

Loving 271

Chapter 271. Lose Control

Xi Xiaye stood under the tree and watched Xi Mushan gradually move further away. Suddenly, a lump formed in her throat. She only managed to push the feeling back with a ton of effort.

She looked down at the gift in her hand. Without needing to open it, she already knew what Xi Mushan had given her mother: a peach blossom hairpin!

Shen Wenna loved peach blossom hairpins. She collected tens of them in her drawer, but she had never let her daughter see them. However, Xi Xiaye unintentionally discovered them when she helped her pack up.

She also knew that of all those peach blossom hairpins were mostly gifts from Father to Mother.

She remained silent for a very, very long time before she turned to walk up the staircase with the gift in her hand. When she returned to the room, the dishes were already prepared and they were waiting for her to begin eating.

“Where did you go?” Mu Yuchen handed her a handkerchief.

Xi Xiaye tightened her grip on the paper bag in hand. Glancing at Mu Yuchen, she then looked at Shen Wenna beside him. Then, she hesitated before handing the gift over. “Father gave this to you. He was afraid that you wouldn’t be happy, so he didn’t come up...”

Startled, Shen Wenna looked up at Xi Xiaye for a long time. Then, she stared indifferently at the gift in front of her and said in a calm tone, “I remember telling you not to send his gifts over.”

“Mother, I’m just...”

“If ever there’s a next time, tell him to take it back with him,” Shen Wenna said coldly. She took the gift and casually set it aside. “Let’s eat.”

Xi Xiaye did not mind. Last time, she seemed to have said this too, so...

“Sit.” Mu Yuchen did not say anything either. He just pulled a chair out for Xi Xiaye and whispered softly into her ear, “Next time, be frank. Just bring him up.”

Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes at him. She ignored him and picked up her bowl to get some soup.

Throughout the meal, Shen Wenna seemed to eat without tasting the food. She only had a few bites before she declared that she was done. She left her seat early and went to the study room, seeming very lonely.

When she heard the study room door shut, Xi Xiaye sighed sorrowfully. She looked to Mu Yuchen and said, “Don’t take offense. Whenever it’s this time of the year, Mother will be like this.”

As she said this, she put the chopsticks in her hand down and stared at the paper bag. Finally, she reached out to open it and very quickly took a delicate box out. She casually opened it.

Inside lay an exquisite, blush-colored peach blossom hairpin. The light-colored petals enveloped the light tassels. It was very beautiful and very worthy of a second look.

“I’ll go take a look at her. You eat first.”

Then, she took a deep breath and tightened her grip on the peach blossom hairpin before quickly getting up and making her way to the study room.

At this moment, Shen Wenna, who was in the study room, was sitting quietly before her study table, looking out of the window past the muslin curtains without a word.

“Mother...”

Xi Xiaye reached Shen Wenna’s sides in a few steps. She handed the hairpin to her. “This year’s hairpin seems to be prettier than last year’s...”

Shen Wenna turned to look at Xi Xiaye. A while after that, her gaze then moved down to the hairpin she handed her. Breathing in, she slowly took it.

“It’s all already in the past. What’s the point of sending these gifts?” Shen Wenna’s slightly raspy voice rang out. One could vaguely hear the sadness in it. “He’s forever so self-righteous... Still thinking that I’m still the same as I was!”

“Mother, if you really can’t forget Father, can we...?”

“Who says I can’t forget him? He’s so sure that I won’t be able to let him, is he? He, Xi Mushan, is so sure that I, Shen Wenna, wouldn’t be able to live without him in this lifetime, eh?”

Before Xi Xiaye could finish, Shen Wenna’s expression suddenly tensed up and she tightened her grip onto the hairpin in her hand. “The oath of eternal love we once had has now all become a preposterous joke because of his betrayal. Does he think I’d forgive him just like that? Impossible! Xiaye, I’m telling you, I’ll never forgive him!”

Shen Wenna was suddenly very emotional. Her whole body trembled as her clear eyes revealed sparkles of tears that she had long endured. The scar that had fallen silent in her heart was brought back up to the surface again. It was so painful that she felt like she was suffocating.

“Back then, I gave up on everything. For him, I even severed ties with your grandfather. We were self-indulgent and unruly with our love... and then, in the end, I still had to pay a heavy price for this unruly banishment. Xiaye, I haven’t been willing to tell you about my unbearable past because I hope that you won’t know about all these ugly things... because you don’t need to be burdened by these. I hope that you won’t be affected by my misfortune too. I just want you to know that even though your father and I are divorced, we still care about you as we always did. That is all. Do you understand?”

When she said this, Shen Wenna suddenly inhaled and suppressed the emotions that she was about to divulge. She paused for a moment, then continued, “I’m afraid your father and I will never be able to go back to how we were. I know that you’ve been holding onto a sliver of hope for us, but I’m telling you that there’s no way.”

“Why not? If Yue Lingsi can steal Father from you, can’t you get him back? Why can Xi Xinyi justifiably hog Father’s love, hog the fancy of Grandfather and Grandmother, while I’m left with nothing?”

Xi Xiaye suddenly could not stop herself from self-mockery as she said, “Do you know that every time, every single time Xi Xinyi spread rumors about me, I’d ask why? When bullied, she can go looking for Grandfather, Grandmother, and her parents. And me? Who can I go to?”

As Xi Xiaye burst out about this, Shen Wenna instantly turned pale. Her hand that held the hairpin started to tremble slightly.

“I’m sorry. Consider it a slip of the tongue...”

When Xi Xiaye saw Shen Wenna’s expression darken, she felt her heart ache. With a deep breath, she pushed all of the bitterness in her throat back, then she said slowly, “I’m not blaming you for anything. I’ve already gotten used to it all these years anyway... When I see someone else’s harmonious family, I just feel a little envious. That’s all...”

“I’ve always respected you, Mother, and I’ve always been proud of having a mother like you, but I hope that you can be braver for the things that you should fight for. You should... You and Father aren’t young anymore...” Xi Xiaye lamented.

Actually, for a long time, she had not dared to tell Shen Wenna that she hoped she could help her get her father back. She wanted to give Shen Wenna the courage as well, but at that time, she did not even have the courage herself, so how could she offer it to Shen Wenna?

Shen Wenna did not say anything. She just watched Xi Xiaye silently, the hairpin clutched tightly in her hand. Xi Xiaye could seem to see her struggle in her eyes.

Chapter 272. Because of Love? (1)

Xi Xiaye watched Shen Wenna who had fallen silent for a long time. Finally, she did not say anything anymore and turned to leave the study room.

Outside, Mu Yuchen had already kept all the dishes away and was watching the television on the sofa.

“Let’s go take a walk outside.”

Xi Xiaye handed him a cup of tea as she said, “It’s the weekend. The students have all gone out, so there aren’t many people around...”

He reached out to take the tea before lowering his head to sip it. Then, he nodded after seeing the sorrow that gathered between her brows. He set the cup aside and got up. “Go put on your windbreaker.”

Xi Xiaye responded, peering hesitantly at the study room. She lowered her gaze to think, then stood at the door to announce, “Mother, we want to take a walk around the school.”

After she said this, Shen Wenna did not answer either. Xi Xiaye stayed silent for a while, then whirled around to grab the windbreaker on the rack.

At this moment, Shen Wenna’s voice finally came from behind. “The car keys are on the shelf by the door.”

“Mmm.”

University A was huge and it would take almost an hour to walk from the south entrance to the north entrance. Apart from the Nissan downstairs, there were also the tram and bike. The tram was usually the best choice for going to classes. Shen Wenna had bought the bike, especially for Xi Xiaye. Whenever Xi Xiaye came over with Su Nan, the two of them used to roam around the university grounds on the bike.

Downstairs, Mu Yuchen stared at the car keys Xi Xiaye handed him, not taking it after a long time.

When she saw him not moving for a long while, Xi Xiaye suddenly raised her brows and looked at him in surprise. “Don’t tell me you don’t know how to ride a bike.”

Without a word, he just squinted and looked at her thoughtfully. Just as he was about to say something, Xi Xiaye had already taken the keys back and sighed as she volunteered, "Alright, so there's finally something that you can't do. I'll drive you..."

Before she could finish, he had already taken the keys back and swiftly started the bike, he shot her a side glance, then she shrugged and walked over too.

"Later, I'll ask them to prepare a mountain bike for you. Every weekend, in the evening, we'll go around the villa. You still need more practice," he said, then he quickly took control of the bike and turned to look at her.

"I don't want to. I think I already have had tons of training." Xi Xiaye frowned as she responded. After that, she got into the backseat, while she held onto his shirt by his waist.

The entire university was rather empty. The pathway that led to the third teaching building was covered in peach blossom petals. Once in a while, they could see young couples taking pictures underneath the peach blossom trees, or riding their bicycles under the trees like them. The tinkle of light, cheerful laughter could be heard from time to time.

Xi Xiaye watched them and suddenly felt a little envious. Involuntarily, she tightened her grip onto the man's shirt and could not help but say, "Do you feel like, in this phase of theirs, it feels like love is really simple and really... There just isn't that many restrictions and overthinking... Just two people together... All because they like each other..."

He hesitated for a long while, before saying, "It's very simple and pure, but feelings like these will always lose to reality, so you don't have to envy them. People like us are the best. How many people have actually built their happiness based on other people's perceptions? So, Missus, you have to turn this envy into action. No one else can give us these things; we can only fight for it ourselves."

She listened and understood what he meant. However, she did not answer. Instead, her hand that was curled around his waist tightened, and she fell silent for a while. Then, she suddenly remembered that a very, very long time ago she had heard of this one song. Somehow, she could not recall its name.

Everyone couldn't find this despair and gave up, but you'd always arrive right when I'm in danger. I just don't know much, but that justice is guided by you...

Of all times, apart from the role of a husband and lover, she felt like she related to him more like a teacher and a friend. She could not question every word he uttered to her. Even she did not know why when it came to him, she could be so willing to trust without rejecting at all.

The feeling was actually horrible if you thought about it because it would create a sense of reliance, and once this thing you were reliant on was lost, one would not be able to bear it.

Su Nan had said, "Xiaye, quickly bear a child for Mu Yuchen and tie him down. You won't have to worry about him running off then. That way, his heart will settle down. If a woman is willing to bear children for that man, then she's definitely planning to spend the rest of her life with him."

She did not know whether this was right. She just suddenly remembered Shen Wenna and Xi Mushan. As their daughter, would she not be able to tie them to each other?

As she thought about this, she suddenly felt a sinking feeling in her heart. She could not help but ask him, "Mu Yuchen, if we have children in the future..."

As she said this, her voice gradually dropped as she looked down at the peach blossom petals that were scattered all over the floor and did not continue.

Mu Yuchen glanced down at her hand that was around his waist. He waited for a long while, yet she did not continue.

He could not stand her words that seemed to tease him, so he pleaded, "Finish what you were saying."

"I said, if we have children in the future, you must treat them better just like how you're treating me now. You have to be a loving father, and you must have a good reputation. Apart from a father and child bond, you have to be good friends and good buddies. You also have to be like their teacher..."

Mu Yuchen listened and was stunned for a while. Frozen, he thought about it, then chuckled. "It's so hard to be your child's father, but if the person I'm having a child with is you, I don't mind working a little harder."

As he said this, his still eyes brightened up a little. Unexpectedly, he felt excited for some reason.

“Did you think it’d be easy?” She just answered matter-of-factly.

...

The husband and wife naturally did not know that as they were passing under the peach blossom tree, Xi Mushan was taking everything in.

“Mayor, actually Master Mu and Miss Xiaye look pretty well-matched,” Secretary Ah Hui suddenly commented softly from the side. “In fact, Master Mu seems to treat Miss Xiaye well, so, Mayor, you don’t have to worry so much.”

As Xi Mushan listened to his secretary, he was stunned for a moment. Then, he nodded. Watching them, he suddenly remembered being with Shen Wenna back then. Years ago, they had also once...

Yet, he did stay on. At last, he just looked ahead at the figures that gradually moved away. All of a sudden, he closed his eyes, breathed in, and relaxed a little. Then, he opened his eyes before getting into the car.

“Let’s go. Let’s make a trip to Hospital T,” he declared, then leaned back to close his eyes and rest, feeling exhausted.

Chapter 273. Because of Love? (2)

Ah Hui nodded. Initially, he wanted to say some more, but since Xi Mushan had already closed his eyes, he fell silent. Furthermore, he did not have the heart to disturb him, so he just let it be.

He quietly got into the car and drove straight to Hospital T.

At this very moment, inside the superior ward, Xi Xinyi had already woken up. She looked very pale and haggard. Generally, she looked much weaker and her chin had sharpened drastically. You could tell that she was not doing well recently. In fact, now she looked beaten.

Leaning against the bed head, she held onto her handphone and called Han Yifeng over and over again, yet it kept showing her that Han Yifeng's handphone was switched off. She was exceptionally worried and restless. Her beautiful eyes could not help but redden as she looked dazed too.

On the side, Yue Lingsi was peeling an apple. When she noticed her looking like this, she was concerned. "Xinyi, don't be so anxious. Yifeng might have something going on. Let him have some time alone first. The incident yesterday was just too..."

"Don't be worried? Mother, how can I not be worried? He's never treated me this way! He must be angry. Mother, would he not want me and the baby? Mother..."

Xi Xinyi turned around with a dazed expression as she gripped her phone tightly and looked at Yue Lingsi with teary eyes. "Mother, I'm really heartbroken..."

When she saw how frail Xi Xinyi was, Yue Lingsi felt her heart ache too, so she quickly consoled her, "Don't let your imagination run wild, Xinyi. You are carrying his child now. He wouldn't abandon you, so don't worry. On the Han family's end, they wouldn't agree either. Besides, the two of you just got married. There's still a long journey ahead of you, so don't say such silly things."

"Mother, I really didn't do it on purpose... But if I hadn't done that, Yifeng would've never seen my good side. Now he hates me and doesn't want me anymore, Mother..."

Xi Xinyi's tearful eyes widened while she sniffed, and tried calling Han Yifeng again as she said, "No, I must talk to him... There's no one else in this world that loves him more than me. He can't just abandon me and the baby!"

"Xinyi, rest for a while. You've been making calls ever since you woke up in the morning. As much as you want to reach him, Yifeng's phone is still switched off. Even Ziyao and the rest can't find him right now. Just let him have some time alone. The two of you are already married anyway, and now that you bear his child too, you don't have to worry about him running off."

Yue Lingsi reached out and wanted to stop Xi Xinyi, yet she persistently made another call which still went to voicemail. She finally broke down and tossed her phone to the ground.

Bang!

With a crash, the brand new phone announced the end of its life.

“He’s doing this on purpose. He’s purposely avoiding me! Mother, what should I do? What should I do?!”

“Xinyi, calm down! Don’t hurt yourself. The doctor says you can’t get too emotional! Do you want there to be any mishap with your child?”

“Then, make Yifeng come. I must talk to him. I really didn’t hurt Xiaye on purpose! I didn’t think that things would’ve turned out to be so severe back then. I just wanted Cousin to frighten her a little, make her back out herself, or make Yifeng change his mind about her. I really didn’t think she would be expelled by the military academy. Otherwise, what could I have done? Grandfather was going to let her get engaged with Yifeng. That was the only way to break them apart. Mother, after the incident, I really blamed myself... I suffered too...”

Xi Xinyi buried her face in her hands and wept, her light golden long hair tumbling down in a mess. Her usual beauty was no longer apparent. There was just haggardness and dullness left.

“Enough. Don’t cry anymore. I know you’ve suffered too, but these things... Xinyi, what do you want me to say to you?” Yue Lingsi could not help but sigh sorrowfully. Who else but her could understand this feeling?

“Mother...” Xi Xinyi was incredibly sad. She leaned into her embrace, looking for a sliver of comfort.

However, right at this moment, there was suddenly a knock on the door. Xi Xinyi then wiped her tears away and looked at the door.

“Madam, Miss Xinyi!”

It was Xi Mushan’s secretary, Ah Hui, who pushed the door open.

The mother and daughter were shocked. Their eyes flashed with apprehensiveness and then they saw Xi Mushan walk in. He carried his usual heavy aura. His stern expression was all tensed in seriousness, exuding an imposing and cold air.

“Father!” Xi Xinyi was stunned as panic crossed her eyes. She subconsciously looked to Yue Lingsi, who had stood up a little uneasily.

Xi Mushan glared at the two of them and walked over.

“Father, why are you here? Are you okay?”

Xi Xinyi naturally did not forget that because of Xi Xiaye’s matter, the government seemed to have had some news that was bad for Xi Mushan. In fact, in this period, Xi Mushan seemed to be extremely busy with work, so much so that he almost could not find the time to handle his family matters.

“Mushan, the doctor says that Xinyi’s pregnancy isn’t very stable. She can’t be overworked and get provoked. Xiaye went overboard last night. Despite all that, she should consider the occasion too. She clearly didn’t want everyone to have peace! Mother’s high blood pressure was almost triggered, and my father, he’s furious too. She’s just doing this so our family will look bad in front of the Yues and the Hans! If word gets out about this, where can we put our face? She really doesn’t know her place!” Yue Lingsi could not help but begin ranting.

“Father, it’s not Sister’s fault. I deserve all of this. It was I who hurt her first, so I can understand how she feels. She’s always been deeply in love with Yifeng. I...”

Xi Xinyi did not finish because she noticed Xi Mushan glaring at her with an exceptionally stern and sharp gaze. She stopped and glanced a little uneasily at Xi Mushan.

“So, does that mean that you’re the culprit behind Xiaye’s drama?” Xi Mushan demanded in a low voice, his gaze fixated on Xi Xinyi.

Xi Xinyi trembled as she quietly lowered her head and bit her lip. Her shoulders trembled slightly and she was softly sobbing.

“Mushan, Xinyi she...”

“Shut up!”

Yue Lingsi wanted to say something, but she was sternly pushed back by Xi Mushan. His sharp gaze even frightened Yue Lingsi.

“Father, you’ve frightened Mother!” Xi Xinyi quickly lifted a hand to hold Yue Lingsi steady.

“This is the good daughter that you’ve raised. Just like you, to achieve your goals, you’d scheme and spare no tricks.” Xi Mushan sneered as he looked at the two of them.

“Father, this was all me. It has nothing to do with Mother. You don’t have to criticize her like that!”

Xi Xinyi was protective of her mother. She pushed Yue Lingsi to the back and looked at Xi Mushan stubbornly.

Chapter 274. Because of Love? (3)

Yue Lingsi was pale and she balled fists as she looked at Xi Mushan, muttering, “Mushan, Xinyi wasn’t sensible. She’s still young. Don’t blame her...”

“Still young? She was only in her teens and she’s already learned such evil tricks to frame her own sister. How’s she considered still young? The student becomes the master after she was taught by you.”

“Father, I already said that I really didn’t do that on purpose!”

Xi Mushan shot Xi Xinyi a side look. Quickly, his gaze fell onto Yue Lingsi with a coldness that could not be hidden in his still eyes. “If you still want to keep your position as the mayor’s wife, I hope you’ll buck up and play your role well.”

“Mushan, listen to me...” Yue Lingsi shivered slightly. She immediately went up to him and was about to hold onto his arm, yet he just lifted a hand and turned around indifferently. Consequently, he reached out to nothing.

“I hope that this can stop where it is right now. You two, stop disturbing Shen Wenna and Xiaye. As for Xiaye getting expelled from the military academy, Xinyi, you’d better be able to persuade your cousin to explain it clearly. Otherwise, when the court sends a letter to us, if I find out that you two stirred trouble up, you’d better be prepared to leave the Xi family.”

Xi Mushan then coldly left the ward, refusing to stay for another second.

His words left Yue Lingsi in panic and shock. Her gaze was fixed on the doorway ahead that was already empty as she muttered, “What? What does he mean by leave the Xi family? Xinyi, did your father say something about leaving the Xi family? Who’s leaving the Xi family?”

“Mother, Father’s just saying those out of anger. Don’t take them seriously...” Xi Xinyi looked at the empty doorway ahead, yet her gaze had already instantly turned bitter.

“He wants to divorce me? He wants to chase us out of the Xi family, does he? Is that so? Huh, Xinyi?” Yue Lingsi clutched onto Xinyi’s sleeves and asked with a worried expression.

“He wants to bring Shen Wenna and her daughter back... He must be thinking of bringing them back... No way! I’m telling you, no way! Even if I die, I wouldn’t let Shen Wenna that b*tch have her way! Xi Mushan can only be mine. He’s mine! I’m the Mayor’s wife., I’m the daughter-in-law of the Xi family! Shen Wenna is nothing. She’s just an abandoned woman. What does she have to deserve to fight with me? What?!”

Yue Lingsi could not calm down.

“Mother! Calm down! There’s no way Father would divorce you. Grandfather and Grandmother wouldn’t agree, and there’s Grandfather [1] and the rest too, so what are you worried about?”

Xi Xinyi looked worriedly at Yue Lingsi with mixed emotions in her eyes.

How could she say that she actually really hated how Yue Lingsi would look all lowly in front of Xi Mushan every time?

Why could she not be like Shen Wenna and look icily arrogant too?

She knew that Xi Mushan hated the way she looked meek and always tried to win his favor, yet she would continue to act just like that!

As Yue Lingsi listened to her daughter, she relaxed a little and quickly nodded. "Right, right... Your father can't divorce me. Right, how did I forget? Even if Shen Wenna's dead, she'll never get your father!"

...

Two days later, Han Yifeng still did not reveal himself and he did not go to the office either. No one knew where he had gone. Huang Ziyao, Xi Xinyi and the rest were worried sick. In fact, at the same time, a letter from the court had been sent to Xi Xinyi, causing everyone to go into an alarm.

Naturally, it was about Xi Xiaye getting expelled from the military academy.

The next afternoon, after mobilizing discussions all around and Xi Xinyi had received the court's letter, Yang Jianfeng had unexpectedly gone to the court himself to come clean about the truth, taking on all the criminal charges. Because there was no direct evidence, Xi Xinyi had dodged a bullet.

She was secretly glad. Thankfully, Yang Jianfeng had not used those drugs back then. Otherwise, she...

As for Yang Jianfeng becoming the black sheep, it was something within Xi Xiaye's expectations. Even though she was a little unhappy about it, at least this could prove her innocence. In fact, everyone had always been clear about the whole incident, so she could only reluctantly accept this result.

It was Zhuang Shurong who called herself to explain the whole situation. Xi Xiaye knew what she was about to say, so her reaction was very calm. "Mother, I understand. I agree to drop the lawsuit."

Zhuang Shurong fell silent for a moment on the other end of the phone before she continued, “Mmm, this implicates a lot. If we continue to hold on to it, they might want to look into your self-defense with excessive force. Xiaye, if you want to continue, I won’t stop you...”

Xi Xiaye breathed in slightly and shook her head. “No need, Mother, just let it be. I agree to drop it.”

“Okay, the court will adjust the charges. They’ll let you publicly clarify this matter. Don’t worry and don’t be too pressured.”

“Mmm, thanks, Mother.”

“I’ll explain the situation to Chen Er too. That’s that then.”

...

Just as Zhuang Shurong was about to hang up, Xi Xiaye suddenly asked, “Hold on, Mother. How’s Father?”

“Don’t worry. Nothing happened. Don’t fret too much. Leave work earlier today to rest. You’ve been too tensed these past few days. Don’t overburden yourself...”

...

After she hung up on Zhuang Shurong, Xi Xiaye felt more relaxed. She slowly stood up and turned to look out the window behind her. This was when she noticed that the sky was clear outside. It was the kind of sky after the rain had cleared.

Knock knock!

Right at that moment, there was suddenly a knock from outside.

Xi Xiaye did not turn to look and just responded, "Come in."

The door opened very quickly as her assistant, Xiao Mei, brought in a young fellow who walked in with a huge bouquet of yellow roses in his arms.

"Director Xi, this young man says someone sent you flowers!"

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye slowly turned around and looked suspiciously at the man.

The young man smiled and walked up to her while holding the bouquet up to take a closer look at the card. "Are you Miss Xi Xiaye?"

Xi Xiaye raised her brows and did not answer, but the delivery boy was already sure it was her and handed her the bouquet. "Miss Xi, these are flowers a mister has bought for you. Please sign for them!"

Who sent her flowers?

Was it Mu Yuchen?

The first name Xi Xiaye thought of was Mu Yuchen. She swiftly took the delivery order and wrote her name down. Then, she took the flowers as Xiao Mei and the fellow swiftly exited.

She peered down at the bouquet in her hands and very quickly noticed the envelope stuck in the flowers. Holding it up to read, she unexpectedly realized that it was Han Yifeng's handwriting!

A line of messy scrawling appeared in her sight.

Xiaye, I'm sorry. Thank you for the love you once granted me. I should have cherished it!

When she saw these words, Xi Xiaye felt a sourness in her heart for some reason and her eyes suddenly started to turn hot.

Chapter 275. Those In Eternal Slumber (1)

She suddenly went absent-minded.

As she blinked and tried to force the lukewarm feeling in her eyes back, she lifted her head and gazed outside at the blue sky once again. The card in her hand gradually fell into the dustbin.

She took a deep breath while she rested an arm on the chilly window pane before her. Then, she returned to her usual composure after a while.

She was not feeling sad. Instead, she was relieved.

After putting in so much effort, she just wanted a word of recognition. Whether it was worth it or not, putting an end to it could lead to a new beginning.

She told herself that all the unhappiness in the past were just stepping stones. No matter what, her own happiness would come one day.

Suddenly, she turned her head around and looked at the blooming yellow roses on her table. A rare smile appeared on her face.

If only everything could just end here. Unfortunately, one could not win against fate...

...

That night, it was the birthday of Vice Director Xu from the Planning Department. His lover had booked a room to host a party. At first, Xi Xiaye did not want to go, but since Vice Director Xu insisted, she was forced to go.

Mu Yuchen went to the neighboring city early in the morning. He went over the development of Movie City with Ah Mo. His phone had been switched off the whole day. He was probably busy with work, so she just left him a text message before heading over to the venue.

Things were getting started in the room. Most of the guests consisted of people from the Planning Department, most of whom she knew, so they started chatting. Xi Xiaye did not drink since she needed to drive later. Throughout the night, she just sat around and chatted.

However, she seemed a little uneasy that night. She glanced over at her phone several times and did not see any calls or message replies from Mu Yuchen. After some hesitation, she decided to leave earlier and gave Ah Mo a call.

Near the entrance, as she walked down the staircase, Xi Xiaye was heading towards her car with a frown on her face and was about to call Ah Mo when she bumped into someone.

"I'm sorry!" Xi Xiaye gasped subconsciously with her eyes still glued onto the phone screen. An arm helped her up as she seemed like she was about to trip, followed by the faint scent of cologne which made her frown.

"We meet again, Ms. Xiaye!"

There was a tint of cheekiness in his tone. When Xi Xiaye raised her head, Qi Lei's face was right before her eyes. He seemed glad about their encounter.

"Why are you here!?" Xi Xiaye grabbed onto her phone tightly and stared at him alertly.

"Fate, I guess! We seem to bump into each other everywhere." Qi Lei grinned, his eyes deep and dark like the abyss.

"Let go!" Xi Xiaye struggled in his grip and put on an unwelcoming attitude towards him. "I don't think it's fate at all. We're just enemies that happen to bump into each other."

"Why would you say so? There's no way a beauty like you is an enemy to me. It's a fateful meeting between us!" Qi Lei leered. While his words were frivolous in nature, his eyes seemed judgmental and interested instead.

Xi Xiaye laughed coldly. She averted her gaze away and was about to leave. Unexpectedly, Qi Lei stepped forward and smiled beside her ear. "You seem to be on guard against me. Do I look like a bad person to you?"

"Nope, because I know you are one! Can you move away, Vice President Qi?" Xi Xiaye stopped struggling and glared into his smiling eyes.

"I heard about your recent victory. Did Mu Yuchen help you out? That gift of his just revealed everything about your sister. What a smart move! Oh, I almost forgot, he's always this vicious..."

Qi Lei let out an evil laugh as his eyes turned icy. He smiled again when he saw Xi Xiaye's frigid expression. "Don't look at me like that. I might misunderstand... Mu Yuchen isn't a nice person. You can consider coming over to Qikai where I can give you a position as Vice President. What do you think?"

Xi Xiaye suddenly had a wry smile on her face as she looked at Qi Lei. "So, you mean you're a nice person then? It's not impossible for me to go over to Qi Kai. I've never been a CEO before. Why don't you ask your father to quit and let me become the CEO of Qi Kai instead? Then, I'll think about it."

Qi Lei was not angry at all. In fact, he laughed wholeheartedly. "Ms. Xiaye, you're so much more fun than your pitiful sister. Is Han Yifeng crazy? He didn't know he had such a precious one by his side all this time!"

Xi Xiaye remained silent and just stared at Qi Lei coldly.

"I don't mean any ill, Ms. Xiaye. I'm genuinely inviting you over to Qi Kai. I'm sure we can offer a much better package than Glory World. Please give it some thought. I really admire you. I heard the proposal for the South River project this time was your work. I'm really looking forward to Mu Yuchen's overconfidence that he'll get this project."

"You'll have to ask him yourself then. I'm afraid you're not getting anything out of me." Xi Xiaye grinned. "I heard that Qi Kai has put a lot of effort into this project as well. I remember that Vice President Qi told me the last time that you're determined to get this project. Are you trying to get information from me in a roundabout way now?"

Qi Lei smiled before shrugging. "Do I look like a spy to you, Ms. Xiaye? I'm a straightforward and upright person. Mu Yuchen is better at these things. What? You don't believe me?"

"Mr. Qi Lei, trying to belittle another person and seemingly make yourself seem better is a really low and stupid move. So, you're a man like that?" Xi Xiaye gave Qi Lei a meaningful glance.

Qi Lei's expression froze for a moment, but it soon returned to usual. His eyes glittered as he looked at Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye let out a cold laugh when he did not reply. She clutched her phone tightly and walked past him.

Chapter 276. Those In Eternal Slumber (2)

"Of course I'm not a man like that, Ms. Xiaye!" Qi Lei's playful voice reached Xi Xiaye again when she arrived beside her car!

Xi Xiaye frowned, staring at Qi Lei with her cold eyes. For some reason, she had a very bad feeling about this man.

When it came to the South River project, Glory World and Qi Kai were opponents and it was inevitable for some friction to exist between them.

Glory World and Qi Kai were not involved with each other at all. Aside from the conflict that happened in the past collaborations, those matters were resolved peacefully and there were no leftover issues afterward. However, given Qi Lei's tone of voice just now, it seemed that he was very unhappy with Mu Yuchen.

What had happened?

Xi Xiaye did not give it much thought. She got into the car and gave Ah Mo a call as she put the gear into reverse.

The call went on for some time without anyone picking up. Just as Xi Xiaye was about to give up, the call connected.

“Hello, Missus?” It was Ah Mo’s voice.

“Ah Mo? It’s me... Is Mu Yuchen still with you?” Xi Xiaye asked with a frown.

“Master? Nope, Master went back to Maple Residence after getting off the plane in the evening. Is he still not home yet?” Ah Mo was a little anxious and his tone sounded worried.

“I’m still outside. His phone was switched off the whole time, and no one’s picking up the phone at home. Never mind. I’ll head back now, but I might call you again.”

She hung up before Ah Mo could say anything. Revving the engine, she headed right back to Maple Residence, rushing the whole way through.

Half an hour later, the car entered the Grand Waves villa area. The car brought forth a gush of wind and after several swift turns, it suddenly braked as it stopped right before Maple Residence.

Xi Xiaye got out of the car quickly and went into the house.

Looking from afar, the villa was still pitch black. The only lights were from the street lamps by the front yard.

Xi Xiaye soon went into the villa. She switched the lights in the living room on, yet it was empty.

She left her briefcase aside and started searching everywhere. Despite calling his phone again, it was still switched off!

There was no one in the living room or in the kitchen. She looked everywhere downstairs and he was nowhere to be found. The uneasiness inside her grew stronger. Her chest tightened as she rushed upstairs.

The room was dark as well. She switched the lights in the bedroom on.

Empty!

No one on the balcony too!

Ah, the study room?

She turned around and went inside the study room.

Bang!

She flipped the switch on and the lights lit up the whole room, chasing away the darkness.

She could smell the faint smell of tobacco. Her eyes searched around and saw him lying on the soft chair beside the tall bookshelf.

His eyes were closed and he was giving off a cold vibe around him. The ashtray was already full of stubs.

Not used to the sudden light, he took a deep breath and blocked the light with one hand while he squinted his eyes and looked over at the door. She was panting with her face red. He then groaned, "You're back..."

He dragged the curtain beside him open and pushed the window outward. A strong gust of wind came inside and soon blew the cigarette smell away.

His voice sounded dry and hoarse while his face seemed exhausted as well.

"What's wrong? Why is your phone switched off? You didn't pick up the phone when I called home too!" Xi Xiaye went to the coffee table and poured a glass of water before going near him.

He pinched the space between his eyebrows before grabbing his phone. He then put it back when he saw that it was still turned off.

“Drink some water. How are you? Why do you look so terrible?” Xi Xiaye frowned as she handed him the glass of water.

“I’m alright. I’m just tired and I didn’t get to rest well,” Mu Yuchen gave a brief reply as he took the glass of water and sipped it a little. His voice sounded really hoarse.

She seemed worried and could not help but put her hand on his forehead.

It was burning!

Her eyes darkened. She quickly grabbed his hand and as she expected, it was nearly the same temperature as his forehead. “You’re having a fever. Can’t you feel it?”

A fever?

No wonder he felt out of strength and dizzy...

Mu Yuchen frowned, his breathing getting heavier. “I’m fine...”

Xi Xiaye was starting to get a headache. She took a deep breath, and before he could say anything, she called Dr. Zhong and asked him to come over immediately. She was so quick that he could not stop her.

After hanging up, she helped him up. “Let me get you to bed.”

“It’s fine. It’s just a small fever. I don’t want to sleep. I’ll be fine by just lying down for a bit,” he replied as he breathed heavily. He did not seem very well.

“Is a fever a small matter? I’ll get you some medicine first...” Xi Xiaye felt like a mess inside. She was worried and freaked out at the same time when he was feeling terrible. Back then, when she was like this alone, she would just take some medicine herself and went back to sleep. Only she would know how it felt.

She found the medicine and took out the tablets for him. Surprisingly, he took them obediently.

“I’ll cook you something...” She was about to get up and cook him something to eat, but as she just got up, he grabbed her wrist. “No, don’t go. Just sit here.”

As he dragged her back to him, Xi Xiaye could almost feel her wrist being crushed. She looked at his heavy-lidded eyes and sighed after a while. She put her other hand on his. “I’ll stay here. Sleep for a bit.”

He nodded and let go of her wrist before closing his eyes slowly...

“I’m alright. I’ll be fine after a good night’s sleep. Don’t worry,” he added before he fell asleep.

Xi Xiaye did not move even after he fell asleep. She just sat there quietly and looked at him with the dim lights shadowing him. It felt like he had not been feeling very well during this period. In addition to that, he had been having nightmares the past few nights.

Chapter 277. Those In Eternal Slumber (3)

After some time, she came back to her senses when she felt her arm getting a little numb. He seemed slightly better when she heard the sound of the doorbell chiming downstairs.

It should be Dr. Zhong.

Xi Xiaye stood up and spent some time trying to pry her hand out of his grip. She placed her hand on his forehead again. It was still pretty hot, so she sighed worriedly.

When she went downstairs, Ah Mo came over with Dr. Zhong.

“Missus! How’s Master?” Ah Mo asked anxiously, his eyebrows knitted together.

Xi Xiaye moved aside and let the two of them in. “I just gave him some medicine for the fever, but it hasn’t gone down. Let’s go up first.”

“Master stayed in the breeze for quite some time during the inspection today. I think he caught a cold. Dr. Zhong, please take a look at him quickly.” Ah Mo followed Xi Xiaye to the second floor.

Xi Xiaye suddenly stopped at the entrance of the study room and turned around to tell them, “He wasn’t able to rest well in the past few nights. He’s just fallen asleep. Be careful.”

Dr. Zhong nodded and walked more quietly after that. Ah Mo’s expression seemed complicated as he looked at Xi Xiaye as if he wanted to say something. However, he was not able to say it. They then went in.

The man suddenly woke up as Dr. Zhong went near him. A dim light appeared in his eyes when he saw the other person before him. “Why are you guys here?”

“Master! How are you feeling?”

“Master, are you okay?”

Ah Mo and Dr. Zhong spoke at the same time, both concerned.

Mu Yuchen put a hand on his forehead as he glanced over at the quiet Xi Xiaye. “I’m fine. It’s just a little cold and fever. She’s just overreacting.”

“Your body temperature is very high now. A fever is no small matter. It’s your own body. You’re the one who’ll suffer.” Xi Xiaye did not want to argue with him any further. She dragged the stool in between them away and held his arm. “Let’s go back to the bedroom. Dr. Zhong, please check his condition there.”

Mu Yuchen looked at her deeply in the eyes. Her expression was saying that there was no room for negotiation. A faint smile appeared on his pale, handsome face. He did not say anything and just let her drag him along with all her might.

Ah Mo wanted to help, but Mu Yuchen stopped him.

She grabbed a clean sleeping robe and made him change into it after they got into the bedroom. She wiped his face clean before Dr. Zhong gave him a checkup and gave him a flu shot.

Xi Xiaye went downstairs and made some porridge. It was already 1 a.m. when Dr. Zhong was done.

“Go back and rest earlier. He’ll be fine with me here. Remember not to tell Grandfather and Grandmother. I don’t want them to be worried,” Xi Xiaye told Ah Mo as she sent them off.

“Mmm, I got it. Please take care of Master then. Dr. Zhong gave Master a shot, so his fever is slowly going away. It’ll be fine. Don’t worry, Missus.”

Xi Xiaye nodded, then she added, “He doesn’t seem very well these few days. I’m not sure what to do...”

Stunned, Ah Mo looked downwards as he quieted down. After a moment, he said quietly, “Missus, please spend more time with Master these few days. His mood isn’t usually very good during this time of the year, and Qingming is also coming...”

Ah Mo did not continue. He raised his head and looked upstairs with a depressed expression and his eyes were cloudy as well.

Xi Xiaye could see the pain and struggle in his eyes. She could not imagine that the usually cool and calm Ah Mo would have such a side to him.

She kind of knew what was happening. Xi Xiaye did not press on the issue and just nodded. “Mmm, I will.”

Ah Mo took a deep breath before turning around as he left the villa.

When she went back to the room with a bowl of porridge, she noticed that he was not in bed. Instead, he was just sitting in the living room after a shower, on a call with someone. He gave some brief instructions before hanging up.

“Why aren’t you lying down?”

She handed the bowl of porridge to him and took the phone away from him. “Eat something. Has your fever subsided? Let me take a look...”

“Almost. Sit down. You’ve been busy the whole night.” He grabbed her hand on his forehead and made her sit. He also put the bowl of porridge on the table beside him.

“I’m alright. Ah Mo is pretty worried about you.”

He sat down beside her and she was relieved when she could feel that his temperature was not as high as it was earlier. She poured a glass of water and was going to give it to him, but he did not want it, so she drank it herself.

“Aren’t you worried?”

He laughed at her. While his tone still sounded weak, there was a tint of gentleness in his voice.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows and stared at him without saying anything. She then looked at the bowl of porridge before averting her gaze back to him again.

“Don’t go to work tomorrow. I’ve asked Ah Mo not to tell your grandparents about you. I don’t want them to worry,” she sighed before starting to clean up the messy desk.

His eyes darkened slightly as he looked at her cleaning up. After a while, he said quietly, “Mother called me today regarding that matter. If...”

She took a pause before raising her head and looking into his deep, dark eyes. “Just let it be. I just wanted to prove my own innocence. It’s fine now. If things go on peacefully from now onwards, it’s going to be alright.”

He looked downward and went quiet for a moment before nodding. "Sure. By the way, I heard someone gave you some flowers this afternoon. Who was it?"

His sudden question caught Xi Xiaye off guard. A cloud of doubt went past her eyes.

How did he find out?

After a brief moment of silence, she admitted honestly, "It's Han Yifeng... He apologized to me..."

His hands clenched into fists and his eyes turned complicated. He was not able to say anything.

She looked at him when she noticed the atmosphere turning odd. He did not look very well and she suddenly put her hand on top of his.

"Things are long over between me and him, so..."

Chapter 278. Those In Eternal Slumber (4)

After she said this, she did not continue. Her lips pursed together and she paused. Then, she leaned towards him, and as if to prove her intention with her actions, she gave him a light kiss on his cold, thin lips.

Initially, she wanted to move away right after kissing. However, as if he knew how she was like, just as she was about to move away, his arms that lay idly accurately caught her slender waist, and he used a hand to hold her back, pulling her towards his chest...

His familiar and vague fragrance rushed in as she was hugged in his tight embrace. She could even hear his heartbeat clearly.

"You and he are over while we've just... we've just begun... The fact that he can keep you thinking about him for so many years, to be honest, it really doesn't make me feel good sometimes... Mmm..."

She did not let him continue, planting a cold kiss that immediately stopped all of his words.

He gladly accepted it since she rarely took the initiative. Someone like him would not reject such things!

They wanted to stop after that little tease, yet the more they went in, the faster the fiery passion escalated. He struggled for a final strand of rationality before he remembered his condition, and said with a lot of effort in a raspy voice, "Don't... Xiaye... I'll infect you..."

The restraint he had been proud of was slowly weakening as he withstood the temptation. Previously, when he had not felt how amazing she was, he could still force himself to hold back, but now...

Once she teased him, he would not be able to stand it. He even started to feel frustrated.

Mu Yuchen, who would have thought that you who had cleanse your heart and limit your desires would have such a day too!?

Was it her overwhelming charm or his weakened skill?

...

The next day, Xi Xiaye woke up in a bout of dizziness. Unfortunately, she had caught a cold too.

Mu Yuchen applied sick leave for her while Sis Wang came over early in the morning to prepare breakfast for the two of them. The husband and wife were indeed the kinds that shared trials and tribulations together. After a simple breakfast and taking some medication, they rested for a bit before gradually feeling much better.

In the afternoon, Ah Mo followed Mu Yuchen's orders and delivered the documents, but he did not see Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye. There was only Sis Wang and the two maids cleaning up in the villa, so he asked while feeling puzzled, "Where's Master and the Missus?"

The busy Sis Wang thought for a while, then answered, "Master and Missus went out after breakfast."

Went out?

They are sick, have they rested enough?

Ah Mo frowned. After a short hesitation, he was about to say something. Then, he suddenly heard the howling of the strong, cold breeze brushing past. Next came the maid's cries.

"It's raining. Quickly close the windows!"

"It's the rainy season during Qingming... I'm afraid the weather's going to be like this for the next few days!"

When he heard this, Ah Mo was suddenly stunned. His expression suddenly changed and his eyes darkened.

It was the fourth of May, which was Qing Ming, the day to offer sacrifices to the dead...

On the path that was sandwiched by weeping willows towards Qingshan cemetery, a black Cayenne drove past underneath the trees before steadily stopping by a florist by the roadside.

The car door opened very quickly as Mu Yuchen got down from the car first, followed closely by Xi Xiaye.

Mu Yuchen looked at the flower bouquets before him, then said calmly, "Boss, can I have two bouquets of calla lilies?"

The boss nodded and promptly wrapped up two bouquets of beautiful white lilies. In the middle of the bouquets were even several little purple flowers as decoration.

"Let's go."

He gave her one of the bouquets and they walked towards the staircase that led up the hills. The hazy rain very quickly hid the sight of him.

Xi Xiaye turned over to silently gaze at his back that had already walked ahead. Her heart sank a little when she saw bleakness and loneliness in his silhouette. Her eyes darkened while the hand that held the umbrella tightened. With a light huff, she breathed in lightly and followed him.

These few days, people celebrated Qingming. It was a time to offer sacrifices to the dead and sweep their ancestors' tombs, remembering those who had passed away.

When they walked through the hill of tombstones, they noticed that in front of many tombstones were bouquets of fresh flowers. People must have come to pay respects earlier.

The sky was gloomy as the misty rain engulfed the entire cemetery in glum darkness.

They walked past a long staircase, and then through a small path before the two of them finally reached two tombstones.

Up front, he stopped first. Since she was not walking that quickly, she stopped in that instant too. She took a step forward and raised the black umbrella in her hand a little higher his head. Then, she followed his line of sight towards the tombstones,

The picture on the tombstone was a very young girl oozing with charisma, and she was very beautiful, yet she looked quite familiar. Xi Xiaye kept feeling like she had seen this girl before...

She looked down and saw the girl's name — Mu Zixi!

Looking at her age...

"Is she's your aunt?" Xi Xiaye turned to ask Mu Yuchen, yet her tone was certain.

One could vaguely see the similarities between the girl and Wang Hui's brows.

Mu Yuchen did not answer. His gaze just fell on the tombstone in front of him as puzzlement surfaced in Xi Xiaye's starry eyes. She looked over at the tombstone following his gaze.

Unexpectedly, it was a very young man. He looked dashing and seemed to exude sunshine. He was probably just over 20 years old in the picture.

Born on XX of the month XX in the year XX, he had passed away on XX of the month XX in the year XX.

She calculated the difference. Had he lived until now, he would have been 28 years old!

He had only been 23 when he died.

His name was Mu Lingtian!

Was he someone from the Mu family?

His younger brother?

But Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong only had him as their only son, so who was this Mu Lingtian?

From the looks of his picture, he really did not look like Mu Tangchuan and Mu Yuche.

He silently stared at the person in the picture for a long time. Then, he reached over to the bouquet in her hands, putting a bouquet on the two tombstones respectively. She was puzzled upon seeing his sad expression. She wanted to ask something, yet she held back.

Quite a while after, his deep voice suddenly came. "She's my aunty. I think you wouldn't be unfamiliar with her. Do you think she looks a little familiar?"

Xi Xiaye turned to look at him, yet his gaze remained fixed on the tombstones. She paused and looked to the tombstones too. Moments later, she nodded. "I do think she's quite familiar. It's like I've seen her somewhere before."

He sighed softly, "My aunt was an extremely popular artiste in the entertainment industry back then. You should've heard of her stage name. It's Mu Zi..."

Mu Zi?

Xi Xiaye was dumbfounded!

Of course, she had heard of this name!

Back when she was still young, Mu Zi was an A-list artiste that was extremely well-known!

Chapter 279. Those In Eternal Slumber (5)

However, Mu Zi had only been popular for a few years. Rumor had it that after that she could not cope with the pressure and fell into depression, she jumped off a building to end her life.

After that, her name slowly left the attention of the public.

Even though Xi Xiaye did not follow celebrity news, it had been huge news. Back then, it had been quite shocking too. However, everything that came after was hearsay, and she had been quite young then, so she obviously did not remember anything.

How unexpected that Mu Zi would turn out to be Mu Zixi, his aunt!

"Aunty left us not too long after giving birth to Lingshi. Just like that, so many years have passed and some memories have even faded. I can't remember much either."

He reacted rather calmly. Of course, when he looked at the other picture beside Mu Zixi, his handsome face darkened. His eyes held an unfathomable gloominess which seemed to be mixed with emotions. She saw that he could not help but cough several times, and a bleakness colored between his brows.

When he saw the questions in her eyes, he calmly explained, "He is Aunty's son, Lingshi's brother. He was a few years younger than me. He grew up with Lingshi, Su Chen, Zhou Zimo, and I."

Xi Xiaye frowned at him as she asked softly, "Mu Lingtian... Mu Lingshi... Then, their father..."

"I don't know. Aunty herself has never mentioned him to anyone. Grandfather, Grandmother and my parents spent so much effort but they couldn't find out who their father was. Nevertheless, it's true that Lingtian and Lingshi are biological siblings," he plainly responded. After a pause, he continued, "When Aunty was younger, she was very rebellious. She was determined to go down the path of acting, but you know that taking this path..."

When he said this, he suddenly sighed, "Now you know why I've never been impressed by show business. My father said that Aunty fell in love with a man that couldn't marry her... In the few years before she passed away, she fell into severe depression after she gave birth to Lingshi.

"Grandfather and Grandmother are strict with their upbringing. When such a thing happened, they were furious. They even wanted to kick my aunt out of the house. It was Father who persuaded them to compromise, and then she fell pregnant with Lingshi again. Grandfather and Grandmother... Aunty was already in a bad situation then. Even if they didn't forgive her, she was still their daughter, so... Unexpectedly, not long after Aunty gave birth to Lingshi, she ended her life. Grandfather and Grandmother were heartbroken. While Aunty never mentioned who the father of Lingtian and Lingshi was, she only told Father that they share the same father."

As Mu Yuchen said this, he suddenly leaned a hand against the cold tombstone. His long fingers picked up a yellow leaf that had fallen on the tombstone as he smiled sadly. "Remember I told you before that my family has strict demands of us children? Actually, a part of it was also because of my aunt. They all think that Grandfather adopted Ah Mo from the orphanage for me... but actually, that's not the case. It was because of Lingtian... Lingtian was a reserved person who didn't like to talk. He could not seem to blend in with us, that's why Grandfather found Ah Mo, and let Ah Mo be Lingtian's playmate. So, Ah Mo and the siblings, Lingtian and Lingshi, are very close."

After he said this, he suddenly fell silent. He took out a cigarette box from his pocket and lit three sticks, putting them on Mu Lingtian's tombstone.

Xi Xiaye quietly listened to him in a daze.

Who would have thought that the Mu family would have had such a sad past?

She fell silent for a really long time before she finally could not help but ask, "What about him? How did he pass away?"

Mu Yuchen was startled. His dark eyes flashed with a cold light that seemed odd and complicated. An unfathomable bitter smile graced the corner of his lips, and even his gaze darkened.

"Because of that car accident," he plainly answered word for word, "Four years... No, five years, the car accident was five years ago."

A car accident?

Xi Xiaye was stunned. She could not wrap her head around it, yet he did not wait for her to return from the shock. He had already turned around and no longer looked at the two tombstones. Then, he coldly walked past her. "Let's go home. It's very cold here. You shouldn't be getting cold too. Whatever I've told you today, never mention it in front of my grandparents."

Then, he started making his way down the stairs. His handsome and tall figure disappeared in the bleak, misty rain just like that. As she watched him, there seemed to be an indescribable sadness and distance.

She quietly watched his figure that walked away gradually for a long time. Then, she could not help but sigh. At last, she looked to the two pictures on the tombstones, then caught up with him.

However, they did not know that just as their figures vanished in the rain, a tall man in a black outfit had walked up to Mu Zixi and Mu Lingtian's tombstones. The man wore black sunglasses and his face could not be seen clearly.

He held an umbrella in his hand, and in his arms were two bouquets of the same beautiful lilies.

He walked up to the tombstones. Stopping, he stared at the bouquets in front of the tombstones and seemed to smile bitterly. He picked up the two bouquets and tossed them away. Then, he swept the

three cigarettes that were still lit on Mu Lingtian's tombstone away before he put the bouquets in his arms onto the tombstone...

On the way home, it was Xi Xiaye who drove. Sitting shotgun, Mu Yuchen kept coughing from time to time. It felt a little bleak listening to him hacking in the narrow space.

Xi Xiaye still felt a little dizzy, probably because they stood in the cold rain earlier and braved the cold winds. Now, she felt quite sick.

Qingshan Cemetery was in the suburbs of the west of the city. It was very far from their Maple Residence and a one-way trip took more than an hour. Xi Xiaye did not dare to drive quickly either. Furthermore, now that it was close to 5 p.m. on the outskirts, the roads started to get busy too.

Many cars were driving towards Qingshan Cemetery too. When she slowly drove past the weeping willow path, she noticed that the weeping willows had turned green, and many people walked past them with fresh flowers in hand. Those plain-colored bouquets looked fresh in their arms...

She took a glance at the many still tombstones above, and then at the green weeping willows that they were leaving behind. In that instance, she felt that —

It turned out that life and death were just that distinct. As she remembered the black and white of death and then observed this lively abundance, the difference was striking and distinct, so distinct that it made her feel a little pained...

She turned to look at him seeming so lonely and remained silent. Suddenly, she reached out without thinking and gently clutched his slightly cold hand that lay by his side.

He breathed in and suddenly looked at her.

Chapter 280. Already Have What I Seek (1)

While she just stared ahead, silent yet focused, her calm little face looked a little pale. A while after that, his fingers tightened and he silently held her hand.

He coughed and took a tissue to cover his mouth. With a deep inhalation, he suddenly said softly, "There are some things that are taboo to bring up to the Mu family. No one has ever mentioned Auntie's name all these years. Everyone feels that time can conceal all this unhappiness."

As he said this, there was a faint smile on his lips. He turned to look at the green weeping willows that they left behind and said lightly, "There'll be some things you want to forget, but it's hard, especially when you've experienced it personally..."

After he said this, the two of them remained silent for a very, very long time. His handsome face was unfathomable in the dim lights as Xi Xiaye quietly drove without speaking. Suddenly, she heard him sigh, "Okay, let's not talk about these unhappy things anymore. Don't tell them that we came here when we get back. Just talk about things that are worth being happy about."

He did not plan to continue, so he bent down and took out a CD to play. Soon, upbeat music quickly poured out of the speakers, flushing out the depressing mood in the car.

Seeing that he was not in a dreary mood, she thought about it and suggested, "These two days, the company is on holiday. There are still some things I left in the office. Now that it's after working hours, let's go get it on the way. Since we don't have to work tomorrow, let's go out tonight to relax. How about that?"

He frowned slightly and looked at her slightly pale face in disagreement. "Those two days are your sick days off. How do you still have the enthusiasm?"

Xi Xiaye shrugged, peering innocently at him. She struggled for a while before saying frustratedly, "Mr. Mu, don't you think that the way we go home to have dinner and rest after work every day without any leisure plans, doesn't feel like the life of newlyweds? Even I feel like I've been married to you for years! Other people who've been married for years still can hold hands and go dancing. You're not exciting at all. I've never seen you ask me out..."

When she pointed this out, Mu Yuchen raised his brows in shock at her. Quite a while after that, he said in a deep voice, "Missus, excitement, is it? Didn't I just satisfy you last night? It was you begged for me to stop..."

“I’m not talking about that! Don’t you dare change the topic. I was saying that we aren’t like other newlywed couples... Other people are so happy and sweet,” Xi Xiaye complained, shooting him a displeased look.

Mu Yuchen looked at her, understanding dawning in his eyes as he laughed. “I’ve told you many times, your happiness is built in the eyes of others... Can’t you just tell me that you want to go for a honeymoon with me?”

She glared at him, yet she did not deny it.

“We can only wait for the first of May. Once the South River project is done, then we can relax. We’ll have tons of time to relax afterward. Where do you want to go? Bali? Or France? Your husband will definitely satisfy you.”

As he spoke, the gloominess around him faded away too. Now, he was looking at with a faint smile.

Even though she was not a humorous person either, yet behaving foolishly with her and talking to her was a very delightful thing.

“I want to travel the world. Can you satisfy me?” She shot him a sour look and demanded unhappily.

He thought about it, and answered seriously, “I’ll go to the city right now to buy you a globe.”

“Annoying! Can you not take advantage of my words?”

“Then, how can I take advantage of you?”

“I’ll take advantage of you ! I’ll let you take it! Take it!”

“Ouch! Missus, is this the finger of a King Kong? How painful!”

When the car slowly made its way to the lobby of Glory World Corporation, the sky had darkened and most of the employees have gotten off work.

The husband and wife just stopped the car at the plaza before the entrance. Then, they made their way up together to pack their things from their offices. Xi Xiaye was pretty quick. She swiftly put all her things into her briefcase and read through two documents that needed her review. Then, she brought them up to the 58th floor.

“Hasn’t the government decided on the actual time for the tender meeting? The new policies seemed to have been released. Previously, it was said to be the middle of this month. Why isn’t there any news yet?”

Xi Xiaye handed the document to him as he sat at his desk. She remembered bumping into Qi Lei last night and could not help but frown. Truthfully, she was not sure whether or not to tell him.

“I just got off the phone with someone from the other end. It’s scheduled to be on the 12th this month, a few days earlier than the initially decided date, so we have to rush a little. Other companies should’ve finished handing the documents over in the next few days. Today I also asked Li Si to send the additional materials over, so you don’t have to worry.”

He took the document and flipped it open before briefly looking through it. Then, he signed his name.

She nodded and hesitated for a moment before continuing, “Right, on Yueying’s end, VP Liu might need to go to City B with Ah Mo for the whole of next month. He wants to let me take over the other side, and he asked me to ask you...”

“Mmm, as you wish. If you don’t want to go, I can arrange for someone else to take over. I’m sure you know that Elder Madam Xi is planning to hand the company to Xi Xinyi to handle. Because she left the industry just like that, I think she’ll let Xi Xinyi take over Yueying as quickly as possible. That way, the Yue family will step in, and then they can stabilize the Han family for now.” Mu Yuchen had already analyzed everything clearly.

Xi Xiaye nodded and sighed, “I almost forgot about the Yue family. With the Yue family, even Grandfather and Father can’t curry their favor. Besides, the Yues and the Qis do have a very subtle

relationship. Xi Xinyi can't count on Han Yifeng, so the Yue family is still her strong backup in the end just like this time. If it weren't for them, Yang Jianfeng wouldn't have taken the fall so quickly..."

Now that she thought about it, she really was reluctant, but well she had no other choice. It was true that she did stab Yang Jianfeng's eye until he went blind.

He looked at the way she was so dejected, and could not help but grin. "Giving up so quickly already?"

She lifted her head a little defeatedly and lamented, "What else can I do then? I've finally made a breakthrough, but... Forget it. This time, I'll just consider her lucky. I'm afraid there'll be more friction after this."

"You don't have to worry about the other side. Just let VP Liu handle it. Okay, let's go home. Tonight I'll watch a movie with you."

"Have you bought the tickets already?"

"Who says we have to go to the cinema to watch movies?"

"Mr. Mu, why aren't you romantic at all?"

"Shall I have a candlelight dinner with you?"

"Tacky!"

...