

Loving 281

Chapter 281. Already Have What I Seek (2)

It was Qingming. Drizzle fell and after a few light showers, the entire City Z was engulfed in haziness. The cold winds continued and it was so gloomy that even the skies feel depressing.

Inside the CEO's office of the Han Corporation, Han Yifeng who had vanished for several days was currently leaning against the sofa in his office and downing glass after glass of spirit.

His usually stern and dashing face was no longer that charming. Now, it was only left with loneliness and desolateness. He looked completely dispirited.

The office was on a break, so the entire company was empty. There was no one at all. Engulfed in the gloomy rain, it was so still and quiet that one felt suffocated.

On the table beside him was a handphone that kept buzzing. It did not seem to stop, yet its owner did not pick up a single call. The sweet-sounding ringtone flowed in the silent and stifling space, seeming particularly eerie.

It was not sure how long passed before the ringtone finally fell silent again, yet there came a knocking from outside the door. Before he could respond, the person outside had already pushed the door to enter.

As expected, the person who came was Han Yu!

Han Yu had just entered when the strong smell of alcohol assailed his nostrils. He immediately frowned and looked ahead to see the inebriated Han Yifeng.

"Yifeng!"

Frowning, Han Yu walked up to Han Yifeng in a few huge strides. He snatched the wine glass from his hand and then noticed that on the table, quite a few empty bottles were toppled all over while cigarette butts littered the floor.

“Don’t drink anymore. Look at how you are now! How unreasonable!”

Han Yu’s face sank as he pulled Han Yifeng up, yet he was shoved away with a feeble struggle of the hand. He looked at Han Yu with blur, bloodshot eyes. He pulled at the tie on his chest and spoke hoarsely, “Father, don’t stop me. I want to be alone.”

“Yifeng, that’s enough! Everyone couldn’t find you these past few days. What do you want? Your grandfather’s very angry. You should get home by now!”

Han Yu was furious! He knew his son too well. Since he was young, he had always been treasured. He always prided himself upon his abilities and was insufferably arrogant, especially since he had never been sharpened on the grindstone or down. Now with something like this, he knew that he would not be able to accept it, just like how he was now; he had become a drunkard!

“You’re a man! How can you disappoint us, your grandfather, and your mother and I? You let our expectations of you down by turning yourself into this useless sack because of this little problem?” Han Yu was extremely disappointed as he looked sadly and worriedly at Han Yifeng.

Han Yifeng breathed in heavily and sat on the sofa weakly. He said, feeling worn out and with a raspy voice, “Then, what do you think I should do? The woman I thought I’d been loving deeply has been treating me like a fool and toying with me. Because of her, I didn’t spare bearing the accusation of being a heartless rat by abandoning my initial fiancée. Because of her, I was willing to leave the country for a few years just to settle the resentment between Xiaye and I. Because of her, I endured unfair treatment time and time again, tolerating her, accommodating her, and in the end? What did I get?”

When Han Yifeng rambled on about this, he suddenly stopped to sweep a hand across the table filled with empty glass bottles that fell to the ground and shattered loudly.

“What I got were lies from her! Can you imagine that the woman you share a bed with every night would turn out to be that kind of woman? If you were me, wouldn’t you find it hard to accept? Wouldn’t you feel pain?”

“She did lie to you, but what else can you do now? Do you think you can change reality by being completely drunk? You two are already married! And Xinyi has your child! Your grandfather is hoping that you can recover quickly. Everyone can’t talk about this incident anymore. We’ll discuss it again once

the child is born. In fact, Yueying and the Han Corporation have just settled down. Whatever it is, you have to get back up. Do you understand?" Han Yu held onto Han Yifeng tightly and said earnestly.

"I don't know, Father. I want to be alone for a while. Is that so hard? Can't you guys just pause for a while and let me be myself for a while?"

Han Yifeng pulled the part of his shirt that Han Yu held onto back, staring at Han Yu with bloodshot eyes. His gloomy face almost could not contain his anger and because of his huge movements, Han Yu stumbled.

"Yifeng!" Han Yu widened his eyes and looked at Han Yifeng.

Han Yifeng just picked up the car keys on the table and turned to walk outside!

Bam!

The loud sound of the door slamming came, shocking Han Yu again.

...

Han Yifeng held his car keys and walked out unsteadily, yet he did not expect that as soon as he walked out of his office, he would find a frail Xi Xinyi standing in the empty corridor ahead.

Dressed in a flowy, white dress, she seemed thinner compared to the past few days. She looked haggard and her face was pale. She was so weak that she seemed like a crystal between one's fingers. One tap could shatter her...

Looking at her made one pity her.

She stood there silently and covered half her face with one hand, the other lightly holding onto her belly that was still flat. She looked tearfully at Han Yifeng and called out to him in a raspy voice softly, "Yifeng..."

Han Yifeng leaned a hand onto the cold wall. He also stopped walking in that instant as he looked up with exhausted, bloodshot eyes at Xi Xinyi who suddenly appeared. His dispirited face sank slightly and his eyes shifted with a complicated look.

“I’m sorry, I’m really sorry... It’s all my fault, but I’m begging you to not be like this... I really didn’t do it on purpose. I was just too afraid of losing you... If I can make it up to you, I’m willing to do anything... Just don’t abandon me and the baby, okay?”

Xi Xinyi was worn out mentally and physically. Her tears were about to run dry, and now her eyes were tearful and red, yet not a single tear fell. Even her voice sounded weak too.

She sniffed, her body trembling as she looked at Han Yifeng. Underneath the dim lights, she already looked extremely frail and almost could not bear another oncoming gust of cold wind.

“I’m really sad and I’m suffering too... It wasn’t easy for us to reach this point, so I’m begging you not to give up just like that, okay? I know that I have a lot of weaknesses, and a lot of things you can’t stand, but I promise you, I will change from now on. I will... Just give me one more chance... Don’t give up just like that, alright, Yifeng?”

Xi Xinyi’s voice shook weakly, mixed with a trace of anxiousness. Her frail body trembled slightly too, but she feigned strength as she looked at Han Yifeng.

Chapter 282. Already Have What I Seek (3)

Han Yifeng did not answer. He just widened his eyes that felt hot with anger and disappointment and looked at Xi Xinyi in front of him.

Almost every time he saw her like this, he would not be able to help but feel his heart ache, yet now he seemed to feel numb.

He breathed in deeply, and suddenly closed his eyes to calm down for a while before slowly opening them again. The emotions in his eyes seemed to have been tamped back as they returned to be still and clear.

He looked at Xi Xinyi and was about to say something, yet when the words reached his lips, he did not know what else he could say. He fell silent for a moment, then finally lowered his gaze and decided to just silently walked over with his head lowered.

He desperately needed a quiet space to arrange his messy emotions. He needed to let his heart that felt so tense that it could break down to finally have a chance for a momentary rest.

However, Xi Xinyi seemed like she could not wait. As Han Yifeng walked past her indifferently, her heart that had already been emptied suddenly felt sliced. She seemed to be able to envision a sharp knife stabbing into her heart, fresh blood starting to drip down. She felt her body go weak, and she could not bear it anymore. Her vision turned black as she fell to the ground.

“Xinyi!”

Han Yu who had followed Han Yifeng out saw this scene, so he cried out in alarm immediately. The sharp-sighted Han Yifeng also ran to hold Xi Xinyi as she fell.

Han Yi frowned, his expression tensed as he walked up and quickly said, “Quick! Quickly go to the hospital! Why did she come?”

Han Yifeng’s expression darkened while he looked gloomily at the weak Xi Xinyi in his arms. He breathed in deeply and had to carry her before rushing to the elevator.

...

The festive holidays went on for three days, and Xi Xiaye was lazy for once. Last night, she watched movies with Mr. Mu till midnight. They had watched quite a few newly released Western blockbusters in a row all the way until they could not open their eyes any longer. Then, they were happy to go to sleep.

They slept all the way until 10 a.m. When she woke up, the man was no longer beside her. His warm spot in the bed had also cooled, but his smell was still faintly in the air.

Xi Xiaye got up unhurriedly. She pulled at her messy head of hair, changed into a simple home outfit from the wardrobe, and then walked to the bathroom.

A short while after, she was done washing up and walked out with her tidily combed, waist-length hair, she looked around the corridors upstairs and did not see him. She was to go downstairs when she heard the lapping of water.

She raised her brows and hesitated. Then, she turned to walk to the balcony.

She had just pushed open the glass door when the cold wind poured in, causing the muslin curtains to rustle and sway gently in the air. A light, cold moistness met her face. Before her was still the gloomy sky engulfed in clouds and mist amid the drizzle as the light rain fell...

She walked to the railing and looked down. Indeed, in the wide swimming pool, she saw the man swimming. On the soft couch underneath the beach umbrella by the side were his clothes and a book.

Was he crazy?

It was a cold, rainy day and he was swimming?

In fact, he had not even fully recovered. Last night, she vaguely heard him suppressing his cough, and now...

Xi Xiaye frowned in silence for a while. Then, she looked up at the gloomy, hazy sky and the drizzle that kept falling. A long while after that, she finally could not help but sigh softly, and abruptly turned to leave the balcony.

After another solid lap, he heard the splashing of water. He emerged from the water, breaking the momentary silence on the surface.

Mu Yuchen lifted a hand to wipe the water droplets on his face away. He breathed in, turned around, and leaned against the cold wall of the pool to catch his breath. His long and delicate lashes fluttered for a while, and silently watched the ripples that continued before him.

“Going swimming so early in the morning on a cold rainy spring day. You sure have pretty good hobbies.”

Suddenly, Xi Xiaye’s calm and peaceful voice came from behind. It sounded a little raspy because she had not recovered from her cold yet.

He blinked and looked toward the source of the sound. He then noticed that she had already stopped behind him and was handing him a clean towel, watching him from above.

“You’re awake.”

His low and husky voice blurted out these two words and before Xi Xiaye could answer, he dove into the pool once again, creating a splash.

After a lap, he then unhurriedly climbed up to the side and took the towel she handed him. He put it over him and looked at her pale little face to say softly, “I thought you’d sleep into the afternoon.”

“I was woken up by hunger. Let’s go back. You’re swimming when you haven’t recovered. You really treat your body like nothing.”

She looked calmly at him. Without waiting for his answer, she already bent over to pick up the things on the table.

“It’s just a way of training. Today, I’ll go out with you,” he answered softly, then put an arm around her shoulder and walked into the villa with her.

Xi Xiaye carried his clothes and followed his lead as she answered, “I’m not going to be tormented anymore. We’ll stay home to rest well the next two days...”

Yet, before she could finish, the sound of the phone suddenly rang. It was coming from the clothes in her arms.

“Answer it,” he said as he dried his wet hair with a towel.

Xi Xiaye swiftly took out the phone, and without even looking, she answered it casually while carrying the clothes in her arms. Before she could say anything, a clear voice had come from the other end.

It was a girl’s voice, and it sounded very sweet. “Bro, I’m arriving at City Z’s XX airport tomorrow afternoon at 4 p.m. Come pick me up.”

When the voice finished, Xi Xiaye was stunned. She subconsciously raised a brow and turned to the man who was drying his hair...

Had the person on the phone called him her brother?

Then, she must be...

She must be the legendary sister-in-law. No, no wait. It should be his cousin... Mu Lingshi?

“Bro?”

When the person on the other end did not get an answer, she started to call out in confusion. Then, Xi Xiaye handed the phone to him and softly, “I think it’s...”

He glanced at her and noticed her odd expression, so he took the phone.

“Hello?” His low, raspy voice was heard very quickly.

“Is there someone beside you? Why didn’t you answer for such a long time? I’m arriving in City Z tomorrow at 4 p.m. Pick me up,” Mu Lingshi said very quickly.

“Have you told Grandfather and Grandmother?”

Mu Yuchen’s handsome face darkened slightly although his raspy voice sounded like it contained gentleness.

“No, I’ll give them a surprise, I guess. Right, you should come back to the Mu residence tomorrow night too. Bring Sis-in-law along! I’m quite interested to know the kind of woman that made you willing to get married...”

“Mmm, you’ll meet her.” When Mu Yuchen said this, he glanced at the woman beside him.

Chapter 283. I'm Also A Good Person (1)

The call ended very quickly. He handed the phone to her in exchange for the clothes. He said softly, “Tomorrow, follow me to go pick her up from the airport then.”

“Okay...” She looked at him and tried to probe.

“It’s Lingshi. She’s a pretty great girl. You’ll probably like her,” he simply said, yet his gaze darkened. He sighed and suddenly stopped in his steps. “Call Ah Mo. Tell him to come home tomorrow night.”

Then, he let go of Xi Xiaye and walked into the villa.

This sudden stifling feeling made Xi Xiaye sad for some reason. As she watched his figure vanish through the door, she sighed. She could only do as he said.

Half an hour later, it was close to noon. Xi Xiaye was planning to cook, but just as she was about to start, Zhou Zimo urgently called Mu Yuchen over.

Xi Xiaye could only just put up with making breakfast.

In the afternoon, the hazy rain outside showed signs of coming to a stop. Since she was free, Xi Xiaye decided to make a trip back to her apartment. There were some things that she still needed to pack up,

including certain books that were quite important to her. In fact, she was not living there anymore, she should really tidy it up properly.

...

On this same gloomy afternoon, a luxury black car was driving steadily on the pathway leading to the Linjiang Bridge.

The driver in front was focused on driving. The person in the passenger's seat beside him was a middle-aged man that looked thin and sly with a pair of sunglasses on. Behind him was the tall and dashing young master of Qi Kai with demonic charm, Qi Lei.

"Master Qi, these are the general details that you had me find out about Xi Xiaye. She's 27 this year and is the daughter of Mayor Xi Mushan and ex-wife Shen Wenna. Her parents had a divorce since she was young. She used to live with her father, Xi Mushan and used to study in the city center. After the college entrance exam following Xi Mushan's arrangements, she entered XX military college. Not long after that, because of... she was expelled by the school. After that, she went to Italy. Since she returned, she's been working in Glory World. She's a competent subordinate of Vice President Liu.

"Her mother, Shen Wenna, is a professor at University A. Through the current investigations, she and Mu Yuchen should be lovers, but there are rumors that they're married. I'll go check it out at the Civil Affairs Bureau tomorrow." The assistant, Yang Sheng, reported to Qi Lei as he handed the information over.

However, before Yang Sheng could finish, Qi Lei had already lifted a hand to stop him. A smile flashed on his handsome face as he reached out to take the information and a light shifted in his eyes. He said softly, "No need. Whether or not they're married isn't important to me. I would like to see what a woman he's interested in is like."

As he said this, he flipped through the information in his hand. Xi Xiaye's beautiful face greeted his sight and Qi Lei's mind immediately flashed to when he bumped into her at the entrance of Imperial Sky. He recalled the way she looked tensed up and alert like a warrior.

He could not help but chuckle. A very interesting woman, was she not?

Linjiang XX Apartment?

Qi Lei examined the information all the way. When he saw these words, he paused and subconsciously looked out of the window. He thought about it, then said, "Take that road ahead. I want to go take a look."

"Master Qi, the CEO and Madam have asked you to return earlier today. Tonight, Miss Xien Er will be coming over..." Yang Sheng softly and carefully reminded.

The moment Yang Sheng finished, Qi Lei's handsome face instantly sank. His voice clearly contained unhappiness. "Coming with such zeal! Does she really want to be my stepmother? You tell them that I don't mind having another one..."

Yang Sheng was rendered speechless by Qi Lei!

Master Qi, that's someone the CEO and Madam have found for you, not some stepmother!

...

Inside the Linjiang Apartment, Xi Xiaye tidied up the packed books and put them into a paper bag. Then, she took a cloth out to cover everything up before lugging the heavy bag out of the door.

When she walked out of the apartment, it was already evening. The weather remained gloomy and the rain that had stopped earlier continued again. In fact, it was even heavier than this morning. The chilly wind had become particularly strong. All the plants in the flowerbed started to sway violently.

Xi Xiaye did not bring an umbrella, but she had parked the car by the roadside outside the apartment, so it would only take her three to five minutes to get to it.

Standing downstairs, she looked up and frowned at the hazy weather. In fact, the rain seemed to be getting heavier. Seeing that it was getting darker, she could not care less, so she just carried the bag of items and rushed out into the rain.

When she rushed to the car, her clothes were already damp and her beautiful hair was blown messy by the strong winds, interweaving on her chest like dark clouds.

She quietly unlocked the car and tossed the things into the back seat. Then, she walked around the car to the driver's seat. Just as she was about to get in, there was suddenly the heavy sound of creaking. She looked up subconsciously and noticed something.

In front of her was an old lady struggling to tread on with her shabby tricycle which was filled with collected junk. Several stray dogs were following the tricycle. Its wheels were stuck in a pothole, and she could not get it out. The dirty water from the pothole kept splattering everywhere. Many people that walked past her kept cursing and moved away to avoid her.

The elderly lady seemed pretty worried as the few stray dogs beside her were anxiously howling. They surrounded the tricycle with their paws on the wheels and wanted to help, but to no avail.

The rain started getting heavier and she was almost completely wet. Still, Xi Xiaye frowned slightly at this scene. Without hesitating, she walked over and reached behind the tricycle. Both her hands held onto the dirty tricycle, and then she helped to push it ahead with all her might...

The tricycle was clearly very heavy. Even when Xi Xiaye had used up all her strength, it was still stuck, and the dirty water that splashed up from the pothole instantly dirtied her clothes.

The wind and rain were getting stronger, and she was drenched.

She tried quite a few times, yet it did not seem to be working. The elderly lady looked grateful yet apologetically at her. She could only smile and nod at her, then she turned to the passersby, planning on asking for someone to help.

At this moment, a large hand suddenly appeared before her. Before she could react, the man already gave the tricycle a hard shove!

The large hand that suddenly appeared startled Xi Xiaye. In fact, she noticed that the rain that fell on her head was suddenly cut off. Her brows then raised and she looked up at the person beside her...

Chapter 284. I'm Also A Good Person (2)

It was him! It was Qi Kai's young master, Qi Lei!

How could it be him?

Xi Xiaye's twinkling eyes very quickly flashed with shock. Currently, Qi Lei was using one hand to push, while the other hand held up the huge, black umbrella, providing her half of the narrow shelter.

Stunned, she very quickly she returned to her senses and abruptly averted her gaze. She pushed the front hard, and then they heard a squelch of relief as the tricycle finally made it up. The dirty water that splashed up reached her fair and delicate face once again.

The elderly lady expressed surprise as she spoke to them, her eyes filled with gratitude. Xi Xiaye only nodded slightly, pointing ahead with her slender fingers and indicating for her to go home earlier. The elderly lady smiled before she left.

Xi Xiaye watched her cycle gradually away, then she was about to reflexively lift a hand to wipe away the moisture on her face when she noticed that both her hands were filthy, so she could only just let it be.

She quietly put her hands down and was about to turn around when unexpectedly, a white handkerchief was handed to her from the side. Xi Xiaye raised her brows and narrowed her starry eyes at the handkerchief. She saw that Qi Lei was smiling as he stood there.

His dashing and demonically charming handsome face brimmed with ease. The corner of his lips curled upwards and in those bottomless eyes were a flickering light as he smiled faintly and watched her.

Xi Xiaye did not take it. She just looked at him weirdly and while her tone was not filled with the guardedness and gunpowder from before, her sarcasm was not weak either. "How rare that you would lend a hand too."

When he heard this, Qi Lei grinned wider. His hand held tightly onto the umbrella and he stuffed the handkerchief to her, amused. "Why? Are you the only one allowed to learn how to be a selfless model citizen? Won't you let me do some good? It's not just you who's a good person. So am I!"

Xi Xiaye's lightly colored lips curled up. She smiled faintly at him, her cold voice holding a trace of raspiness. "Those who say they're good are usually sinister bad people with ill intentions, and very unfortunately, Vice President Qi, you're such a person to me."

When Xi Xiaye said this, Qi Lei was not angry. The amusement in his eyes just deepened as he locked his gaze onto her beautiful face and said delightedly, "How can that be? As bad as I am, I couldn't be as bad as you. I've always been sincere towards you, but I'm a little regretful that you have too deep prejudice against me, so you always can't see my sincerity, Miss Xiaye! I'm much more sincere than a certain person. You wouldn't lose out by trusting me!"

Then, he raised his handsome brows slightly again, looking meaningfully at her. As she backed away, the umbrella in his hand followed her.

Xi Xiaye's twinkling eyes that squinted flashed with a light. She stared at him for a quite a while, then said, "Do you and Mu Yuchen have grudges with each other? Otherwise, why would you always be making insinuations about him every time?"

As she said this, she clutched the handkerchief tightly and stared at him without moving.

When he heard this, Qi Lei shrugged innocently. He smiled, looking relaxed. "Don't worry. Who says I have grudges with him? I just don't like that he's not as handsome or charming as me, yet he could win your fancy, Miss Xiaye... You aren't even willing to job-hop. It's the first time I try to poach someone and yet failed. This makes me very hurt..."

Xi Xiaye was lazy to argue with him. She scoffed and looked away, then tossed the handkerchief to him. "It's best if you leave these tricks to use on those other girls."

Then, her slim body gracefully walked past him.

"Miss Xiaye, you are a young girl to me..." Qi Lei said from behind with a chuckle that seemed rather delighted. "In fact, Xiaye, I'm really a good person. You'll believe me!"

“Vice President Qi, there’s a piece of vegetable in your teeth!” Her cold voice came through the falling rain, sounding quite serious. When she said that, Qi Lei subconsciously snapped his mouth shut. Moments after that, he realized he had fallen for a trick and he immediately chortled!

Holding the umbrella and watching her slender figure gradually walk in the rain ahead, he laughed and said quite a while after to her back, “I didn’t eat vegetables today!”

By the time he said that, Xi Xiaye had already gotten into her car and ignored him.

She quickly took a tissue to wipe away the water on her face, and her dirty hands, before she started the car.

The black Cayenne very quickly vanished in the hazy rain, it did not stay for another moment...

Qi Lei’s gaze darkened. He silently stared ahead as the car vanished in the bleak rain, yet the smile on his handsome face never left. He then quietly averted his gaze and looked at the handkerchief she had tossed back to him. Unable to help himself, he chuckled out loud again.

“Master Qi!” His assistant, Yang Sheng’s voice suddenly came from behind, Qi Lei then turned to look at him. “Master Qi, the CEO called and is rushing for you to quickly return. Miss Xian Er is already there... The Madam is worried sick!”

Yang Sheng was like a cat on a hot tin roof, but he had to say this carefully to Qi Lei.

Qi Lei shot him a side look and reached out to him Yang Sheng very quickly understood and took out a tissue from his pocket as he took the umbrella in Qi Lei’s hand.

Qi Lei put the handkerchief away and took the tissue to wipe his hand as he laughed coldly. “Just let them be anxious then. They have to suffer the evil consequences for acting on their own wishes. Do they think I’m the same as that idiot, free to be ordered about as they wish?”

“Master Qi, CEO and the Madam are just worried about you. If they knew that you said this, they’d definitely be very sad... Miss Xian Er is prim and proper, good-looking and intelligent. In fact, she’s a rare beauty who’s very matching with you, Master Qi...” Yang Sheng braced himself as he said this carefully.

However, Qi Lei ignored him. He just looked at him indifferently, then walked to the car.

When Yang Sheng saw this, he instantly felt a headache and helplessly followed.

...

When Xi Xiaye returned to Maple Residence, the villa was still empty and bathed in darkness!

Mu Yuchen was not back yet.

With a frown, she hesitated, then tidied up the things before she showered and changed into clean clothes. At the moment, the clock on the wall showed that it was 8 p.m., yet Mu Yuchen was still nowhere in sight. There was not a single call from him too.

As she was thinking about whether to call him, there was the vague sound of a car stopping outside. She walked over to the tightly shut door that suddenly flung open. His figure slowly appeared, and the person behind who followed after him was unexpectedly...

Chapter 285. Gradually Stronger Feelings (1)

Ah Mo.

Xi Xiaye looked at the two who slowly walked in in shock. She remembered that this morning when she had called Ah Mo, he was still in City B. Did he not say he would return tomorrow?

The two of them walked in one after another. Mu Yuchen’s expression was plain as usual, but it looked like there was something on his mind.

“Where did you go?” She took over his windbreaker and frowned to ask. When she touched the windbreaker, it felt wet.

“Took a trip to the outskirts. Have you had dinner yet?” He casually put his arm around her shoulders and walked into the villa. Ah Mo greeted Xi Xiaye too, “Missus!”

Xi Xiaye nodded at Ah Mo. Seeing that they looked travel-worn, she said, “I just returned and showered too... I’ll go make some food for us.”

Mu Yuchen nodded as he turned to look at Ah Mo. “Have a seat. Go home after dinner. Have a cup of tea with me.”

Ah Mo nodded when he heard the invitation. He forced a smile on his downcast face and looked gratefully at Xi Xiaye. “Okay, then I’ll have to trouble you, Missus.”

“No worries...”

“Just cook some egg noodles. It’s pretty late,” Mu Yuchen said before walking to the living room, trailed by Ah Mo.

While Xi Xiaye just looked thoughtfully at the two of them, she hesitated for a moment, then walked towards the kitchen.

...

Mu Yuchen sat for a while on the sofa as he brewed the tea while Ah Mo sat across him.

“Lingshi’s flight is arriving at 4 p.m. tomorrow. Your sis-in-law should have told you. What do you think? Don’t you have any thoughts to tell me?”

Mu Yuchen leisurely took out the tea leaves from the bottom drawer. As the tea was brewing, he looked to Ah Mo with a still gaze. Upon seeing Ah Mo’s desolate expression, he silently lowered his gaze and continued, “It’s been about five years... There are some things that we should still face. Do you blame me for it too?”

When Ah Mo heard that, he was stunned. He looked up and fixed his eyes on Mu Yuchen, then he shook his head. "No... I would never blame you, Master."

When he heard this, a faint smile surfaced on Mu Yuchen's extraordinarily handsome face instantly. He kept the tea leaves away and said calmly, "I remember that on the first night Grandfather brought you home from the orphanage to the Mu residence, Lingtian rejected you. He pushed you down from the balcony, and you hurt your head. You had to get five stitches... Because of this, Lingtian always felt very guilty and blamed himself. After that, he was very careful with you. I never thought that you and he would become such good brothers and friends..."

When he said this, Mu Yuchen suddenly stopped what he was doing. There were some tranquility and distance in his eyes. He fell silent for a while and finally inhaled. "Actually, I always knew that the reason Grandfather brought you back to the Mu family was mostly because of him. When we were young, you, Lingtian, and Lingshi were closer."

As Ah Mo listened to Mu Yuchen, he could vaguely feel the faint bleakness in his tone, so he reassured, "Master, you will forever be the Master that I vow my loyalty to!"

With a calm smile, Mu Yuchen slowly leaned over and picked up the boiled water. He leisurely steeped the tea as he said, "You don't have to keep treating yourself as a servant of the Mu family. The name you are registered with is Mu Lingmo. You and Father are father and son, so legally we are brothers. This is not something that can be changed."

"A person can't choose where they come from, so you don't have to feel sad. Your parents might have gone through some trouble so they had to give you up, but when there's a new life placed before you, what reason do you have to not accept it?"

As Mu Yuchen said this, he finished brewing the tea. He handed Ah Mo a cup. Noticing Ah Mo remaining silent without a word, his handsome brows raised. "Otherwise, why do you think I went to such great lengths of moving you away from me and letting you be in charge of Movie City? With Lingshi's personality, she said she's respectful and fearful of me, yet when it comes to you, she completely trusts you. I hope that you can help her laying the ghost of the past to rest. Of course, this would be considered doing me a favor too..."

"Master, I..." Ah Mo's handsome face stiffened as he looked at Mu Yuchen at a loss.

Mu Yuchen looked warningly at him. He did not want to continue, so he picked up his tea and sipped lightly before changing the topic. "After Qingming, the meeting to bid for the South River project will take place. Qi Kai will be our strongest opponent. Your sis-in-law has put in a lot of effort for this. In the next few days, Father's end will be getting in touch a lot with Qi Kai's people too."

Qi Kai...

When he heard this, Ah Mo's eyes instantly darkened and his gaze turned cold. He clenched his fists and said, "Master, then do we want to..."

Before Ah Mo could finish, Mu Yuchen had already lifted a hand to stop him from continuing. He said, "We'll see how it goes first. We must get the South River project. This time, Qi Kai's collaborated with several companies around. I seemed to sense something odd... I want you to pay attention to the movements of the Qi family."

When Mu Yuchen said this, Ah Mo's expression suddenly froze. Vigilance flashed in his eyes while he looked in shock at Mu Yuchen and asked softly, "Master, you're saying..."

"After so many years of lying low, I've been racking my brains to look for them all these years, yet I couldn't find them. If I don't get this matter straight, I wouldn't be happy. In fact, they've been silent for so many years. Did you think they were planning to let bygones be bygones? They are planning to trick me. I'll have to let them die first."

Mu Yuchen's tone was rather calm just as his expression was still. No emotions could be seen, yet Ah Mo could sense a sharpness from his tone akin to the chilliness of cold metal striking each other. The thin and unperturbed curtains were pulled down over his master, revealing a motley and towering heart.

Surprised, Ah Mo hesitated for a moment before responding, "Yes, Master, I know what to do. And I don't blame you about that. It was Lingtian who first..."

"Okay, let's not talk about this anymore. Give it some thoughts first."

When he saw Xi Xiaye walk out the kitchen with the dishes, Mu Yuchen finished his tea and cut Ah Mo short. He set the teacup aside and stood up unhurriedly.

Noticing that, Ah Mo turned to where Mu Yuchen was looking. When he saw that Xi Xiaye had already set the dining table, he nodded. "Okay, I got it, Master."

...

On the other end, Xi Xiaye had just finished preparing the cutleries when Mu Yuchen walked over leisurely. The tempting aroma assaulted his nostrils, so he then pulled out a chair and sat down.

"Come over and eat some. I just quickly prepared some noodles." As Xi Xiaye said that, she pushed the bowl of noodles to Ah Mo.

Chapter 286. Gradually Stronger Feelings (2)

Ah Mo smiled and thanked her. When he turned to look, his Master had already picked up a bowl and was elegantly enjoying it. He then stuffed the noodles into his mouth.

Just as the noodles touched his tongue, Ah Mo's reaction was —

Ugh, so salty!

He reflexively frowned, and could not help but turn to look at his Master, yet his Master was...

With a gulp, Ah Mo gulped. A while after that, he braved himself and continued to pick up the noodles and eat silently. However, after a few torturous bites, he could not handle it anymore. "Missus, do you have juice?"

Xi Xiaye looked at Ah Mo and nodded. "I'll go get it for you."

"Aren't you eating?" Ah Mo asked.

“I’m not hungry. I had tea.”

Xi Xiaye smiled, then she went to get some fruit juice for Ah Mo from the kitchen.

After he quickly finished the meal, Ah Mo went home, and Mu Yuchen went upstairs to shower. When Xi Xiaye was done tidying up and returned to the bedroom, he was just done showering.

Mu Yuchen stood by the bedside and watched her organizing the clothes into the wardrobe. He thought about it and could not help but say, “Missus, your culinary skills seem to have worsened.”

She was busy tidying up the wardrobe when she heard his remark. She stopped what she was doing and turned to him to ask in puzzlement, “Wasn’t it delicious?”

Mu Yuchen’s handsome brows raised. The answer was obvious.

She then frowned. “If it wasn’t good, then why did you two wipe your plates clean?”

Mu Yuchen chuckled without answering. He walked over in a few huge strides and took the clothes in her hands to put on the shelf above them. “Did you go back to Linjiang Apartment today?”

“Mmm, since no one’s living there, I had to tidy it up a little and at the same time, bring some things back.”

As she said this, she turned to walk to the bed and rub her slightly sore shoulders. She recalled the little interlude this evening, then frowned. After thinking about it for a long time, she finally decided to just tell him to avoid mulling over it herself and getting a headache.

“Right, today when I came out of Linjiang Apartment, I bumped into the young master of Qi Kai, Qi Lei. I keep thinking that he’s always acting weird. He’s prejudiced against you. Did you guys have some friction before? But I remember that Glory World and Qi Kai have always been minding each other’s business. Although from the way he speaks, he keeps insinuating a target against you...”

This was how she was like. If she had a doubt, she would just ask frankly. Otherwise, if she kept mulling over it and letting her imagination run wild, it would drain her brain juice dry.

Mu Yuchen walked to the bed and stopped in front of her. Looking down at her from above and seeing her clear eyes ask in such an honest and matter-of-fact manner, his silent eyes flickered a while. That gaze of his was unfathomable...

A while after he asked, "What did he say to you?"

Xi Xiaye sighed and met with his complicated gaze, "Actually, it was nothing. He just said... said there are some unbearable things about you."

He did not mind and chuckled before he asked, "How did you answer him then?"

"I said that he wasn't a good person..."

When he heard this, Mu Yuchen chuckled softly and could not help but pat her head, pulling her towards him.

They were silent for a moment, then Xi Xiaye suddenly heard him sigh, "He said that I'm a little unbearable... You don't seem too happy."

When he said that, Xiaye immediately answered very certainly, "Well, of course, which woman would want to hear their man be criticized?!"

When she said this, the smile on Mu Yuchen became even more bedazzling now. He hugged her tighter. "Missus, I find that you're learning how to be protective over me now. I don't know if I'm a good person or not, but I know that you definitely are."

"Why?" Xi Xiaye raised her brows and looked at him, bemused.

The smile on Mu Yuchen brimmed with warmth. "Because in my heart, anyone that's protective over me is a good person."

"Why do I suddenly find that the way you think is a little dangerous? Is that how you differentiate between good and bad?"

She looked up at him, a little shocked.

He did not object, but he said softly, "That's the most realistic way of thinking... I really hope that when we're old and gray, you'll always be like this. Maybe I'll be able to live happier. I didn't marry you for nothing then..."

Xi Xiaye was stunned. Her starry eyes twinkled before she asked, "Since that's the case, why won't you tell me about your story? In fact, now it's I who married you for nothing. You haven't even sent the betrothal gifts..."

"Didn't you say we'll be organizing the wedding on the first of October? And about Qi Kai —"

Before she could finish, he already cut her off as a lonely smile appeared on his face. "He and I have some personal grudges. It's because of Lingtian and Lingshi... Xiaye, I don't intentionally keep some things secret from you and a lot of things might happen in the future... but I just wanted to tell you that since you've chosen to be with me, even if I hurt myself, I would never hurt you..."

He paused, then suddenly smiled at her. "So, Missus Mu will always be you, no matter what happens in the future. I won't have any requests. I just hope that you can trust me just as how I will believe you. If you've got any questions, you can just ask me. That way, we can take fewer roundabouts, and have more time to enjoy these simple and beautiful times."

When she heard him say this, she was stunned. She stared at the smile on his face and felt her heart suddenly soften. Hearing him say that he trusted her made her feel immense joy in her heart.

She was suddenly grateful that he had set clear boundaries. With someone as farsighted as him, she kept feeling that she had become much franker too.

If you like it, then go have it. If you hate it, then abandon it!

If the enemy respects me, I'll respect them. If the enemy attacks me, there will be blood!

They are good people if they are good to you. They are bad if they are bad to you...

However, as she thought about this, why did she feel that she was being badly influenced by him?

She fell silent for a quite while, then looked at him. He nodded gladly too and said softly, "Okay, I will, but now I have something to ask you about."

"Mmm? What is it?" He comfortably hugged her to sit and answered openly.

Receiving his answer, Xi Xiaye's beautiful bright face suddenly blushed and she pursed her light pink lips. She stared at him for quite a while, then asked softly, "Do you have that... that thing right now?"

"Hmm? Have what?" Seeing her that way, he raised his handsome brows sneakily as he watched her silently.

Chapter 287. Gradually Stronger Feelings (3)

When she saw his sly and unfathomable gaze, which seemed to illuminate her, the blush on her face deepened.

She winced and cleared her throat. Then, she continued and just went all out with a serious expression. "Right now, do you... like... me even a little bit?"

When she said the last few words, she was barely audible.

The instance she asked that, Mu Yuchen was stunned. His gaze at her suddenly flickered indefinitely and the curve on his lips widened, yet he did not answer her.

When she noticed that he did not answer after a long while, Xi Xiaye frowned. She stared at him without moving. Her expression also shifted as she waited. After that, she just pulled a long face and pushed away his long arms that were wrapped around her shoulders, pulling the blanket to herself and lying down on the bed.

Clearly, she was unhappy!

Mu Yuchen then chuckled. He turned to pull her closer and laughed. "Does anyone ask about that this way?"

"Didn't you tell me to be straightforward earlier?" She rightfully used his words against him.

"There's this thing called restraint..." He inched over with a tight embrace, his deep and sexy voice brushing past her ear.

"Restraint... Why didn't you tell me to restrain the night before?"

"You..."

Was this considered sinning? She was getting cleverer with her words!

...

Night gradually fell, and the patter of the rain outside continued accompanied by the rustling cold wind.

Outside a certain superior ward in Hospital T.

Han Yifeng leaned against the cold wall. He did not know how long he had stood there. It was only when he felt his legs turn unbearably numb that he turned to sit on a stool on the side.

Xi Xinyi was inside the ward. She came around after being sent there after her fainting spell. She went through a long torment before she fell asleep again. Yue Lingsi and Huang Ziyao had gone home, so now only he was left on-guard together with Secretary Wang who was at his beck and call.

Secretary Wang, who also stood for quite a while on the side, looked a little worriedly at Han Yifeng. He hesitated before speaking up, "CEO Han, do you want to go home to rest first? I'll watch over here. You haven't been resting well for quite a few days now."

Han Yifeng looked up at him indifferently, then shook his head with a sigh. "That's fine. You should go home."

"But CEO Han..." Secretary Wang looked hesitantly at Han Yifeng, unconvinced.

"I'm fine. You go home first. I want to be alone for a while." Han Yifeng was extremely exhausted and his raspy voice sounded weak. Without waiting for Secretary Wang's response, he leaned forward with both arms on his knees. Exasperated, he pulled at his hair and held up his heavy head.

Secretary Wang watched him silently for quite a while. He could not help but sigh on the inside. In the end, he quietly left.

The corridor was instantly empty. It was so quiet that there was an indescribable sensation of the air being stifled.

He was silent for a long while before finally gathering the courage to get up and push open the door to the ward that was tightly shut.

Just as he entered, he saw that Xi Xinyi was staring at the door with a dazed expression on her face.

"I thought you wouldn't come in!" When she saw Han Yifeng's figure, Xi Xinyi's hoarse voice came through as she looked hurt at Han Yifeng.

Han Yifeng slowly walked over. He took a careful look at her, then turned around to pour her a glass of water. His deep voice seemed to have currently calmed down a lot more. "Drink some water first."

Xi Xinyi did not take the glass. She just looked up silently at him, her eyes still glittering with tears as her beautiful eyes were swollen.

“Yifeng, I’ll listen to you from now on. I’ll quietly stay behind you to be a good wife. We’ll be happy, and we have our baby. This time, let it past. Let’s start fresh. Everything will be better, okay?”

Xi Xinyi seemed to be exhausted too. She even sounded weak when she spoke and her eyes were carefully begging him.

Han Yifeng breathed in deeply. When he saw that she did not continue, he responded, “Xinyi, once some things have happened, no matter what, we can’t just pretend it never happened... You know, I’ve never agreed to wishful thinking, so every time after your headstrong act, I admit that I become more unhappy with you by the day. I also didn’t know how long I could endure it. Every time after I forgive you, I’d tell myself, ‘This is definitely the last time’, but it always seemed as if this last time would always be far in the indefinite future...”

When he said this, he paused and lowered his gaze. He looked at the ring on his hand as a faint light greeted his sight. In that instant, he suddenly felt like a dimmed out lightbulb. After a while, he continued, “I’m a little tired of my one-sided efforts, Xinyi... No matter how many times I put up with you, I know that it would never be the last time. I think I might not be as tolerant as I thought. In the end, I can’t protect you. Perhaps, you actually don’t need anyone’s protection...”

“No! No! Yifeng, you can protect me. You can protect me forever. Please don’t say such things! The way you’re acting right now feels so foreign to me. I don’t know what to do... I also don’t know how to make it up to you. I really love you. Don’t do this. Please! Don’t give up so easily. We’ve gone through the worst of times together.”

When she heard Han Yifeng say that, Xi Xinyi’s body trembled. She reached out to pull Han Yifeng’s sleeve in a panic. “Back then, you could’ve chosen me without a second thought and give up on Sister. Why are you brooding over these things now? Isn’t Sister fine now? We don’t have to feel so guilty. Even though we did get lucky, this shows that God is watching over us and we didn’t cause too huge of a problem. This means that God still hopes that we can be together with a clear conscience...”

When he heard this, Han Yifeng instantly felt his head throb. He stared at how Xi Xinyi looked so pitiful yet still speak with such justification. He could not help but feel a tight pain in his chest slowly spread.

What else could he say to that?

He laughed bitterly, then lamented, "Xinyi, do you know what disappointed me the most?"

"Yifeng..."

"The most disappointing about everything is that after the dust settled down, you always feel so matter-of-factly that it's all in the past! For instance, about Xiaye's matter, what if your cousin got away with it back then? What about Xiaye? And what about us? Haven't you considered all these problems before?"

Han Yifeng rubbed the space between his brows, his voice sounding a little heavy.

Xi Xinyi was stunned...

Chapter 288. Decision (1)

The ward instantly fell silent. It was so silent that there was an indescribable stillness, a suffocating feeling. Xi Xinyi's expression had turned pale and stiff underneath Han Yifeng's disappointed and dim gaze.

Han Yifeng stared at Xi Xinyi, catching all her reactions. A while passed before he continued, "By this point, I've been organizing and analyzing everything between us from the start till now. I admit that we did have many happy times in between, but, Xinyi, the journey in the future is much longer. I had to reevaluate and reorientate our relationship after everything that has happened."

"Yifeng, that's enough. Please don't continue..."

As if knowing what Han Yifeng was about to say next, Xi Xinyi clung onto Han Yifeng in panic. She wanted to reach out to cover Han Yifeng's mouth, preventing him from continuing.

While Han Yifeng was determined to settle things once and for all, he reached out to catch her hand, and say in an extremely heavy tone, "Xinyi, let me finish."

“I cannot just pretend that all of this didn’t happen. Rather than force ourselves to go on like this, we should just be frank. Given your current situation, I won’t be irresponsible. When Yueying and the Han Corporation is steady, and all of these rumors have passed, we will settle this thing between us too. This child... I hope that you can get an abortion. I’ll do my best to compensate you. Another choice is to give birth to this child, but after one year, I’ll hand you the divorce papers and give you a huge compensation.”

Han Yifeng had been struggling for the past few days. When he had to make such a decision, he also felt very extremely pained, yet now after the words came out of his mouth, he unexpectedly felt very calm and he seemed to be relieved too.

“What...? Yifeng, you... What are you saying? You want me to abort our child? You want to divorce me?” Xi Xinyi widened her swollen eyes in disbelief and fixed them on Han Yifeng. Her eyes were filled with shock and her whole body turned stiff. “You want me to abort our child? Is it...”

When he saw that Xi Xinyi was about to have a breakdown, Han Yifeng felt indescribable anguish in his heart, but he still answered firmly, “I just hope that these things won’t become even messier in the future. Making things as simple as possible if the best ending for the two of us.”

“No! I don’t want to! I don’t want to!”

Bam!

Witnessing Han Yifeng’s firmness, Xi Xinyi instantly went mad. She flailed her hands around and swept them across the cabinet. The things on the cabinet fell to the ground. She even picked up one of the glasses and hurled it at Han Yifeng as she held her belly in panic and cried amidst what seemed like a meltdown. “I won’t abort him! He’s our child! You’re so cruel! Get out! Get out! I will never abort him...”

Han Yifeng did not dodge, so he was hit by the glass and the warm wet liquid splashed all over him. The glass shattered in front of him...

He stood where he was and watched Xi Xinyi who was weeping out loud into the blanket. His eyes darkened as he fell silent for a moment before finally sighing and turning to leave.

Before he walked to the door, Han Yifeng suddenly stopped and said, "You can choose one of the choices between the two. I'm still giving you a choice and I will respect it."

"Do you have to make me abort the child and divorce you because of that small thing with Xiaye? I already said that those things are in the past. Isn't everyone alright now? Why do you have to keep holding onto to it? Yifeng, everyone's tired. If we can just let go of all of this and start again, we'll be very happy. Do you think that even when we've parted, you and Xiaye can return to how you were?"

Xi Xinyi wept and looked at Han Yifeng, her hoarse voice now colored with brimming anger.

With regards to such unreasonable criticism, Han Yifeng felt powerless once again. His back against her, he said without even turning to look, "Whatever that's happened between you and me is just because of our problems. It has nothing to do with anyone else. You don't have to drag Xiaye in. There were already too many problems between us, and you know this yourself."

"Nothing to do with her? Is defending her all you know now? Then, let me ask you, what is this? What is this!"

As Xi Xinyi's questioning hammered at him, there was a flutter and suddenly pictures rained all around Han Yifeng out of nowhere!

There were pictures of Han Yifeng and Xi Xiaye from the other day at the riverside. The pictures had been taken from all sorts of angles, so it looked like they were very close, as if the two were having a lovers' rendezvous.

Pa!

With the angry sound of that, those pictures flew all around and fell messily about Han Yifeng. He frowned and subconsciously looked down at the pictures.

Unexpectedly, he saw pictures of him and Xi Xiaye!

Stunned, he suddenly seemed to think of something and his face sank. His stern face flashed with coldness as he looked up abruptly at the tearful and angry Xi Xinyi. Coldly, he demanded, "You hired someone to follow me?"

Xi Xinyi did not answer Han Yifeng's question. She just silently cried as she looked at Han Yifeng with a fury that could not be concealed in her swollen eyes.

Han Yifeng's face fell. He looked down apathetically and bent over to pick up the pictures that had fallen to the ground.

All of them were indeed shot very clearly and looked intimate. Suddenly, the scene of him meeting Xi Xiaye the other day flashed through his mind...

That day, Mu Yuchen had been there too!

Suddenly, Han Yifeng had a complicated expression. His chest started to feel an indescribable tightness.

A memorable love...

These words flashed through his mind all of a sudden. Instantly, they suddenly became like ice needles, piercing into his body. All he felt was coldness, pain, numbness...

"Didn't you say that you and her are a thing of the past? Then, tell me, what are these? Yifeng... I've always believed that you loved me deeply and wouldn't cause such a huge ruckus over these things, but this time, why...? You've already forgiven me so many times. Would this one time make a difference? I just need this once! Is it because of this? Is this why you're treating me this way?"

Xi Xinyi's hands clasped tightly around him as she stared at Han Yifeng questioningly.

Han Yifeng suddenly shut his eyes with fatigue. He inhaled sharply and opened his eyes after a while. Casually tossing the pictures aside, he did not bother with Xi Xinyi any further and continued walking away.

“Xiaye and Mu Yuchen already got married before the New Year. Don’t you think that all of this is such a joke?”

With that said, the tall figure vanished out of the door...

Chapter 289. Decision (2)

What!?

Xi Xiaye and Mu Yuchen were married!?

Before the New Year!?

Xi Xinyi was shocked. Her eyes momentarily went out of focus. It was as if all of her energy and emotions were sucked away. Her body fell limp and she collapsed onto the bed.

How could this be...?

How could she be married?

If Xi Xiaye really was married to Mu Yuchen, how could there not have been any news at all? With the Mu family’s background of being a well-known family, how could they have accepted a daughter-in-law like Xi Xiaye? And with a man like Mu Yuchen...

Previously, she had guessed that there was something more between Xi Xiaye and Mu Yuchen. She thought that there must have been more than just a relationship between a superior and subordinate, yet she never would have guessed that they would be husband and wife!

They were actually husband and wife!

Well, then all the disdain and trouble that Mu Yuchen had directed towards her finally seemed to make perfect sense!

Xi Xinyi started to tremble.

This is impossible!

Why is Xi Xiaye so lucky every time?

She could not accept this fact, but hearing it from Han Yifeng, it had to be real...

Still, why would there be no news at all? It was such a huge thing! The Mu family should have some sort of indication somehow. She had never seen them propose marriage to the Xi family. How could Xi Xiaye have married Mu Yuchen?

Maybe they were still keeping it a secret from the Xi family. If Grandfather and Father found out that Xi Xiaye had done that, it only proved her disregard for the Xi family.

Xi Xinyi suddenly clenched the blanket in her hand tightly. Her stunned eyes slowly returned to normal. She shifted uncertainly for a while and her expression changed. She could not reveal how she currently felt!

This was extremely complicated!

She was terribly frustrated!

...

The silent night gradually lifted. Heralded by the pitter-patter of the rain and the rustling of the cool breeze, the gloomy curtain that covered the sky was soon blown away and a new day began.

A rainy day was indeed a good reason to dawdle in bed.

Yet, Xi Xiaye did not find that sleep came easily.

She slept until the middle of the night when she felt incredibly miserable. Her throat was itching and she kept coughing. Clearly, her cold had become worse! Initially, she had been infected by Mr. Mu. In addition to that, she got caught in the rain yesterday, so how could it not get worse?

Mu Yuchen got up in the middle of the night to get her some medicine. She then finally eased a little. Overall, both husband and wife did not have a good night's sleep.

Xi Xiaye had a bad habit. When she was not sleeping comfortably, she would habitually roll around, kick the blanket away, pull it away, then cover herself again. She would be very irritable, disturbing Mu Yuchen in the process too.

He could only increase the temperature in the room and was tormented until it was close to dawn. When he finally saw her fall asleep, he did not feel sleepy anymore, so he got up.

When Xi Xiaye woke up it was already close to noon. She felt her head spinning and when she opened her eyes in a daze, a soft voice filled with concern entered her ears.

"You're awake? How are you feeling?"

Before she could say anything, a slightly warm hand touched her forehead. "You don't have a fever..."

Xi Xiaye subconsciously lifted a hand to check her forehead too. She coughed quite a few times, and then sat up all sickly. When she turned to look at her caregiver, Mu Yuchen's extraordinarily handsome face greeted her sight.

"It feels pretty horrible..."

Meeting his concerned and warm gaze, she could not help but lift a hand to tap her dizzy head. Her voice was particularly raspy and dry and her beautiful face was faintly scarlet too.

Mu Yuchen pulled her blanket away and said in a deep voice, "Get up and wash up, then eat your medicine. It's no harm catching a cold once or twice in a year. Later, remember to train your body more."

Yesterday, I've told Ah Mo to bring a motorcycle over. From now on, every Friday night, I'll ride one round around the villa with you."

Xi Xiaye then remembered in a stupor that he had mentioned that in University A, but he was really putting it into action now!

"Where am I going to find the patience? It'll already be so late after work, and the villa area is so huge..."

She thought about it and sighed as she whined with a raspy voice. Her body felt like mush all over and she could not get her energy levels up.

"I'm allowing you to leave work one hour earlier every Friday," he casually said, then handed her clothes. "That's enough. Quickly go wash up. Take your medicine, then come down to eat."

Xi Xiaye could not help but scratch her messy hair and frown. "Then, quickly prepare the water for me. Just put the clothes on the rack... Why are you looking at me? Shoo, go..."

Mu Yuchen raised his brows at her meaningfully, then he took the clothes and walked to the bathroom without a word.

Half an hour later, she finally stepped out.

"Is it okay? Like this?"

She stood in front of the dressing mirror and studied her reflection as she asked the man who was talking on the phone by the bedside.

Mu Yuchen hung up as he looked up and then nodded in satisfaction. "Anything looks good on a stunning figure like yours."

When she heard this, her beautiful face immediately flashed with a happy smile as she replied, "Of course! Even Su Nan who has the reputation of a devilish figure says that I'm a natural clothes hanger..."

“Better not jinx it... I pray that in another few years, you can still maintain this.” Mu Yuchen chuckled, then got up and walked over too.

“Why can’t I maintain this? Even if I’ve had children, I can maintain it. Look at our mothers. They are both over 50 years old, yet they still look very young and beautiful. When I shop with my mother, people think that she’s my sister. It’s either saying that I’m aging or that Mother’s young...”

“Young and beautiful? Maintenance... Well, Mother goes to the spa almost every week. Have you been going? Last year, on a sudden impulse, she asked someone to buy some skincare products that are still sitting in the car. Last week when I said I’d go with you, you didn’t respond. You’re just lazy!”

“Don’t you like me now?” She frowned and suddenly turned to look at him with an upset gaze.

When she said this, Mu Yuchen could not help but press his hand to his forehead and sigh softly, “Pretend I didn’t say anything. You’re naturally beautiful and you don’t need those things... Missus, I’m sincerely encouraging you to enjoy your rights and privileges as a woman. I’ve never seen a woman more foolish than you.”

...

Because of Mu Yuchen’s words, there was a knot in Xi Xiaye’s heart. After lunch, she could not help but call her best friend, Su Nan, and say to her, “Nannan, Mu Yuchen keeps telling me to go to the spa or something. Do you think he feels I look worn out or am showing signs of aging?”

After Su Nan heard her description and confusion from the other end, she giggled and answered after a long while, “Xiaye, I’m so done with you! So, you’ve actually started to care about your looks? Don’t worry. As long as you act coquettishly with Master Mu, you’ll be the world’s most beautiful goddess to him. You’ve always been a goddess to me, so how could you be that bad? In fact, Master Mu’s personally going with you... Pfft, that dude Ruan Heng’s too lazy to even go with me!”

Chapter 290. Lingshi's Return (1)

Upon being enlightened by Su Nan, Xi Xiaye felt much better.

She found a book from the study room to pass some time while he busied himself with reviewing data from the New York branch office and talk on the phone with the people there. He spoke fluent English.

Xi Xiaye vaguely paid attention to his conversation. It sounded like a secretary was being moved over, then she recalled that previously when Ah Mo had been transferred, he said that the branch office would send an assistant over. She seemed to have asked him about this before.

When he hung up, she closed the book in her hand and put it back onto the shelf. She walked to his side picked up a glass of water to drink her voice was still vaguely hoarse. "Are you planning to hire a man or a woman as your secretary?"

He put his phone aside, then reached around her waist and chuckled. "Li Si's alright. I don't need one for now. Whether it's a man or a woman, they're the same to me."

She shot him a glance of disagreement, pulled open the drawer and took her own phone out. "How can it be the same? Don't you know that office romance has always been a hot topic?"

"Who'd dare to think of the great Director Xi's Mr. Mu? I think she's too tired of living!"

When she heard this, she smiled and shrugged mischievously. She looked at the time on her phone. It was already 3 p.m. in the afternoon.

"Tidy up and get ready to leave. It's already 3 p.m. It'll be just right if we go now."

...

Maple Residence was not too far to the airport with the highway. When they reached the airport, it was 4 p.m. on the dot. The husband and wife parked outside and made their way to the entrance of the airport.

There were not many people at the airport departure gate, so they could see very clearly from the outside.

The husband and wife had just stood there for a short while when Mu Yuchen's phone rang. It was Mu Lingshi telling them that she was about to come out.

"Lingshi studied and worked part-time in France. She's been there for quite a few years now. She managed the night clubs for the branch over there. Besides being quite competent, she's also considered an experienced DJ. Previously, she was rebellious like my aunt. She's changed quite a bit in recent years. Later, when you meet her, don't be too shocked. She's a pretty great girl, just as straightforward as you and pretty silly too..."

When they were waiting, Mu Yuchen did his best to describe Mu Lingshi to Xi Xiaye, yet she could vaguely pick up some sorrow in his voice although his expression gave nothing away.

Xi Xiaye raised her brows and shot him a glance. She was about to say something when there was a commotion ahead. They looked up and saw that tourists had begun to walk over.

A stream of people quickly rushed up toward them. Xi Xiaye watched from afar. She subconsciously turned to look at the man beside her, yet he was just staring at a certain direction ahead. A bright flash of silver-gray greeted their sight.

With a petite and slender figure, she had trendy dark purple hair that went past her shoulders and a black hat worn tilted on her head. She wore silver-gray androgynous pants and a coat. Inside, she wore a long, white blouse and she had on a pair of sneakers. Her skin was as white as jade, and she donned huge sunglasses that covered almost her whole face. She also had earphones on as she strolled with a trolley case in one hand, and the other in her pocket.

While Xi Xiaye was checking her out, the girl had also seen them. She casually shrugged at them and then walked over in huge strides.

"Bro!"

Mu Lingshi stopped in front of Mu Yuchen and put her earphones away. She looked at Mu Yuchen before turning her gaze to the side and stopped abruptly on Xi Xiaye.

"Mmm. This is your sis-in-law, Xiaye. She's Lingshi." Mu Yuchen nodded as he introduced plainly.

The instant Mu Yuchen finished, Mu Lingshi examined Xi Xiaye for quite a while through her lenses. She looked up and down several times before slowly lifting her sunglasses.

Mu Lingshi's sunglasses had just been taken off when Xi Xiaye's eyes darkened while she still examined her.

Unexpectedly, on Mu Lingshi's delicate face was a scar that crossed from her right forehead all the way to her cheek. It was a very long scar. Even though the wound seemed to have faded from surgery, it still looked vaguely scary.

From the outline of her face, she should be a stunning girl, but with that scar on her face, she looked...

Her eyes were bright. Xi Xiaye seemed to be able to see the stillness from the grind she had been through all those years. She looked very peaceful.

Xi Xiaye took a few more glances at her and suddenly felt pity for her. Perhaps, it was because of the introduction Mu Yuchen had given her earlier.

No wonder every time Mu Lingshi was mentioned, Mu Yuchen's eyes would reveal an odd emotion. It must be because...

Moments after that, Mu Lingshi flashed a friendly smile at Xi Xiaye, then put on her sunglasses. Her voice was melodious, but she only spoke to Mu Yuchen, "Bro, I think I know why you haven't fancied other girls before this. So, it turns out that you like this type? Mmm... A beauty with a classic charisma... Exquisitely hipster! Bro, your taste is so unique!"

Mu Lingshi did not hide and immediately told Mu Yuchen her first impression of Xi Xiaye. As she said this, there was also a teasing smile on the corner of her lips. "At first, when I got Grandmother's call, I didn't quite believe it. I wanted to immediately come home to see which divinity my brother has fancied, but since you're willing to marry her and she received the confidence of the family, I thought that you must be a pretty great person, Sis-in-law!"

"Hello, Sis-in-law! I'm Mu Lingshi. It's our first time meeting today. Please watch over me after this!"

As Mu Lingshi spoke, her gaze turned to Xi Xiaye. She hurled a hand out sincerely to Xi Xiaye. The few rings she wore on her fingers flickered in the brilliant light.

When she heard Mu Lingshi say this, Xi Xiaye was confused.

A few seconds later, she slowly reached out her hand and gently shook Mu Lingshi's equally slender hand. Her beautiful face revealed a sincere smile. "Hello, just call me Xiaye."

Mu Lingshi smiled gladly, a faint curve appearing on the corner of her pink lips. "I can call you that in private, but etiquette still needs to be observed. You're my sis-in-law. You can call me Ah Shi."

Xi Xiaye smiled and nodded. She had quite a good impression of Mu Lingshi.

Mu Yuchen took Mu Lingshi's trolley and put his other hand around Xi Xiaye's shoulders. "Okay, let's go home first. Grandmother and the rest are anxiously waiting. They've prepared food and drinks to welcome you home. Spend the next two days getting over your jetlag. The day after tomorrow, Su Chen and the rest want to meet up."