

Loving 231

Chapter 231. Disappointment and Frustration (1)

When Xi Xiaye arrived at the bottom of the building, there was still a large group of reporters trying to force their way inside Yueying. The Yueying security guards used up all their forces and could barely hold them back.

She did not halt in her steps as she walked through and stopped at the car beside the crowd.

“Director Xi, are we going straight back to the company?” Xiao Mei asked carefully as Xi Xiaye’s expression seemed cold. She seemed to be even cooler than her usual self.

Xi Xiaye opened the door and sat inside. Buckling up, she said, “Help me send this to the Han Corporation first, and then send the document back to the PR Department.”

She then handed a thick leather-bound envelope to Xiao Mei.

Xiao Mei closed the door and took the item from her. Studying it in doubt, she was then surprised to see the address printed on it. As she was about to ask Xi Xiaye something, she changed her mind after she saw Xi Xiaye’s cold face.

Director Xi never liked people discussing her private life, and earlier, she seemed to have had a glimpse of it. Actually, after being by her side for so many years, Xiao Mei had never seen this side of her. Apart from being more headstrong when facing other competitors, she was usually easygoing and gentle.

“Got it, Director!” Xiao Mei replied and then kept the envelope.

...

It was near evening. The sky was turning dark and rain was expected to come soon although the wet roads from the morning were now dried up.

After dropping Xiao Mei off, Xi Xiaye left.

...

Traveling on the road, Xi Xiaye did not really feel right inside.

Mr. Mu had helped her a lot in this matter, so she felt that she needed to thank him properly and with something instant too.

After a while, she had no idea how to thank him. A gift? Flowers? She did not really know what he liked.

She parked her car at a temporary spot and had some quiet time to herself. After that, she grabbed her phone and sent him a message.

Mr. Mu, what do you like?

He was discussing with partnering companies when he received her message. When he took out his phone and saw her one-liner, his face suddenly softened.

Was this girl that free now to find out about him?

He smiled and then replied: I'll tell you at night.

She replied: Can't you tell me now?

I'm busy now. I'll cook you some nice food tonight.

Oh... I want to treat you to a meal tonight...

Sure.

After that, I want to treat you to a movie too.

Mmm.

I'll go first and tell you the location later.

...

It was the first time Li Si saw Mu Yuchen use his phone when he was at work. He did not even notice when CEO Lu called out to him. After a while, he put his phone aside and his usual calmness returned to his face.

"Master, CEO Lu said..."

"Chairman Mu, can you consider our company's proposal?" The middle-aged man spoke up as soon as he saw Mu Yuchen's attention return.

He sipped some tea as he flipped through the document in his hand. "CEO Lu, I'm just a businessman that focuses on the end results. I don't really mind the process. You just have to focus on your current project. We'll definitely give you a chance if you provide us with satisfactory results. It all just depends on you."

The middle-aged man seemed grateful. "Thank you, Chairman Mu. We'll do our best to achieve perfection!"

Mu Yuchen nodded and closed the folder in his hand., "Mmm, I'm confident in both you and your company. We'll stop here today. Look for Vice President Wen if you need anything else."

"Okay, thank you, Chairman Mu!"

...

Xi Xiaye was thinking hard on her own since she did not get an answer from Mu Yuchen. Without realizing it, she had driven to the New Era Plaza.

It was pretty crowded at night. There were people dancing in the public square and the streetlamps were already lit up at 5.30 p.m. since the sky had turned pretty dark. The dim lights shrouded the whole square with a hazy vibe.

Xi Xiaye got down, locked her car, and then went towards the busy streets.

...

At the same time, inside the CEO office of the Han Corporation.

Han Yifeng, who had just returned from City C, was now sitting in front of his table. He was looking at the entertainment news on his screen with a hardened expression as if he was shrouded in ice. He seemed really scary and Secretary Wang beside him shivered a little.

In the few days that CEO Han had left City Z, chaos had ensued. As the orphanage matter was still a popular topic, there was no turning back for Ms. Xinyi now with what had just happened.

Pa!

Han Yifeng slammed the mouse down, seeming all gloomy. Secretary Wang was shocked.

“CEO Han, someone’s probably defaming Ms. Xinyi on purpose. I’ve heard that Ms. Xinyi was attacked the moment she walked out of the hotel, and these incidents...” Secretary Wang tried to explain.

“Just what happened? I remember I wanted you to tell her to appear less in public. What exactly did you tell her?” Han Yifeng glared at Secretary Wang coldly.

“CEO Han, Ms. Xinyi said it was the wedding of Ms. Su Nan and Mr. Ruan Heng, so she wanted to wish them in person. She was just trying to be nice. Unexpectedly, they ran into Ms. Xiaye and things escalated quickly,” Secretary Wang explained.

Han Yifeng’s eyes darkened and a cold light flashed through his pupils. “Xiaye? How is she related to this?”

“No, CEO Han... It’s not related to Ms. Xiaye. Yu Lingling exposed that Ms. Xiaye was expelled from the military academy, and Ms. Xiaye... She left before the banquet ended. Ms. Su Nan thought that Ms. Xinyi...”

Secretary Wang did not continue because he noticed Han Yifeng’s face getting colder and colder. He could feel the chill even though he was standing quite a distance away from him.

“About Xiaye getting expelled from military school? Wasn’t this matter erased? How did they find out?” Han Yifeng demanded.

Secretary Wang shook his head. “Maybe they found out after talking to their friends. What should we do now, CEO Han? Ms. Xinyi has called you many times, and Yueying is now flooded with reporters. I also heard that all of Ms. Xinyi’s films are being halted. Her lead roles in several big films have been removed as well. She gave me a call just now...”

Chapter 232. Disappointment and Frustration (2)

Before Secretary Wang could finish, someone knocked on the door.

“CEO Han, a girl said she’s the assistant of Director Xi from Glory World and she brought a letter for you. Would you like to take a look?”

The female personal assistant put a thick envelope right on Han Yifeng’s table.

Director Xi from Glory World?

Xi Xiaye?

Han Yifeng squinted his eyes and then picked the envelope up. He opened it and took out the document inside. There was a very thick pile of it, so he flipped through them slowly.

After just reading several pages, his expression darkened quickly. Everything listed inside was about all the bad deeds Xi Xinyi had done, including the incident when she had been stabbed many years ago as well as the disappearance of Huang Shanshan's necklace, and many others...

He studied the documents with darkened eyes. Soon, he grasped the documents tightly as his breathing became short and his aloof face seemed pale.

Impossible!

This word flashed through his mind.

However, the clarification letter that was written by Xi Xinyi brutally reminded him that all of these were true. It was not a forgery at all!

Bang!

Just as he was about to grab the coffee beside him, in a flash, the freshly-made coffee was now spilled all over the floor along with the broken glass.

He then suddenly remembered that it seemed...

The information that someone had sent to his email before was all true...

Naturally, he had not believed it when he first received it. Due to the recent stress, he wanted to take a break during his trip abroad this time around in order to reorganize his thoughts. However, in just two days, a disastrous wave had landed upon him.

Xi Xinyi...

So, she had been lying to him all these years?

Han Yifeng's expression changed slightly. Unable to believe it, his whole body froze on his chair as he did not move an inch as if the whole world had gone quiet.

"CEO Han? CEO Han? Are you okay?" Secretary Wang seemed a little worried upon seeing Han Yifeng.

Han Yifeng's mind went blank for a moment. He stared at Secretary Wang blankly when he called out to him. After a while, he signaled for them to leave.

Secretary Wang traded glances with the female personal assistant out of confusion. They left anxiously. After that, Secretary Wang gave Xi Xinyi a call out of concern.

The office became quiet again after they left. It was so quiet that it was difficult to breathe. He could feel a pain stemming from deep inside every time he inhaled. That pain was usually subtle, but it was amplified several times stronger every time he quieted himself down.

After some time, he took a deep breath before roughly pushing the thick pile of papers away. They scattered everywhere and covered the whole office.

He lit up a cigarette and let out a big puff, using up almost all his energy just to force himself to stand up.

Going towards the large window and grabbing onto the curtain tightly, he looked at the city lights outside. For some reason, all he could think of now was not Xi Xinyi's bad deeds or all the lying she had done. Instead, he was reminded of Xi Xiaye's pretty little face under the streetlights.

"Happy birthday. I'm not going to give you a lot of gifts in the future because I'm worried that you might not value my gifts that much anymore if I give them too frequently, so I'm only giving you gifts on your birthday. I'll head back for now. Get some rest soon."

"Yifeng, I don't know who you've ever liked or who liked you all these years, but are you willing to hold your promise onto the marriage contract if I asked you to?"

...

Now that she had sent these things to him, was it...

These past memories were supposed to be hazy, yet they became crystal clear at this moment, and he felt extremely horrible.

Bang! The door was suddenly slammed open as the clacking of high heels on the floor came close.

Xi Xinyi panicked when she saw all the papers on the floor. Her pale, white face became anxious, and she could not control her tears anymore when she saw Han Yifeng standing beside the large window facing outside. She rushed over and hugged Han Yifeng from the back as she cried.

“Yifeng, where have you been? Why is your phone always switched off? I’m really scared and I don’t know what to do now... Sister did this on purpose. She put me into this difficult situation. What should I do now, Yifeng?”

She cried uncontrollably, her tears soon soaking his shirt.

Still, Han Yifeng did not do or say anything and just let her hug him.

“Yifeng...” Xi Xinyi called out to his name as she sobbed.

“Shouldn’t you explain to me about what happened first? Are these the truth?” After some time, Han Yifeng’s disappointed tone reached her.

Xi Xinyi was stunned as she suddenly held onto Han Yifeng with all her might as she continued crying, “No, Yifeng, I... I just really love you... but at that time, you only saw Sister. It was... too much suffering for me. I just want you, Yifeng. I can lose everything but you. Please don’t leave me now... Please...”

Xi Xinyi was sobbing so badly that she was almost out of breath. She stuttered and her usual elegant self was nowhere to be seen. Instead, her current self looked absolutely pathetic.

“So, because of your so-called love for me, you did all this to get me?”

Han Yifeng turned around and looked at Xi Xinyi who had tears all over her face. He frowned in anguish.

Xi Xinyi covered her face with both hands and cried out loud, “I didn’t. I didn’t... but I didn’t have any other choice, Yifeng. If I didn’t fight for you, you’d be with Sister already. Grandfather planned to get Sister to be engaged to you at 15 years old. I really love you. I’ve been longing to know more about you since the first time we met, so I... Everyone has the right to fight for their love. I...”

Chapter 233. The Dashing Mr. Mu (1)

Xi Xinyi choked on her sobs, her pale and haggard little face appearing very pitiful. Han Yifeng fixed his eyes on her, yet his gaze was cold.

He vaguely recalled that Xi Xinyi was indeed telling the truth. When Xi Xiaye was 15 years old, Xi Jiyang and Elder Han had asked for him and Xi Xiaye to get engaged first, and then wait till Xi Xiaye was 20 years old before settling their marriage.

While he had always only treated Xi Xiaye as a younger sister back then, he had been conflicted about the engagement as well. After that...

If it were not for the incident when Xi Xinyi was stabbed, would he have already been engaged to Xi Xiaye and probably married by now?

It seemed as if that incident was a turning point for many things.

Han Yifeng felt something indescribable swell in his heart. After a long while, he then closed his eyes and breathed in a little disappointedly and frustratedly. He turned around casually, pulling Xi Xinyi’s hand that hugged him by the waist away, and walked towards his desk.

His tone was low as he said, “I want to be alone for a while. Go home first. I’ll try my best to handle this matter. Go home and pack your bags. I’ll ask Shanshan to accompany you to lie low abroad.”

“Yifeng, I really need you right now. I...” Xi Xinyi cried until her voice was hoarse and her eyes were red and tearful as she looked at Han Yifeng.

Han Yifeng just pressed a button on his phone to say, “Secretary Wang, come in and send Xinyi back first.” Then, Secretary Wang came in very quickly.

Xi Xinyi’s cheeks were streaming with tears. Dejected, she looked at Han Yifeng who had already turned back to look at his laptop screen. Suddenly, she did not say anything further and turned to walk outside.

...

Mu Yuchen followed the address Xi Xiaye sent, and when he arrived, she had already waited for a long time. What surprised him was that the newlyweds, Ruan Heng and Su Nan were there too. The location they had chosen was a hotpot restaurant which looked pretty tantalizing.

“Why did you take so long?”

He had just reached the table when Xi Xiaye, who had been waiting for a long time, could not help but complain. As she put his windbreaker on the stool on the side, she moved aside to vacate a spot for him, and then handed him a set of clean cutlery.

“Isn’t there a lot of traffic on the roads?”

He sat near her.

Across them, Su Nan’s eyes lit up when she saw Mu Yuchen and she immediately laughed. “Master Mu, thank you for your huge red packet yesterday. Last night, I almost couldn’t fall asleep after getting back, but what was even more delightful was Xi Xinyi being exposed...”

Mu Yuchen just nodded and said humbly, “Congratulations on your wedding.”

“Actually, it was fun for all of us. Master Mu, when are you and Xiaye going to have your wedding? I think Xiaye said yesterday that she likes a seaside wedding. Oh, imagine that moment, underneath the setting sun, on the soft beach, facing the sea with such a sense of belonging... Just imagining it is a kind of happiness... If I had known that, I’d have had a seaside wedding too... Ah! Why are you kicking me?”

Su Nan had not finished when Xi Xiaye had already kicked her from across and glared at her.

Mu Yuchen almost instantly turned to the little woman beside her. He did not miss the way she quickly retrieved her leg. When she realized that he was looking at her, her delicate little face instantly blushed too. She cleared her throat before taking a gulp of her fruit juice.

“The food’s ready. Let’s eat!” Ruan Heng said. It was only then that Su Nan picked up her chopsticks and shot Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye a sidelong look before chuckling to herself.

“Eat your food. Why are you looking at me?” She conveniently scooped a huge ladle of food and stuffed it into his bowl, glancing at him embarrassed

“You didn’t want to tell me when I asked you. The person marrying you is me,” he softly said and then calmly took the wet handkerchief to wipe his hands.

“Master Mu, do you want to have a drink or two? Ruan Heng can drink with you.”

Su Nan suddenly looked up at him, yet before she could extend a glass to him, Xi Xiaye had already spoken up from the side, “He won’t drink. He has to drive later.”

He had probably drunk a lot with Grandfather and his group of old friends. That morning, he still looked like he had a slight headache, so she just helped him reject.

“Look at the way you’re so worried! A few drinks will be fine!” Su Nan rolled her eyes at Xi Xiaye to tease her.

Ruan Heng shook his head and looked at Su Nan as he said a little helplessly, “You’d better watch out for yourself. Every time we gather, you’re always going home drunk. Master Mu, please don’t mind her...”

...

Over the course of the meal, he did not seem to eat much. Xi Xiaye noticed that the man was probably not used to eating hotpot with them. After all, someone like him was probably more used to higher-end restaurants.

She was a little annoyed at herself for not being more considerate.

However, Ruan Heng and Su Nan were grazing happily. Since the three of them always came out to gather anyway, the few of them ate and chatted happily.

When they left the hotpot restaurant, it was lively outside. Ruan Heng and Su Nan left first. Then, Xi Xiaye then took out two movie tickets and said that she wanted him to watch a movie with her.

While he was shocked that the movie she had chosen was one that had been recently released in theatres, he took note that this horror movie was one with quite a lot of rave reviews too.

Xi Xiaye obviously would not tell him that these movie tickets had been mischievously bought by Su Nan. According to her unique dating experience, lovers who watched horror movies together once in a while could enhance a relationship because usually, this would trigger the man's need to protect the girl, instantly satisfying their male chauvinism.

However, this trick was not suitable for Xi Xiaye at all because not even halfway through the movie, she already could not hold back her sleepiness. She leaned on Mu Yuchen's shoulder and fell asleep...

She was awoken by Mu Yuchen only when the movie had ended. Rubbing her eyes in a daze, she got up slowly. She complained that the movie was too boring and that she would not come anymore.

At the moment, it was already quite late and there were fewer people hanging around the plaza. When they walked to the side of the plaza, they could still see that some small hawkers were working hard. The air was floating with the faint aroma of chestnuts roasted with sugar.

The two of them walked side by side without so much of a word. With his windbreaker on her shoulder, she reached out to tug at his long fingers.

A while after that, she suddenly spoke softly and even took out an envelope from her pocket before handing it to him. "Actually, I really wanted to properly reward you today after helping me take revenge. Then, I got Su Nan's call that she wanted to have dinner together, so..."

Next, she turned away a little awkwardly and said, "For you!"

Chapter 234. The Dashing Mr. Mu (2)

When he saw her handing him something, Mu Yuchen instantly stopped and looked a little surprised at her little face blushing. Seeing how shy she was, he could not help but laugh. He squinted his eyes and looked at her. Then, he unhurriedly took the envelope while saying meaningfully, "Is this a love letter?"

When she heard him, Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes. "Do I look like someone so tacky?"

He smiled and then reached out his long fingers to take the envelope. Opening it, he pulled out what was inside.

What greeted his eyes was unexpectedly a drawing of him reading while laying on the couch. It was drawn very life-like except that he was shrunk into the size of a palm and drawn onto a little card.

She had drawn him so nicely?

Mu Yuchen stared at the card for a long while. For the first time, he noticed that he was actually so dashing!

"Why does this quiet, handsome man look kinda familiar? He looks quite dashing too like I've seen him somewhere before..."

His eyes flashed with a faint light as he looked up slowly at her. His mouth turned into a faint curve, while one hand held her by the shoulders.

She could not hold back and playfully punched his torso with a fist. "Stop acting! I don't usually draw people."

When Xi Xiaye finished, Mu Yuchen's handsome face flashed a smile, and then he remembered that comic hidden in the folder on his shelf. "I know. You only draw pigs..."

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye instantly straightened up in alarm and squinted. She glanced at him coldly. "You wouldn't be beating around the bush to curse me now, would you?"

After being with someone like him for a long time, she felt that her awareness to be on guard had increased. Otherwise, she would be easily taken advantage of.

He blinked in amusement and smiled without a word.

"How annoying! You're making insinuations about me!" She looked at the smile on his lips and could not help but jump on him. "Return that to me!"

He immediately raised an arm and said, "Do I look like someone like that? I was just telling the truth, but thank you, Missus, for making me look so dashing in your drawing."

Then, he gently hugged her. After some thought, he softly asked, "Do you think he looks more handsome, or do I?"

When he said this, Xi Xiaye was stunned. She looked up in shock at him, her twinkling eyes flickering with a gentle light. She stared at that handsome face of his for a very long time in earnest, and then said with a serious expression, "He's more handsome than you."

Hearing her reply, his tranquil, dark eyes instantly started to ignite with a glimmer. He seemed quite satisfied. "Good. Your standards are the same as mine."

Had he done all of that just to disguise self-praise?

Xi Xiaye ignored him. Seeing that it was already late, she was about to say that she wanted to go home when suddenly the phone in her pocket buzzed. She quickly took it out to look.

It was Xi Mushan!

Her eyes reflexively flashed with a cold light that contained mixed emotions. She looked up at Mu Yuchen to see that he was looking at her phone screen.

“It’s Father...”

Could it be about Xi Xinyi’s matter?

“Answer it,” he said softly and tightened his hug around her shoulders.

Xi Xiaye hesitated for a moment before finally taking a deep breath and sliding to answer.

“Xiaye, it’s me, Father...” Xi Mushan’s deep and raspy voice came from the other end very quickly. She could vaguely hear him lightly coughing. He seemed to be sick and sounded a little weak.

“Mmm...” Xi Xiaye answered. She struggled for a while, and finally could not help but ask, “Are... Are you okay?” Her beautiful brows frowned slightly.

She was not sure why but when she heard his voice, Xi Xinyi’s words suddenly echoed clearly by her ear, making her feel something indescribable.

“If it wasn’t for Father, you’d be in jail already. Father almost got demoted because of you. He would’ve been done for if Mother didn’t ask for help from Grandfather and Uncle!”

She remembered that back then, she had even cried in front of Xi Mushan, begging him to ask the school not to expel her.

At that time, the answer he gave her was the cold view of his back.

After that...

The on-and-off coughing kept coming from the other end. On such a cold and silent night as this, it sounded particularly lonely.

"It's fine. It's just a little cold. I just got off the plane. Your father's told me about you and Mu Yuchen's thing. Tomorrow, if you're free, let's meet."

When he said this, Xi Xiaye instantly looked up and sought Mu Yuchen's opinion. She saw Mu Yuchen nodding gently. "Mmm, okay."

"Xiaye, can you... Can you... ask your mother to come along as well?" Xi Xiaye was about to hang up when Xi Mushan's weak voice seemed to sound a little rushed. "Call your mother to come along too. Let's consider it a reunion dinner..."

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment and did not answer for a long time.

"Don't worry. It will just be me and your grandfather. I know that you don't want to see them," Xi Mushan explained.

She could hear the hope in Xi Mushan's voice. In fact, it seemed like he had not found out about Xi Xinyi's matter yet.

After a long while, Xi Xiaye just said, "I'll try." Then, she hung up, her twinkling eyes unable to hold back the extremely mixed feelings she felt.

"What are you thinking about that you're so entranced?" Mu Yuchen called out to her quite a few times, but she did not react. He just took her phone and then called the Mu residence as he said, "It's good to meet up too. Haven't you been wanting to matchmake your parents again?"

“But I don’t know if back then... Also, Father’s already...” Xi Xiaye muttered, concern between her brows.

“I’ve never supported the spirit of sacrificing yourself for others. Since someone else has stolen what’s yours, why can’t you steal it back? If you like it, then you’ve got to have it. Why should you see them be happy while you suffer all of this?”

Mu Yuchen looked at her disapprovingly, then the call to Mu residence got through. It was Wang Hui who picked up. When she saw who called, she did not even wait for Mu Yuchen to speak and quickly called out sweetly for her granddaughter-in-law.

“Have you eaten all those things? There’s still more at home if you’ve finished them. Come home with Chen Er. The strawberries in our yard are ready for picking. They’re pretty good...”

Wang Hui rambled on before noticing that no one had spoken on Xi Xiaye’s end, so she then stopped.

“Tomorrow, call Grandfather, Father, and Mother to make a trip to Maple Residence. Xiaye’s grandfather and father are coming over from her end.” Mu Yuchen’s calm voice was heard.

“Chen Er? What? Grandfather and Father? Xi Jiyang and Xi Mushan, right?”

“Mmm, let’s meet tomorrow. Rest well.”

...

Mu Yuchen hung up, then turned to look at her. When he saw her frown, he breathed in and patted her head. “Let’s go home. I’ll persuade Mother...”

She then nodded and looked at him gratefully.

Chapter 235. It's Fine As Long As She's Fine With Him (1)

It was already late at night when they arrived back at Maple Residence. It was hazy outside with cold weather and it actually hurt a little when the icy cold breeze assaulted their faces.

Xi Xiaye closed the half-opened window before she checked through the fridge and storeroom to see what they needed. After that, she called Sis Wang to get them to go over earlier to clean up and only went upstairs after finishing all of that.

The man was playing Starcraft after he showered. She could hear the theme music of the game from far away. Upon seeing the focused look on his face, she decided to leave him alone and went into the bathroom for a bath instead.

As usual, he had prepared the water for her after he finished.

When Mu Yuchen went back into the bedroom, she was done bathing and was flipping through some blueprint-like documents on the bed. He switched off the lights and the bedroom went dim. Her focus broken, Xi Xiaye suddenly lifted her head.

He went beside her and grabbed the blueprints from her to study them with the dim wall light. They were documents of the South River project. He sighed before leaving them on the chair aside. "You must be really motivated to read these in the middle of the night."

He slipped beneath the blanket. Before Xi Xiaye could react, his long arms wrapped around her and his hoarse voice reached her. "Since you're so motivated, why don't we have some fun ourselves?"

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment. His pleasant fragrance made her lose herself again. Suddenly, her restraints were removed as he pressed down onto her. His cold kiss accurately landed on her collarbone...

She took a deep breath and wanted to say something before, but she now forgot all about it. She noticed that she had become less and less resistant to him. Unable to help herself, she was getting more and more used to him sleeping beside her.

Sometimes, when she woke up during the night, without even looking, she would unconsciously reach out to the side until she touched his body, and her tightened chest would relax after she knew that he was still beside her. Then, she would continue sleeping as she held his hand.

Xi Xiaye did not realize that Mu Yuchen was like a drug to her. As days went by, she was slowly getting more and more addicted to him, and it would be too late to stop when she recognized it.

After a while, she relaxed and took off his clothes with her slender arms. She then asked quietly beside his ears, "Have you called Mother?"

"I'll call her tomorrow. Focus now, Missus!" He said with an uneven tone, then...

...

They only stopped around midnight and she slept away soon afterward. It was near noon when she woke up the next day. Things were pretty happening downstairs when she came down after washing up. Mu Yanan, Wang Hui, Mu Tangchuang, and Zhuang Shurong were all present. However, what surprised Xi Xiaye was that even Shen Yue was there. To her disappointment, Shen Wenna was nowhere to be seen.

Shen Yue was talking to Mu Yuchen on the veranda and he nodded from time to time, appearing to be in agreement with what Mu Yuchen was saying.

Sis Wang and the others were working in the kitchen while Wang Hui and Zhuang Shurong were looking at a piece of traditional watercolor art together. It seemed like Wang Hui had painted it herself.

"Xiaye, I heard from Chen that you're handling the South River project. Is that true?" Mu Tangchuang asked Xi Xiaye as she sat down on the sofa.

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Yes, Father."

"The documents from the government should be ready sometime in the middle of next month. You have to make good use of your time now, especially since there's pretty fierce competition this time." Mu Tangchuan beamed.

"I got it, Father." She already knew that Qikai was very capable, and they would probably be their top competitor this time.

Mu Tangchuan wanted to say something again, but as his eyes glanced over to Mu Yinan beside him, he stopped and just nodded.

After a while, Xi Xiaye went outside when she heard the sound of a car engine. Mu Yuchen, who was chatting with Shen Yue, followed Xi Xiaye outside as well.

“Mother?” Xi Xiaye was surprised to see Shen Wenna. She did not expect Mu Yuchen to actually be able to convince her to come.

She then looked at the man beside her in surprise. “How did you convince Mother? I’ve mentioned it to Mother before, but she didn’t answer me. I thought...”

“I have my ways.” Mu Yuchen did not answer her directly and just gave her a mysterious smile instead. He then walked in front and greeted Shen Wenna, “Mother.”

Shen Wenna nodded with a smile. “I’m not late, am I?”

“It’s alright. My parents are here, and Father-in-law should be here soon,” Mu Yuchen replied humbly.

Shen Wenna’s eyes darkened slightly. She then drew a deep breath. “Mmm, let’s go in for now.”

Xi Xiaye did not say anything at all as her eyes were focused on observing Shen Wenna’s beautiful face. She did not miss the brief moment of sorrow on her face.

“Xiaye, you go in with Mother first. I need to call Ah Mo. Pass me the phone.” Mu Yuchen turned around and looked at Xi Xiaye.

She was startled for a moment before nodding and handing him the phone before going towards Shen Wenna.

“Is the school going to start the new semester soon?” Xi Xiaye found a topic to talk to her mother about.

“Mmm, I just came over from the school. We are planning to hire several more lecturers this year, so I shouldn’t be as busy as I was last year. I can be more focused on supervising my thesis students,” Shen Wenna replied.

...

The mother-daughter pair then went into the house.

As Mu Yuchen was about to call Ah Mo, another car arrived and he raised his head to take a look.

It was Ah Mo and the others!

Xi Xiaye and Shen Wenna halted in their steps and looked back when they heard the cars arriving.

The car slowed down and stopped near Mu Yuchen. There was another black car right behind it and Xi Xiaye recognized the person driving as Xi Mushan’s secretary, Ah Hui!

Xi Mushan and Xi Jiyang are here!

Xi Xiaye had this thought in her mind.

Chapter 236. It's Fine As Long As She's Fine With Him (2)

Xi Xiaye looked back at Shen Wenna worriedly. Her mother did not seem very at ease and her eyes darkened a little before taking a deep breath as she looked at the car.

Xi Mushan came out first. His sharp eyes darted over the moment his feet touched the ground. Beside him, Mu Yuchen could feel Xi Mushan’s eyes soften when he looked at Shen Wenna. They then hardened a little and went back to their usual calm in the end.

“Chen!”

“Grandfather, Father,” Mu Yuchen greeted politely.

“Let’s go in.” Shen Wenna went into Maple Residence without so much as a glance at Xi Mushan and Xi Jiyang.

Xi Mushan’s expression darkened when he noticed that.

“Let’s go in now. It’s pretty cold outside,” Mu Yuchen said, signaling Xi Jiyang and Xi Mushan to go in. Ah Mo, Ah Hui, and two bodyguards in black suits were holding a bunch of stuff as they plodded over.

As they went into Maple Residence, because Mu Tangchuan had worked with both Xi Jiyang and Xi Mushan before, they greeted each other. Also, Wang Hui and Mu Yinan had contacted Xi Jiyang before, so they were not exactly strangers.

Still, Xi Jiyang was surprised when he saw Shen Yue!

How was he Shen Wenna’s father? Was he the grandpa Xiaye mentioned before?

Xi Jiyang was lost in his thoughts for a while as he stared at Shen Yue in disbelief. Shen Yue just gave him a cold smile.

Xi Jiyang quickly turned over to Xi Mushan. Seeing that he was not surprised at all, he asked, “You knew about this long ago, didn’t you?”

Xi Mushan did not answer him. Instead, he averted his gaze with an unpleasant expression, especially because of the fact that Shen Wenna did not look at him again since he came in.

Shen Yue, of course, seemed displeased about him being there as well.

Mu Tangchuan and Mu Yinan tried to soften the atmosphere to make things go more smoothly.

After a while, lunch was ready and the whole family sat down together. Xi Mushan sat beside Shen Wenna, but the both of them did not look very comfortable. Since everyone knew what had happened, they purposely avoided some sensitive topics.

Xi Xiaye would really love to know how Xi Jiyang and Xi Mushan would react after they found out about what happened to Xi Xinyi, but they seemed pretty distant, so she could not deduce anything from their expressions.

The man beside her would try to join in the conversation from time to time. He could obviously feel that Shen Yue was being pretty harsh towards Xi Jiyang and Xi Mushan, but he restrained himself for Xi Xiaye's sake.

After lunch, Xi Xiaye felt like the atmosphere in the living room was suffocating, so she went out to the veranda for some fresh air. Unexpectedly, Xi Mushan went out with her as well.

"Today must be tough for you, Xiaye." Xi Mushan coughed a little, his voice sounding hoarse.

Xi Xiaye held onto the railing and looked at Xi Mushan, his expression clouded as he went silent for a moment. He did not say anything and just shut his eyes.

"I've heard about what happened to Xinyi. I have no right to ask you to forgive her. I'm just going to let you guys be. Your grandmother experienced high blood pressure yesterday and she's now resting at home. She's thinking about letting Xinyi take over Yueying. She asked her to retire from the entertainment industry after all that has happened lately and just focus on running Yueying."

Xi Mushan sounded sorrowful when he spoke. "As for the things you sent to West Park, your grandfather and I looked through them. I'm sorry for what you've gone through all over the years. I know that you don't have a good impression of the Xi family, but you can never erase the fact that we're related by blood... So, come back often if you have the time..."

"I thought you'd ask me to let go of Xi Xinyi. Father, actually I've been longing to know did you separate with Mother back then because of the power of the Yue family?" Xi Xiaye's eyes suddenly brightened when she spoke as she observed Xi Mushan's face quietly.

Xi Mushan was stunned for a while. His eyes looked complicated, and Xi Xiaye seemed to sense a resentful vibe from him.

Hidden under his sleeves, his hands clenched into fists.

After some time, Xi Xiaye smiled before he could reply. "I've never thought of you as someone like that, but what if I told you Mother told me that she has reserved all her feelings for you even until now... Would you feel guilty about it?"

"She would never let me blame you, but, Father, isn't it enough having one woman that loves you? Why did you betray her, and betray our happy family? No, you betrayed Mother much earlier... Xi Xinyi's birthday isn't that far away from mine..."

Xi Mushan's face froze up as he heard Xi Xiaye's question, he felt horrible when he saw Xi Xiaye's mocking expression, he wanted to say something back, but it seemed as if everything he said would be just a pathetic excuse.

Noticing that he kept quiet, Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and went back into the living room. She saw Shen Wenna standing beside the door just as she turned around.

She was a little startled, but did not say anything and went on her way.

"Wenna..."

The two of them looked at each other for some time. Shen Wenna had a complicated and painful expression on her face. She wanted to leave right away, but after some thought, she still went towards him.

"Long time no see. You seem pretty good just like... just like before..."

Xi Mushan looked at Shen Wenna who was beside him now. His deep voice was uneasy, and even a little nervous.

No one would ever guess that even he, a seemingly powerful politician, could act like an inexperienced and fearful teenager before her. Had it not been for that single mistake, could they still be happily married right now?

“Have you been doing well all these years?” Xi Mushan asked her another question when she did not reply to his previous one. He asked her ever so carefully, afraid that he might have made her unhappy after going as far as to ask Xi Xiaye to invite her over.

Shen Wenna did not reply. She turned around and looked at him as he stopped talking after his questions. Then, she said coldly in a distant tone, “I came here today for the sake of Xiaye and Chen. I don’t want the children to worry about me. Are you just going to do nothing about Xi Xinyi mocking your daughter in public during Su Nan’s wedding? You know that incident had nothing to do with Xiaye, yet you still allowed people to continue spreading this nonsense. Do you know it has become a traumatic experience in your daughter’s heart?”

Chapter 237. It's Fine As Long As She's Fine With Him (3)

Xi Mushan was startled when Shen Wenna questioned him. Instantly, he put up an apologetic expression on his handsome face, but he did not defend himself. After all, he was at fault in this matter...

“I understand that it’s a difficult situation for you, but you should know your daughter well. I don’t care how you and Yue Lingsi betrayed me back then. I also don’t care how Xi Xinyi imitated her mother and attacked Xiaye, but I just hope that you can protect this peace Xiaye has found after marrying Chen. This is something you can do, isn’t it?”

Shen Wenna looked at Xi Mushan straight in the eye. “Xiaye has always been concerned about us. I have to say that I’m not a responsible mother to her...”

“Wenna, I’m sorry... I’ve always felt guilty towards you all these years. Every time I see Xiaye, I’d... I went to look for you at the school before... I wanted to talk to you. If... If...”

“What for? Can’t you give me some peace alone? You know very well that Yue Lingsi came and looked for me the last time. Moreover, things are over between us. Please don’t be like this,” Shen Wenna sighed.

“Wenna, we’re not young anymore. I wish to live for myself,” Xi Mushan said quietly.

“Please stop saying that. I’m tired. I don’t want to argue with you on this anymore. Since you said so, then please go back to your wife and live happily ever after with her. I’m not interested in interfering at all. I’m fine. You don’t have to worry. Things are great for me now. Didn’t we live peacefully all this time? Why do you have to break the peace now?” Shen Wenna raised her head and looked at Xi Mushan.

“I can’t let you go, Wenna...”

Shen Wenna’s expression changed and she had a mocking smile on her face when she heard Xi Mushan’s words. “So? Who do you think I am? Don’t forget that you have your own family now. Don’t make me look down on you!”

“I’ve never touched her except that night! Wenna, you knew that I thought she was you, so...” Xi Mushan looked guilty and his eyes were cold. “Who knew she would go overseas in secret, and even give birth to Xinyi?”

Shen Wenna laughed coldly at him. Having lost interest, she was about to head back into the house. “There’s no meaning to your words now. No matter how good your reasons are, you can’t erase the fact that you’ve betrayed me, Xi Mushan. I hope that you can be responsible and bear your faults. At least, that can still impress me.”

“Wenna!” Xi Mushan coughed lightly as he grabbed Shen Wenna’s hand, but she swiftly avoided him.

Xi Mushan closed his eyes in agony after he saw Shen Wenna step back into the house. He took a deep breath as the pain seeped deep into his heart. Depression shrouded him.

There were some mistakes that could never be corrected. No matter how hard he tried, there was nothing he could do.

After some time, Shen Wenna went back to school and the Mu Tangchuan couple had something to work on as well. Shen Yue and Mu Yinan were going to play golf. Xi Jiyang invited Mu Yuchen to visit West Park some time, but Xi Xiaye rejected. She really did not want to see people that would make her upset.

Mu Yuchen just let her be.

After they went back into the living room after sending them off, Xi Xiaye sat down tiredly as she accepted the cup of tea he handed her.

"I don't know what Mother told Father, but from the way he looks, he seemed pretty sad..."

"Father should still have feelings for Mother. His eyes say it all," he replied indifferently.

She gave it some thought before nodding. She then sighed, "There seems to be an uncrossable realm between them. There's nothing I can do to help."

She placed the cup down and then looked at the man beside her. She stared at him for some time before asking, "Will you make the same mistake in the future?"

He looked up from the newspaper and glanced at her. After a brief moment, he replied, "Do you think there's anyone else that can satisfy me besides you?"

"Can't you be more serious? I'm not joking around here!" Xi Xiaye grabbed a pillow nearby and threw it at him as her face blushed.

He blocked the pillow she threw with one hand, and then replied to her with a serious expression, "Do I not look serious to you right now?"

Xi Xiaye glared at him before cleaning up the table. All of them were items Wang Hui had brought over from the Mu Residence. She moved the bags a little and she saw their contents.

Velvet antler?

Velvet antler wine?

Those words reminded her of the aphrodisiac qualities of the contents!

However, did he really need it?

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment. She glanced at him and saw that he had already gone back to reading his papers. She then packed the stuff up swiftly, but her sudden movements actually alerted him.

He raised his head and saw her flushed face. "What's wrong? Are you sick?" He put down the newspaper and wanted to help.

"Nope, it's alright. I'll do it. You sit down!" She moved around and continued to work on packing.

He had better not touch these things. She remembered that Wang Hui made her ate some supplements and she had felt odd after that.

Mu Yuchen looked at her in doubt. He suddenly grabbed the bag she packed and she quickly seized his hand. "These are mine..."

"Let me see what's inside!"

"No!"

"Just a look!"

"No, don't move!"

She hugged the bag in front of her, and at that moment, someone's phone rang. Mu Yuchen gripped her arm with one hand and took out the phone with another to answer the call.

"Xiaye, it's me..."

A deep voice reached his ear, sounding a little familiar. Mu Yuchen took a small pause as frigidity surfaced on his face.

Xi Xiaye soon noticed that something was not right. She tilted her head over and looked at the phone screen curiously.

“What’s wrong?”

Chapter 238. It's Fine As Long As She's Fine With Him (4)

An unknown number greeted her sight. She was about to ask who it was, but he handed the phone to her and said softly, “It’s for you.”

Xi Xiaye’s brows raised, then she muttered, “You’re acting crazy.”

She reached out to take over the phone and answer, it.”Hello?”

When he heard her voice, a muffled voice which was affected by gloom mumbled quickly, “Xiaye, it’s me...”

Recognizing his voice, Xi Xiaye frowned. Her body tensed up and a while after, she said, “Why are you calling?”

“The thing that you got someone to bring me... I’ve seen it... I want to talk to you...” Han Yifeng’s low voice came through with a hint of disappointment and frustration.

Xi Xiaye leaned against Mu Yuchen and sat down. “The things I brought you have no other meaning. I just wanted to do it for myself. Besides, however you see them is your problem.”

“Xiaye, I also...”

“Enough, CEO Han. I’m not interested in chatting with you. For now, you should be thinking about how to help your fiancé with those rumors.”

Xi Xiaye indifferently lowered her gaze and then slowly hung up. Just as she was about to continue tidying up, she suddenly felt that the energy from the man beside her was off, so she then turned to look at him. Indeed, he did not look right. His deep eyes flickered with a cold light that she could not fathom as they stared right at her.

Xi Xiaye immediately frowned and looked up at him. "What's wrong? Why are you looking at me like that?"

"You delivered something to him?" He asked in a deep voice, his eyes narrowed.

When she heard him, she vaguely felt that his tone was not right, and from the way he looked, she thought about something. Then, her lips curled up as she pulled at his arm and her body leaned forward. "Why do I smell something sour here? You wouldn't be jealous, would you?"

His handsome brows furrowed. The light in his eyes was sly and bewitching. Quite a while after that, he said, "What brand is the vinegar? Who would have such power? That person isn't on the same level as I am. Would I be jealous of him?"

Xi Xiaye immediately giggled gently. She went up to him with her slender body. "You smell sour from head to toe, and you're still denying it? Quickly come up with a new term called 'proud and pampered'!"

He reached out to hug her body that had shimmied up to him. When she threw herself onto him, the both of them ended up lying down. "I'm fine. I didn't..."

"Defending yourself is tantamount to covering up!"

She pinned him down below her, and stared at him like she was discovering him with the curiosity of finding a New World, yet he was frankly lazy to explain and lowered his gaze. He reached up to comb his fingers through her beautiful hair.

When she saw him keeping mum, Xi Xiaye lifted her fair and slightly cold fingers to touch his handsome face. She looked down at him and said softly, "I just got Xiao Mei to send the evidence I collected about Xi Xinyi's crimes to his office. I wanted to expose Xi Xinyi... Do you think I'm a bad woman?"

His tensed handsome face eased a little while he just let her hold his face. He pondered thoughtfully for a while, then he nodded and said seriously, "You're pretty wicked... If this were a fairytale, you'd have to play the role of a witch."

"That's true. Young witches are usually very beautiful, capable, and can even make you envious..." She merely turned his words into a compliment, a rare joke.

"Missus, actually I think that the prince and the witch are actually the most suitable pair. As long as they have each other in their hearts, they'll also live a peaceful and happy life. No matter what, they'll be the most beautiful in each other's hearts, and that would be enough."

He chuckled softly and his long arms hugged her tightly.

He and she could actually be very simple.

As long as he thought she was good, and vice versa, that would be enough!

"Why are you the prince and I the witch when you're actually worse than me and sinister too!?" She complained unhappily.

"I'm not as bad as you say. I'm a good person, that person's the bad one, don't be confusing right from wrong now, someone like him could only be fit with a hypocritical princess, they wouldn't know how good you are, only I have the eye to discern..."

Mr. Mu decided that he must instill a beautiful and glorious image of him in her, making Han Yifeng's image worse and worse to her.

Xi Xiaye suddenly squinted her starry eyes and watched him speak. A while after that, when he stopped, he looked at her weirdly too. Then, she laughed and the hand that gently held his arm suddenly slid down, pulling his long fingers with some warmth seeping through her palms. Under his puzzled and shocked gaze, she lowered her head and inched nearer to his lips...

The faint fragrance closed in. She could not help but be stunned by his proximity for a moment. He was a little shocked by this little girl's initiative, but he very quickly responded. Naturally, he would not let go of this, so he very generously let her take the lead, letting her take over him.

"Mu Yuchen, I've never told you this before, but I've always thought you were a good person. Of all the men I've met, you are the most handsome, dashing, and good-tempered man. Many female colleagues at the company like you too. They all say you don't look like a boss, but even more like a Prince Charming that's out of this world. Mmm... like that Piano Prince... So unlike us common mortals..." Xi Xiaye suddenly rambled to him, "The people in our department don't know about us, and even want me to chase after you and tackle you!"

When he heard her revelation, he chuckled and could not help but hold her up by the shoulders. He beamed and said, "Unlike you common mortals? Wouldn't that make me an immortal then? Prince Charming? But you chasing me, that we can consider!"

"You wish! Why is it not you chasing me? I'm the goddess among our company's male colleagues, alright?"

"I never chase after women... but, Missus, you're definitely an exception. Mmm!"

"If you dare to not make me an exception, I'll send a slap right across... Mr. Mu, do you think I've become thicker?"

"How so? Missus, you're still very slim!"

"Why do I feel like I've become thicker?"

"Let me feel you... It does feel like so... Mmm!"

Before he could finish, a fist of hers fell again. He could not help but feel helpless — it turned out that telling the truth was wrong too!

However, compared to Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye's happiness on this end of town, Han Yifeng's side had clouds of worry and a dismal tone.

On the sofa in the living room of the villa, Han Yifeng was looking gloomily at the entertainment news reported on his computer screen. Beside him, Secretary Wang had delivered a huge pile of newspapers to him. Huge piles of papers messily scattered the table, all reporting the latest update about Xi Xinyi.

Quite a few days had passed, yet this incident still had not fizzled out. Instead, it seemed to have become worse. The entire entertainment industry was still abuzz with rumors as all sorts of scandals about Xi Xinyi surfaced.

Naturally, it included many suspicions that people had decided to hit her while she was down!

Chapter 239. Crack (1)

Han Yifeng's expression looked increasingly morose. Huang Ziyao and Han Yu had also kept calling to ask about the progress on the whole ordeal, yet he did not know how to answer them.

He studied the phone screen that had already dimmed on his table, his eyes dark. He sat there for a long time without moving until he heard Secretary Wang call out to him, "CEO Han, what do we do? These scandals cannot be suppressed anymore. Yueying is being forced to make Miss Xinyi temporarily leave the company. I heard that CEO Deng even collapsed from being angered by this..."

Secretary Wang looked a little uneasily at Han Yifeng. "The old Chairman and Madam have already called many times to ask about the situation and Xinyi, but your phone has been switched off. They're very worried."

Han Yifeng fell silent for a long time before finally answering, "Go home first. I'd like to be alone."

"CEO Han, but Miss Xinyi... She..."

"You go home first. I'll call you if I need anything." Han Yifeng propped his head up with one hand with waning interest. Then, he picked up the remote control and switched the television off. When Secretary Wang saw his boss react that way, he dared not speak further and retreated.

However, Secretary Wang had just walked to the entrance of the villa when he saw Xi Xinyi rushing in.

“Miss Xinyi!” Secretary Wang greeted nervously.

Xi Xinyi rushed up and said anxiously, “Secretary Wang? Where’s Yifeng? Is Yifeng inside?”

“CEO Han is in the living room, Miss Xinyi...”

Before Secretary Wang could finish, Xi Xinyi had already rushed in.

“Yifeng!”

Indeed, she saw Yifeng in the living room, sitting on the sofa looking down. His expression was grim. Xi Xinyi paused, then she walked over with moist eyes. “Are you angry at me? I’ve called you, but your phone was switched off. I...”

“Yifeng...”

Xi Xinyi sat down beside Han Yifeng, her eyes blinking with tears. She reached out to hold Han Yifeng’s arm, her charming face now seeming haggard. She shook Han Yifeng’s arm, but when she saw that Han Yifeng was still frowning, she finally could not help but droop her head down, feeling upset and heartbroken. She started to cry.

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry... I didn’t know that things would turn out like this, Yifeng... I really didn’t do it on purpose, Yifeng, I... I just cared for you too much. That’s why I fell so deep into it and couldn’t pull myself out. It makes me really sad that you’d switch off your phone and not pick up my calls... I’ll listen to you and quite the entertainment industry, okay? Yifeng...”

Xi Xinyi choked on her sobs as her tears started to fall, and very soon it soaked her shirt. All of the agony she had endured suddenly erupted. “Yifeng, don’t just keep quiet. Don’t be mad at me! I’ll just change after this, Yifeng...”

Her unbearably vulnerable face entered Han Yifeng's sight, yet it annoyed him somehow. He did not know how to answer her. In the name of love, she had not spared using so many tricks. He could feel that maybe Xi Xinyi did love him deeply, but could he really just turn a blind eye to all of this?

"I really love you... I really regretted it after that, just so you know. All these years, I've been trying to make it up to her. I've been working hard and doing my best, but, Yifeng, ever since we returned to the country, you've been slowly changing. You haven't been dotting on me as you did. In this house, you treasure everything that she gave you like that bottle of stars by your nightstand... Do you know how it makes me panic?"

Xi Xinyi cried like she had been very wronged. Her initially gentle voice had become raspy from the weeping and her hand that held onto Han Yifeng could not help but tremble.

He stayed silent for some time before Han Yifeng finally took a deep breath, and then an expression of mixed emotions flashed across his face. He turned to Xi Xinyi who was sobbing heartbreakingly and he felt his heart sink. He struggled for a while before answering, "That's enough, Xinyi. I know how you feel about me, but I didn't think that you... Since I've already chosen you and we're already engaged, why do you still have to worry? You even didn't spare getting Yu Lingling to re-open Xiaye's old scars. You know how it's Xiaye's fatal weakness. Xinyi, what do you want me to say? Now, the scandals are the talk of the town. When can you be considerate toward me? I've already said that you should retire..."

Han Yifeng had not finished when the phone on his table suddenly vibrated. At one glance, he could tell that, of course, it was Huang Ziyao. He could only massage between his brows. Shooting a look at Xi Xinyi, he saw the shock on Xi Xinyi's face. He lowered his head sadly, inhaled, and picked up his phone. "Hello? Mother?"

"Yifeng? You've finally picked up! How are you? What's the deal with Xinyi? I've called Yueying, but the line's always busy. I called West Park and no one picked up too. What's happening? Your grandfather saw the news and almost got a heart attack. You know that your grandfather has always been against Xinyi entering the showbiz, saying that a lot of people are mixed in it and how there're lots of scandals too. Nevertheless, it was you two who say that it'd be fine, and now that all these scandals have surfaced, how are you going to explain to your grandfather and everyone else?"

Han Yifeng had just picked up the call when Huang Ziyao's pressing and questioning tone assaulted his ears. Even Xi Xinyi could hear it clearly from the side and her little face instantly stiffened.

“How are you two planning to handle this? The reporters’ calls have already reached the Han family. What’s up with that?”

...

Huang Ziyao’s every word was a like a heavy hammer, viciously knocking onto Xi Xinyi’s heart. Xi Xinyi could not stop herself from trembling. Feeling a deep sorrow, she started to be absent-minded and could not stop choking on her sobs as her eyes turned bloodshot from all the crying.

“Mother! That’s enough. I’ll handle this. Just tell Grandfather that. That’s all for now!” Han Yifeng felt annoyed and then hung up.

“Yifeng...” Xi Xinyi looked sick with worry at Han Yifeng.

“Leave City Z for a while first. Where’s Shanshan? Why haven’t I been seeing her?” Han Yifeng looked puzzledly at Xi Xinyi who was dumbstruck once again.

Should Huang Shanshan not be very worried and be by her side at such a moment? Why did it seem like she had been rarely appearing recently?

Neither had she not seen Huang Shanshan for many days now nor did she pick up her calls. She was not sure whether Huang Shanshan was really busy, but before this, no matter what, she would not ignore her calls, especially at such a crucial time. She would always be the first to appear, but now...

Xi Xinyi did not dare to think about it anymore. She was afraid that...

She hesitated for a moment and finally did not know how to answer. Sniffing, she bit her lip and dropped her head down without answering.

Chapter 240. Crack (2)

Han Yifeng’s still eyes observed Xi Xinyi. He fell silent for a moment, then finally he suppressed how gloomy and annoyed he felt. He picked up his phone and called Secretary Wang. “I’ll get Secretary Wang to book flight tickets for you two. Let him personally send you two abroad and wait till the storm has

calmed down here before returning. Don't return to Yueying now. As you said earlier, just retire and quit the showbiz."

"No, Yifeng! I can't leave City Z. Grandmother's already collapsed from being angered by my problem. All these were done by Sister. She's determined to ruin me, Yifeng. I can't leave now. What do I do? What do I do?"

Xi Xinyi reached out to hold Han Yifeng's arm, stopping him. Her face was tearful as she begged, "I'm worried about Grandmother... After all, she only fell sick because of me, Yifeng..."

"Then, what else do you think we can do? Can you suppress these scandals? I'm afraid Yueying has now fallen into deep trouble too!"

"I know, I know that too, but I really can't leave. I can't leave Yueying and Grandmother behind right now. My grandmother is mentally and physically worn out. The company's her life's work... You and Master Qi have a pretty steady relationship. Can we ask them to not cancel those few movies? I'll agree to change the female lead, Yifeng..."

Xi Xinyi begged while choking on her tears, "Sister must've wanted to seize this incident to make Yueying fall into difficulty again. She's always harbored hard feelings towards me. Even though I know that it was I who wronged her, but she forced me. She wants to ruin Yueying! She knows that it's Grandmother's life's work, yet she still..."

"Enough! Xinyi, stop talking!"

As he listened to Xi Xinyi's baseless and extremely contradicting defense, Han Yifeng suddenly could not keep listening. He found it a little hard to accept that this person with whom he had spent numerous good times and shared a bed would be such an unscrupulous woman. If the evidence that Xiaye collected were true, then all these years, he, Han Yifeng had actually been played within her complete control, and he had let her lead him by the nose!

He suddenly felt that he could not accept this truth!

Now, she was still trying hard to defend herself? Had she never thought about how he felt?

“You keep saying that it’s for Yueying, for Grandmother... Then, when can you think for me? What about me? How are you going to explain yourself to my parents and my grandfather? Xinyi, if you were willing to listen to me back then and leave the scandalous world of showbiz, then all this wouldn’t have happened today! Every time, every single time, I would go along with your wishes and compromise for you, but you’ve never been considerate about me! And now, you’re still thinking about Yueying? Thinking about inheriting Yueying, aren’t you?”

Han Yifeng was suddenly enraged. He coldly turned to fix his gaze on Xi Xinyi as his tone turned cold.

“Xinyi, do you not realize that you’re a little selfish? What we have between us should be mutually giving in. I’ve accommodated you many times, yet you’ve never thought of putting yourself in my shoes and accommodating me just once! I’m a little tired now. If you really want to stay in City Z, then do as you wish!”

As Han Yifeng concluded with this, he stood up icily and his handsome face revealed fatigue that he had kept in for a long time.

Recently because of Xi Xinyi’s matter, he was also mentally and physically worn out. He felt extraordinarily exhausted. When he really calmed down to think to himself, he realized that there had actually been more and more distance between him and Xinyi. He did not know when the end would come.

Every time, when they discussed her quitting, he actually wanted to be angry, but seeing the way she pleaded so delicately, he could not bear to. This thing repeated many times until now and it seemed to have reached a point of eruption. He could not hold back in the end.

However, as he thought about these scenes, Xi Xiaye’s beautiful face suddenly flashed across his mind. It was as if a very long time ago, when she had still been with him, she had been in his current situation, repeatedly putting up with him, repeatedly compromising, but he...

He finally sympathized and understood her sadness back then. The one who gave out love would always be the one that hurt most easily, yet they kept holding on to that love. Even if they were bruised all over, they still wanted to persist...

As he thought about, he did not know why, but suddenly he felt his heart ache. The stifling feeling suffocated him a little.

If everything had not changed because of that one incident back then, if he had been willing to sincerely accept his grandfather's arrangements and get engaged to Xi Xiaye, would everything be different right now?

Still, he knew that he loved Xi Xinyi. Back then, he seemed to have wanted a love that was pure and simple. Xi Xinyi was charming, gentle and considerate. Furthermore, she brought far more joy than Xi Xiaye who was always by-the-book, apathetic, and dull.

"Yifeng! Don't leave, Yifeng!"

Han Yifeng had just walked past her when Xi Xinyi had already stood up quickly and was flustered as she hugged him tightly from behind. "I'm sorry... This is the last time! Please! This will be the last time, okay?"

Han Yifeng looked down at stared at her hands wrapped around his waist as he said coldly, "Last time? How many times have you said that it'd be the last? Xinyi, I'm tired of hearing these words. If you really do love me as you say, then sacrifice a little for me for once and let Yueying go for now. Leave the scandalous world. When the storm has calmed, then we'll make plans again."

"This will really be the last time. I'm begging you, Yifeng! After this time..." Xi Xinyi sniffed in her voice that was raspy from the crying.

Yet, before she could finish, Han Yifeng had already coolly pulled her hands away and stormed off in huge strides. "There's no last time. This time, I insist. If you're willing to consider, then accept my arrangements. Otherwise, let's separate for a while to figure things out!" Han Yifeng concluded indifferently and then took a deep breath, feeling worn out. He did not care about Xi Xinyi behind him anymore and walked up the stairs.

"Yifeng! Don't! Yifeng, listen to me! This will really be the last time! Don't do this to me, Yifeng!" Xi Xinyi tearfully chased him, and she wanted to tug on Han Yifeng's hand, yet he just leaned to one side and evaded her. In turn, Xi Xinyi missed him.

“I want to be alone for a while. I’ll wait for your answer tomorrow. I’ll tell Secretary Wang to book a flight for San Francisco tomorrow. However you choose, I will respect your decision.”

“No, Yifeng, don’t force me to choose. Please don’t do this! Yifeng!”

No matter how Xi Xinyi wept and screamed, Han Yifeng did not pay her any attention. His stiff figure vanished at the top of the stairs very quickly.