

Loving 261

Chapter 261. Pick Her Up From Work (1)

Yue Lingsi, Huang Ziyao and the rest had been attending to things at the villa since the afternoon. They remembered how everyone was so unhappy from the last time, so this time, they planned to make it grander. Firstly, to celebrate and secondly, to convey an apology.

The crowd seemed to be pretty delighted. Even Deng Wenwen who had been down for the past few days was exceptionally happy. She was chatting away with Xi Xinyi.

“Xin Er, I won’t look into all the things have passed anymore. Now that you’re married Yifeng, you’ve become the Head Lady of the Han Corporation. I feel assured to leave Yueying to you too. It’s all thanks to Yifeng for calming things down this time. Finally, the storm has passed. You should quit the showbiz too. All these years, the scandals have come and gone. Everyone’s been troubled by them too...”

Deng Wenwen sighed as she said this, studying Xi Xinyi for a quite while. “I know that you’ve always wanted to be a star since you were young, but you understand how it is now too, so you have to...”

“Grandmother, don’t worry. I’ve come round now. For Yifeng, I can give up on everything, including my dreams. I’ll definitely manage Yueying well, so, Grandmother, you must have confidence in me too!”

“You’ve been smart since you were little. You pick up everything so quickly. Of course, I have confidence in you,” Deng Wenwen said with a smile.

“But, Grandmother, Sister... She’s at Yueying...”

When Xi Xiaye was mentioned, Deng Wenwen’s expression instantly changed. Naturally, she did not forget the things that Xi Xiaye had sent to West Park for her to look at. Her eyes narrowed at Xi Xinyi and she said coldly, “Xin Er, if all the things that Xiaye said were true, you have indeed let me down. I hope that you won’t do such things anymore. I hate being used by others. Understand?”

Deng Wenwen’s tone was rather severe as she looked at Xi Xinyi with an exceptionally incisive gaze that startled Xi Xinyi who nodded. “Grandmother, I know that I’m wrong now. I’ll change! I’ll change for the better! I just love Yifeng too much, so I...

“But all these years, I’ve been trying to make up for it, Grandmother. No, I have been making up for it. I’ve been feeling guilty, so I hoped to wait for her forgiveness, but not only did she not let me off, she even went against Yueying and spread those rumors. Could I have watched her destroy Yueying just like that? Now that she’s managed to ruin me, I just...”

Xi Xinyi’s words softened Deng Wenwen’s expression. “Okay, let’s not talk about these things anymore. Let’s not damage a healthy relationship. Now that things have come to this, we can only take things one step at a time. Your mother has been working hard for the company all these years. Initially, I was already planning to let her take over the company, but she insists on passing it to you. I hope you won’t let me down.”

When she heard Deng Wewen come to this gentle truce, Xi Xinyi’s tightened hands eased a little. “Grandmother, please don’t worry. I’ll definitely bring Yueying to greater heights.”

At this moment, Yue Lingsi’s voice suddenly came from behind. “Mother, Xinyi, what are you two talking about? It’s pretty cold outside. It’s best to go in and have a seat!”

The two of them instantly turned their heads and saw Yue Lingsi walking towards them.

Deng Wenwen looked at Yue Lingsi and suddenly asked, “Any news from Mushan’s end?”

Immediately, Yue Lingsi’s eyes darkened. After quite a while, she answered, “He said he has a dinner thing tonight, so he won’t be coming over.”

“Didn’t you tell him that Xin Er got married today?”

Deng Wenwen frowned. She looked a little disappointedly at Yue Lingsi. “It’s been so many years. You didn’t... Never mind. Forget it. I’ll call him.”

As Deng Wewen said this, she took out her phone to call Xi Mushan. Unfortunately, his number was engaged, so she could only just let it be.

“Isn’t Yifeng back yet?”

“Grandmother, Yifeng says he has to make a trip to the suburbs. He’ll be back later on. Let’s go sit in the living room first. I’ll give him a call to see what time he’ll be back...”

...

The sky gradually darkened and the end of the office hours had long passed. Still, Xi Xiaye was busy in the office. Since it was a rest day the next day, she might as well finish the work on hand first.

Earlier, she had called the Shen residence. Initially, she wanted to go home to visit, but then Shen Yue went outstation at the last minute while Shen Wenna was busy handling her students’ final thesis. After some thought, Xi Xiaye changed her plans.

It was already early in the evening outside. The neon lights flickered and interweaved, enveloping the entire City Z in a fascinating haziness.

A black Cayenne sped past the wide street and stopped in front of a florist.

Mu Yuchen had just stepped into the store when the lady boss very enthusiastically greeted him, “Sir, would you like to buy some flowers?” Seeing such an outstandingly handsome man, she could not help but steal an extra glance.

Mu Yuchen’s gaze swept across the abundant fresh flowers. A while after that, his eyes stopped on a bunch of champagne roses. After a moment’s hesitation, he then pointed at them and smiled elegantly. “Give me a bouquet of these.”

He did not actually know what these flowers meant. He just thought they looked gorgeous, so he decided to get them for her.

“Alright, please wait a moment, Sir!”

...

A while after that, the bouquet of beautiful bouquet roses was finally ready. When Mu Yuchen took it from the lady, he stared at the fully bloomed flowers with satisfaction and suddenly seemed to understand why women liked flowers.

He drove straight to Glory World Corporation.

“Hello, Chairman Mu!”

When the guard by the entrance saw Mu Yuchen enter the company with a huge bouquet of flowers, he was shocked. Naturally, he did not forget to greet him.

Mu Yuchen just nodded indifferently, not stopping for a moment, and went straight up to the 51st floor.

At this moment, in the planning director’s office.

Xi Xiaye was fully focused on her laptop, checking on the materials that the marketing department had just sent over as she opened her notebook to make notes.

There was suddenly a knock on the door.

Xi Xiaye did not look up at all. She simply replied with her eyes still focused on the laptop screen, “Come in!”

The door opened and Xi Xiaye vaguely heard the sound of footsteps. She reacted when a certain someone’s unique scent closed in. With that scent came a faint fragrance of flowers.

Huh?

She subconsciously looked up. What greeted her sight was the man walking towards her with a huge bouquet.

“Why are you here?” She asked in shock while he handed her the bouquet.

She looked at it and raised her brows in puzzlement. “Why are you suddenly giving me flowers?” She questioned, yet she reached out to take them.

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Mu Yuchen beamed, his dark eyes filled with glitter as he spoke in his deep voice, “Don’t worry. There isn’t any special meaning behind it. I’m just feeling great today.”

He pulled her up and sat down on her chair. Then, he slid his arms around her waist. She did not reject him and just sat down on his lap, holding onto the bouquet of flowers tightly.

“Did you close a big deal?” She was grinning happily as she gave the fresh flowers a deep sniff.

He gave her a secretive smile. Instead of answering, he took the flowers away and held her tightly.

Of course, he would not tell her that Ah Mo had informed him about Han Yifeng signing on the marriage contract obediently and was now drinking alone in a quiet bar!

He had finally got rid of this risk. How could he not be pleased?

Xi Xiaye put her arms around his shoulder and asked, “How did you know that I was still in the office?”

“I called the Shen Residence. Your phone is on silent again, isn’t it?”

As if he knew every little thing about her, Xi Xiaye noticed that she had nothing to hide before him. However, he was like a deep ocean, and she could only reach his shallow pool.

Slightly troubled, she squinted at him as she thought to herself, ‘Is it time to finally get to know him better?’

“It’s an off day tomorrow. Shall we visit University A together? I heard the cherry blossoms are really beautiful there and I’ve been longing to go check them out. Back then, Mother actually disagreed with my admittance into the military school and wanted me to study at University A instead. She once thought of me becoming a lecturer with her in University A as well. Well, who knew?”

Suddenly, Xi Xiaye’s eyes turned skeptical.

“Why did you choose to attend the military academy back then?” He became curious, his eyes sparkling with interest and he seemed to look forward to her answer.

Xi Xiaye just shrugged and gave him an indifferent reply, “It was nothing very special actually. You know that my grandpa used to serve in the army. He’s still keeping some of the habits he got from serving the army, and I actually quite like the idea of arming myself on a battlefield. I have a dream to become a hero...”

“A hero? You?” He raised his eyebrows and glanced at her teasingly.

Xi Xiaye straightened her back as she sensed the doubt in his eyes as if he was trying to prove something. “Yes, me! A hero!”

He laughed and did not say anything, but Xi Xiaye was annoyed at him. “What’s so funny? I’m serious!”

“Nothing...”

“Damn you!”

“Alright, pack your things and go. We’ll go to a restaurant tonight. It’s already pretty late.”

“Then, I want to have French.”

“Mmm...”

Mu Yuchen left a kiss on her forehead before helping her to pack up. After a while, the couple left the office together.

All the other staff had already gone home, so the building was empty. Mu Yuchen was holding her heavy black briefcase with one hand and had his other hand over Xi Xiaye's shoulder as they walked together. At the same time, Xi Xiaye was cradling the bouquet of flowers in her arms.

It was a peaceful and beautiful moment, yet Xi Xiaye was not used to it. She struggled away from his arm when they passed the guard on the ground floor.

Mu Yuchen locked his grip onto her shoulder, not letting her go. He glanced over and saw her blushing face, but he decided to not say anything.

Unbeknownst to both of them, photos of them were being taken right then by cameras from outside the building, capturing each and every scene and expression of theirs.

“Let me drive.”

When they arrived at the car, Xi Xiaye handed the flowers to him before grabbing the car keys from his shirt pocket.

...

Han Yifeng had drunk quite a fair bit, but he succumbed under the pressure of Elder Han after receiving a call from him, so he still went back to the villa in the end.

Things were already lively when he reached the villa. Everyone was chatting happily as they tucked into the meal on the dining table and watched the press conference regarding the public announcement of the marriage between the Han family and the Xi family.

Han Yifeng's sudden decision to sign the marriage contract successfully suppressed the negative news about Xi Xinyi. Most news sites were talking about their marriage instead and some magazines even made up stories about a “10-year promise”.

Suddenly, they became everyone's sweethearts. Han Yifeng's actions of supporting Xi Xinyi was well-accepted by everyone. Naturally, he became the role model as an ideal man.

"Yifeng, you're back!"

Xi Xinyi went up to Han Yifeng with a smile the moment he came into the villa. She took the jacket from his hand with a slight blush on her beautiful face. Her eyes brimmed with happiness.

"This is great, Yifeng! We're finally married! I knew it. You'd never... You'd never really abandon me... I love you, Yifeng!"

Touched, she quickly wrapped her arms around Han Yifeng's waist, hugging him with a frail, but overjoyed expression. "Thank you, Yifeng."

Han Yifeng patted on her shoulder lightly and said, "Mmm, let's eat."

Xi Xinyi nodded and sat down happily beside him. Her blush deepened when she saw the grin on everyone's face.

"Look how matching they are. Yifeng, Xinyi, the two of you are finally a married couple now. Xinyi's been spoiled too much since she was little, so please be lenient with her. Elder Han, Ziyao, we'll leave Xinyi in your care!"

Yue Lingsi could not help but feel a little blue even though she had a pleased expression on her face when she saw how happy Xi Xinyi was.

"Don't worry. We've always thought of Xinyi like our own daughter and we're very happy that she's now married to Yifeng."

Huang Ziyao smiled. "Now that they are married, we're now officially in-laws. Here's to peace between our families. Let's toast to Yifeng and Xinyi living happily forever from now on!"

Chapter 263. Heavy Bomb! (1)

Clink!

The sound of glasses tinkling marked the end of the toast.

“Since the both of you are married and Xinyi is bearing a Han descendant, stop being involved in scandals anymore. Us Han family, your maternal grandfather’s Yue family, as well as your Xi family, are close friends. I hope that there’ll be no more scandals in the future. Leave your current career, Xinyi. You can go back to Yueying, or even work in the Han Corporation after you’ve given birth.”

It was Elder Han who spoke up. While he was almost 80 years old, he still seemed energetic and had a pair of sharp eyes as if he could see through people. His outward appearance seemed rather stern and overbearing.

“Grandfather, I... I know. I will...”

Xi Xinyi trembled a little when speaking to Elder Han. She grabbed onto Han Yifeng’s hand anxiously, gazing at Han Yifeng with her frail and gentle eyes when she replied Elder Han.

“Don’t worry, Elder Han. Xinyi has already decided to retire. She’ll be staying by Yifeng’s side in the future. Hopefully, she’ll be of help to Yifeng.”

Yue Lingsi helped Xi Xinyi out when she saw her anxious look.

“Okay, it’s fine then. Yifeng, Xin Er is the Yue family’s precious baby. You can’t make her sad, understood?”

Elder Yue loved Xi Xinyi very much, so he became a little protective when he saw Xi Xinyi being pressured.

“That’s enough, everyone. Yifeng and Xin Er are a perfect couple. I believe that Yifeng will take care of her well. Things wouldn’t have become like this if it weren’t for Xiaye and whatever happened on Yueying’s side... but now, Yueying is all fine thanks to Yifeng!” Deng Wenwen voiced out.

“True, things have been hectic recently. Xiaye really overdid it this time. I heard that she even...”

The quiet Xi Jiyang finally spoke up, “Let’s not talk about someone else when it’s Yifeng and Xinyi’s big day. We’ll go on with our peaceful lives. Don’t bother the others.”

“It’s her that’s bothering us. Elder Xi, why do I feel a little irritated by your words? I heard that Xi Mushan is in a bit of a rut because of this. Is it true that the Discipline Inspection Department is launching an investigation?” Elder Yue mocked Xi Jiyang’s words.

Xi Jiyang and Elder Yue were never really friendly with each other. Because of what had happened back then with Xi Mushan and Yue Lingsi, the Xis and the Yues were never really happy with each other. This still held true even until today.

Deng Wenwen nudged Xi Jiyang with her elbow as she threw him a frown.

“I find it weird as well. Why isn’t Mushan here tonight? How can he, as Xinyi’s father, miss out on their big day?”

Elder Han started to question, “Is he really in trouble because of Xiaye?”

Yue Lingsi and Deng Wenwen started to look uneasy. The atmosphere around the dining table suddenly turned stiff as everyone went silent.

“I’m full. Please continue enjoying the meal.” Han Yifeng’s deep voice broke the silence as he put his bowl and chopsticks down as he stood up.

“Yifeng!” Xi Xinyi pulled on him, her eyes begging. “Eat a little more. You’ve hardly touched the food...”

She was feeling scared and worried inside. The whole time she was just focused on Han Yifeng, she could sense that things were strained between them. Although their marriage should be a happy event, he felt more distant than ever.

Han Yifeng took a deep breath to soothe the suffocation in his chest. "I'm not really hungry. I'll have some tea over there."

Before anyone could react, he went towards the sofa.

Elder Yue was really displeased with Han Yifeng's attitude. He could not help but slam the table when he saw Han Yifeng sitting down on the sofa!

The first time, Han Yifeng did not sign the marriage contract and was absent from the dinner. Now, he still had the same attitude for the second time? How dare he?

"Grandfather! Yifeng's been busy recently and I'm sure he's tired. Let him be. Let's continue. Here's your favourite!"

Shocked, Xi Xinyi swiftly comforted Elder Yue. Huang Ziyao shot Han Yifeng a frowning glare. As she was about to say something, the sound of hurried footsteps came from outside.

"Master, someone gave you and Missus a gift. It's said to be a wedding gift for you and Missus!" The servant brought Han Yifeng a gift box.

Everyone seemed doubtful. Not many people knew about Xi Xinyi staying here, so who could it be?

Han Yifeng's eyes were alert. He hesitated for a moment before taking it.

It was a nicely wrapped gift. There was even a pretty card on it. When he opened the card, there was no signature on it, just a single sentence.

Chapter 264. Heavy Bomb (2)

A gift for Mr. Han and Ms. Xi!

Han Yifeng squinted as he glanced through the card. It did not look like anything special, so he put it aside before opening the box.

It was a VCD inside and there seemed to be something else underneath it.

Han Yifeng picked up the VCD curiously. He went towards the video player machine after a moment of hesitation. Then, he retreated to the sofa and grabbed the remote control and started playing the disc.

After some buffering, Xi Xinyi appeared on the screen. There was another man with her and they were in a corner of a coffee shop.

The video seemed pretty dated. Xi Xinyi was still in her teenage years while the graphic was a little blurry and the audio was weak. Xi Xinyi could be heard addressing that man as her cousin.

This person seemed a little familiar. Han Yifeng felt like he had seen him before!

His eyes stared right at the screen. He then saw that Xi Xinyi handed a cheque-like paper and a thick envelope to the man.

The audio was not exactly clear. However, Han Yifeng could only hear fragments of conversation.

“This is the cheque... and \$ 30,000. After it’s done, I’ll make sure to reward you better.”

The man quickly took the package. Xi Xinyi seemed like she was hesitating. After some struggle, she grabbed a bag of pills from her bag and gave it to the man. “It’s up to you whether you want to use it or not... as long as... you can make her leave on her own...”

“Don’t worry. It’s just one Xi Xiaye! I’ll make sure to get it done. Han Yifeng and the Han family will be yours when the time comes...”

“Of course, I won’t forget about you. Wait for a few days before doing it.”

“Got it.”

...

The next scene showed Xi Xiaye's conversation with Yang Jianfeng at the field the other day.

"If I'd known that you were so hard to manage, I should've used the drugs and kill you then and there! Let the sexy pictures of you splash across the headlines on all the media!"

"I just fancied your good looks. Ha! It's not like you haven't played around before, so why do you have to pretend? Han Yifeng's heart isn't with you. Given your little identity, are you even a match for my cousin? Even an idiot wouldn't choose you. You're just like your father back then, so stupid that he gave up an instant boost in his career!"

"So, you don't plan to let go of this chance to help Xi Xinyi ruin me? Back then, Xi Xinyi successfully made Han Yifeng dislike me and look down on me. Why does she have to push me to the edge before she's happy?"

"Ha, obviously, it's to make sure you can never make a comeback! To make sure you'll never be able to enter the Han family! That's the only way I'll be really assured. I've told my cousin that's the only way you wouldn't be a threat to her!"

...

Han Yifeng's body tensed up. He stared at Yang Jianfeng who was blind in one eye. He was the reason why Xi Xiaye had been expelled back then in the first place!

Clank!

Han Yifeng's grip loosened on the glass. As a result, it fell and shattered into pieces on the floor. At that moment, Xi Xinyi and the others all turned around towards the screen when they heard the ferocious voice of Yang Jianfeng from the television.

Xi Xinyi was stunned upon watching the clip. Her expression changed drastically after a moment and she screamed before rushing over to Han Yifeng's side frantically.

"Yifeng! Yifeng! That's not true! It's not true! Listen to me! Please listen to me!"

In her panic, Xi Xinyi grabbed Han Yifeng's shirt as she was trying to explain herself. Han Yifeng shook her hands off before looking into the deeper layer of the gift box. He turned it upside down and poured everything out. It consisted of photos of Xi Xinyi meeting Yang Jianfeng as well as the transaction records between them.

Swoosh!

Han Yifeng flipped through the photos and papers until he was absolutely flabbergasted.

"Yifeng... Yifeng, listen to me. These aren't real..."

Xi Xinyi's face turned pale as she was defending herself frenetically, but she could not come up with a valid excuse. Her language and expression only amplified her helplessness.

Did she not arrange Yang Jianfeng to go abroad? Why was this video here?

Han Yifeng turned towards Xi Xinyi in disgust. He still could not believe it. His eyes were filled with shock, disappointment, anger, and even heartbreak.

All his emotions were mixed up as he fell into a gloomy dejection. He stared at Xi Xinyi straight for some time before closing his eyes as he took a deep breath. He opened his eyes again and looked at Xi Xinyi's pale face, thrusting the photos and papers right in front of her. "What are these? Explain to me what the videos mean!"

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

Trembling, she looked at Han Yifeng in fear as she was tongue-tied.

Han Yifeng stared at her. After a while, he had on a cold, sad smile on his face. He took a deep breath before letting go of the photos and papers slowly. "Cruel... So cruel, Xinyi. To make sure she doesn't make a comeback ever again? To make it impossible for her to get in the Han family? How could you?"

"No! That's not it, Yifeng! I didn't expect something like that would happen. I just wanted Sister to back off on her own. I just wanted to make her feel inadequate with you and hope that she'd leave. I never thought of hurting her ever! Yifeng, you have to believe me! You have to!" Xi Xinyi explained frantically as tears fell. She seemed exhausted but still held onto Han Yifeng's sleeve tightly.

"Believe you?"

Han Yifeng laughed maniacally at himself before suddenly staring at her fragile little face. Her teary expression was really pitiful. "I trusted you too much and you threw it all away, lying to me again and again!"

Chapter 265. Heavy Bomb! (3)

"No! That's not it, Yifeng! Listen to me! Please listen to me!"

"Listen to you? What else do you have to say about this? If I'm not wrong, the exposure of Xiaye's expulsion was done by you, wasn't it? Only you and know it the best. What more do you have to say for yourself?"

Han Yifeng grabbed the papers and flung them towards Xi Xinyi angrily. His eyes were burning with rage as he stared at her coldly. "So, you've been treating me like a toy and playing with me ever since? Using my trust and lying to me?"

The papers hit Xi Xinyi like a heavy hammer, thudding a heavy impact on her heart. She shed endless tears and felt remorseful as she held onto Han Yifeng. "I'm sorry, Yifeng! I really am... I'll change. I'll change all of my bad habits! I'm too in love with you. If I don't fight for you, are you asking me to suffer in pain to death?"

"I've decided to give up everything and start anew. I want to be your good wife, so please, let the past stay in the past. We'll start over again, okay? Please..."

Xi Xinyi could not care less about the tears all over her face. She grabbed Han Yifeng's arm tightly, refusing to let him leave.

"Let go of me! Married? This is the most ironic word in this world right now!"

Han Yifeng's chest almost burst. If he did not control himself, he could be strangling this woman to death at that moment.

He had treated her preciously, was willing to take on the traitor's role for her and hurt his fiancée back then. However, what he got in return was a decade-long lie!

Was this karma?

After putting up with her selfish decisions, again and again, he struggled for a long time before accepting her again and was even willing to marry her and start their life anew for the child inside her.

But now?

How could she!?

If it was about the stabbing incident, he could still tolerate it and let it go because Han Yifeng himself liked Xi Xinyi before then as well. However, as more and more bits of truth were revealed to him, how could he believe that the woman he had been protecting was someone like this?

Most unfortunately, he just got married to her!

"No! No! Yifeng, please don't be like this..."

Xi Xinyi flung her arms around Han Yifeng's waist, her loud wail making Yue Lingsi, Huang Ziyao, and the others return to their senses.

“Xinyi, I think we need some time apart. Let go of me!”

Exhausted, Han Yifeng pulled Xi Xinyi’s hands away coldly and was about to leave.

“No! Yifeng, don’t go! No...”

“Stop right there! Stop!”

What happened next was unexpected. No one could react as they saw what unfolded before them, especially Huang Ziyao and the others!

Elder Yue yelled at them as he slammed the table once again, “What do you mean now? Do you still treat us as your elders with that attitude of yours?”

“Xinyi, you... Yifeng, don’t be rash. Everyone, let’s calm down. This is not solving anything!” Han Yu finally spoke up, glancing over at Elder Han’s darkened expression with his knitted brows. He looked at Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi. “What’s happening? About Xiaye...”

“It’s all in the disc and those documents. Take a look at them yourself. I need some time alone. I’m sorry!”

Han Yifeng’s expression went cold as he pushed Xi Xinyi’s hands away once again, ignoring her pathetic cries he walked out of the villa.

His behavior infuriated Elder Yue!

Deng Wenwen looked terrible as well as Yue Lingsi stared blankly at Elder Yue. Xi Jiyang seemed calm while Elder Han’s eyes stayed wide.

Elder Han stood up angrily and hissed, “I don’t care. Since Yifeng is married to Xin Er now, he shouldn’t have acted that way. Xin Er still has the Han family’s baby in her womb. Don’t blame me for taking action if she’s saddened in any way! Damn it!”

Elder Yue could not stay there anymore with the drama that just happened. He huffed before leaving angrily.

“Xinyi, what’s happening? Did you really do that to Xiaye?” Huang Ziyao looked at Xi Xinyi in disbelief.

That was really cruel!

Did she not know that was basically ruining Xiaye’s life?

“Mother, Yifeng... Yifeng doesn’t want me anymore. He’s angry with me...”

Xi Xinyi suddenly felt weak as she went limp and passed out. In shock, Huang Ziyao quickly held Xi Xinyi.

“Xinyi, what’s wrong?”

“Xinyi!”

“Xin Er!”

Several voices echoed together as everybody rushed over.

In the end, Xi Xinyi was sent into Hospital T. Once again, the celebratory dinner had an unhappy conclusion.

Han Yifeng was driving around like a madman on an empty highway. The cold wind crept in from the window, slicing his face painfully. He could feel knives going through his heart. It was so painful that he almost fainted.

He was not sure if the agony was for Xi Xiaye who had been bearing these scars, or for Xi Xinyi whom he loved so much. When the truth was presented right before him, he did not have the courage to face it.

Unable to take it anymore, he parked his car and rested his head on the steering while panting heavily. What had he been working for all this while?

...

In Maple Residence, at the Grand Waves Villa area.

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye went home after dinner. While he was in a jovial mood, he was pretty tired after spending a whole day with Zhou Zimo and the others, so he went straight to bed after a shower. He was flipping through a book casually and from time to time, glanced at the woman who was tidying the wardrobe.

Chapter 266. Heavy Bomb! (4)

“By the way, the court called me today and told me that they took the case on. Are we going to get the results soon?” Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered when she was tidying up the wardrobe.

Mu Yuchen looked up from the book and focused on her. He replied her after some thought, “With enough evidence, the results will come quickly.”

Xi Xiaye nodded. “I really hope we can get the results as soon as possible. Father...”

Before Xi Xiaye could finish her sentence, her phone by the bedside started ringing. She took a deep breath and went over slowly to pick the call up. It was an unknown number.

“Hello?”

“Xi Xiaye, I just want to ask you. Did you do it? No matter how Xinyi is, don’t you know that today’s her big day with Yifeng? Did you send those stuff to ruin them? Just what were you thinking? Can’t we talk about it at a later date? How dare you?!”

Deng Wenwen's stern, aged voice reached her with a questioning tone. "Do you know that Xin Er is now in the emergency ward!? I don't care what happened between you two, but if you're going to create chaos for the Xi family and Yueying, I'm going to disagree with that!"

Deng Wenwen's berating confused Xi Xiaye.

What was that about?

Xi Xinyi was in the hospital?

What did she mean?

She remembered that Su Nan had called her today and told her that Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi were married today, so they should be having a celebratory dinner at home.

But how was this related to her? Deng Wenwen's unreasonable criticism made Xi Xiaye upset and her voice turned cold. "Elder Madam Xi, I'm sorry. I don't know what you're talking about."

"Don't act innocent! Didn't you send those videos over? You still aren't admitting it? You're just trying to belittle us in front of the two families! Are you trying to destroy Yueying?"

Deng Wenwen sounded furious. Even on the other end of the phone, Xi Xiaye could imagine how she was yelling into the phone. As she was about to reply, the man beside her closed his book and grabbed the phone away from her.

Deng Wenwen still went on with her angry rant, her fiery tone making Mu Yuchen frown. He glanced at Xi Xiaye. What a difference in treatment! Just how did she survive in the Xi family?

The truth had been exposed, yet they could still be so protective of Xi Xinyi. So, they still thought of Xi Xinyi as one of their own. What about Xi Xiaye then?

After listening to her irritating voice, it was the first time in Mu Yuchen's life that he had the urge to punch someone. Aside from feeling sorry for her, he felt disgusted by these people.

"Elder Madam Xi, I, Mu Yuchen got someone to send the stuff over. It has nothing to do with my wife. If you have a problem with that, you can look for me. Xi Xinyi was really rude to my wife during the wedding dinner. Do you think I'd just let her go easily?"

Mu Yuchen grinned coldly. On the other end of the phone, Deng Wenwen still could not react. He hung up and switched the phone off before handing it back to the confused Xi Xiaye.

"What did you do? I heard her mention about some video, and that Xi Xinyi is hospitalized?" Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows in surprise as she took her phone back from him.

Mu Yuchen's angry eyes softened when he heard her voice. He grabbed the blanket and lay down on the bed. He took the book back up and continued reading again. "It's just a unique little gift. They just have a low tolerance."

His tone held a hint of humor.

"What kind of unique little gift?" She asked doubtfully as she stared at him.

He did not reply. After a while, he raised his head and saw her still staring at him. "It's something that proves your innocence about the military academy matter. I just wanted Xi Xinyi to enjoy the feeling tonight when their family gathered around. Who did I do this for? What kind of eyes are you looking at me with?"

"I never knew that you were the big bad wolf all along." Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes at him, but of course, her heart was touched. She held onto her phone tightly as she looked at him.

He lay down on his side and rest his head on his hand, shaking with laughter quietly. "If my enemy respects me, I'll respect him. If my enemy hurts me, I'll do the same."

"You're speaking as if you're an assassin from the ancient times."

She left her phone on the table and then sat down on the bed, her eyes meeting his. She wanted to say something but she could not find the right words. She did not want to say any more words of gratitude, but the way he treated her...

After a long while, she sighed, "Sometimes, I feel like I become much weaker when I'm with you. I've totally changed roles from being a protector all along."

"Protector? Who did you protect? Mother?"

He chuckled when he saw her downcast expression. Patting her head, she sighed, "Missus, have I ever told you that you're the silliest woman I've ever met?"

Silly. So silly of her to always try to protect others when she could not even protect herself. She always seemed strong and cold on the outside but was extremely soft on the inside.

"I'm just tired of these, alright? I already have to deal with tricks in the world of business. It'd be really exhausting if I have to be wary in my daily life too. Don't you think so?" She defended herself.

His patting hand stopped suddenly as he gave her a meaningful glance, "Do you think God sent you to the world just to enjoy?"

"A certain someone told me some time ago that life should be enjoyed and asked me to visit the spa centers more often. I wonder who it was!" Xi Xiaye glared at him as she spoke.

He raised his eyebrows. "Who said that? Did I say that? My dear, you're a natural beauty. You're always gorgeous without even needing any beauty services—"

Before he could finish, Mrs. Mu threw a pillow at him. "Trying to fake amnesia? I'm talking about you. Don't move!"

Chapter 267. Heavy Bomb! (5)

In contrast to the harmonious vibe at Maple Residence, things were hectic at the emergency ward in Hospital T.

Deng Wenwen's eyes flew wide open as she stared at her darkened phone screen. Her eyes stared at it still as her body froze as if she had lost all her senses. Yue Lingsi was worried.

"Mother, what's wrong? Mother!"

Deng Wenwen did not react even after calling out to her several times. Shaking her head a little, Yue Lingsi nudged her back to her senses. She stared at Yue Lingsi blankly and murmured, "Wife? Mu Yuchen... Lingsi, what's happening? Mu Yuchen... Master Mu sent those things... and did he say 'wife'? He said Xi Xiaye is his wife. What's happening?"

Deng Wenwen still had not recovered from the shock of the call moments ago. She could only remember a man snatching the phone away from Xi Xiaye and saying that he was Mu Yuchen. He also mentioned Xi Xiaye being his wife. She must not have heard him wrong, did she?

Mu Yuchen?

It should not be anyone else except the President of Glory World Corporation, Mu Yuchen, should it?

Earlier on, she could already sense that his relationship with Xi Xiaye was not ordinary. Could Xi Xiaye have gotten together with him? Did she become his lover or something?

"Mother, what are you talking about? What about Master Mu and his wife?"

Yue Lingsi had no idea what Deng Wenwen was talking about. "Mother, did that witch Xi Xiaye do it? This is absurd! I guessed it must have been her! No matter what, she should've considered the occasion today. Now, my father... and Xinyi... What should we do? She's just trying to give us a hard time! Xiaye is so arrogant! Can't we talk it out? All those happened in the past. No matter what, she shouldn't have done it on a day like this! I'm just terribly frustrated! And now we don't know how Xinyi is! If something bad happens to her baby, I'm going to make Xiaye take responsibility for it!"

Yue Lingsi could not hold her feelings in and started exclaiming, "We've waited for so long, and now she's become like this. Yifeng..."

“Okay, Xiao Ling, calm down and let’s just wait and see how Xinyi is doing,” Huang Ziyao comforted her with a frown. She was not pleased. Of course, she did not forget how angry Elder Han was before they left!

Not forgetting Elder Yue’s reaction from before and Han Yifeng’s absence right now!

Huang Ziyao was having a headache just thinking about it. Xi Xinyi’s condition was still unknown and things had become chaotic once again!

Today was supposed to be a happy day since the young couple got married, but it turned out like this!

What Huang Ziyao could not accept was that she could not believe Xi Xinyi whom she had been looking after ever since she was a little child would do something like that. In her impression, Xi Xinyi had always been a nice and kind girl.

Could it be that she really loved Yifeng too much that she resorted to those tricks?

“How can I calm down now? How can I? Xinyi is really exhausted, and now... I really don’t know what to say...”

Yue Lingsi’s eyes turned downcast. She had seen the video content as well. Of course, she was shocked and could not believe Xi Xinyi would do those things as well, but as she thought about how Xi Xinyi felt towards Han Yifeng, she understood it very well. In fact, no one could understand it better than her!

Back then, in order to get Xi Mushan, she too had...

When she saw Xi Xinyi now, she could feel her heart aching. Seeing Xi Xinyi reminded her of her past self — her wicked and pathetic self!

Fortunately, Han Yifeng loved her in the end!

Things had turned out better for her, unlike for herself.

“Okay, we’ll wait for the doctor’s report later. Don’t worry about it for now.”

Huang Ziyao did not know what else to say. She felt as if something was stuck in her throat and she could not swallow or spit it out, much to her irritation!

“Ziyao, I’m sorry. As for my father, he just loves Xinyi too much. I...”

There were tears in Yue Lingsi’s eyes and she seemed worried. “Yifeng...”

“Let him be alone for some time. This must be a huge impact on him. Sigh!” Huang Ziyao could only lament.

“Mother, what should we do now? Father went back quietly just now. Should we just let this be?” Yue Lingsi turned to face Deng Wenwen and asked.

Deng Wenwen took a deep breath. Although she had finally recovered fully, there were some doubts in her eyes. After a while, she looked at Yue Lingsi and replied, “Your father’s health isn’t great. Let’s not bother him about it.”

Ever since the incident of forcing Xi Xiaye signing the contract the last time, Xi Jiyang had explicitly warned that he would not be involved in their matters again. He could not take it by standing in between them especially since he understood Deng Wenwen’s personality very well. If he acted kindly towards Xiaye, she would just suffer more.

Deng Wenwen kept quiet, a sharp light glimmering in her eyes.

“Lingsi, don’t you know a lot of people? Get people to investigate Master Mu from Glory World Corporation, Mu Yuchen, and his relationship with Xi Xiaye. Mu Yuchen said he sent those stuff over tonight!” Deng Wenwen told Yue Lingsi.

Yue Lingsi and Huang Ziyao were both shocked!

“What? That video was sent by Mu Yuchen? Master Mu from Glory World?”

Huang Ziyao’s eyes almost popped out as she turned to Yue Lingsi in disbelief.

Yue Lingsi was stunned, but she realized something when she heard Deng Wenwen’s words!

Master Mu had defended Xi Xiaye several times before, and it was him again this time. Was his this determined to protect Xi Xiaye?

Chapter 268. To Dote On (1)

Deng Wenwen’s face sank as her eyes held mixed emotions and disbelief. She thought about it for a while before answering, “It should be him. Earlier, when I called Xiaye, he answered the phone halfway!”

“He answered the phone?”

Yue Lingsi very quickly caught onto something. She immediately lifted her wrist to take a look at the time. It was close to midnight, which meant...

“Xi Xiaye is with Master Mu?” he could not help but blurt out as she stared at Deng Wenwen with wide eyes.

Deng Wenwen’s aged face started to look uncertain. Although she did not answer, the answer seemed obvious!

“Go ask around in the next few days. I keep feeling that things aren’t that simple. Earlier, your father even warned me not to mess with Xiaye, but with that personality of his, when has he ever not protected Xiaye? Huh, he even said that we can save trouble for ourselves? Just with tonight’s incident, if it were not for her provocation, things wouldn’t have turned out like this.”

As Yue Lingsi listened, she frowned and thought about it for a while. Then, she nodded with a heavy expression. "Okay, I'll go ask around. Don't worry, Mother. I'll talk to Father. About Xinyi, I..."

"Now that things have come to this point, sigh, I think it's best if we see how Xin Er is first. Most importantly, we have to consider the Han family..."

Deng Wenwen now felt a huge headache too, especially with the way Elder Han had furiously rushed to leave earlier and the way Han Yifeng left without turning back. Even she could not bear the humiliation, what more...

"If it really is true, then Xin Er has really gone overboard. Even your father was... If Mushan finds out about this, he'll be angry again. You must know that once this matter is dug out again, even he's implicated. Xin Er's too rash with her actions..."

Deng Wenwen frowned and glared at Yue Lingsi who was stunned. She quickly said with a pale expression, "Mother, Xinyi was only provoked by the recent incidents. Now that she's like this, I hope..."

"Enough, the key problem isn't with me. You'd better think about how to keep the Han family calm. Yueying is finally stable again, so I hope that there wouldn't be another surge of trouble after this."

Yue Lingsi was also worn out, so she could only console her, "Yes, Mother, I understand. I'll think of a way. Yueying will be fine. Let's take a look at how Xinyi is first."

...

A while after, the door to the emergency ward finally opened and Xi Xinyi was wheeled out from inside.

"How is it, Doctor? My daughter, how is she?"

"How's Xinyi? Doctor?"

Yue Lingsi and Huang Ziyao went up together.

The doctor pushed his mask down and looked at Xi Xinyi who was still unconscious on the sick bed. He responded with a heavy tone, "She's a little weak. Her fetus isn't very stable. Trigger her less and take care of her well. Make sure she has a balanced diet and keep her happy."

"Thank you, Doctor. We will. Thank you!"

"I'll prescribe some meds to stabilize the pregnancy. Later, the nurse will explain what needs to be taken note of. The patient needs to rest right now and she's not very emotionally stable, so it's best if she's not disturbed now. Just leave one person to watch her."

Soon, the entourage consisting of the doctor and the nurses sent Xi Xinyi to her ward while the few of them followed them.

As she watched Xi Xinyi who slept soundly on the sick bed, Yue Lingsi breathed a sigh of relief. She turned to Huang Ziyao beside her and said, "Thankfully, it's alright. Ziyao, you're worn out from the day. Go home first. I can watch her. And, Mother, you should go home too. You've just recovered. It's won't do you any good to be tired out. It's alright with just me here!"

Huang Ziyao glanced at Xi Xinyi on the sick bed, then nodded after thinking about it. "Okay then, I'll go home first. I'll explain what happened here to the elder. As for..."

"Ziyao, I'll be sure to talk to Xinyi. No matter what, her heart is with Yifeng. If it weren't for... Sigh, now that they're already married and with a child, what else can they do? I hope that your family can..."

When she heard Yue Lingsi's words, Huang Ziyao suppressed the heaviness in her heart with much effort. She responded helplessly, "I got it. I'll do my best. I'll leave things here to you then."

Then, she turned to leave.

Apart from Xi Xinyi on the sick bed, only Yue Lingsi and Deng Wenwen remained in the ward.

When she saw Huang Ziyao turn to leave with an odd expression, Yue Lingsi's heart sank. She quickly turned to look at Deng Wenwen, who looked pensive, and asked a little anxiously, "Mother, what should we do? I'm afraid that on the Han family's end..."

"What are you worried about? No matter what, Xin Er still has Yifeng's child right now and they just got married!"

Deng Wenwen was rather calm now, her sharp eyes twinkling. Then, she continued, "Regardless, I still believe that Yifeng and Xin Er still have feelings for each other. Otherwise, Yifeng wouldn't have signed the papers so quickly. We'll wait and see."

"Mmm, we can only do that now! Alright, Mother, go home first. It's already very late. Just leave things here to me. Right, about tonight, can we not tell Mushan?" Yue Lingsi looked worriedly at Deng Wenwen.

"Mmm, I know what to do. Quickly settle the thing I told you to do," Deng Wenwen responded and left the ward.

When the door shut, Yue Lingsi relaxed a little. She took a deep breath and turned to look at Xi Xinyi who lay on the sick bed. Upon seeing that she slept rather soundly, her tensed heart then eased.

She thought to herself that the fate of her and her daughter seemed to be extraordinarily similar. Many years ago, she had been deeply in love with Xi Mushan. Because of him, she had also been in so much pain that she wanted to die. To get Xi Mushan, she did not spare using all sorts of tricks, forcing Shen Wenna to let go.

However, many years later, her daughter fancied Shen Wenna's daughter's fiancé, and she also did not spare using tricks to win Han Yifeng's heart.

In fact, now Han Yifeng and Xinyi were already married. Furthermore, Xinyi was carrying Han Yifeng's child too.

When she thought about this, Yue Lingsi could not suppress the smugness in her.

Shen Wenna, oh Shen Wenna! So what if I couldn't win Mushan's heart? The person who can stand honorably by his side and be the Mayor's wife is me. In fact, didn't your daughter completely lose to my daughter?

Now, no matter what, Xi Xinyi was the Han family's young lady of the house. This was a fact set in stone. Even if all the scandals caused a larger ruckus, as long as her child could be healthily born, then all of those things would be irrelevant!

This child had come at the perfect time!

Chapter 269. To Dote On (2)

It was getting later at night. Maple Residence was quiet, and the lights had already gone out in the villa. A cold wind brushed past and the wavering trees seemed bleak.

Inside the comfortable bedroom, Xi Xiaye was sleeping peacefully. However, as she was deep in her slumber, she suddenly felt the man beside her acting oddly. His fingers seized tightly onto her wrist. The grip was so tight that he almost was hurting her. His arms around her waist were also contracting, and she was starting to feel pressured.

At the same time, she could hear his heavy breathing in the dark and his palm was getting sweaty. Xi Xiaye then noticed something was wrong. Struggling, she switched the table lamp on and turned towards him and then realized —

He was frowning, and his handsome face was getting pale as sweat bathed his forehead and his sleeping robe was drenched. His breathing was heavy...

His strained expression looked like he was having a nightmare. She got especially worried seeing him.

Xi Xiaye panicked and quickly tried to wake him up, her hoarse voice filled with a concerned tone, "Mu Yuchen, wake up! Mu Yuchen..."

She called out to him as she reached for his forehead, but before her hand could touch him, she was suddenly pushed away as he sat up almost instantly. His force was so strong that Xi Xiaye almost fell off the bed.

He soon came back to his senses and quickly grabbed Xi Xiaye who almost lost her balance. "Are you alright?"

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and sat by the bedside. Her eyes were evidently worried while she studied him. He still looked pale with sweat all over him. After a while, she shook her head and asked, "Did you have a nightmare?"

Mu Yuchen closed his eyes and tried to calm himself down. Soon, he opened his eyes. There was still traces of his suppressed unease from before, but they soon returned to his usual calmness.

He took a deep breath before looking at her and apologized, "Sorry for waking you up!"

Xi Xiaye looked at him quietly for a while before grabbing a handkerchief from the bedside drawer and handed it to him. "Wipe yourself. I'll get you another sleeping robe. Go and wash up. You're all drenched now."

He nodded. When he took the handkerchief from her, his sharp eyes noticed the bruises on her wrist. However, she went towards the wardrobe before he could say anything.

After watching her for a while, he went towards her, taking the towel from her hand. "I'll do it myself. You can sleep first."

"You..." Xi Xiaye looked at him hesitantly.

"I'm alright. Be good and go back to sleep. I'll take a shower first."

He patted her head before heading into the bathroom. His silhouette seemed rather lonely and she suddenly felt uneasy about it. After pondering for some time, she sighed and then left the bedroom.

Mu Yuchen took a cold shower and then changed into a clean sleeping robe. When he came out of the bathroom, Xi Xiaye was nowhere to be seen.

After looking around, he put his hand on his aching forehead before leaving the bedroom as well.

Xi Xiaye came back to the bedroom with a glass of iced water. She did not see Mu Yuchen anywhere, but she then heard some noises by the balcony, so she headed over.

There was the smell of cigarette smoke in the air. She saw him leaning against the railing by the balcony.

“Where did you go just now?” He threw the cigarette away when he saw her.

Xi Xiaye stopped before him and handed the glass of iced water to him. “How are you feeling?”

“I’m alright. Were you frightened?” He grabbed the glass of water, his eyes locked onto the bruise on her wrist. His eyes seemed gloomy and complicated.

Xi Xiaye rubbed the bruise and looked into his eyes with a smile and shook her head. After a brief moment of silence, she asked, “You have something on your mind, hence the nightmare...”

His darkened eyes softened when he noticed her asking him carefully. He took a few sips from the glass and did not reply immediately.

She stared at him for some time, but he did not seem to be answering her question, so she averted her gaze and took a deep breath as she placed both her hands on the railing. She looked downwards at the dim street lamps and did not push him for an answer.

The atmosphere became a little uneasy as the cold wind blew and messed up their outfits. Her hair was starting to get messy as well.

The two of them stood there silently and no one said a thing, yet his gaze never left her.

After some time, she could not stand the cold anymore and shuddered slightly. She turned to him and frowned. “It’s cold here. Let’s head back in...”

His heart softened when he saw her frown. He held her into his arms and his hoarse voice reached her ears. "Are you angry?"

"No..." She turned her head away. She would never admit that she was a little upset that he did not reply to her question.

"So, you are then. You always avoid my eye contact when you're not telling the truth, Xiaye..." He suddenly sighed, his fingers grabbing onto her struggling hands. "It's going to be Qingming in a few days. I'll have nightmares whenever it's this time of the year, but I don't want you to be scared..."

"I'm alright." She gave him a brief reply, raising her head from his arms. "But I just want you to know that... if you need anything, I... I'll do my best to protect you. I know that I'm still weak, but I'll do my best." Her eyes were filled with determination, and her tone was firm.

Chapter 270. To Dote On (3)

Her genuine expression made him feel warm inside and his heart softened for her.

It was the first time someone said they would protect him, and this was coming from a frail little woman he had to constantly worry about.

He smiled, an odd light flashing in his eyes before he held her in his arms and said quietly, "Thank you, Xiaye. How I wish that I could have met you earlier. I wouldn't have needed to waste so much time before..."

Stunned, she raised her eyebrows and looked at him as she stammered "Mr. Mu, judging from your words... Could it be... Am I... I'm that to you?"

"That?" He asked back.

"Am I... your... first love?" She looked at him carefully and asked with a quiet tone.

Mu Yuchen took a pause, his dark eyes shooting her a meaningful glance. Instead of answering her, he turned his head away and barked out several coughs.

“So, am I?” She was persistent in getting her answer this time. “Am I? Am I... Mmm!”

In the end, instead of replying her, he kissed her passionately. How would Xi Xiaye still remember her question at this point?

She drowned in his breathy kisses for a long time. He picked her up effortlessly and they went back into the bedroom to continue sleeping.

However, they were both not really sleepy. They started chatting on the bed instead, talking about all sorts of topics, mostly consisting of Xi Xiaye firing questions and Mr. Mu answering them. For example —

She asked, “Mr. Mu, what colors do you like?”

He replied, “Black and white.”

...

She ranted, “Mr. Mu, do you still remember the Deputy Head of Department Wei? I heard he’s the Deputy Headmaster now. He caught both me and Su Nan so many times in the past.”

He gave it some thought before replying, “That fatty with the glasses? The one handling student recruitment now?”

“Mmm, I saw him a few days ago at the New Era Plaza. I almost couldn’t recognize him. I’m sure you didn’t know his lover is our... Mu Yuchen? Are you asleep? Hello...?”

...

The next morning, it was nearly 10 a.m. when she woke up. After Xi Xiaye washed up and went downstairs, Mu Yuchen had already prepared breakfast.

They went to University A after a light breakfast. Shen Wenna called them beforehand and said she had bought the ingredients and wanted them to head over earlier.

Shen Wenna's hostel in University A consisted of two rooms and a living room. While it was a decade-old house, it was decorated comfortably. She would usually stay there when work piled up.

When Xi Xiaye and Mu Yuchen arrived, several students were talking to Shen Wenna about their thesis, so the couple took on the job of preparing lunch.

When the students saw Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye, they addressed them as "Sis Xiaye" and "brother-in-law". It was really music to Mu Yuchen ears, and he even invited them to stay for lunch before heading back, but the students were shy and quickly left after their discussion. They did not want to bother them.

"Mother, set your things aside. Lunch is going to be ready soon," Xi Xiaye said to her mother as she was coming out of the kitchen with a dish in her hands. Shen Wenna was still busy working in her study room.

Shen Wenna nodded, quickly packing her things before walking out of the study room.

"I thought you were only guiding thesis students now. Why do you still have these big stacks of assignments?" Xi Xiaye put the dish on the table as she asked.

"Teacher Zhang in the department went overseas for a course on short notice, so I'm replacing him for a semester," Shen Wenna replied indifferently. Before she could finish, Xi Xiaye's phone started ringing in her shirt pocket. She looked at it and saw that it was her father, Xi Mushan!

Xi Xiaye unconsciously glanced over at Shen Wenna's direction. Naturally, she saw her slightly darkened eyes. As she was hesitating whether to pick up the call or not, Shen Wenna spoke, "Pick it up. I'm going to take a look in the kitchen." She swiftly disappeared into the kitchen.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and her expression turned complicated. She only picked up the call after a while.

“Hello, Father?”

“Mmm, it’s me, Xiaye.” Xi Mushan’s deep voice reached her ears. “I know you’re at your mother’s place. Can you come down for a moment? Help me pass something to your mother. I’m right downstairs.”

Downstairs?

Startled, Xi Xiaye walked over to the window and raised the curtain. She then saw Xi Mushan standing right under the tree opposite the house in his usual suit.

After staying quiet for a while, Xi Xiaye turned back to the kitchen. She could hear Shen Wenna and Mu Yuchen talking. Upon debating internally for some time, she grabbed the keys and went downstairs quietly.

As she walked down from the staircase, Xi Mushan was standing right there. He seemed much skinnier than before and the serious vibes around him were much weaker. He seemed quiet, dead quiet.

“Didn’t Mother ask you to not come?” Xi Xiaye stopped right beside him and looked at him with a complicated gaze.

It was the Peach Blossom Festival at University A tomorrow. Xi Mushan would send Shen Wenna gifts every year on this day. Xi Xiaye also knew that today was their wedding anniversary.

Xi Mushan did not reply to her. He just looked at Xi Xiaye in the eyes silently as he handed a bag to her. “Please hand it to her for me.”

After giving it some thought, Xi Xiaye did not take the bag. She looked at Xi Mushan and asked him a question instead, “Mother is just upstairs. Why don’t you give it to her yourself?”

Xi Mushan stayed quiet. After a while, he sighed before stuffing the bag into Xi Xiaye’s hands. He seemed defeated. “She doesn’t want to see me... I don’t want to ruin her mood either.”

“You can go back now. Help me pass her the items. I’ll be leaving now.”

Xi Mushan’s eyes darkened as he looked at Xi Xiaye. He did not want to say anything else, so he turned around and left.

Xi Xiaye wanted to call out to him. However, the words could not come out of her mouth.

She thought he might ask her about Xi Xinyi’s matter, yet he was just here to give her mother something.

At the same time, she had no idea how to phrase it well. Since a very long time ago, he had no more relationship with her mother. Apart from being connected by a daughter they conceived together, they did not seem to be related anymore.