have the habit of sleeping so early. After some thought, she then took out a tablet from the drawer and was planning to watch a movie.

However, she found all the movies not very interesting. It was a long search before she found an inspiring movie that had pretty commendable reviews. It was a very, very old movie that she remembered watching when she was in university, "Forrest Gump".

Only a few minutes into the movie, the blanket beside was lifted and a certain person's familiar fragrance entered her nostrils. Before she could react, he had already pulled her into his embrace. His calm and raspy voice asked, "What are you watching?"

Then, he looked at the tablet in her hand, "This movie? Shouldn't you women be watching 'Titanic' or something new and romantic?"

"Who said so? I like this... Hmm, right, I heard that quite a few latest movies are pretty good. When you're free, let's go watch some of them."

She suddenly remembered that previously when she drove past a cinema on the way back, she had seen the promotional signs in front of the cinema, and the crowd of young lovers lingering around the entrance.

They all looked very young, pure and simple, yet him and her...

"We'll go when we're free next weekend," he answered pretty quickly with a hug. He leaned against the bedhead. "This movie is pretty good. Watch a few more times and you'll feel quite deeply moved."

"Really? I always don't finish it..."

"Watch it then..."

"Mmm... Hey, Mu Yuchen..."

"Do you think we're old? Would it be a little weird for people like us to go and watch movies in the cinema? That place seems to be filled with young couples who are passionately in love..."

"I don't know whether you're old or not. I just know that I'm in my prime..."

"Ugh, annoying!"

...

After resting well for two days, Xi Xiaye felt recovered. On Monday, she was in much higher spirits at work.

Yet, right after she walked into the company, she found out that the matter with the orphanage had caused quite a huge crisis. Xiao Mei and the rest told her that it seemed as if the reporters had been crowding outside Yueying and the Han Corporation building for the past two days.

The results of the matter she asked Chu Qi to investigate had already been returned yesterday morning. He said that the government's signed documents had gone through. At this moment, the orphanage land was indeed bought by Han Yifeng and then passed on to Xi Xinyi. It seemed to be some kind of engagement gift.

Xi Xiaye was thinking of a better plan, yet before she could do anything, the media reporters had already found out about this. They had swarmed Yueying and the Han Corporation with the intention of asking them to issue a statement to the orphanage.

Initially, Xi Xiaye was prepared to expose herself, but her issues seemed to have been suppressed. The media still did not seem to know about the conflict between her and Deng Wenwen.

"Director Xi, it's really unexpected that this Xi Xinyi is so... The orphanage has so many poor children who are homeless. How could she bear to let the kids...? Sigh, and yet she's some charity and public welfare ambassador. I'm speechless!"

Bringing in some documents, when Xiao Mei saw that Xi Xiaye was checking on that piece of news too, she could not help but lament, "Previously, so many of the company's colleagues liked her. Unexpectedly, she's this kind of person. She's even hired a lot of trolls to curse and make a scene on our company's Weibo, attacking us! Thankfully our Chairman Mu is calm. He told us to ignore them and not respond at all. Now, they look like they're doing a one-man show, slapping themselves on the face! It looks extremely ironic!"

After this incident, Glory World employees had a poor impression of Xi Xinyi. Since she had signed a contract with Glory World, she was considered a partner or employee of Glory World, yet she had hired trolls to smear the company's reputation. Such action made everyone incredibly angry!

Chapter 204. Chance Encounter (1)

Xi Xiaye held her forehead with a hand and calmly shut her laptop down. She took the document Xiao Mei delivered and got up. "Mmm, everyone should just obey Chairman Mu's instructions. Pack up. We're making a trip to the South River."

There were some detailed questions that she needed to still inspect there before handling them. Because she would need to submit the proposal for the project next week, there was not enough time. With such a tight timeline, Xi Xiaye did not dare to delay.

"Okay, Director Xi!" Xiao Mei answered, then swiftly left to prepare.

Xi Xiaye quickly tidied up the documents on the table, stuffed them into her briefcase, and then took the windbreaker from the side as she walked out of the door.

She had just stepped out of Glory World Corporation when she faintly felt a chilly humidity in her face. Looking up at the sky, she saw that the horizon was filled with a haze. The boundlessly drab sky was drizzling, unlike the splendid sunshine before this.

When Xiao Mei came out with the things, she cried out, "Eh? It's raining! Director!"

"It's not too heavy. Bring an umbrella along!" Xi Xiaye lowered her eyes and sighed to herself. She could not care much about the cold that came attacking them. She took the briefcase in Xiao Mei's hand and said, "I'll wait for you in the car. Go and get an umbrella from the reception."

Then, she took huge strides into the rain.

As Xiao Mei panted and rushed out with the umbrella, Xi Xiaye had already driven out of the car park and parked by the roadside.

Xiao Mei got into the car hastily and her keen eye noticed that in the passenger's seat up front, Chairman Mu's windbreaker and briefcase seemed to be there. Like the other colleagues in the company, they paid special attention to their Chairman Mu. Naturally, she would be familiar with his things.

Someone seemed to have seen Director Xi and Chairman Mu get down from the same car this morning, so now the entire company was buzzing around with rumors about the two of them...

Before Xiao Mei could not hold it in further, she stared at Xi Xiaye through the rearview mirror in front and asked carefully, "Director, people in the company are saying that you and Chairman Mu... are living together... Is that true? In fact, the ring on your finger... Director, are you married?"

When she heard this question, Xi Xiaye was astonished for a moment. She subconsciously looked at the ring on her finger.

Right, deliberately hiding it now would not work when there was something this obvious.

She thought about it and finally nodded. "I'm married."

"Oh my God, is it Chairman Mu? Director? It must be Chairman Mu, right? I knew it! The way Chairman Mu looks at you is different from the way he looks at other women! That's awesome! Even just thinking about it feels exciting!"

Once Xi Xiaye said that, Xiao Mei could not hold back and cried out in joy. She stared at Xi Xiaye in admiration. "Director, how did you... How did you two end up together?"

Xiao Mei was a little curious about this bit of juicy gossip.

To them, someone like Chairman Mu was someone out of reach, yet unexpectedly, he had been spoken for by their Director Xi. If she told the others this, it would make her look good! She could be elevated in front of the colleagues from the other departments!

"I'll just tell you for you to know. We don't need to end up having the whole company knowing. Otherwise, we'll become the company's hot topic. Understood?"

Xiao Mei was her personal secretary. In the future, she would need to be in contact with a lot of things, so Xi Xiaye treated her like one of her own.

“Is that so? Okay then, I understand. I won’t breath a word!”

Xi Xiaye smiled. “I’m not saying don’t let everyone know, but maybe later on.”

...

The two of them chatted and it felt like time flew by pretty quickly. Soon, they reached the south of the city, and at this moment it was still drizzling outside. The entire South River was engulfed in mist.

Xi Xiaye drove through some slightly narrow cemented trails, immediately driving up to higher land ahead. There they could get a bird’s eye view of the scenery around the South River.

At the end of the trail was a small viewing deck. Xi Xiaye parked the car on the side and Xiao Mei immediately got down from the car with the umbrella before walking over to Xi Xiaye’s side.

“Director!” Xiao Mei opened the umbrella and walked over while Xi Xiaye took out a folder and pen from her briefcase before getting down from the car too.

The rain was not heavy, but if they stood like that in the drizzle, their shoulders would be drenched in a short while.

The two of them followed the trail and walked to the deck. The cool, rustling breeze that came was very bitterly cold and they could not help but shiver a little.

“The scenery here is pretty beautiful. The South River runs for miles, Director Xi, look! It’s quite amazing!”

The sound of Xiao Mei’s cries came. Xi Xiaye followed the direction of her finger to look and saw that the South River below them was hidden amidst the hazy rain, seeming rather dreamy and surreal, lingering in the clouds and mist.

The huge plot of open land beside the South River was Xi Xiaye's target for the day. She nodded slightly and then opened the folder in her hand as she glanced up to carefully examine the surroundings of the land below...

Xiao Mei stood behind her while holding the umbrella, watching the way Xi Xiaye focused on sketching with not a hair out of place. She wanted to ask her to put on another layer, but after that, she did not dare speak up to disturb her.

They walked along the viewing deck. Some time had passed when Xiao Mei felt herself shiver. In fact, her legs were a little numb from standing, but when she looked at Xi Xiaye, she saw that she seemed to be thinking about something. Her expression was calm and the document in her hand was filled with notes.

Finally, when Xiao Mei's stomach made a rumbling sound, Xi Xiaye closed the document and turned to look at her assistant who was blushing from the awkwardness. She smiled. "It should be about time. Are you hungry already?"

"Director Xi..." Xiao Mei looked down feeling embarrassed.

"How about this? You go down and eat first, then go straight back to the office. Just go down and get a taxi. I'll be fine by myself here. When you go back, make a trip to the Marketing Department. Tell them to get me a copy of the South River's market research. I need it in the afternoon when I get back to the office."

"Then, Director Xi, you..." Xiao Mei hesitated.

"I'll go back in the afternoon. There's an umbrella in the car that you can take," Xi Xiaye said and then took the umbrella in Xiao Mei's hand.

Xiao Mei did not dare to question her boss. She turned around and left.

Xi Xiaye continued to be busy. Not too long after Xiao Mei left, she was about to continue walking ahead when she suddenly heard the sound of a car honking from behind. She turned around and followed the source of the sound to look.

A gorgeous Rolls-Royce slowly entered her sight and she noticed that the car slowly stopped beside her car that she had parked by the roadside.

The driver's door quickly opened, and a tall man in a black suit walked to the back seat with an umbrella. He respectfully opened the car door before a tall figure stepped out of the car...

Chapter 205. Chance Encounter (2)

A familiar handsome face entered her sight, making her absent-minded in that instance.

Han Yifeng?

How could it be him?

Xi Xiaye's hand that held onto the black umbrella unconsciously tightened. Her bright eyes were momentarily in a daze before it returned to clarity. Then, she watched on with an indifferent expression through the hazy rain.

While Han Yifeng seemed to have sensed the car. He frowned and looked at the Porsche that was parked in front, his dim gaze flickering for a moment, and then subconsciously looking up to search for something. Quickly, he noticed Xi Xiaye who was standing on the viewing deck, watching him apathetically...

Today, she was dressed as usual in a black work suit. On the outside, there was a mid-length windbreaker and her beautiful, long hair fell onto her shoulders like always. Her thin and slender figure towered in the rain, and it looked like there was something more to her than how it used to be.

He suddenly felt that the two of them had not met for a very, very long time.

Han Yifeng's stern face seemed to ease a little. His dark eyes were still dense with an indescribable complexity as he stood where he was and hesitated for a long time, unmoving.

Only when his assistant, secretary Wang called out for him did he snap back to his senses. "CEO Han!"

He took a deep breath and saw that up ahead, Xi Xiaye had already looked away and continued to look downward. Han Yifeng then nodded and took the umbrella in secretary Wang's hand. "I'll go over by myself. Wait for me in the car."

Then, he walked over.

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Han Yifeng stopped behind Xi Xiaye, his profound eyes looked quietly at her slender figure as he asked, "Why are you here?"

"Why wouldn't I be here? Maybe the Han Corporation is interested in this project too?" Xi Xiaye looked up coldly from the document, turning to look indifferently at him. Her twinkling eyes were filled with obvious hostility and distance.

Han Yifeng's handsome face fell silent for a moment. He did not answer, yet he moved a slight step forward and stood by her side. He looked up at the vast empty land before them.

When Xi Xiaye saw that he did not respond, she coldly retrieved her gaze and was about to walk away. At this moment, Han Yifeng suddenly lamented, "You know that's not what I meant."

He looked on with mixed emotions at the drizzle from the sky. Then, he thought about it before continuing, "It's quite cold here."

"I thought you'd question me about the orphanage scandal." Xi Xiaye's cold voice came through as she closed her document and looked at him plainly.

When he heard this, Han Yifeng's expression shifted. He gazed at her deeply. Ironically, Xi Xiaye saw a rare sign of apology in his eyes!

"I didn't know that Xinyi would go looking for you with the document. She only told me to give her that as an engagement gift, so... I wasn't intentionally going against you. I hope you won't misunderstand."

Han Yifeng spoke in a lowered tone, “Did she bring you that document to negotiate terms with you and to make you hand over Yueying’s shares? I found out about it...”

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye’s beautiful face flashed with a faint smile before she answered calmly, “How could that be? To let so many children from the orphanage go homeless, someone as kind and beautiful as Xi Xinyi would definitely not do such an utterly heartless thing. Only someone as despicable and vicious as I would. In fact, she’s been so good to me. I really don’t know how I should thank her. Do you think she’s the kind of person who would use an orphanage to coerce me into doing something?”

“Xiaye...” Han Yifeng’s handsome brows furrowed. “Xinyi might not have done it on purpose, so can you please...”

“Forgive her, right?” Before Han Yifeng could finish, Xi Xiaye had already indifferently cut him off. She smiled radiantly and casually but it looked harsh to Han Yifeng whose heart sank for some reason.

“Of course, I’ll forgive her. I know that she’s always been so good to me. I’m just blind for not seeing it. Other than that, I’ll also have to thank her mother for being so great at giving birth to her and raising her to be so pure and kind. Usually, in TV dramas, the third party would be trampled on by the first wife. Then, the stepmother would torture the first wife’s daughter to death. The fact that I, Xi Xiaye can live healthily right now, and be provided with the basic necessities, I feel that I should indeed be deeply grateful to the mother and daughter pair. What do you think?”

Xi Xiaye’s tone was indifferent and calm as if she had just said nothing out of the ordinary. Her expression cold as the wind...

“That’s not what I meant? Xiaye...”

Her apathetic and distant expression greeted his sight. That calm and unwavering tone was not how she was before when you could vaguely feel her anger. Now, all that was left seemed to be an endless desolation and coldness.

“I’ve told you before that if you decide to take on a united front with them, I don’t care for the sake of any old times. Whatever they’ve taken from my mother, I will make them pay back in double. Even if it’s

Yueying, if I don't get it, I'll ruin it! You and I have long decided to go our separate ways. If you insist on helping them to come for me, then go ahead."

"Can't the two of you resolve this in a different way? Does it have to be like this?" Han Yifeng's voice sounded a little helpless and disappointed.

"Do you think that apart from competing with each other to death, there's another way to resolve things in this situation? Can you make the mother and daughter willing to leave the Xi family and leave West Park just like how my mother did back then? Can you make Xi Xinyi give up on the right to inherit Yueying? Can you make Xi Xinyi break off her marriage with you and swear on her life that she will never marry into the Han family again?"

Her cold tone of disdain blurted out, sounding quite harsh.

"I..." Han Yifeng suddenly did not know how to answer her.

She had already turned away and looked up at him with the umbrella in her hand. Her beautiful face flashed with a smile that was mixed with a stillness.

"If you can't, then please just move aside to watch the good show. I, Xi Xiaye will use my own way to take them on right to the end. Of course, I won't mind if you join in too. I'll just have to spend a little more thought."

"Do you hate me, Xiaye? How did Mu Yuchen... I want to hear you tell the truth."

Han Yifeng suddenly turned to look at her. From the depths of his eyes was a sadness. Even he did not know why he would ask such a weird question.

"I used to hate you," she admitted calmly while her gaze was still as water, "After that, I felt like it was meaningless, so I got too lazy to hate you."

He faintly heard her sigh. Before he could react, she had already looked away and continued walking ahead. "I accept the fact that you've never liked me. I also know that the Han family has actually never

been satisfied with me being your fiancé... Just as how they looked down on my mother back then. Actually, it's not just Xi Xinyi who has a strong background... I'm very lucky. He's not like you guys... All these years, I don't think anyone has been as kind to me as he has..."

Chapter 206. Jealousy (1)

She left him with that and then stopped bothering about Han Yifeng behind her, continuing to walk ahead along the handrail.

Han Yifeng felt his heart suffocate. Amidst this dazed feeling, he suddenly felt a mix of feelings welling up in his heart. It made him clutch his chest tightly as he felt upset.

He could tell from her tone that she seemed to be quite satisfied with Mu Yuchen. As he listened to her, he suddenly felt stifled and wretched.

He did not continue chasing after her, and just watched her figure gradually move further away.

...

When she was about done handling the matters, Xi Xiaye felt slightly starving. She had been in the cold wind for so long that she felt chilly all over. Taking a look at the time, she noticed that it was already past 1 p.m. in the afternoon. She needed to rush back to the office.

She hastily returned to her car and warmed herself up. When she felt that her hands and legs were not that numb from the cold anymore, she started the car.

However, she had only driven a short distance when from afar, she saw that a Rolls-Royce had blocked the road ahead — it was Han Yifeng's car!

She thought that he had already left a while ago.

Xi Xiaye frowned and waited for quite a while. When she saw that the car in front did not seem to be moving, she honked.

At the din, the car door in front suddenly opened and Han Yifeng walked out of the car. She did not see the assistant that had come with him earlier.

Xi Xiaye honked again, making Han Yifeng turn around and look to her.

From the looks of his expression and movement, Xi Xiaye could already guess that his car had probably broken down.

She looked at the time on her phone again. Hesitating for a moment, she frowned and alighted from the car.

Han Yifeng saw that she looked quite anxious, so he explained, "The car engine has died. I've already gotten people to come over. You..."

Xi Xiaye looked up at the gloomy weather. The drizzle had not stopped since earlier. In fact, it felt like it was getting heavier. Her brows furrowed into a tight knot as she looked at her car behind them, and then gloomily lowered her eyes. Without even glancing at him, she just walked right to the driver's seat of his car, immediately fiddling with something below.

A while after that, her cold voice came through. "Do you have a toolbox in your car?"

When she asked that, Han Yifeng was stunned for a while. He reacted after seconds. "Yes!"

Then, he walked towards the car boot and very quickly took out a toolbox, handing it to her.

Xi Xiaye put on a pair of gloves and skillfully opened the car bonnet, starting to examine and sort things out...

Watching her busy figure, Han Yifeng's heart beat fast for an instant. His eyes held shock and a mix of emotions.

This incredibly adept and confident action seems... But when did she learn all of these?

With a practiced hand, she unscrewed a screw using a wrench and then cut off a wire. She seemed to be extremely familiar with these problems. Increasingly heavy rain started to fall, intertwining her figure into the haziness. He found it surreal watching her. As keen as his sight could be, he could not see through the engulfing rain to get a clearer look of her.

He struggled for a while before he finally returned to his senses. With mixed feelings, he took out an umbrella from his car and walked towards her, shielding her from the falling rain.

When she sensed that the wet coldness falling on her face had faded away and the splattering rain was cut off, Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment. She turned to look up at him, thought about it, and her twinkling eyes dimmed. Then, she lifted a hand to brush away the umbrella in his hand.

She swiftly fastened the screw back on and said calmly, "No need. It'll be done soon. Get into the car to try. I'm in a rush."

Han Yifeng quietly watched the umbrella that fell aside after being brushed away by her. His eyes darkened. He saw her turn away to keep the tools without even looking at him, and he immediately looked dejected. A while after that, he snapped out of it.

He did not say anything though and just turned around to get into his car.

The car did manage to start!

Xi Xiaye quickly returned to her car, and after his car moved slightly aside for her to overtake his car without a moment of hesitation. Soon, her car was quickly engulfed by the rain ahead.

While Han Yifeng just stayed in his car and watched quietly in the direction where her car had vanished, the stifled disappointment in his chest and the feelings that he could not fathom started to interweave disorderly in his mind again...

She returned to the company and worked for the whole afternoon. When she finished work at night, Xi Xiaye left the company alone. Mu Yuchen was not in the office, but when she reached home, he was almost done with preparing dinner.

After dinner, when the husband and wife duo sat on the sofa watching television, Xi Xiaye suddenly thought of something and suggested, "Today, I went to South River for a look. I've compared the rough details on-site. Since it's a recreational venue by the river, maybe we could bring in some more distinguishing things. For instance, I think that if we want to attract the public's attention, we could think about collaborating with the government to build a large-scale musical fountain on the water. The scenery there is pretty, plus the government's just released their five-year plan and the key focus is to develop that place. If we can make a breakthrough in new constructive ideas, we'd have large odds of success."

"Don't think about work at this time. Can't we talk about something else, hmm?" He handed some tea to her and looked at her indifferently.

Xi Xiaye frowned. She remembered that he did not seem to like talking about work matters during moments of rare leisure, so she breathed in and sighed. After some thought about it, she then added, "I also bumped into Han Yifeng at the South River. In fact, he seemed quite interested in the South River project too..."

When she said this, Mu Yuchen was startled by how she took the initiative to explain. He lifted his lowered gaze and looked at her thoughtfully. "What did you guys talk about?"

"Nothing much. It's just about the orphanage issue and Xi Xinyi..." Xi Xiaye lowered her head to sip her tea, then she continued, "He also asked me if I hated him..."

"Mmm, only such a boring man would ask such a question. In fact, it demonstrates such low IQ and EQ. The next time you see him, you shouldn't say a single word to him. Just turn around and leave! I've finally raised your EQ. Don't be wrecked by a few words from him again. If you do, then all my hard work from before would be wasted!"

He nodded and responded casually as the corner of his lips curved into a weird smile. His honorable and handsome face did not look pleased while his dark eyes reflected the dim light.

Xi Xiaye stole a secret glance at him. She could faintly hear in his tone that there seemed to be jealousy, so she immediately raised her brows, and then lowered her head to sip the tea again while she continued watching him secretly.

She was about to say something when he seemed to have noticed her staring at him too. He instantly shot her a side look and said in a lowered voice, "What's with that look of yours? I'm just telling the truth..."

Chapter 207. Jealousy (2)

Xi Xiaye's brows raised even further, her fair and delicate face blossoming with a rare smile of delight. The stillness in her twinkling eyes was akin to the night sky after the dark clouds had cleared away, multifarious starlight pouring out in torrents.

"How valid are your words of truth? In fact, I seem to be smelling something from you right now..." She slowly smiled and looked at him bemusedly.

He acted calmly as ever and glanced at her. If he made the right guess, then he would not fall into her trap. He answered in a lowered voice, "The smell of manliness that captivates you."

When he said this, Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment. She then looked at him earnestly and said calmly, "No, it's a sour smell [1]..."

"Purely your imagination, Missus. Do you think that a man as excellent as me would be jealous over a lowly man? Preposterous!"

Mu Yuchen did not care about Xi Xiaye's meaningful gaze at all. Suddenly, he set his teacup aside and circled her waist with an arm, pulling her into his embrace. He slowly looked down and accurately caught her Japanese rose petal-like soft lips. After a few moments of caressing them, he continued softly, "Can he do this to you? He might be hiding in some corner, observing a moment of silence..."

Xi Xiaye was stupefied. With the help of the faint light, she saw sparks that seemed eager to prove something in his eyes. She thought about it, then her face flashed a smile. With her arms around his shoulders, she said, "Mr. Mu, explaining means that you're trying to cover something up."

"And silence can be construed as agreeing tacitly..." Mu Yuchen said, unaffected. His arms steadied her body that leaned over as his tall body leaned to one side and then comfortably lay down on the sofa. "I've put the details that VP Liu sent over into your briefcase. Just work on Yueying's general shareholders' meeting for the next two days. The South River project can be set aside for now."

As he said this, his long arms that circled around her waist were strong. She could only follow his lead and lean against him. In the blink of an eye, the two of them were bundled up tightly. She pressed against his chest and could even clearly hear the sound of his heartbeat.

Her gaze was still for a moment, then she looked at him. "Did you buy those shares at a high price? How about...?"

"As long as we get it, the other parts of the process is unimportant. Don't you like it?"

He carelessly cut her off. Then, he thought about it and sighed, "I didn't know what to give you. The fact that you married me just like that... Do you feel like you're losing out?"

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye's heart suddenly felt touched. A flow of warmth was spreading all over from the chest while her expression looked calm as usual. She quietly watched him and laughed gently. "Surprisingly, you can be quite self-conscious, but for real, when we really have the wedding, if the dowry isn't enough, I'm not marrying you..."

"Can you really not marry me at that point?" He suddenly lifted her hand and frowned at her.

"What's wrong?" She asked innocently.

The moment she said that, he had already held her by the back of her head, catching her off-guard by meeting his cold, thin lips...

"Tonight, I'll let you be a queen for once. Do you want to, hmm?"

After an entangled kiss, his deep, extremely magnetic and incredibly sexy voice suddenly rang beside her ear, her breathing quickened and her heart beat extremely quickly. Her starry eyes could not help but twinkle, yet her beautiful face blushed shyly. She looked into his dark eyes in a daze and could easily catch the flaming desire in his eyes.

"I... You..." She was a little too shy and did not know how to answer either. Even though she admitted that when she was pinned down under him, she had thought about when she could turn around and pin him down too.

When Mu Yuchen saw her blushing, he did quite enjoy the sight and admired with interest with one hand on the back of his head. "Are you being shy right now?"

"I am not! Mu Yuchen, how did I not know you liked these sort of things before this?" Xi Xiaye was a little humiliated as she glared at him and justified.

He looked at her earnestly and said, "Injustice, Missus! Look at how your husband is such an honorable person. Do I look like that kind of person? Missus, you have to think of it like this. I'm only doing all of this for your own good. Think about it. If you can even pin me down, then who else could be your match? I'm raising your confidence here, can't you see?"

Xi Xiaye had to admire his quick reaction, but she could not help but feel annoyed. "What does confidence have to do with this?"

"Won't you know once you try? Are you unwilling or are you afraid?"

"Nonsense! If you dare to mention it, then why would I be afraid?"

"Then, let's go back right now..."

Once he said that, a certain person had already swiftly got up, carried her with ease, and walked in huge strides towards the bedroom...

Compared to the cozy stillness of the Maple Residence, in Han Yifeng's villa, there seemed to be a stifling air.

On the large, luxurious and snug bed, Han Yifeng was leaning against the bedhead and looking through his phone. Xi Xinyi walked out of the bathroom wearing a sexy, pure silk nightgown. She pulled the blanket open and leaned towards Han Yifeng. "Yifeng..."

Han Yifeng put his phone away and turned slightly to his side, his expression quiet as he said, "Sleep earlier."

His voice was filled with fatigue that could not be described.

He finally managed to suppress the reporters by the entrance of his office with much effort. Now that the government had that document, he could not help but feel a pounding headache from all the drama.

"Yifeng, are you angry at me? I really didn't think of taking that thing to coerce Sister into anything. I didn't know that it would turn out like this too. I also didn't know it would bring trouble to the Han Corporation. Grandmother and Mother are already thinking of a plan to counter this. Tomorrow, they'll hold a press conference and clarify this matter on our behalf... Don't blame me anymore, okay? Yifeng..."

As Xi Xinyi spoke, her charming face could not hide how it looked weak and pale. Her gentle voice sounded sad as she reached out and gently pulled at Han Yifeng's sleeve.

Han Yifeng had his back facing her when he was slightly startled by her actions. He took a deep breath before closing his eyes. "I'm not blaming you. I'm a little tired today. Rest earlier. Tomorrow, I still have work. There's some follow-up that I still need to handle."

Seeing his cold attitude, Xi Xinyi expression changed. The light in her eyes dimmed. She thought about it before gently leaning her whole body forward and planting a kiss on Han Yifeng's lips. Her little hand reached for his belt...

However, before she could do anything, Han Yifeng had already caught her hand and gently pushed her away. He slowly got down from the bed and said, "I'm going to work on one more document. Sleep first."

Then, his tall figure walked towards the door...

Chapter 208. Gradual Estrangement

Bam!

There was a heavy sound of the door closing akin to a massive hammer knocking right on Xi Xinyi's heart, and she could not help but shudder.

She stared blankly at the door that was closed in a daze. A long while after that, she lowered her gaze and hid the loneliness expressed by her eyes. She clasped both hands tightly before thinking about it, then peered down at the sexy nightgown she had changed into and sighed. Finally, she pulled the blanket away and got down from the bed.

She quickly took her own clothes out from the wardrobe and swiftly put them on. Then, she left the bedroom.

When she reached the entrance of the study room, she saw that the light in the room was still switched on. Peeking through the gap of the door and seeing him sitting by the desk and smoking, he seemed lonely. Her beautiful eyes dimmed and she could not help but bite on her lips out of habit. Then, she said to Han Yifeng inside, "Yifeng, I'm going home now. Don't sleep too late. I'll worry."

She turned around and was about to leave.

"How are you going back this late? It's quite far to go back from here." Han Yifeng looked up, exhaling a puff of smoke and looking at Xi Xinyi by the door. His silent eyes were filled with conflict.

Xi Xinyi sniffed a little, her voice remaining gentle yet carrying a hint of her choking on her sobs. "It's fine, I'll go by myself. You should rest earlier too."

"Xinyi!" Han Yifeng frowned. He then abruptly stood up and walked quickly toward her. He held her by the hand and said, "It's already so late right now. You should wait till tomorrow morning even if you want to go home!"

Xi Xinyi struggled for a while before she gazed up with her tearful eyes and stared at him stubbornly. "I'm going home right now. I don't want to stay here and suffocate you, making you unhappy!"

“I’m not unhappy. I’m just a little tired,” Han Yifeng explained weakly, “If you think it’s because of all these scandals, I’m already used to it. Xinyi, why don’t you quit the entertainment industry? Just be a good Mrs. Han. Wouldn’t that be great?”

“The showbiz is mixed with the good and bad. There are a lot of troubles too. Why don’t quit? You don’t have to be associated with these wicked people anymore. After we’re married, you can just help Grandmother manage Yueying.”

As Han Yifeng said this, his hand on Xi Xinyi tightened. There was a hope that could not be concealed in his eyes.

This was not his first time mentioning this, but every time he did, Xi Xinyi would immediately reject him, he wondered if this time, it would be the same as all the times before?

When Han Yifeng said all of that, Xi Xinyi instantly turned nervous. Her pale and weak face held a hint of darkness. Suddenly, she turned to her side and her little hand gripped onto Han Yifeng’s hand tightly too. “Yifeng, you know that taking the path of stardom and becoming a superstar is my dream since I was young. Now, I’m already so close to it, so why shouldn’t I persist? I promise you that the instance I achieve my dreams, I’ll go all out and be your good Mrs. Han, okay?”

Her beautiful eyes begged him. “When you proposed to me, didn’t you already promise me this?”

“But now is a precarious time. You might as well quit now during this storm. Xinyi, I’ve always gone with your wishes. Can’t you just go with mine for once?”

“Yifeng! Don’t you know how much I’ve given up to take on this path to stardom? Now that I’m finally here, you want me to give up? Why should I give up? You don’t understand how important it is to me just like how the Han Corporation is important to you. I’ve persisted till now. I really don’t want to give up... I don’t want to see all my years of hard work be destroyed just like that! I’m begging you, I’m begging you, okay, Yifeng? I really need you to be marching on with me...”

As she said this, Xi Xinyi was suddenly tearful. Her voice had also become raspy from her crying and her fingers on the hand that held onto Han Yifeng turned slightly pale.

“I know that this time, it was my carelessness, but I can guarantee you that I really wasn’t intentional. I’ve never thought about threatening Sister even if she treats me this cruelly. I’ve never blamed her. I’m begging you to not tell me to give up. I’m really afraid that I won’t be able to hold on alone. I really need you, Yifeng... Don’t be mad at me, okay?”

Teardrops started to fall, making her beautiful face appear pitiful with the glistening tears. Even if she seemed like she tried her best to hold them back, but she could not seem to stop the surge of tears.

She could no longer resist and leaned into his arms as her hot tears instantly soaked the front of his shirt. Momentarily dazed, he looked down at Xi Xinyi who was hugging him sadly. Her hands around his waist seemed as if she was clutching onto life-saving straws; it was that tight.

Quite a while after that, he finally sighed disappointed and worriedly lifted a hand to hug her by the shoulders before consoling, “I’ve always let you be. When can you accommodate me in return? Xinyi, I can be tired too. This thing has already made Grandfather and our parents a little upset. If we don’t quickly think of a way to calm things down, it’ll be bad for everyone.”

Xi Xinyi wiped away her tears and sniffed with reddened eyes. “I know, but... who would’ve thought that the document would go through so quickly? Initially, Mother went looking for my uncles to see if they could retract it, but unexpectedly, Sister... She... Why did she do this to me? Did I not compensate her enough?”

When Xi Xiaye was mentioned, Han Yifeng’s eyes shifted in a turmoil. The scene by the South River earlier that day started to flash in his mind again, her words echoing in his ear.

“As for Xiaye’s matter, can’t we just let it pass? Whether or not she forgives us wouldn’t really affect our lives just like the years we spent abroad. Didn’t everyone live in harmony? Is there something you can’t let go of right now?”

As if he was a little worn out, Han Yifeng’s tone sounded quite frustrated and helpless.

“It’s not me who won’t let go right now. It’s she who won’t let go of me. She wants to take revenge on Mother and me. All these years, she’s been resentful of my mother and me for taking away what was originally hers! I’m also the daughter of the Xi family and Father’s daughter too, aren’t I?”

Xi Xinyi took in a deep breath and blinked her moist eyes. She continued, "As for Sister, I've always respected her. If she forces me to my wits' end, I wouldn't... wouldn't..."

Xi Xinyi did not continue after that, but from her eyes, Han Yifeng could understand what she was trying to say.

"If taking a step back can resolve this quarrel and grudge, then take a step back, Xinyi," Han Yifeng softly said, then he slowly let go and suddenly turned to walk into the study room.

Chapter 209. Yueying Stakeholders' Meeting (1)

The scandal did not die down. Instead, it was gaining more and more traction.

The media started reporting it.

Due to City Z paying attention to the development of healthy children lately, words like "orphanage" had become seemingly sensitive. Needless to say, the whole matter turned into a pretty big deal.

Huge crowds of reporters flooded the entrance of Yueying Culture Media Company. Everyone wanted an explanation from Xi Xinyi, including the Han Corporation as well.

Deng Wenwen succumbed under the pressure and held a press conference to give an explanation regarding this matter. It was the stakeholders' meeting tomorrow, after all, and she needed to be cautious.

Yueying's current situation was like a ship sailing in a storm. One more large wave and it would sink, and since Yueying was Deng Wenwen's heart and soul, she could not just let it go down.

Naturally, Xi Xinyi attended the press conference, and as Xi Xiaye predicted before, she gave up on the ownership of the land.

At this moment, Xi Xiaye was standing on the edge of the New Era Plaza. She raised her head and looked at the enormous television screen on the wall, which was live-streaming Xi Xinyi's press conference.

Under the pressure of countless flashlights, Xi Xinyi was still able to remain composed as she gave her explanation to the crowd. Of course, she was just following a perfectly edited speech.

“I genuinely apologize for causing many doubts and misunderstanding. I’ve been keeping an eye on the orphanage for a long time and have mentioned it to CEO Han several times. He was concerned as well. Recently, the government has been very active in charity work for children with a purpose to encourage everyone to pay attention to the children in our city and be concerned about their development. I think that I should do my part as well, and the decision to buy the orphanage land was made after a long discussion with CEO Han. It was to help them protect their home...”

...

In the end, Xi Xinyi was forced to donate the land to the orphanage as well as \$3 million as renovation fees.

Xi Xiaye herself was shocked by how valuable that piece of land was. Xi Xinyi did not have a choice now but to let go of this extremely valuable land.

Impressed by Xi Xinyi’s decisiveness, Xi Xiaye had a sarcastic grin on her face as her eyes were filled with interest.

Xi Xinyi, how did it feel like to suffer a double loss after trying to trick me?

Naturally, it was a rare occurrence for such a large donation in City Z. Even with a top star like Xi Xinyi, it was unnatural for her to just give it away, especially when Yueying Culture Media Company was infamous for being stingy in the industry.

Doubts started coming from the reporters.

“Ms. Xi, Ning An Orphanage mentioned there was neither any discussion about the purchase of the orphanage nor any donations at all, yet you told us about this today. Are you just doing it out of guilt?”

“Ms. Xi, please explain!”

...

The reporters were asking tough questions. Xi Xinyi's reasoning did not seem convincing enough. Of course, she dared not mention Xi Xiaye's name in public because not only would this make things difficult with Xi Mushan, but it would also become a much worse mess than this.

Xi Xinyi just wanted this matter to end as soon as possible.

...

Xi Xiaye stopped watching. She turned around and walked through the crowd focused on the enormous screen, arriving beside her car after a while.

The moment she reached the car, Mu Yuchen opened the door for her from the inside.

"What took you so long?" He asked quietly as she got into the car.

She buckled her seatbelt and started the car as she replied, "I took a look at Xi Xinyi's press conference. As I imagined, she gave up on the orphanage. I'm really impressed though. She's really generous."

"You made her do that, didn't you?"

He laughed as he grabbed a document and put it inside her briefcase. "Vice President Liu will be waiting for you at the office tomorrow. Get these documents to him."

"Mmm, by the way, Su Nan and Ruan Heng's wedding is the day after tomorrow. I picked a set of jewelry out for them and I gave it to them under our name in case I'm alone that day... Are you really going to play golf with Grandpa that day?"

He nodded. "I have something to talk to him about. Attend the wedding with Mother."

“What is it about?” She frowned in doubt as she could tell that something was up.

“You probably guessed it. It’s related to the South River project.” He placed the briefcase back.

“So, it really is about the South River project... I remember that Qikai and the Han Corporation are interested in this as well. Grandpa mentioned it before, remember? Qikai is pretty capable. Didn’t I give you some information on Qikai before? Qikai’s Master, Qi Lei, had just taken on the role of the Vice CEO, and he seemed very confident about this project. Did you check them out?”

He was startled for a moment. An obscure light appeared under his eyes and he did not reply as he was in deep thoughts.

“I’m talking to you. Hello?” Xi Xiaye glanced at him and saw the coldness in his quiet eyes unlike the silence from before, which was why she asked.

Mu Yuchen snapped out of his thoughts quickly and placed a finger on his forehead. “I’m fine. I know our chances of winning are surely much higher with Fuhua backing us up. Don’t worry. I’ve got this.”

“I’ll check Qikai out in these few days. They seem to be working with a foreign company. Our city has been encouraging forging bonds with external forces. Qikai’s power is nearly the same as us Glory World, so we have to be careful about them doing something behind our back. They are known for pulling tricks.” Mu Yuchen suddenly remembered that Mu Tangchuan had reminded him about this before as well.

“Mmm, I’ve asked Vice President Zhang to take note. Don’t worry.”

She was doubtful as she could feel that he was not really paying attention. While she tilted her head over and was about to ask something, he looked outside with a lonely expression.

After some hesitation, she averted her gaze away and did not say anything. She focused forward and sped the car up.

Chapter 210. Yueying Stakeholders Meeting (2)

After returning to Maple Residence, he went upstairs after dinner as usual. Xi Xiaye only went up after she was done with the dishes.

It was pretty late at night when she came out of the bathroom with her half-dried hair. She noticed that the bedroom and the living room were dark. She could see the faint light from the study room. After giving it some thought, she grabbed a glass of water and walked towards the study room.

As she arrived at the door of the study room, she looked inside and he was nowhere to be found. Nevertheless, she could smell the scent of a cigarette in the wind as question marks filled her head.

She looked over at the windows and saw the man smoking right beside the tall bookshelf.

“Don’t always smoke. It’s bad for your health.” She went over and grabbed his half-burnt cigarette before handing him the glass of water.

Mu Yuchen looked at the frowning little woman before him. He smiled when she took his cigarette away. “I’m just a little bored... Pack up your things for tomorrow and go to bed soon.”

“Is something troubling you?” She could not help but ask as she extinguished the cigarette in her hand.

“What can trouble me?” He took a sip from the glass of water. “Don’t overthink. I’m just a little tired.”

“The year has just started and you’re already tired. There’s still a long way to go.” Xi Xiaye laughed, sweeping the cigarette ash on his collar off. “I used to think that people at the top only know how to order their subordinates around and ignore everyone’s feelings, but now that I’m at a higher position, I realize that the higher-ups sometimes might have much more pressure like when I just entered the company...”

“So, people like me are like the devil in your eyes?” He grinned and gave her an odd smile.

Xi Xiaye shrugged. “I was in the Sales Department when I just entered the company. My manager was a very old-fashioned person. She was strict towards all her subordinates and wanted us to be

independent. Every time something happened, she would ask us to solve it ourselves while she just watched. All of us were very unhappy with her. We secretly gave her a nickname, 'The Stern Lady'.

"Afterward, we got used to it. I was transferred to become under Vice President Liu as my performance was pretty good. I faced more and more challenges but overcame each and every one of them, so I'm actually pretty grateful to her. She was my first supervisor since I started working and she had a great influence over me... She's actually very nice..."

She suddenly took a pause and looked up at him with her pair of serious eyes. "You too, be yourself and you'll be able to influence us, your subordinates, no matter work or life."

"Are you lecturing me, Director Xi?" His eyes were getting cheeky as he patted her head with his large hands again as if he were comforting a little child. Xi Xiaye sulkily pushed his hand away.

"I'm being serious right now!"

"I'm taking you seriously right now too!"

"Don't ever pat my head again!"

"I'm just measuring the EQ in your brain... Mmm!"

"Mu Yuchen! Stay there! You watch out! Damn it!"

Two little shadows chased each other late at night as peals of laughter burst out from time to time and vanished along with the wind.

After a while, Xi Xiaye was out of breath and she lay down on the bed. The man put on a big smile. "I'm not my usual self today. I haven't been training lately. I used to actually be pretty good at running and represented our school... I'm serious! Don't look at me like that! I'll prove it to you one day!"

Mu Yuchen laughed and handed a towel to her. "That's enough. Wipe your sweat and take a shower."

Xi Xiaye grabbed the towel and wiped the sweat off her forehead. She then handed the towel back to him. "I'm not going to shower. I just took one. I'll go to sleep."

"Go and shower. Don't be lazy..."

Before he could finish, Xi Xiaye already hid beneath the blanket. He put a finger onto his temple and just let her be. Soon, he started picking up the bolster and towel from the floor.

After he was done, she was already fast asleep. She just lay down quietly and he could hear the faint sound of her breathing. He pulled her into his arms to escape from the loneliness.

Suddenly, hugging her felt real and solid to him, unlike the vagueness he felt before...

...

The next day, when she arrived at Vice President Liu's office, Liu Lingyu and his secretary were already waiting for her.

"Vice President Liu!"

Xi Xiaye bowed down apologetically and smiled. "Have you waited for long?"

Liu Lingyu took a glance at his watch on the wrist and smiled. "It's alright. The time is right. The stakeholders' meeting is at 9.30, so there's another hour to go. We can go over now."

He then stood up. "Let's go!"

Xi Xiaye nodded and handed her document to Xiao Mei behind her before catching up with Liu Lingyu.

“I might need you to help out on this for a while. Chairman Mu told me about you. I never expected you have such relationships with Yueying, and you’ve already married to...”

Liu Lingyu suddenly turned his head back and looked at Xi Xiaye.

Startled, Xi Xiaye closed her eyes and said, “Mmm, thank you for your concern, Vice President Liu. I’m just the owner of the shares. Most of the operational matter still rely on you. I’m not really sure how things work here. Don’t mind me. Just do whatever you need to do and prioritize the company’s benefits.”

“Mmm, it must be tough for you, Director Xi. You might need to take care of both sides. I hope the South River project is going well. Please take care of yourself.” Liu Lingyu was evidently concerned.

“Thank you, it’s fine. Don’t worry, Vice President Liu, Chairman Mu has arranged several capable assistants for me. I’m just analyzing the data, so there isn’t much pressure. I’ll be in your care on matters regarding Yueying. I’m afraid I won’t be able to do much in the future,” Xi Xiaye replied genuinely. She had always been respectful and grateful towards a mentor such as Liu Lingyu.