

Loving 291

Chapter 291. Lingshi's Return (2)

Outside the airport, after they loaded the luggage, Xi Xiaye drove while the siblings sat in the back.

Xi Xiaye rolled steadily out of the carpark. The Mu residence had called to check if they had fetched her. Mu Lingshi answered the phone and spoke for a while before hanging up.

“Right, Bro, previously I told Bro Su Chen to get me a driving license. Has he done it? I heard that in the past two years, it’s been quite hard to get a driving license. The new rules have reduced in integrity, but I’m lazy to take the exams.”

Mu Lingshi saw Xi Xiaye drive skillfully up front and immediately remembered about her driving license.

Mu Yuchen who was browsing on his tablet then looked up at her. He thought about it and asked Xi Xiaye who was driving, “Where did I ask you to keep it the other day?”

“It’s in the second drawer on the left of your work desk. I’ve also helped you keep your cardholder. I’ll get it for you tomorrow, Ah Shi!” Xi Xiaye was quick to get used to the term of endearment.

Mu Lingshi nodded and slowly took the sunglasses off to reveal her face. Her scar looked even clearer in the dim space. When Xi Xiaye unexpectedly looked through the rearview mirror, her long eyelashes fluttered a little. Although she looked quite gentle, that scar...

It ruined her beauty...

“I’ll go over to Maple Residence tomorrow. You don’t have to send it around. Mmm... And about my work...” Mu Lingshi spoke as she turned to Mu Yuchen again.

“Let your sis-in-law arrange it. We still need someone for the entertainment club at Imperial Sky Entertainment City. Previously, it was Ah Mo handling it. I’m letting him handle the development of Movie City and you’ll be the perfect substitute. Rest for a few days first, then let your sis-in-law organize things for you. She’s more well-versed with matters there,” Mu Yuchen calmly answered, yet there was a light that shifted in his still eyes as he looked at Mu Lingshi.

Mu Lingshi's gaze darkened in that instant too. She sighed and rubbed her temples. "Mmm, I'll go along with your arrangements then. Just don't let me idle around."

The instant Mu Lingshi finished, Xi Xiaye smiled and answered her, "You probably won't be free for long. The club's just opened for a short while. A lot of things aren't on track yet. I was going to get an experienced person to manage it for a while, and then let you handle it when everything's on course. Your brother says you're pretty adept at this, so the best person to handle this would be you."

When she heard this, Mu Lingshi shrugged and shot a side glance at the expressionless Mu Yuchen. "Sufficiently and reasonably utilizing resources. That's so like my brother. I'm used to it as well. I don't need much rest. Arrange for me to go to work the day after tomorrow. I've rested for a few days earlier when I was there, so I'm not that tired. Just give me a day to adjust tomorrow. There isn't much jetlag to get over anyway."

Mu Lingshi was also a workaholic. She was a DJ. In fact, her work of handling the club turned her days and nights upside down, so the time difference here worked out well for her.

"As you wish. If you don't want to stay in the old residence, I did leave you a villa on Ah Mo's side. You can redecorate it according to the Mediterranean style that you like so much. Ah Mo will be overseeing it, so it can probably fit your fancy. Do you want to move over and see how it goes?" Mu Yuchen responded softly, his line of sight never leaving the tablet in front of him.

Once Mu Yuchen said that, Mu Lingshi instantly fell silent again. Her lowered gaze seemed complicated. Then, she suddenly turned to look out the window and did not answer.

The considerably harmonious atmosphere in the car instantly vanished, and gloominess hung in the narrow space, filling it with a suffocating stillness.

Xi Xiaye did not say anything either. She glanced at the two people behind from time to time through the rearview mirror. She saw that Mu Yuchen was expressionless as always while Mu Lingshi looked down. She seemed rather lonely, paired with that scar. She actually looked a little...

Xi Xiaye silently averted her gaze and continued to focus on driving. She wanted to say something, yet she did not know how she could break the ice.

After a pregnant pause, she suddenly heard Mu Lingshi sigh softly, her clear voice colored with a sorrow that she had endured, "Brother, I know you're doing this for my own good, but I hope that you can stay out of whatever's between him and I. Once some things have happened, they can never return to the way it was before. Why do you have to care about it so much?"

"Yes, we can't return to how it was before, but I know very well what you're really thinking. Ah Mo has never given up on you. You should know this better than anyone else." Mu Lingshi had just finished when Mu Yuchen's calm voice came through. His eyes that were deep as the ocean suddenly flashed with a cold light as he looked at Mu Lingshi.

Startled, the gleam in Mu Lingshi's eyes twinkled. She could not help but put her hand to her forehead and sigh deeply. She then turned to look out the window again, without uttering another word.

"Go visit Lingtian and Aunty tomorrow. You've been abroad for the past few years. Every year, Ah Mo returns to mourn and offer prayers to them. Yesterday, I noticed that he was at Lingyuan Cemetery, but he didn't go up. I think he wanted to wait for you," said Mu Yuchen softly as he looked at her.

A mocking, bitter smile suddenly flashed at the corner of her lips. She put her sunglasses on again and muttered coldly, "What's there to mourn about? If they're dead, they're dead..."

"Lingshi!"

Upon Lingshi's brash attitude, Mu Yuchen immediately frowned. His gaze held a gleam of sternness as he silently stared at her.

"I'm just laying the facts out." Mu Lingshi lowered her voice now as she just replied with that single sentence.

Xi Xiaye could vaguely understand something. She thought that it should be about Lingtian. When she noticed the iciness between them, she spoke after some thought, "Ah Shi, is there anything you need? There's a supermarket up front."

Mu Lingshi then eased a little and looked at Xi Xiaye, shaking her head. "No, thanks. Everything should be prepared back home."

...

The mood was still a little awkward, and the stifled air remained all the way until they reached the Mu residence. The joy of reuniting with the whole family flushed away the bitterness.

Inside the Mu residence, Wang Hui and Zhuang Shurong were pretty much done preparing dinner. When they saw Mu Lingshi, everyone's faces shone with rare happiness.

Wang Hui pulled at Mu Lingshi and started to nag, her eyes filled with deep concern. "It's marvelous that you're back! Rest for a while and just let your brother arrange everything. What's so great about a girl who keeps running abroad? You don't even have anyone to take care of you when you're sick. You are the one who ends up suffering."

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Mu Lingshi smiled. She sat down near Wang Hui and responded, "When Brother first returned, I wanted to come back with him, but my matters over there weren't settled yet, so I had to stay a while longer."

"It's time you came back. Your grandmother and I have retired. We've been idle and you shouldn't rush to get to work too. Accompany us for a few days. Your grandmother's missed you for a long time." The person who spoke was Mu Yinan.

"I've already told Sis-in-law to arrange for some work for me the day after tomorrow. I've been relaxing for the past few days over there, so I've rested enough. I'll accompany the two of you a lot more after this. Don't worry, Grandfather and Grandmother!"

Mu Lingshi shrugged and beamed. "I'll go to the kitchen to see what delicious things Mother has cooked."

Mu Lingshi was about to get up, yet she had not taken a step when someone at the door called out, startling her. "Hello, Master Ah Mo!" She subconsciously turned to look at the door, and indeed, Ah Mo who was dressed in a black, well-ironed suit was walking in as he greeted the servants.

Maybe it was because he noticed Mu Lingshi's gaze that Ah Mo instantly glanced up at her too. Their eyes met and it was as if the air suddenly froze.

Despite her shock, she eased back after a while. Ah Mo had regained his senses and said softly, "Everyone, come out to take a picture. The Master and Missus are already waiting outside."

Wang Hui and Mu Yinan wanted to have a family picture. After all, it had been quite a few years since the whole family gathered, and Xi Xiaye had just joined the family, so a photograph of the whole family was very much needed.

"Okay, coming!"

"Let's go take a picture!"

Wang Hui and the rest beamed and stood up as they pulled Mu Lingshi to go out.

At the moment, on the dark green lawn of the Mu residence's front yard, the servants had already prepared a row of stools. Mu Yuchen was standing underneath a tree on the side and flipping through the document that Ah Mo had just delivered while Xi Xiaye stood by his side.

When Xi Xiaye saw him frown, she did not steal a look and just asked in concern, "Is it about Movie City?"

Mu Yuchen slowly closed the document and handed it to her, raising her brows and staring at him in shock. Her eyes flickered with a dazzling gleam. They sparkled incisively.

Mu Yuchen sighed, his extraordinarily handsome face revealing a rare smile as he chortled. "The company's matters are no secret to you. In fact, this isn't related to the company either."

As Xi Xiaye listened, she felt her heart warm although she did not take the document. She could not help but chuckle softly. "Then, what about things apart from company matters?"

When he heard this, Mu Yuchen shot her a side look. This little girl seemed to be trying to trap him a lot recently.

Noticing how she seemed to suddenly turn stiff, he suddenly reached out and put his arm around her. He leaned over and planted a gentle kiss on her lips. "I'm waiting for you to get to know me better."

Startled, Xi Xiaye slowly looked up at him and was about to say something when she suddenly felt a flash before them.

She was dazed for a moment, then she turned to see Wang Hui and the rest were grinning as they watched them. When she thought about what just happened, Xi Xiaye felt her face turn hot. Her delicate fair face could not suppress the blush as she turned away shyly and glared at him.

"Bro, Sis-in-law, don't just hide aside and display your affections to each other. Come over and join the picture!" Mu Lingshi winked at them, then put on her sunglasses and smirked.

Wang Hui, Mu Yinan and the rest sat down on the seats in front. Zhuang Shurong and Mu Tangchuan sat too. With Ah Mo, Mu Lingshi, the butler, and all of the Mu residence servants, there were close to 30 people altogether. In one look, you could see that the lawn was filled with people.

Mu Yuchen then smiled and released his long arms around her shoulders. He tugged her to walk over and stood on the side while he looked straight at the camera in a relaxed and calm posture with his arms around her. Xi Xiaye smiled gently, silently going along with it.

After the photographer started counting, there were several sounds of the shutter, then the family photo was done.

At this moment, the sky was about to turn dark and the background looked a little dull.

The dinner was rather harmonious. It was clear that everyone doted on Mu Lingshi, yet Xi Xiaye did not fail to notice that Ah Mo, who was made to sit beside Mu Lingshi, seemed absent-minded. His gaze fell onto Mu Lingshi from time to time. His intense gaze kept jumping about and Xi Xiaye could tell that something was going on.

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye did not stay over at the Mu residence. She could vaguely tell that he did not seem to quite like staying at the old residence.

At that moment, the car was speeding back to Maple Residence, with him in the driver's seat.

She sat silently beside him for a long time before she suddenly turned to him to ask, "Does Ah Mo like Ah Shi?"

He turned to her and said calmly, "Is it that obvious?"

Xi Xiaye nodded, muttering, "I can see that Ah Mo looks at her in a different way. Anyone can tell..."

"You could even tell just from his gaze?" He chuckled.

"The way he looked at Ah Shi was just like how Father looks at Mother, so..." Xi Xiaye said softly, unable to help a smile from spreading across her face. "Do you ever realize that even though Father and Mother usually look quite imposing, I keep finding the way they interact to be very magical. To say that they have mutual respect in their marriage seems to be very appropriate."

As he listened, Mu Yuchen's expression eased too. "Father is a very steady and practical person. Back then, Mother fancied Father because of his refined charisma, his humorous speech, and his versatile abilities. I heard that back then, Father was once Prince Charming to Mother. You know how Mother's like too. Only Father can make her surrender. Perhaps, this is the key to maintaining the relationship between them."

"Prince Charming to her? No wonder I keep feeling like they... Su Nan told me that all women hope that the man they like will be someone that they or a lot of people can look up to..." She muttered softly.

"Someone you can look up to? Your friend really has thought it through. She definitely has the potential to be a relationship consultant," Mu Yuchen replied with a chuckle.

Xi Xiaye nodded. "I said this to her before this too... but, what actually happened between Ah Mo and Ah Shi? I can tell that Ah Mo really likes Ah Shi while Ah Shi... It doesn't look as simple as it does on the

surface. In fact, during dinner, Grandfather and Grandmother keep intentionally mentioning the two of them together..."

Chapter 293. Brief Partings (1)

As she said this, she turned to look at the man beside her, her eyes gleaming with the light of diamonds.

As Mu Yuchen listened, he slowed the car down then responded, "Ah Mo has liked Lingshi ever since we were young, my family's not some trite family either. If they can get together, everyone would agree. Grandfather and Grandmother even planned to renovate a place for them in the Jinglan Villa area. After Lingshi graduates from university, they'd let them get married."

When he said this, Mu Yuchen's eyes darkened.

"Could it be because of Ah Shi's scar? How did she...?"

"It was the same scar from the car accident with Lingtian. Apart from the scar on her face, she suffered terrible burns on her back. Even with surgery, there's no way of making it recover to how it originally was," he answered, then suddenly reached out to hold her hand that was on her thigh. The slightly cold temperature of her skin was transferred through his palms too. "Ah Mo said he doesn't mind, but Lingshi doesn't have the courage to face it."

To a girl like Mu Lingshi, it would be hard to accept. She must have been a very proud girl, yet unexpectedly...

Xi Xiaye sighed as she looked down at her hand that he held and thought about it. Then, she lifted her other idle hand to hold his. "Don't think too much about it. They'll recover once she lets go."

"Mmm, just arrange things for her for the day after tomorrow. I have to make a trip to New York with Zimo tomorrow and I might only be back after a week or so. I've already told Vice President Liu and the rest to handle matters at the office. I'll rush back in time before the big meeting."

"Why so sudden? Was it the document that Ah Mo handed you earlier?" Xi Xiaye asked in confusion.

He nodded. "Zimo's branch over there met some issues which are quite tricky, so I'll accompany him for the trip and at the same time, take a look at the branch."

...

When they returned to Maple Residence, it was already late at night. After the husband and wife took turns to shower, Xi Xiaye started to pack the documents for him while he sat before the desk and continued the work he had yet to finish that afternoon.

She kept all the documents into a black briefcase, and set it aside on the table. She watched his busy figure and her vaguely raspy voice said, "Rest earlier. Didn't you say that it's an 8 a.m. flight tomorrow?"

Mu Yuchen's long fingers typed a long row of formula very quickly on the keyboard, then with a 'ding', the data was automatically generated. After he saved it, he shut the computer down and turned his head, his distant eyes calmly resting on her face. He did not say anything for a long time.

"Why are you looking at me like that?" She felt shy under his intense stare and then she subconsciously touched her face, thinking that there was some dirt on it.

When he saw this, he suddenly roared with laughter and there were fireworks in his eyes. He slowly got up and walked over to look down at her.

The difference in height forced her to peer up before she could meet his eyes. Seeing that his dark eyes were fluctuating like burning fireworks, she immediately felt stifled and her heart beat faster. She subconsciously took a step back, and her back met the shelf that was filled with books. As she lowered her head to avert her gaze, she blushed and whispered softly, "Don't look at me like that..."

When he heard this, a faint smile flashed across his face. He leaned a hand against the shelf and asked, "How should I look at you then?"

"I... Mmm!"

Before she could say anything, he had already lowered his head and gone in for a kiss. "I haven't been around for so long. Satisfy me tonight, would you?"

He buried his face in her delicate collarbones as he spoke softly. His gravelly voice was magnetic and incredibly sexy.

"Didn't we just... Mmm... The day before yesterday... Didn't we just...?"

With the way he teased her, she could not hold back too, but...

"That was you who was satisfied. It doesn't mean that I... If I don't work harder, there wouldn't be any news from you..."

Then, without caring if she understood what he meant, he suddenly lifted her up by the waist, eliciting a cry of surprise from her. Then, he subconsciously put her arms around his shoulders.

...

There was a huge storm inside the bedroom.

After two rounds of battling, she weakly lifted a hand to wipe away the sweat on his forehead. Her starry eyes were still in a daze as she looked at him quietly for a long time. Then, she suddenly asked softly, "Mr. Mu, do you think that we're trying to love each other right now?"

He inhaled slightly, the fireworks in his eyes flickering. He hugged her tightly and said tenderly, "What do you think?"

She shook her head. There was a glint of twinkling light in her eyes akin to little diamonds while she looked seriously at him. "I don't know... I just feel that ever since I got married to you, I've been very happy, but sometimes when I think about it, it feels like I'm dreaming. I'm worried that once I wake up from my dream, all of this would be fake..."

“Worrying about your personal gains and losses? Are you worried that I’ll run off?” He grinned. “Actually there’s a good way to get rid of all your worries. Do you want to know what it is?”

“What is it?” Her eyes flashed as she fixed them on him.

“Be the mother of my child. Tie me down with a child!” He growled and then fell onto her again.

After he sank into his vices, she fell into a deep sleep while he was oddly awake. He turned to look at her asleep with her messy hair. His arm that was around her waist suddenly tightened as he pulled her towards his chest and sighed softly, “All of this is real. You will always be my Missus...”

If she wanted it, at this point, he did not mind giving all his love to her even though he was not sure whether he even had it in him or not.

The next day, when Xi Xiaye woke up, the space beside her was already empty. Even the temperature of the bedsheets was cold. She grabbed her phone from the bedside table and looked at the time. It was almost 10 a.m.

After she got up and washed up, she went downstairs to look for some food and saw that a spread of Western breakfast had been prepared on the dining table, accompanied by a note he left.

Remember to take your medicine after breakfast. Take care of yourself. — Chen

She was obviously familiar with that bold and cursive handwriting of his. With a deep breath, she then quietly put it away.

It was rare that she had idle time, so she planned to rest at home. Unexpectedly, the Shen residence called to say that Shen Yue was back from work abroad. After some thought, she decided to pack up and return to the Shen residence for a bit.

However, when she left Maple Residence, she did not forget to bring Mu Lingshi’s driving license along. She probably had to make a trip to the Mu residence in the afternoon. Although Mu Lingshi was staying

at home for now, Mu Yuchen had asked her last night whether she wanted to stay in the same villa area as Ah Mo.

Chapter 294. Brief Partings (2)

The weather was not as gloomy as it had been two days ago. It looked like it was starting to clear up as the cold breeze blew lightly, filling the air with freshness.

At Qingshan Cemetery.

Mu Lingshi put the lillies in her hand on Mu Lingtian's tombstone. The huge sunglasses hid the melancholy in her eyes while Ah Mo stood right behind her.

"It's been almost five years... Time flies so quickly. All of this keeps feeling like it just happened yesterday," Mu Lingshi sighed, her clear voice coming through.

"Lingtian's soul might have already been reborn. Ah Shi, don't be too sad about it." Ah Mo turned to look at her, catching all the grief in her eyes. He could not help but advise, "It's been quite a few years now. I'm sure he wouldn't want you to be like this too."

Mu Lingshi fixed her gaze onto the black and white picture on the tombstone as a bitter smile graced her lips. "I still don't understand why he would have done that... Was brother not good to him? Why did he do that?"

As Ah Mo listened, he could not help but sigh. He thought about it for a long time, then answered, "Master has always wanted to know too... Back then, if it were not because he secretly helped him, it might not have all turned out like this..."

Mu Lingshi lowered her gaze, watching the lilies sway in the wind. Her eyes underneath the sunglasses suddenly started to blur. She could only vaguely feel the moisture that graced the corner of her eyes. A while after that, she softly said, "If it didn't? Sadly, all of this can only be guesswork. It's already happened, so all we can do is just accept it."

"Actually, I've always wanted to know... He and my brother seemed to have quite a huge gap. From what I remember, Big Brother has always been very protective of the three of us, so to me, I only have

Big Brother. All of us are just Brother's sidekicks. When we were younger and got hurt, he would always stand up for us.

"I remember, once, Lingtian fought with his classmates. He injured the other classmate's head and didn't go home because he was worried about being scolded by Grandfather and Grandmother. It was Brother who found him in the abandoned factory in the middle of the night. He carried him and walked a long way before they reached home. In fact, he assumed all responsibility. That night, mother punished Brother by making him copy a whole night's worth of school rules."

As Mu Lingshi spoke, her hands that fell by her side suddenly tightened slightly and her tone suddenly turned cold. "But look at how he treated Brother!"

Ah Mo did not know what to say, so he only offered, "Ah Shi, I think Lingtian might have had his own reasons."

While Mu Lingshi's expression had turned cold, the scar that could not be concealed looked particularly clear under the faint sunlight. She laughed bitterly. "Whenever someone does something wrong, they always use some secret trouble and said they did it against their will. Can that make up for the hurt they caused? Did he think of Brother then? Did he consider the Mu family? Once the news is spread, what would others think of Brother and the Mu family?"

"This is a matter of the past, Ah Shi! Master's more worried about you! These past few years, Master has been trying to find out where they are too. There hasn't been any news from the Qi and the Gu families. Apart from working on the Movie City project in City B, I've been constantly watching out for any movement from the Gu family, yet I still haven't noticed them reveal anything at all."

Ah Mo frowned slightly as he added with a deep voice, "But I still don't dare to raise this to the Master. In fact, recently, the South River project that the Missus is handling is coincidentally going up against Qi Kai. Master is actually very worried that Missus will be taken advantage of. He's been worried about the South River project recently, and spending a lot of time on it."

"Qi Kai!? Isn't that the Qi family's company?"

Mu Lingshi's expression turned colder now. Hostility flashed in her eyes as she looked at Ah Mo through the sunglasses and said, "Glory World and Qi Kai have never had any business dealings with each other. Grandfather has even particularly stated it before. What is Bro thinking?"

"Ah Shi, you know Master's rules too. He definitely won't yield if it's within the boundaries of his capabilities. In fact, I seem to be able to guess the reason behind Master's actions. He knew long ago that Qi Kai's very interested in this project too. Besides, Missus has been previously looking into this project too. Grandfather did agree to this project, but it was delayed after that because of the Imperial Sky and New Era Plaza matters.

"Master has always been very interested in the South River. When he arranged the documents, he found the proposal that Missus had written, so after some discussion with the Vice Presidents, it was decided."

When Ah Mo said this, Mu Lingshi was startled. She fell silent for a while, then she said, "Can Sis-in-law handle those people? Who's the one handling this project on their side?"

"It's Qi Lei. He's currently the Vice President of Qi Kai."

"Qi Lei? How could it be him!?" Mu Lingshi instantly frowned and he could not help but feel his head ache.

Ah Mo hesitated, then answered, "Don't worry. Master won't let Missus fight alone. He's personally getting involved in this project. The new plans from the government should be released soon and the tender meeting is probably going be on the 12th or 14th this month. It'll be inevitable for everyone to meet then."

"Is Brother outstation for work now? Earlier, I called him and his phone was still switched off."

"He'll probably rush back in time before the tender. Don't worry. He's already told Missus to take care of you. Previously, I handled all the things at the Imperial Sky Entertainment Club. If there's anything you're unsure of, you can ask me. I might have to leave City Z for City B in a few more days, so you..."

With Mu Lingshi, Ah Mo did not dare to talk about whatever between them or mention their past. Just like their conversation now, it was the only way Mu Lingshi would speak to him calmly.

“Go, Sis-in-law seems pretty great. She should be able to do it well,” Mu Lingshi answered calmly, reaching up to fix her sunglasses. “When did she and Bro begin? I’ve never heard Bro mention her before. When the family called me to tell me about this, I was so shocked.”

“Missus has always been working at the Glory World headquarters. Grandfather admires her very much. In fact, Grandmother was an old comrade-in-arms with her Grandpa. Missus is a pretty great person. After they got married, Master has been smiling much more, Ah Shi. This marriage is a good thing.”

When she heard Ah Mo, Mu Lingshi hesitated before she nodded. “Mmm, they look pretty well-matched. Whatever it is, as long as Brother likes her, I’m happy for him.”

Then, Mu Lingshi looked at the black and white photo on the tombstone again, and at Mu Zixi beside them. She breathed in deeply, then suddenly turned around.

“Okay, let’s go back,” she said with finality, then walked away.

Chapter 295. Brief Partings (3)

Mu Lingshi still was not willing to rest much. When she went to work the next day, she appeared at the same company building as Ah Mo. The two of them waited on the side of the road as they chatted about something.

Mu Lingshi was staying at the Mu residence temporarily so that she could spend more time with Wang Hui and the rest. Ah Mo had returned to the Mu residence these past few days too. The attention that he had put in was worth mulling over.

Xi Xiaye parked her car, then took her briefcase and got down before walking towards them.

“Morning, Sis-in-law!”

“Morning, Missus!”

She had just gotten nearer when the two of them called out at the same time.

Ah Mo was still wearing a black, well-fitted suit while Mu Lingshi was dressed the same as when she had returned the other day. The only difference was her inner white blouse had been changed to a black one, while the coat outside was swapped for a white one. Her dark purple hair tumbled down her shoulders, and she still donned the huge sunglasses, almost covering her little face. She looked reserved.

Previously, Mu Yuchen did say that Mu Lingshi had been the one watching over the night clubs in France. She was still wondering how a girl like her could hold down such massive crowds, but now that she thought about it, she realized she had worried unnecessarily.

Actually, when she looked at the two of them, she thought that they matched each other quite well. If they really loved each other, it would be brilliant if they got together, but...

Xi Xiaye sighed to herself. When she went even closer, a faint ripple flashed across her delicate face. She nodded gladly and smiled. "Why don't you two go in first? It's pretty cold out here."

As she said this, she looked up at the sky. Some sunlight was shining down from the horizon, but the cold winds kept coming. It was still quite chilly.

"We just reached too. We knew that you weren't here yet, so we waited," Mu Lingshi answered.

"Let's go in first. I've previously arranged a document about the situation over there for your brother. How about this? Ah Mo, bring Ah Shi to your brother's office first. I'll go take my things to my office before I go over. The document is in the drawer of his desk."

...

Then, they walked into the building.

Xi Xiaye went straight to her own office. After putting the things down, she went straight up to the 58th floor. Outside Mu Yuchen's office, Ah Mo and Mu Lingshi were already waiting.

Xi Xiaye quickly unlocked the door with the keycard in her pocket.

“This is the situation over there, and this is the list of names for the people-in-charge and their contact numbers. It’s been pretty happening there recently and business is booming. I’ve also made them close for a while during the holidays. Tonight, we’ll be open for business again.”

Xi Xiaye took out the document from the drawer and handed it to Mu Lingshi.

“How’s business?” Mu Lingshi reached out to take it and casually asked.

“After the opening launch, all of the departments are pretty much on track. It’s been going pretty well. Now, the few people-in-charge are all experienced, so you don’t have to feel too pressured either.” The person who had spoken was Ah Mo.

Mu Lingshi shrugged indifferently as she flipped the document open and briefly read through it. Quite a while after that, she lifted a hand to fix her sunglasses, then she looked up at Xi Xiaye and asked, “Don’t worry, Sis-in-law. The problem shouldn’t be that huge. Can I go over to take a look now?”

“Mmm, I’ve already called the managers-in-charge. They should be waiting there already. Ah Mo, you can go along with her since you’re more familiar with the place.”

Xi Xiaye closed the drawer, then walked out with the two of them following closely behind.

The Imperial Sky Entertainment Club was part of Imperial Sky Entertainment City. Naturally, it would not be open in the day. The theme was a diverse nightlife, a place for people to forget their worries.

When they reached Imperial Sky Entertainment Club, Su Chen called Ah Mo and said that they wanted to gather at night, mainly to welcome Mu Lingshi home, but the venue they decided upon was Imperial Sky Entertainment Club. You could tell that he was just looking for people to drink and hang out with him.

From the sound of his tone, one could guess that Mu Lingshi should be quite close to them.

“Ah Shi, this is Xiao Yu, a temporary assistant for you. There’s more work here. He’s more familiar with the situation here. Xiao Yu, this is Manager Mu. The company sent her over to replace Manager Ah Mo. You’ll assist Manager Mu in familiarizing herself with the work here.”

A comfortable and elegant office had been prepared for Mu Lingshi at Imperial Entertainment Club. Xi Xiaye reached out to pull open the curtains, letting the faint light pour in through the half-opaque glass window. Her voice was slightly hoarse as she introduced Mu Lingshi to the handsome and experienced Xiao Yu.

“Hello, Manager Mu, I’m Xiao Yu!” Xiao Yu quickly smiled and said.

Mu Lingshi turned and followed Xi Xiaye’s gaze to look at Xiao Yu, then she nodded and greeted, “Pleased to meet you.”

“This will be your office. Previously, it was left to be your brother’s temporary office, but he doesn’t really come here that many times in a year. Let me know if you’re happy with the style of decor.”

When Xi Xiaye said that, Mu Lingshi waved her hand, a rare ease gracing the corner of her lips. “Okay, Sis-in-law. I don’t care much for these things as long they’re provided.”

Xi Xiaye smiled and responded, “I’m just worried that you won’t be used to this place since you just returned.”

Then, she took out the keys and the driving license from her pocket before handing it to Mu Lingshi. “These are the office keys and your driver’s license. Keep them properly. Later, Ah Mo will get your car with you.”

Of course, Xi Xiaye was not planning on being their lightbulb. She introduced all the other people-in-charge briefly, explained the work scope, then let Ah Mo bring her around to familiarize while she left first.

After she left Imperial Sky Entertainment City, Xi Xiaye went back to Glory World, but she had gone straight up to Vice President Liu’s office to discuss matters about Yueying.

Vice President Liu had been quite busy recently with Ah Mo's work on developing Movie City, and also the previous ruckus caused by Xi Xinyi at Yueying. He had spent a lot of effort on negotiating deals for quite a few movies, then spent time promoting the rookies. Only then did the rumors start to dissipate. Naturally, she was concerned about this.

When she knocked on his office door, Liu Lingyu was reviewing some documents.

When Liu Lingyu saw Xi Xiaye, he immediately set the documents in his hand aside and stood up. "Director Xi, you're here! I was just going to get my secretary to get you!"

Xi Xiaye nodded slightly with a smile. "I just came up to take a look. I heard that you've been so busy that even your rest time's been shaved. Coincidentally, the South River project documents have been handed in. I'm free for a few days, so I came to see if there's anything I can help out with."

Chapter 296. Brief Partings (4)

When Xi Xiaye said this, Liu Lingyu smiled, walking around his desk and pointing at the sofa on the side. He said humbly, "Have a seat first. I just wanted to talk to you about this too."

Xi Xiaye sat down and the secretary swiftly brought two cups of tea over.

"Is it about Yueying? Chairman Mu told me about it. Recently, you and Ah Mo have been busy with Movie City matters, so I wanted to come over and check how it is now."

Xi Xiaye picked up the tea and sipped it a little, her clear gaze falling onto Liu Lingyu's face.

"Mmm, I'll be making a trip to City B with Manager Ah Mo in two days. I might have to stay there for quite a while, so I probably need your help to watch over Yueying for a while. There's a monthly meeting this afternoon and I want you to attend that."

As Liu Lingyu said this, he drank his tea, then continued, "Recently, Yueying's matters have caused quite a lot of unhappiness among the shareholders. According to Chairman Mu's intentions, we will continue to work hard, promote the new artistes, and align them with our brand. In fact, the few movies that we previously negotiated have been under Glory World's name, so we just have to wait for the right time..."

When he said this, Liu Lingyu did not continue, but Xi Xiaye understood what he meant. She thought about it, then nodded. "That's a brilliant idea too. Right, hasn't Caitlin been quite popular recently? In fact, I heard that her time's almost up with the company she's previously signed to. Maybe we can fight for her. She's been having a great collaboration with Glory World, and I think highly of her."

"Mmm, yes, that's a good idea too. There are several artistes that look like they have the potential."

Xi Xiaye fell silent for a while then asked, "Just leave this to me. I'll go look for Caitlin for a chat. What time's the meeting in the afternoon?"

"3 p.m."

"Mmm, I got it. Just pass me the details."

Liu Lingyu thought about it, then he could not help but remind, "Okay. Right, Director Xi, I notice that Qi Kai seems to be quite interested in Yueying recently as well, so you have to watch out for any movements from them."

Qi Kai again?

When Liu Lingyu mentioned this, Xi Xiaye remembered that Qi Lei was

one of Yueying's bigger partners. In fact, because of the South River project...

Personal grudges...

When she thought about this, Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered the things Mu Yuchen had said to her previously. Her heart sank a little and she frowned.

...

After she left Liu Lingyu's office, Xi Xiaye returned to her own office. Although it was already time for a break in the afternoon now, she did not feel hungry, so she did not go to the canteen. Instead, she

brewed some tea and sat down leisurely, listening to some songs. At this moment, the phone on her table buzzed. She picked it up to look. It was a certain person's message from across the Pacific Ocean.

Xi Xiaye subconsciously looked at the time on the corner of her laptop screen. It was probably past midnight and near dawn over there. With an inhale, she clicked on the message. There was only a simple sentence: Put whatever is in your hands down now and go eat.

Xi Xiaye raised her brows at the tea in her hand and remembered that all this while, she had been packing food and going straight to his office to eat with him, so...

She held her handphone gently and stared at the screen for a long time until it dimmed. She smiled and put the cup in her hand down to respond to him: Why aren't you asleep yet?

He responded: Just came back.

She thought about it and replied: Where did you go?

Had a dinner thing.

...

They kept responding to each other in short sentences, and Xi Xiaye felt slightly riled up because Mr. Mu was not replying her in seconds. She struggled for a while, hesitating about whether she should just call him.

However, at this moment, Mu Yuchen who was in a certain hotel room in New York was sitting leisurely on the sofa. He bent over slightly and was focused, working on his laptop.

Beside him, Zhou Zimo wore dark blue pajamas. He held a cup to Mu Yuchen with freshly poured whiskey with a grin. "When this thing's resolved, I'll have to thank you properly."

Mu Yuchen looked up and took the drink from him. The lights in the room were very dim and the blue light from the laptop complimented his handsome face in a way that made him look even more extraordinarily dashing.

Mu Yuchen took a light sip and said raspily, "If you really want to thank me, get me a younger sister-in-law. The elder called me two days ago, telling me to get you going."

Zhou Zimo lifted a hand to rub his nose as a smile flashed across his handsome face. He sat down near Mu Yuchen and smiled. "I see you've plunged right in and forget all your duties. Su Chen said that he's been asking you out recently, but you didn't show up. Don't dote on women too much. Otherwise, you should see the pair in my home. My old man has no status as a man at all!"

When Zhou Zimo's weird parents were mentioned, even Mu Yuchen could not help but chuckle. The Zhou family was a typical case of women managing external matters while the men handled domestic matters!

Zhou Zimo's grandmother's and mother's words were the imperial edict. On the other hand, Zhou Zimo's grandfather and father were the classic slaves to their wives. Both of them deemed their wives above all else as a philosophy and way of life.

"She's not as ferocious as the queens in your family," Mu Yuchen plainly said, then he closed his laptop and sipped his drink.

"Is she that great? Previously, I've seen women who are more beautiful and more charismatic than her. There were so many, yet you didn't seem to care. Su Chen was still bewildered. How can your taste be like this? For someone like you, usually, everyone thinks that you should find someone complementary to you..."

Zhou Zimo narrowed his eyes and shot him a bemused look. "In fact, I was thinking, how do you two even date? It's like matching a block of wood with an ice cube..."

"When the ice melts, it can then seep into the wood and become as one."

He put his laptop away and looked at Zhou Zimo, the dim lights reflecting on his face. He looked like he had eased a little. A while after that, he peered down at the drink that swayed in his glass and sighed, "All these years, I have indeed met many girls who were much more excellent than her. Their looks and talents aren't inferior to hers either..."

He breathed in and sipped his drink again before he continued, "Fate. All of this can only be called fate. Obviously, those girls were great whilst she's very ordinary... but those girls might not be pleasing to the eye. She's pleasing to the eye..."

Zhou Zimo was stunned as his eyes were fixed on Mu Yuchen.

"She's very suitable for me, so I chose her."

His tone was calm and his wise eyes were filled with certainty as he downed the drink in his glass.

Zhou Zimo looked at him for a long time, then he nodded. "Okay then, buddy, congratulations. You've finally given away your pure first love!"

Chapter 297. Indication (1)

Mu Yuchen looked at Zhou Zimo coldly as he trembled slightly. "Don't look at me that way. Am I wrong about that? Xi Xiaye is really lucky that she could meet such a special man like you... Oof!"

Before he could finish his sentence, Mu Yuchen grabbed his shoulder so hard that Zhou Zimo yelled out in pain. Just as he was about to say something, Mu Yuchen's phone started ringing.

The two of them froze before Mu Yuchen clutched his phone and looked at it. It was a call from Xi Xiaye. He handed the glass to Zhou Zimo. "Alright, it's pretty late already. Go get some rest. We'll head over early tomorrow."

Zhou Zimo squinted his eyes as he took a peek at Mu Yuchen's phone. Then, he exploded into teasing laughter. "Sure, I won't bother you two now. It's just two days. Do you guys have to... Ah! I'll go now! I'll go!"

Mu Yuchen picked up the call after Zhou Zimo scurried away.

“Why did you take so long to pick up the call? Your message replies were slow too.” The woman’s unhappy complains reached him the moment the call connected. His expression softened.

“Zimo was around just now. Have you had your lunch?” He spoke as he walked to the balcony and leaned against the railing to look downward at the busy streets.

“I had a late breakfast, so I’m not really hungry now. I’ve made arrangements for Lingshi this morning. What about you? Not sleeping yet?” Xi Xiaye’s voice sounded a little hoarse.

“I just got back to the hotel. Things are kind of troublesome here, but I’ll get back in a few days.”

“Mmm, take care of yourself. By the way, I’m using your laptop in the study room. My computer is getting slow. Help me reboot the system after you come back. You know I’m not really familiar with computers and stuff. I’m worried that...”

She had played games throughout the whole of last night and noticed that her computer was really laggy, so she had used his. How typical of her.

“Sure, remember to back up your files and documents,” he replied casually as his long fingers were tapping on the cold railing. “Are you feeling better today?”

“I’m alright...”

“Go eat something and take a break. You have the key card to the office. Ask them to change office for you.”

“It’s okay. I’ll just go to your office. You... Don’t drink so much when you’re there. Also, be careful.”

He chuckled at her before she could finish as if he already knew what she was going to say next. “You’re welcome to check on me any time of the day.”

“I don’t have that kind of time. If you really wanted to, I can’t stop you anyway... Regarding the South River project, I don’t think I can handle it alone. Qikai...” She replied after a short silence.

“Don’t worry, I’m here. I’ll be back once I’m done here. Now, go and eat something and rest for a while. Go home earlier if you’re feeling tired. I’ve told Ah Mo to ask Sis Wang to take care of you these few days.”

...

After hanging up, Mu Yuchen leaned on the railing for quite some time before finally washing up and getting ready to sleep.

Midnight in New York was quiet. He felt exhausted after working the whole day, so he fell asleep not long after he lay down. As usual, he would reach his arms to the side, but he suddenly woke up with a start when he was not able to reach what he expected to be there...

Sleep did not come so easily after that.

...

At the same time, Xi Xiaye was in the Yueying office, joining their monthly meetings.

Xi Xiaye was not surprised to see Han Yifeng. However, in just a few days, he looked much paler than before.

After the meeting was adjourned, Xi Xiaye was about to leave when he went up to her.

“Did you receive my flowers?” Han Yifeng stopped beside her and asked quietly.

Xi Xiaye froze and looked at him. His eyes darkened. After a moment, she nodded and said, “I got them, and I accept your apology as well.”

“I don’t know what else I can say to you now. Xiaye, I’m sorry...” Han Yifeng took a deep breath, strife as well as a huge amount of exhaustion clear in his eyes.

Xi Xiaye put the documents inside her briefcase. Without looking at him, she said, “Then, don’t say anything. I’m grateful for what you’ve once done for me. You can think of this as my appreciation toward you, so it doesn’t matter if you’ve done something wrong before. If something truly belongs to you, no matter how far it goes, it’ll come back to you in the end.

“As for us, I’ve tried my best before. Maybe you tried too, but we didn’t work out, so we’re not meant for each other, and I accepted that fact,” Xi Xiaye sighed as she picked up her heavy briefcase and looked at the lonely man in front of her. “We can’t force things to happen. I understand you very well. When I was reflecting on past matters, I don’t like to blame others first. I’d start from looking for flaws within myself. You can’t love me and it just means that I’m not good enough for you. I can’t move your heart. Forcing you would just make me no different than a robber...”

“Xiaye, please don’t say that. Actually, you’re really good... I’m the bad one. I’m not worthy of you!”

For some reason, his heart was in agony when he heard her words. He would rather she criticize him; at least, that would make him feel better.

“There’s no such thing as being worthy or not. It’s just a matter of compatibility or willingness. We can’t make choices about a lot of matters, but we can work through it with effort. Although I failed to achieve my initial target, I ended up with some other rewards.” Xi Xiaye’s tone was calm like the tranquil surface of the sea.

Han Yifeng took a deep breath as he put a bitter smile on his face. “Maybe this is fate...”

“It might be. No one knows who the person that will walk with them till the end of life is. Things can change even with your soulmate. There are things that we need to maintain, and we need fate to work in favor of us for that to happen.”

Han Yifeng immediately thought of himself and Xi Xinyi...

Soulmate...

At this point in time, was it too late to go back in time now?

Chapter 298. Indication (2)

A saddened vice shrouded all around Han Yifeng. His expression seemed worn out and lonely as the sharp eyes he used to have were now dull and dark.

It was obvious that he was not doing well right now.

Xi Xiaye lost interest in continuing this conversation, so she turned around and left.

Han Yifeng raised his head and just looked at her retreating back. He wanted to catch up with her, but as he took his first step, he stopped.

What else could he say even if he went up to her?

He had nothing else left to say...

...

It was 5 p.m. when she left Yueying.

The sun was setting in the west and the orange light warmed the whole of City Z, giving everything a cozy vibe.

The breeze was not very strong, and it still felt a little warm walking under the sunset as Xi Xiaye walked slowly towards her car.

As she was about to get inside her car, a faint fragrance came near, and before she could react, a big bouquet of bright red roses appeared before her eyes.

She tensed up and quickly looked at who it was. Unexpectedly, Qi Lei's face was right before hers.

"This is for you." Qi Lei grinned. "This is the first time I'm giving a woman flowers. Xiaye, you'd accept it for my sake, won't you?"

Xi Xiaye glanced at him as she narrowed her eyes.

Back in the office just now, Qi Lei's reaction had been really odd. He was quiet most of the time but would voice out his agreement whenever she made any suggestions. His attitude made Xi Xiaye wary of him.

She put her briefcase into the car before turning around to face Qi Lei. "There must be something you want for you to do this, Vice President Qi. I feel that you're quite a dangerous person."

Qi Lei guffawed, his eyes smiling as he threw Xi Xiaye a meaningful glance. "Do I really look like a bad person? What if I say I've taken a liking to you for quite some time? Can you accept my flowers? Let's be friends."

"No."

"Ah, what a heartless woman! I tried so hard to support you in the meeting and even gave you my first time of flower gifting, but this is how you repay me?" Qi Lei smiled wryly.

Xi Xiaye squinted her eyes at him. As she was about to get inside her car, Qi Lei grabbed her wrist and tucked the bouquet of flowers in her arms. "No woman can ever reject anything that I give!"

"You..."

He was so forceful that Xi Xiaye stumbled into the driver's seat. Her face clouded over when she looked at the bouquet of flowers. Standing back up, she grabbed the bouquet and threw it back at the man outside. "Who do you think you are that I have to accept whatever you give? Don't you know that I only take roses made of gold?"

The bouquet of roses smacked Qi Lei directly.

Qi Lei took the flowers she tossed at him, not seeming to be angry. Instead, he looked at her in surprise. "So, you have the same hobby as me? I'm noticing more and more similarities between us..."

"Vice President Qi, I'm going to be straightforward with you. I don't care what happened between you and Mu Yuchen. I hope that you don't come near me again. Otherwise, don't blame me for what's going to happen to you." Xi Xiaye's face and voice turned cold. "Moreover, I have a family. I believe you're a cultured person. At least, you won't be giving other people trouble, will you?"

"I really don't like you. No matter which angle I look at you, you look just like a pervert!" Xi Xiaye enunciated the last few words angrily before sitting back into the car and starting it.

Qi Lei was not sore at all. He flung the bouquet of flowers away and just watched Xi Xiaye's car drive away as he folded his arms.

"Are you close to Xi Xiaye?" A voice came from behind him. Qi Lei turned around and noticed Han Yifeng standing behind him.

"What do you think?" Qi Lei laughed.

Han Yifeng had seen him throwing the bouquet of roses away. He gave it some thought before looking at Qi Lei. "Do you like her?"

"She's beautiful and pretty amazing, isn't she?" Qi Lei shrugged as he gave Han Yifeng a smiling glance. "My taste is different from yours. She suits me well. Can't I like her?"

"She's already married to Mu Yuchen!" Han Yifeng pointed out coldly with a frown.

"Mu Yuchen... One can still get divorced after marriage. I'm not like you. I'm a person who's brave enough to pursue true love. Moreover, the Xi family initially thought of making her marry me. In a way, Mu Yuchen's the one that snatched my woman away, so why can't I take her back!?" Qi Lei smirked before turning around and going toward his car.

Han Yifeng remained silent as his expression changed.

Qi Lei's words reminded him of what had happened at West Park the other day...

...

Outrageous!

Xi Xiaye was scowling as she drove along the highway.

Of course, she did not take what Qi Lei said seriously!

She suddenly felt like she was on the verge of a vortex, and would get sucked right in if she was not careful. At the same time, she was worried about Mu Yuchen. She wondered if he was aware of the odd things happening.

Should she tell him about her concerns?

After giving it some thought, she stopped her car on the side and took her phone out to swiftly dial a number.

The call was connected very quickly.

"Ms. Xiaye?" It was a very familiar voice.

"Mmm, it's me, Inspector Zhang. I have something to trouble you about... Can you meet me now?" Xi Xiaye asked.

"Right now?" Inspector Zhang responded.

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Yeah, right now. It's just past working hours. Let's meet at the Bamboo Teahouse. I'll wait for you there."

"Sure, I'll head over now," Inspector Zhang answered quickly and then hung up.

Xi Xiaye turned around and headed towards the Bamboo Teahouse.

Chapter 299. Indication (3)

In the evening, the Bamboo Teahouse was rather quiet. Xi Xiaye sat down in a hidden corner and made a pot of tea before flipping through a magazine about flowers as she listened to the soothing traditional guzheng music.

Inspector Zhang arrived shortly after.

"Sorry for troubling you to make this trip." Xi Xiaye pointed at the seat opposite her as she spoke to Inspector Zhang. "Please have a seat!"

Inspector Zhang put his jacket aside and sat down. "No worries. You're good friends with Lao Lin, so you're my friend too. Where is he? Not here today?"

Xi Xiaye smiled as she poured him some tea. "Professor Lin is on a break these few days. He highly recommended you to me back then. The military academy matter is all thanks to you."

"You should be thankful for your lover. Without him, things wouldn't have ended so quickly. By the way, what happened afterward?" Inspector Zhang drank the tea and asked.

"They apologized to me publicly and proved my innocence, so I let the matter go. Otherwise, I might get in trouble as well," Xi Xiaye replied calmly as she sipped some tea.

Inspector Zhang smiled and nodded. "That's great. I heard that things are kind of hectic with the Hans and the Xis. I guess that's karma for them."

“It’s alright. That’s all in the past now. I wanted to see you today for something else.” Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and stopped her hand movements as she looked at Inspector Zhang calmly.

Inspector Zhang’s expression turned serious as he gazed at her. “Sure, tell me what it’s about and I’ll see if I can help.”

Xi Xiaye nodded, taking another sip again before she continued, “Inspector Zhang, I want to know whether you know anything about Qi Kai and the Qi family?”

Inspector Zhang frowned the moment he heard Xi Xiaye’s inquiry. “Qi Kai... I don’t follow up on them a lot, but I can only tell you that their background is very deep. The Qi family is one of the most prestigious families in City Z. They are on nearly the same level as the Mu family. Is there some conflict between you guys?” Inspector Zhang’s tone sounded worried.

Xi Xiaye shook her head before putting the teacup down. “Not really. I’m just a little doubtful. Inspector Zhang, I want to know more about the Qi family, especially their past. At the same time, please keep an eye on Qi Lei.”

“You want me to help you to investigate the Qi family?” Inspector Zhang said quietly, his sharp eyes staring at Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye looked into his eyes, full of determination, and nodded. “Yes, can you help me out on this, Inspector Zhang?”

Inspector Zhang took a deep breath as he peered downward at his cup of tea. His expression turned serious after some time. “Okay, I can try, but I hope this matter is only kept between you and me. I’ll send you the information anonymously. You aren’t really rushing to know about them, are you?”

Xi Xiaye understood what he meant. He was worried about getting into trouble, and she was grateful for his gesture. “Mmm, I understand. You can take your time. Thank you.”

“Sure, I’ll go back now. Wait for my news.” Inspector Zhang then stood up.

Xi Xiaye wanted to send him off, but he stopped her. Before he went off, he reminded, "It's better if you don't get involved with the Qi family. Otherwise, you're going to be in trouble. The Qi family have a very dark background. They only cleared their name after some incident. You must be very careful with them."

"Mmm, got it. Thank you!" Inspector Zhang then waved before leaving.

...

The sky turned dark when she left the Bamboo Teahouse. The night breeze was pretty strong and the trees around were swaying roughly. Xi Xiaye did not stay for long and she drove straight back to Maple Residence.

Mu Lingshi called and asked her to go to Imperial Sky Entertainment City today. However, Xi Xiaye did not want to bother them. It would have been okay if Mu Yuchen was there, but...

She switched the lights on as soon as she arrived back at Maple Residence. Warm lights filled up the whole house, yet the big villa was empty as it could be

Xi Xiaye did not make dinner since she had some snacks at the teahouse just now, so she was not really hungry. She went straight upstairs.

She left her briefcase aside as she entered her room. Exhausted, she lay down on the sofa and said reflexively, "Mr. Mu, please get me a glass of water..."

Before she finished her sentence, she was reminded of the fact that the man was not around.

After a huge sigh, she got up and poured herself a glass of water before heading into the bathroom.

Half an hour later, she came out of the shower. She wanted to play some games in the study room, but she suddenly lost her interest when she switched the computer on.

However, she was not used to sleeping early. She tried lying on the bed, but could not sleep. As she flipped through a book, her gaze kept getting distracted by the phone on the bedside table.

After some struggle, she grabbed the phone and dialed a number, but it was not to that person. She called Su Nan instead.

Su Nan and Ruan Heng were playing games together when the phone call went through.

Su Nan saw the incoming call on her phone. She left her joystick and grabbed her phone. "It's a call from Xiaye. You play on your own!"

"Let's finish this first. It's a critical moment! Two minutes!" Ruan Heng exclaimed as he was still staring at the screen.

"I'm not playing anymore. You go on your own!" Su Nan left him alone and picked the call up.

"Xiaye? What's up? Not having some fun with Master Mu at night? I'm surprised that you still have time to call me." Su Nan's voice came through the phone.

"He went outstation, so I'm calling you for a chat now. Am I bothering you?" Xi Xiaye laughed.

Su Nan then waved her hand. "It's fine. We're kind of bored as well. So, you only call me when your man goes outstation. I can see that you have the tendency to forget about your friends when your man is around."

"Nannan, I just gave you a call several days ago."

"Alright, alright. I wanted to talk to you about something too. The weather has been pretty good these few days. Ruan Heng and I are going to have a barbeque this weekend with just a few of us. Do you think Master Mu wants to join us?"

Chapter 300. Memories (1)

“I’ve been pretty bored staying at home all day recently. I’m almost getting depressed! I used to wonder where prenatal and post-partum depression come from. It sounded so ridiculous back then, yet now I’m experiencing it first-hand! I want to go out. I want to have fun...”

Xi Xiaye laughed when she heard Su Nan. “You can visit University A. You’re not really far from there anyway. Pay my mother a visit. Mu Yuchen went abroad and will only be back after a few days, so he won’t be going.”

Worried, Ruan Heng asked Su Nan to stop going to work and just stay at home for the baby’s sake.

When women gathered, their topics mostly revolved around clothes and body figures, that included Su Nan as well. Xi Xiaye was supposed to initiate the conversation, but once Su Nan started talking, she could not stop anymore.

“Xi Xiaye, I’ve gained weight! My waist now looks like a lifebuoy. You have to be careful in the future. Don’t eat too much like me...”

...

After about an hour, Su Nan finally ended the call. Xi Xiaye was starting to get sleepy, so she switched her phone off and left it on the table.

Xi Xiaye stayed at the Shen Residence for the next few days. Coincidentally, Shen Yue was taking a break for several days as well. She wanted to spend some time with him.

Shen Yue had obviously gotten older in the past two years, he was past seventy and should be retired already, and yet he was still working on the frontline.

Several years ago, he suggested that Shen Wenna join Fuhua so that he could hand it down to her. Unfortunately, Shen Wenna was not interested because she wanted to focus on her education career, so Shen Yue had to continue working until today.

In the afternoon, the sun lit up the vast sky.

Inside Shen Yue's study room, a beautiful tune was playing. Xi Xiaye was holding a bowl of snow fungus porridge on a tray as she passed along the corridor. She could hear the tune clearly when she was getting closer.

Shen Yue should be playing the accordion again...

As she went into the room, Shen Yue was sitting on a tall stool right beside the balcony window. He was playing the accordion alone as a cool breeze passed by and rustled the curtains. Looking at this scenery, she felt...

His white hair and skinny figure...

Xi Xiaye stood by the door for some time. She did not go over and just watched his back in silence, starting to feel morose inside. Time was so cruel to take things and people away slowly.

The grandpa that used to play Go chess with her had turned old. It was so old that he seemed to struggle to even hold the accordion.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath. She blinked her eyes and calmed herself down. Then, she went forward and arrived behind him.

Shen Yue froze, then he put the accordion on the table beside as he panted slightly.

"Grandpa, your accordion is getting better and better." Xi Xiaye helped him in.

Shen Yue massaged his own shoulder. "It's not that good now. I'm already panting after just one song. It must be the age."

Xi Xiaye smiled. "You're still pretty strong, Grandpa. You train yourself regularly. I just made this porridge. Have some! Mother is worried that you didn't eat much during lunch just now." She then handed the bowl of porridge to Shen Yue.

Shen Yue raised his hand to stop her. "Leave it there first. I'm not really hungry. Where's your mother?"

"Mother went back to school. She said she'll only come back tomorrow." Xi Xiaye sat down at the empty spot beside Shen Yue, then she opened the swaying curtains.

Shen Yue nodded. "You've been with me for a few days. Go back to the Mu Residence tonight. Have you been well?"

"I'm great. They treat me superbly and so does he. Grandpa, you don't have to worry about me. I really like my current life... Actually, maybe I should've listened to your advice sooner. Then, everyone wouldn't have needed to suffer all these years."

There was glitter in Xi Xiaye's eyes as she looked at Shen Yue quietly.

"There's no point saying all this now. It's alright as long as you're doing fine at the moment. What's the point of thinking about the past? I'm really glad that you've settled down. My body is gradually getting weaker. I planned to let both of you take over Fuhua after your wedding, and you'll be 28 after the New Year..." Shen Yue sounded relieved. "Let me relax for a few years. The two oldies in the Mu family are really free."

Xi Xiaye was stunned, then she put on a smile. "I wanted to say that you're tough enough to work for another few years, but your words put me at a loss as to what to say."

"Don't say anything then. I've talked to Chen about it. Familiarize yourself with the property industry through the South River project, so you guys can take over Fuhua better."

"Mmm, I understand. By the way, Grandpa, you mentioned that someone from Qikai approached you before. Are you familiar with them?" Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered this. She also got Inspector Zhang to investigate it several days ago.

Shen Yue frowned when he heard Xi Xiaye's question. After a while, he replied quietly, "Qikai is a really strong opponent. The Qi family is one of the prestigious families in City Z as well. I'm not really involved with them. I'd just sometimes bump into Qi Qiming at banquets and have some small talk with him."

“Qi Qiming? Is that the CEO of Qikai?”

Xi Xiaye was no stranger to this name. Qikai was the leading giant in the showbiz industry. Everyone knew him.

Shen Yue nodded. “Mmm, it’s him. He’s been really low-profile in the past few years. He’s slowly letting his youngest son, Qi Lei, take over the company...”

Youngest son?

Qi Lei?

Xi Xiaye was shocked to hear this!

“Qi Lei is Qi Qiming’s youngest son? Doesn’t Qi Qiming only have one son?” Xi Xiaye asked Shen Yue in surprise with doubt in her eyes. She was curious!