

## Loving 301

### Chapter 301. Memories (2)

Shen Yue shook his head. "Of course not. Qi Qiming has two sons. His eldest son is Qi Feng. He had him with a lover before he got married. His youngest son, Qi Lei, was conceived with his current wife. I heard that Qi Qiming was very loving towards his eldest son."

"Qi Feng?" Xi Xiaye repeated the name. Then, she looked at Shen Yue again and went on with more questions. "Then, why has there not been any news about this Qi Feng now?"

"He died a few years ago, I think, from an accident. I'm not so sure what happened. He died when they didn't make it in time to save him. I've seen him one or two times before. He was a handsome, young man. It's a shame that he passed away so early." Shen Yue tried to recall the memories.

Xi Xiaye took a pause as a light went up in her eyes. As she felt that something was not right, Xi Xiaye continued asking, "Dead? Accident? Grandpa, do you remember when this happened?"

After giving it some thought, Shen Yue replied, "I'm not really sure. It's been a number of years, probably four or five years ago. I didn't really follow up on the news. I only heard about it from the others afterward, but it seems that Qi Qiming was severely impacted by this, and ever since then, he started being low-profile. Most of Qikai's matters are now handled by his youngest son."

Shen Yue's words sprouted doubt in Xi Xiaye's heart.

Qi Feng had died in an accident a few years ago?

And Mu Lingtian...

After some hesitation, Xi Xiaye suddenly looked at Shen Yue as her hand tightened. "Then, Grandpa, do you know about the relationship between the Mus and the Qis?"

After giving it some thought, he replied, "The Mus and the Qis? What relationship do they have? They are mostly uninvolved with each other. They don't seem to have any business-related matters either. I remember some time back, there was a huge project that everyone thought would be a collaboration

between Glory World and Qikai. That's how huge the potential of the project was. Oddly, in the end, both parties rejected it. Maybe they didn't want to break the peaceful balance they're having now."

Shen Yue was not really familiar with both companies since he had never worked with either before. All of them specialized in different fields, so it was not unusual for them to not be involved with each other.

Of course, she knew about what Shen Yue had just mentioned, but were things really just as simple as he said?

What about the personal grudges Mu Yuchen mentioned?

Xi Xiaye was buried deep in thought for some time. She could not think of an idea. Then, she took a deep breath and started to pinch the space between her eyebrows. "Not being involved with each other? I guess that's not going to happen in the future. They're the top competitors of this South River project. I have to be well-prepared in order not to waste the efforts we've put in."

Shen Yue nodded. "Mmm, being well-prepared is fantastic to prevent any unforeseen circumstances."

After some struggle, Xi Xiaye could not help but ask, "Grandpa, have you heard of Mu Lingtian before?"

"Mu Lingtian?" Shen Yue was startled for a little. He frowned and thought about it., "I think I've heard of this name before. Mu Lingtian... Mu Lingtian..."

After a while, he recalled that he had heard of this name somewhere, but he could not remember anything else.

Xi Xiaye did not press on this issue. It seemed that she could only wait for the results from Inspector Zhang, or ask Mu Yuchen about it when he came back. Qi Lei's behavior made her feel that something was wrong.

It had been a number of days, and it was the weekend tomorrow. When would he be coming back?

A few days had passed just like that...

Xi Xiaye sighed before standing up. She leaned against the cold window as she looked outside. The sun was out with some clouds in the sky. It was warm and cozy. She turned around and looked at Shen Yue. "Grandpa, the weather is great today. Let's go out for a walk together."

Shen Yue thought that it was a brilliant idea, so he nodded.

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At the same time, in the busy Chinatown in New York, it was late at night.

Cars passed through the bustling area. As it was heading toward the hotel, the man who had his eyes closed in the passenger seat suddenly spoke up, "Stop for a little here."

The driver turned around. Then, he noticed the man open his eyes, looking outside the window.

It was a pricey-looking jewelry store.

He did not ask any questions and parked the car at the parking spot outside the jewelry store.

Mu Yuchen got out of the car immediately after the car stopped.

He was already thinking of getting her a gift when he arrived, but after thinking about it for a long time, he had no idea what to give her. After all, he got people to buy her quite a few apparels in the past few days, and they were now sitting in the hotel.

"Mister, what jewelry would you like to see?"

As Mu Yuchen stopped before a counter, a beautiful saleslady came up to him with a wide smile. She was distracted by Mu Yuchen's handsome face and came back to her senses after a while as her smile got wider.

Mu Yuchen's eyes scanned through the display items. Soon, his gaze locked onto a sapphire gleaming and sitting inside a glass box.

He walked over and stopped right before it, it was a pair of sapphire earrings, it adapted the shape of a blue rose, he had his eyes glued to it.

She must look great in these.

Mr. Mu was confident in his taste.

He remembered that she had her ears pierced, but he had never seen her wearing any accessories, even the ones Grandmother had given her. She had also never used the card he passed her as well.

Mu Yuchen pointed at the sapphire earrings and said quietly, "I want this. Please pack it up for me."

"Sir, this is made using all-natural..." Before the saleslady could finish, Mu Yuchan handed her a card.

When he came out of the jewelry store, he saw Zhou Zimo heading over. He seemed to be on a call with an anxious expression.

Zhou Zimo hung up on the call when he saw Mu Yuchen.

"Chen, why didn't you pick up your phone? Something seems to have happened!" Zhou Zimo told Mu Yuchen urgently.

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Mu Yuchen took his phone out and noticed that he had put it on silent mode. There were dozens of missed calls, all from City Z.

“They even called me.”

“What’s wrong?”

Mu Yuchen’s expression was calm as he looked at Zhou Zimo.

“From what I heard, Qi Lei found out that Lingshi came back. He had people keep an eye on Imperial Sky Entertainment Club for the past few days, and there’s news that Qi Lei is sending a bouquet of red roses almost every day to Glory World for your woman. Is he trying to go for Xiaye?”

Zhou Zimo’s expression darkened while he looked at Mu Yuchen worriedly.

Mu Yuchen’s face clouded as well when he heard Zhou Zimo. A flickering cold light appeared in his eyes and he seemed a little depressed.

“Is he trying to take revenge on you? I feel that his motive isn’t that simple. He must know that Xiaye is your woman and he’s trying to provoke you.” Zhou Zimo gave it some thought before voicing out his analysis.

Mu Yuchen held onto the item in his hand tightly, his eyes turning cold and his expression changing. A chilly vibe shrouded him and he just stood there not moving an inch. After a moment, he closed his eyes and took a deep breath, attempting to suppress his emotions. Briefly thereafter, he opened his eyes and they returned to the usual calmness.

“What do you plan to do? You know about all the dirty tricks the Qi family can pull. Aren’t you worried about your woman? From what I know, Qi Lei is a well-known Casanova. He’s pretty infamous for being undefeated in this sort of stuff. There’s never been a woman he couldn’t get. He’s not a foe to be taken lightly,” Zhou Zimo quickly reminded when he saw how relaxed Mu Yuchen seemed.

Mu Yuchen glanced at him and said quietly, “He’s not the type that Xiaye likes. I’m confident about that.”

Zhou Zimo was still worried, so he suggested, "You speak as if you know your woman very well, but what can we do now? Things can go awry if he meets Lingshi. I think you should head back tomorrow. After all, things are pretty alright here now and I can handle the rest myself."

Mu Yuchen's eyes twinkled a little before he went down the stairs. "Give Su Chen a call. Ask him to take care of Lingshi." He then walked towards the car.

Zhou Zimo was startled for a moment. When he came back to his senses, Mu Yuchen was already inside the car and it soon slowly drove out of the parking spot.

After arriving back at the hotel, he sorted the data out for Zhou Zimo before taking a bath. It was already 3 a.m. in the morning. Mu Yuchen finally lay down on the comfortable bed.

Grasping the cold phone in his hand, he could see his own handsome face reflecting against the black screen under the dim wall light. He seemed desolate and his eyes were not as calm as before. Obviously, complicated emotions were mixed in them.

After some hesitation, he took a deep breath, turned around and was about to put his phone down. However, his eyes passed over the gifts he had just brought back.

He did not want to know too much about something. Ignorance was bliss, after all. He assumed that things were settling down and he wanted it to go on naturally. However, he had to admit that something was progressing with the flow of time and changing gradually...

After all this time, he seemed to have gotten used to her existence around him. Now, without her, he was struggling to fall asleep.

He was missing her. More accurately speaking, it had been like this for the past few nights.

Getting used to something was pretty scary.

Now, he was used to having her around. In just two months, he found the rate of this change unbelievable for someone who had always had strong self-control!

Maybe that was supposed to happen between a man and a woman. He possessed her, and at the same time, so did she. They then started a mutually loyal relationship together. Now, they worked together and lived together.

After some thoughts, her slender silhouette jumped out in his mind. He picked his phone up again and dialed a number swiftly.

The phone started ringing when Xi Xiaye was on her way to the Mu Residence. She had promised Wang Hui that she would go back for dinner tonight. Wang Hui had also prepared some tonic for Mu Yuchen and insisted on her taking them back.

Xi Xiaye felt a chill travel down her spine when she thought about it!

She grabbed her phone as she slowed the car down. A smile appeared on her beautiful face when she saw who was calling. She parked the car by the roadside, but suddenly frowned when she remembered something.

“Hello? Why are you still awake at this time?” That was the first thing she asked when the call went through.

“I just finished with work. Are you still at the Shen Residence?”

This married couple was still like a fresh, young couple. Their phone calls could last at least half an hour to an hour.

Mu Yuchen never thought it was possible for a phone call to last more than half an hour. He was shocked when Mrs. Mu actually talked with Su Nan on the phone for over half an hour a few days ago in Maple Residence.

He never expected it to happen to himself several days after that.

“Nope, I’m heading over to the Mu Residence. Can you please tell Grandmother not to prepare those tonics for us anymore? We’re fine and don’t need those. Plus, the smell is just too strong!” She ranted.

He chuckled. “Be more understanding about their desperation for a great-grandchild. Just put up an act.”

“Put up an act? I’ve never seen you drink them before. I’m the one who’s suffering now. I’m pretty sure they’ve prepared several bowls waiting for me when I go back...”

“Okay, I’ll talk to Grandmother about it... So, I heard that someone’s been sending you flowers daily the past few days?” He asked carefully.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows. “How do you know about that?”

“So, am I right then?”

“Mmm, I was planning to tell you about it once you get back.” Xi Xiaye was not hiding anything. After hearing those things from his grandpa at the Shen Residence today, she had a lot of doubts, so she wanted to let him know.

“Did you accept the flowers?” Instead of replying her, he asked another question in an unnatural tone.

Chapter 303. I Miss You (1)

Xi Xiaye was taken aback. After a while, she frowned and replied, “The florist delivered it, and someone else accepted it on behalf of me.”

After Xi Xiaye replied, there was no sound from the other end. She could feel that the man was getting unhappy, so after some hesitation, she asked, “Are you... angry?”

“I’m not,” replied the man immediately, but she could hear the slightly grumpy tone in his voice.

His face instantly appeared in Xi Xiaye’s mind. Was he frowning with a strained face? Or was he suppressing his emotions and acting calm as usual?

There was an awkward silence between them. Xi Xiaye felt a little guilty when he did not say anything, then she tried to speak in a gentle and quiet tone, "You're not really angry, are you? I... I know that he's not a good person..."

"And you accept gifts from him knowing that he's not a good person?" He sounded upset. "Has your judgment gotten clouded with me being away just for a few days? Don't accept it if it's not gold or diamond roses. Giving cheap flowers like this just shows how much of a cheapskate he is!"

His tone was very demeaning and was very different from his usual self.

Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes as a smile appeared on her face. "Then, I'll ask for two diamond roses from him next time. One for me and one for you, hmm?"

"I don't want it!" He replied.

"Fine, I got it. I won't take anything from him in the future then. When are you coming back? I went to the flower market and bought two hanging orchids. They seem pretty. I'm putting one in your office. I think it'll start to bloom around June or July. Also, I think the curtains in your office look too depressing, so I've asked people to change them to a brighter color. Go take a look in the morning. There are several nice colors available like light beige and champagne. There are also some other options. What do you like?"

Xi Xiaye then kept rambling on since she had spent quite some time in his office for the past few days. She was not really satisfied and thought that his taste was too dark, giving his office a downcast vibe all around, so she decided to give it a makeover since she was rather free anyway.

She thought he was despondent again when he did not say anything. "What is it? Don't you like it?"

Mrs. Mu did not notice that she was entering into Mr. Mu's life like a real lady boss. Of course, Mr. Mu was pleased about it. Although he had just scolded her moments ago, he was now feeling much better.

A grin spread across his strained face as he replied quietly, "Up to you. I'm fine as long as it's not that kind of girlish pink."

“So, I’ll decide then?”

“Mmm.”

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Considering that he was coming back in two days, she needed to get this done quickly. As soon as she hung up on the call with Mr. Mu, she quickly called the renovation company and asked them to be there the next day at 8 in the morning.

It was almost evening when she arrived at the Mu Residence.

Wang Hui and Mu Yinan were gardening in the backyard. Wang Hui loved flowers, and there was a greenhouse in the backyard just for her to take care of her flowers. Some time ago, she wanted to give Xi Xiaye some rare species and plant them in Maple Residence, but gardening would be a real challenge for someone like her.

Moreover, she had never really liked flowers that required too much care. Instead, she admired flowers like chrysanthemums and plum blossoms which could still bloom despite the cold and were really inspirational to her.

“Chen’s not home these few days. If you feel bored, you can stay here. I’m afraid that you’re not used to being alone,” Wang Hui said kindly to Xi Xiaye who was busy trimming the plants.

Xi Xiaye stopped her work at hand as she turned around and asked Wang Hui, “It’s okay. I went back to stay with Grandpa for the past few days. It’s been some time since I last went back. By the way, was Ah Shi on break yesterday? Grandfather said that she isn’t home...”

“She went out after lunch. It seems like something happened at the club. She asked your grandfather to prepare some soup for her before she left. She should be coming back soon.”

Wang Hui then started putting the tools away. "Alright, you stop working too. Go back inside. Let me go take a look at what your grandfather made for us tonight. He's been busy this whole afternoon."

Xi Xiaye nodded and Wang Hui walked back into the house while Xi Xiaye packed the stuff up. As she was about to go back into the house, the chime of a ringtone suddenly reached her ears.

It was not hers!

As she searched around for the source, Mu Lingshi came into her view.

Mu Lingshi's eyes darkened as she glanced at the phone screen. She hesitated, but in the end, she ignored the call and even switched her phone off.

"Is that Ah Mo?" Xi Xiaye went up to her and asked quietly when she saw Mu Lingshi's dour expression and how she seemed to have a lot welled up inside.

Mu Lingshi raised her head and looked at Xi Xiaye, putting her phone back into her pocket. She was not wearing the pair of large sunglasses now, and the scar on her face was obvious.

"Sister-in-law!" She called Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye nodded and answered in a gentle tone. "Have you gotten used to your life here? I went to the club several days ago. I didn't bother you since you seemed busy. I couldn't really imagine it when your brother told me, a girl like you actually being a DJ, and even being capable of managing a night club so well."

Xi Xiaye sat down on the long bench beside the railing. She raised her head and looked at Mu Lingshi who smiled and leaned on the nearby pole. She ran her fingers through her dark purple hair as she replied, "Well, it's nothing once you get used to it. It's hard for me to imagine that you're a director in Glory World as well."

After a brief moment, she gave it some thought before speaking to Mu Lingshi, "I just feel that girls with a career like this will require a lot more courage and tenacity. Your brother... He's really worried about you..."

Chapter 304. I Miss You (2)

Mu Lingshi's eyes became complicated when she heard Xi Xiaye's words. She sighed, "Brother blames himself too much for this..."

"Sister-in-law, you and my brother... I know that you both knew each other under my grandmother's arrangement, but I really think you guys are a perfect match for each other. To be honest, you're the first person I know that my brother has taken a liking to. Brother... While he seems pretty cold, he's a good man."

Mu Lingshi could feel her heart aching when talking about Mu Yuchen. Things had been tough for everyone all these years because of what had happened in the past. The wounds had not healed even though she had gone abroad for several years.

"Brother's sense of love is still like a blank canvas, so I hope you can treat him well and look after him. He'll be sure to bring you happiness."

Xi Xiaye was surprised that Mu Lingshi suddenly uttered this to her. She wanted to talk to her about Ah Mo, but now the topic had shifted to Mu Yuchen and her.

His sense of love is like a blank canvas?

Then, it meant...

Xi Xiaye looked at Mu Lingshi in surprise.

"Ah Mo told me that Brother has been smiling more frequently after he got married to you. We should be thankful for you. I heard about what happened to you. Don't worry. We'll always support you as long as you treat Brother well."

Mu Lingshi's tone sounded determined, and her eyes seemed genuine as she had a wide grin on her face. "I really like you. Brother hopes that we can become good friends. Do I have that honor?"

Xi Xiaye smiled as she nodded. "It's my honor."

Mu Lingshi's smile grew wider, and her scar did not seem so obvious anymore. She took a deep breath as she leaned back onto the cold pole behind. "Thank you! Aside from Bro Su Chen and the others, I don't really have many friends, and I'm delighted to have someone that I can talk to."

Xi Xiaye was taken aback. Suddenly, she did not know what to say, but after some thought, she assured, "You can talk to me if you are troubled by anything. Someday, I'll introduce you to Su Nan. She's a sweet person, and the only best friend I can talk to."

Xi Xiaye could relate well to Mu Lingshi's situation. Her mother had passed away and she did not even know who her father was, and her brother... Moreover, she was currently in such a state.

Xi Xiaye could understand her circumstances. Although Mu Lingshi and her were both hanging in there, how could they not feel lonely like this?

Now, she finally understood why Mu Yuchen was so sure that she would like Mu Lingshi. He probably predicted she would relate to her situation and that they could click with each other since they shared similar past experiences.

She was relieved that she pulled herself together. No matter how tired she was all this year, she had never abandoned her true self. Otherwise, she would have ended her life long ago because of the military school incident, or she might even have pulled off an act of violent revenge on Xi Xinyi, then everything she had today would be non-existent.

Xi Xiaye, you're still one lucky girl. Fate didn't abandon you. What you've gone through before brought forth what you have today. Maybe you should still be thankful for fate!

Mu Lingshi started laughing when she heard Xi Xiaye. "No wonder my brother said you're silly. You don't even know me well and you want to introduce me to your best friend? Aren't you afraid that I might be a bad person who's just skilled at acting?"

Startled for a moment, Xi Xiaye then replied, "I believe that people he regards highly must be exceptional, and they must be good people." Her tone was serious.

Mu Lingshi's laughter got louder. "Sister-in-law, I noticed that you sure are pretty cute. I bet my brother must always tease you. However, he should be impressed by how trusting you are!"

"What about you? And Ah Mo...?" Xi Xiaye tried to slip in the question.

The smile on Mu Lingshi's face faded slightly after Xi Xiaye asked her that. However, it was unlike the bleak tone she had before. "Things can't go back to what it was like in the past for us anymore. I know what you guys are thinking about. What's happened has happened. Just like the scar on my face, it'll be with me forever and I'll never be able to wipe it off."

Xi Xiaye's heart sank when she heard Mu Lingshi.

Undeniably, that was the truth, just like how she had been unable to move on from her past back then.

"I know how you feel, but I can see that Ah Mo really cares about you. Sometimes, it's not so bad changing to a new lifestyle. Back then, when I just got married to your brother, my mother told me that at this point in my life, I should accept it when the feelings come..."

Xi Xiaye took a pause and a deep breath. "It was really tough to find someone who you like and who will treat you well at the same time. External factors aren't what's limiting you. It's your own concern that's limiting you. Life is short. We're going to get old if we don't love now. Be brave and wild."

"Just like how I'd say to my mother. I'm sure you know about her condition with my father. I really hope you and Ah Mo don't miss out on each other. It's up to you whether you want to lead a good life."

Xi Xiaye then suddenly stood up, turning her head around to look at Mu Lingshi who had a mixed expression on her face at the moment. She smiled.

“I told your brother that the way Ah Mo looked at you is like how Father looks at Mother. I think that he must really love you. If you’re willing to let go of your past and accept him, I’m sure many years later, you two will become like Father and Mother.”

Xi Xiaye left those words for her as she walked past her in the sunset. Her words were like the wind that breezed through the bamboo forest, revealing a dark spot within Mu Lingshi’s heart.

Life is short. We’re going to get old if we don’t love now. Be brave and wild.

Mu Lingshi repeated this sentence to herself. For a brief moment, she could feel her eyes tearing up while her chest felt heavy, and a bitterness surfaced.

She blinked hard and sucked a deep breath. In the end, she just suppressed all the feelings she had.

Chapter 305. I Miss You (3)

As Xi Xiaye walked past the corridor, she looked at her own shadow. Suddenly, she was reminded of something. Halting in her steps, she then turned around and raised her head.

The sun was setting in the west, emitting warm and gentle rays. The faint glow was enchanting, and she stared at it for some time when the man’s face suddenly appeared in her mind.

After a silent moment, she took out her phone, looked for that man’s number and sent him a text.

Mu Yuchen, I miss you.

She sent it without any hesitation.

The man finally fell asleep after having some difficulty, but the message woke him up. He was wide awake after he saw the message. He stared at it for a long time, a faint gleam appearing in his dark eyes.

With a smile on his face, he replied: Me too.

She smiled when she received his text. Her heart softened, and she could feel sweetness all around her.

She did not reply afterward. Instead, she put her phone away and walked into the Mu Residence.

...

Naturally, Xi Xiaye went back to Maple Residence at night. It had been quite a few days since she had gone back and she missed their home. She felt more at ease staying at Maple Residence now.

She woke up early morning the second day. Of course, she did not forget about the renovation for Mu Yuchen's office.

It was 8 a.m. when she arrived at Glory World. The workers from the renovation company were already waiting at the entrance, and all of them went up to her the moment Xi Xiaye arrived.

Inside Mu Yuchen's office, Xi Xiaye acted like the lady boss as she discussed with the workers. "We'll put this painting here. Yeap, right there! It feels broader there. That's not bad!"

Xi Xiaye pointed at the wall right opposite the office desk as she instructed them to hang the oil painting there. She had had these in her collection for some time. Instead of leaving them unused in the Shen Residence, she had brought them over.

The curtains were brand new. There was also a hanging orchid on the tall stool beside the window. Its green leaves seemed fresh and made the whole office looked livelier. Overall, it was much more relaxing now.

After finishing the work and cleaning up the office, it was around noon. There was no one around in the company during the weekend, so Xi Xiaye locked the office up before leaving.

She planned to visit Su Nan today. It had been some time since she last saw her, and she just wanted to see how was she doing. As she went toward her car, she heard a honk. When she looked around, she saw Xi Mushan's car.

Startled, she then saw Xi Mushan's secretary waving at her from the driver's seat.

After giving it some thought, Xi Xiaye walked over slowly.

"Why are you here?"

Xi Xiaye entered the car and saw Xi Mushan's serious face.

Xi Mushan looked at her before saying, "You haven't had lunch, have you? Let's eat something. We'll talk while we eat."

Xi Xiaye wanted to drive on her own, but the driver had already started the car, so she just stayed quiet.

They went to a restaurant nearby for lunch. Xi Mushan seemed to still remember the dishes Xi Xiaye liked. Everything he ordered was her favorite.

Xi Xiaye just sat there as she watched Xi Mushan pour some wine. After a while, she grabbed the bottle from Xi Mushan and said, "Let me do it."

She then poured the wine into Xi Mushan's empty glass before pouring some for herself as well.

"I just passed by University A and saw your mother's car leave. I called you and your phone was switched off, so I just looked around and happened to bump into you," said Xi Mushan quietly as he looked at Xi Xiaye.

"Didn't Mother refuse to see you? Why do you...?"

She raised her head and looked at Xi Mushan while she was still pouring the wine. Her eyes seemed confused. "Mother said that it's impossible to return to the past with you anymore. Although I admit I wanted that to happen..."

What else could she say?

Xi Mushan had built another family with Yue Lingsi. Shen Wenna and her were just history.

“I’m just here to have a look at you guys. You don’t have to be so pressured... Have Mu Yuchen and the others been treating you well?”

Xi Mushan was not really a caring person, so his question surprised Xi Xiaye, but she soon came back to her senses. She shot Xi Mushan a doubtful look before nodding. “They treat me very well.”

Xi Mushan sipped his wine and replied quietly, “That’s great.”

Xi Mushan seemed quite crestfallen. Xi Xiaye could see the defeated vibe and helplessness of Han Yifeng around Xi Mushan at that moment.

“I believe you’re aware of what happened between us Xi family and the Han family. Han Yifeng is married to Xinyi, and due to health reasons, the company is now under Yifeng’s care.”

Xi Xiaye nodded. “Mmm, I’m aware. I met him a few days ago at the Yueying meeting.”

After giving it some thought, Xi Mushan said quietly, “I’m afraid that Han Yifeng and Xinyi’s situation is already set in stone. I know you’re handling the South River project for Glory World. There are several leaders from the government evaluating this project. Aside from me, there’s Mu Tangchuan and several people from the Yue family. Furthermore, the Qi family have a great relationship with the Hans and the Yues, so you have to be careful.”

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and stayed silent. After a while, she replied, “Mmm, will do.”

Xi Xiaye never expected Xi Mushan to tell her this. She had no idea how to reply, so she just gave a terse one.

“Father, are the Qis and the Yues long-time friends?”

Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered that someone from the Yue family was the Vice President of Qikai. Would she clash with them this time? However, if Qikai were to get things done through the Yue family, Glory World would be in deep trouble.

She had not forgotten that he had put a lot of effort into this project as well.

Chapter 306. Uncrossable Realm (1)

Xi Mushan put his empty glass down when Xi Xiaye asked him the question. He looked at Xi Xiaye and nodded. "Kind of. It's similar to the Xi family and the Han family. They are both big families in City Z."

Xi Xiaye poured more wine for Xi Mushan while he went on.

When she was reminded about what Shen Yue had told her, Xi Xiaye thought that Xi Mushan might know a bit more, so she asked straightforwardly, "I heard that Qikai had some \*\*\*\* background before, and they cleansed their name afterward. Is the current Qikai the product after their cleansing?"

Xi Mushan's face was strained for a moment when he heard Xi Xiaye's question. He drank from the glass again before replying, "That's true, but it's been decades. Back then, \*\*\*\* was popular, but afterward, the government became strict with the law. Consequently, companies like Qikai were found out, but of course, the government could not get rid of all of them, so Qikai survived."

Xi Mushan paused, then went on, "Your grandfather was involved in this case back then. He was the head of the Inspection Department. All these years, Qikai had been working with Yueying. I'm not really sure about what's going on with the Qi family, but your grandfather should know more."

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Got it."

"Now that Glory World is challenging Qikai, aren't you guys confident?" Xi Mushan asked quietly, "The tender should be on the day after tomorrow. You guys don't have to be that nervous."

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath. "I've done what I could, and I did my best, so I'll let him handle the rest."

Xi Xiaye sipped some wine and asked. "Father, have you heard about the car accident involving the Qi family's eldest son, Qi Feng, that happened five years ago? I heard the current Master Qi is actually the second son of the Qi family..."

"The second son of the Qi family?"

Xi Mushan repeated the name and squinted his eyes. He swigged a bit of wine as a faint light flashed in his eyes. "Qi Feng... I've seen him before. Although he's Qi Qiming's illegitimate son, he held great importance in the Qi family, even higher than the current Qi Lei."

"Even higher than Qi Lei? Then, why didn't Qi Qiming marry Qi Feng's mother?" Xi Xiaye was puzzled.

"I'm not so sure about that. I only know that Qi Qiming treated Qi Feng very well. Some years ago, he had already decided to let Qi Feng take over Qikai. I heard Qi Feng was heavily injured after the accident, then I never heard about him anymore. I think he didn't make it."

Xi Xiaye did not ask any further questions. She downed her glass and looked at Xi Mushan opposite her, her hands clenched into fists as she placed them on her legs. She was struggling about whether she should say something.

Xi Mushan noticed that she was troubled and seemed to want to say something, but was holding herself back. "What's wrong? Speak if you have something to say. Don't keep it in."

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and looked at Xi Mushan quietly. "Father, is it... really impossible for you and Mother to go back to before? I don't understand. You still love Mother, and Mother loves you too. How did this happen? Every time I see Mother's lonely expression, I..."

"She told you that she still loves me?"

Xi Mushan's grip around the glass tightened whilst a light flickered in his dark eyes as he stared at Xi Xiaye. She looked at him quietly, having caught the hope in his eyes that was slowly reviving.

After some time, Xi Xiaye nodded. "Mother wouldn't have stayed like this for so many years. Otherwise, she was just over 30 when she divorced you, and so many people were after her. Grandpa also introduced her to many successful entrepreneurs. They were all excellent, yet Mother's heart never moved. I think she's still hopeful."

Was she still feeling hopeful?

Xi Mushan's expression changed as he gripped his glass tightly and emptied it. He closed his eyes to calm himself down.

"I've betrayed her and you... I've made my mistake, Xiaye... I won't deny it, but your mother is the only woman that I've ever loved in my life. I've spent my past twenty or so years in loneliness to punish myself and in the end..."

"Throughout all these years, I've thought of blaming you, but Mother always told me that the marriage failed because both you and she didn't know how to keep the relationship going. She hoped I wouldn't blame you or the Xi family. Now that I think about it, no one loved you as much as Mother, if Mother insisted years ago, like how Yue Lingsi and Xi Xinyi did now, what would've happened to you?"

"Mother has sacrificed so much that she's almost left with nothing. Why can't you put yourself in her shoe? Xi Xinyi has the Xi family and the Han family. Even Yueying is theirs, but Mother has nothing, she never mentioned anything about it, and now you're telling me that you only love Mother...F Father, just what is showing your love for her? If you love her, shouldn't you treat her well, give her everything, and satisfy all her needs while protecting her by her side?"

Xi Xiaye felt a pang of pain in her chest as a lump formed in her throat, and her eyes were starting to tear up. She sniffed as she lowered her head, her long hair falling over her shoulders and covering her beautiful face. Her voice was starting to get hoarse. "If that's how it is... Father, your love is worthless. You're not worthy of my mother..."

"Xiaye!"

Her words made Xi Mushan's face go pale as he was stunned!

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath, blinking her eyes before raising her head. "That's all I've wanted to tell you. The next move is all up to you. I don't think I'll be eating with you today, so I'll head back no. You don't have to send me."

She felt relieved after saying those words. However, she did not want to stay any longer, so she stood up slowly and was about to leave.

Chapter 307. Uncrossable Realm (2)

"Xiaye, please sit down and finish this meal with me before heading back."

Xi Mushan raised his head and looked at Xi Xiaye. There was a great deal of struggle and complication in his eyes. Although Xi Xiaye could not see through him, she could sense that he was feeling sad and lonely. In the end, she sat back down.

Xi Mushan refilled her glass with a smile even though he seemed sad and cold. His voice was quiet. "I know you've been longing for us to get back together, but between us..."

Xi Xiaye raised her head slightly and studied him. She waited, but Xi Mushan did not finish the sentence.

She looked at her wine glass. His face appeared inverted as she gazed through the glass. She could sense an unspoken terrible feeling.

She seemed to understand. There was an uncrossable realm between Shen Wenna and Xi Mushan. The presence of Yue Lingsi and Xi Xinyi constantly reminded Shen Wenna about Xi Mushan's betrayal. After all, she was a prideful person!

She stopped talking and just ate in silence, oblivious of how the food tasted. All the wine she drank could not push the sour feeling down her throat.

It was 1 p.m. when they left the restaurant. The sun was warm and it was crowded outside.

Xi Mushan offered to send Xi Xiaye back to the office, but she rejected. She was planning to walk back since it was not that far away. He hesitated for a moment before folding his arms and following her.

The father-daughter pair walked through the park. It was windy and there was a family in front of them. The daughter was riding on the father's shoulder while the mother was holding a bag as she followed behind them with a gentle smile. Their laughter reached Xi Xiaye's ears.

She felt a heartache as she heard them.

Xi Xiaye suddenly halted her steps and looked at the family in front of them slowly walking away, she sighed, "Father, if we're still a family, if we can be like them, that'd be great."

She seemed sad and nostalgic. "Unfortunately, there are things that we're unable to protect."

Her words stunned Xi Mushan. He could not find the right words to reply.

They went forward. As they approached near the plaza in front of Glory World Corporation, Secretary Ah Hui's voice came from the back. "Mayor, Madam and Ms. Xinyi are here!"

They stopped and then turned around to see a luxury car parked by the roadside. The door opened and a pale Xi Xinyi came out, followed by Yue Lingsi.

The mother-daughter pair advanced towards them.

Xi Xiaye glared at them and then glanced over at Xi Mushan. His expression and eyes were dark. She then turned around. "I'll head back first."

She walked forward.

Xi Mushan turned his head around and saw that Xi Xiaye had already walked past the lamp post beside him. He wanted to say something, but in the end, he kept quiet and just watched her walk away.

However, someone was not going to let her go so easily. Just as Xi Xiaye just walked past the lamp post, Yue Lingsi's scathing voice reached her.

“Xi Xiaye, stop right there! I’m here for you!”

Her sharp tone had Xi Xiaye smiling coldly. She wanted to ignore her and continue forward, but a figure overtook her and blocked her path.

It was Yue Lingsi.

Xi Xiaye raised her head slightly and glared warningly at her. “Move away.”

“You just want to create chaos for everyone, don’t you? You’re just causing trouble for the whole world. Your grandmother almost died because of you!”

With Xi Mushan there, Yue Lingsi tried to suppress her voice.

“She’s still alive, isn’t she?” Xi Xiaye was calm as she gave a brief reply.

“You!”

Yue Lingsi’s expression hardened. As she was about to continue, Xi Xinyi’s voice came from the back—

“Mother!”

Her tone was raspy and soft as she dragged Yue Lingsi aside, her pale face seeming a little strained. Her gaze towards Xi Xiaye was complicated. Xi Xiaye looked at her coldly and noticed some mixed feelings in her eyes.

She seemed to be angry but was trying to suppress it, and there was a fit of hidden jealousy within her!

Was she mistaken?

Xi Xiaye squinted her eyes as she looked at Xi Xinyi's. At that moment, Xi Xinyi closed her eyes and wrapped her arms around her stomach. "Mother, please don't be like this. I deserved it."

"It's not just about you, Xinyi. She's just disgracing the whole Xi family!" Yue Lingsi said sternly.

Xi Xinyi stopped Yue Lingsi from going forward. She glanced at Xi Xiaye, enraged to see her calm expression and her acting like she was enjoying making fun of them. Her hands balled up. It was not easy for her to endure her anger.

"Xiaye and Mu Yuchen got married at the end of last year. Don't you think that this is all a joke?"

Han Yifeng's words echoed in her ears, and her face turned pale all of a sudden.

Who would expect things to turn out this way?

Xi Xiaye had gotten close to Mu Yuchen... A man like that...

No wonder she could easily get 70% of Yueying's shares!

Xi Xinyi was not a stupid person. Nothing good would happen if she just let Yue Lingsi enrage Xi Xiaye now.

"Xiaye, you should head back for now." Xi Mushan's rock-solid voice came towards them as he walked forward and stood before Yue Lingsi.

Xi Xiaye nodded as she went forward and ignored them.

"Mushan, she...!"

As Yue Lingsi was about to say something else, Xi Mushan said coldly, "Be careful of what you say. Don't tamper your own image, Mayoress!"

“Father! How can you speak to Mother like that?!” Xi Xinyi’s eyes widened and she stared at Xi Mushan unhappily.

Xi Mushan glanced over at Xi Xiaye who was getting into the car. He closed his eyes and said, “Let’s go back now. This is not a place to cause trouble.” He then walked towards his car.

“Mushan!” Yue Lingsi’s expression changed as she tried to catch up with him.

“Mother, let’s talk when we get back!” Xi Xinyi held Yue Lingsi back with a deep frown on her face.

Chapter 308. Shocked

On a splendid afternoon, the Xi family were in West Park.

“What did you say? Xiaye’s married? To Mu Yuchen? Glory World’s Mu Yuchen?”

In the living room, Deng Wenwen widened her eyes at Xi Xinyi. Her aged face stiffened with disbelief. “Tell me again! Who did she marry?”

When Xi Xinyi saw Deng Wenwen reacting like this, she panicked and quickly walked over. Holding Deng Wenwen, she advised, “Grandmother, don’t get too emotional. Xiaye’s married to Mu Yuchen. This happened before the New Year. Yifeng told me this himself. It shouldn’t be wrong.”

“Married... to Mu Yuchen? Glory World? This is impossible! There’s no news of their marriage at all since before the New Year till now. This is not possible! How could she get married without letting us know? How could this be? Where does she put the Xi family? It would be a joke if people heard about this!”

Deng Wenwen’s expression looked particularly rigid. She stared at Xi Xinyi in shock, and it was as if all her energy had left her. She collapsed onto the sofa behind her in a daze.

“What’s impossible? The truth is so. They were already married before the New Year.”

The instant Deng Wenwen expressed her disbelief, Xi Jiyang's calm, weathered voice rang out. Xi Xinyi turned to the source of the sound and noticed Xi Jiyang standing on the stairs.

"Grandfather!" Xi Xinyi called out softly.

Xi Jiyang nodded before he slowly walked down with the help of the railings. His body that turned thinner and frailer by the day looked like a flickering candle in the wind. His aged face was wan and sallow from illness.

When Xi Jiyang spoke, Deng Wenwen instantly looked up at him. Her sharp eyes contained some iciness. "What? Did you already know about this?"

Xi Jiyang made his way down the stairs slowly as he looked at them. "Xi Mushan and I have met them. We've met the Mu family, so it's not that she didn't inform the family."

"What did you say?! You and Mushan have met the Mus? Does that mean this is real?"

When Deng Wenwen heard his revelation, her expression turned cold as she looked at Xi Jiyang. The gleam in her eyes dimmed while she stared angrily at Xi Jiyang. "You mean you and Mushan already knew about this! Xi Xiaye just told the two of you and left us out. She didn't even think of her grandmother?"

You could hear the fury in her sharp voice. Even Yue Lingsi, who listened from the side, had a change in expression. They were all upset.

"Mother, if that really is the case, then Xiaye's really gone overboard. She..."

On the side, Yue Lingsi did not forget to make things worse, yet when she saw Xi Jiyang frown, she immediately held her tongue again.

Xi Jiyang did not answer and just ambled over slowly.

Deng Wenwen's expression began to look like the rolling of dark clouds. The cold light in her eyes shifted while her hands were already clenched into fists. Finally, she could not help but flip the coffee table in front of her. As if she exploded, she got up swiftly!

There was a deafening crash as the entire coffee table was overturned. The teacups and teapots on it shattered all over the ground, frightening Yue Lingsi and Xi Xinyi.

"Great... Just great! You two kept it a secret from me. You both hid it from me! You don't think it's important to tell me! Great!" Deng Wenwen started to tremble. She was shrouded in gloom as she glared at Xi Jiyang. "You two treat me like an outsider!"

"Mother, calm down. Have a seat first. Be wary of your health!"

Yue Lingsi went up worriedly, yet Deng Wenwen pushed her away before walking up to glare at Xi Jiyang. "I, Deng Wenwen have slaved hard for decades now. How much have I sacrificed for the Xi family? Yet, Xi Jiyang, you still treat me like an outsider! Xi Xiaye left me out completely and didn't attach a single ounce of importance to me as a grandmother. You and Mushan have even agreed to it? How great! You two are great! Both denying my existence! How outrageous! Simply outrageous!"

"Grandmother, calm down. The doctor says you can't get too emotional. Be careful with your health. Let's just hear what Grandfather has to say about what actually happened." Xi Xinyi frowned and held Deng Wenwen. When she saw that her grandmother was on the verge of losing control, she felt worried.

"So what if we told you? Should I let you go and stir trouble? Because of Yueying's matters, you and Xiaye have been at conflict with each other. You yourself know to what extent! Would you only be happy if you messed everything up?" Xi Jiyang burst out as he looked at the shattered mess on the ground. His expression darkened.

"Are you blaming me now? Xi Jiyang, you'd better watch your conscience. I do all of this for the Xi family! Otherwise, would you just watch helplessly as Yueying collapses? Now, Yueying is in an unstable position. The 20% shares Shen Wenna is holding is like a time bomb. Xiaye now even controls 70% of the shares. If she sells all of these shares, Yueying might just collapse immediately!"

Deng Wenwen's aged face sank as she turned her furious eyes to Xi Jiyang. "Now, it's just perfect. You're turning around to blame me, aren't you? Recently, I've been worried over so many things, yet have you said anything? Xi Jiyang, ever since the day I married you, have I ever treated the Xi family poorly? Now, you and Xi Mushan are going to do a bank run on me like this, aren't you? Tell me! Tell me!"

The more Deng Wenwen spoke, the angrier she got and the more she felt wronged. She flung the magazine in hand at Xi Jiyang as her breath started to quicken.

Xi Jiyang fended off the magazine she hurled at him. He narrowed his eyes at Deng Wenwen as he spoke coldly, "I told you that since Yueying is the Xi family's property, what's wrong with giving half to Xiaye and the other half to Xinyi? It's you lot who are making things so complicated, wanting to have it all for yourself, so what else can I say? Whoever wants to get the role of CEO can just do so with their own capabilities."

"Half for each of them? You might as well just demolish it all! With Xiaye's conduct, do you think she can keep Yueying safe? Do you want to let the two sisters fight to their death? I told you Yueying is my life. Whoever wants to touch it will have to do so over my dead body!"

"Huh, that's your problem then! When you made me hand the shares over, you should've thought about this outcome. In fact, now Xiaye doesn't care for your Yueying. She..."

Xi Jiyang suddenly thought of Shen Yue.

"I hope that you lot will behave. Avoid the painful consequences that you'll have to suffer yourselves in the end. Don't be a joke. Stop causing trouble and let the Xi family have some peaceful days. You won't get anything good out of offending the Mu family, including the Yues!"

When Xi Jiyang said this, he could not help but feel worn out. Then, he turned to walk upstairs.

Chapter 309. Absence Makes The Heart Grow Fonder (1)

The conversation stunned Yue Lingsi and Xi Xinyi. They exchanged glances at each other as their eyes darkened. Xi Jiyang disappeared around the staircase and there was an odd atmosphere in the air.

"Grandmother, are you okay?" Xi Xinyi asked as she noticed Deng Wenwen seeming unwell.

Deng Wenwen's breathing hastened. She stared at the staircase without saying anything and her face looked terrible. Xi Xinyi was startled by her reaction.

"Get her the medicine!" Yue Lingsi responded quickly.

Xi Xinyi heard her and quickly grabbed the medicine while Yue Lingsi poured a glass of water for Deng Wenwen to swallow her medicine.

They helped Deng Wenwen to sit on the sofa, and she recovered after some time.

"Mother, are you feeling better now?" Yue Lingsi comforted her, "Father hasn't really been in a good mood these past few days. You don't have to take what he said personally. Xiaye really stepped over her boundaries this time. Not only did she hide it from us, but she didn't even tell you about it. How disrespectful and cold! Even if Xinyi... Well, she shouldn't have done that anyway..."

"Don't be angry, Grandmother. She's penalizing me. If it weren't for me, things wouldn't have turned out this way. Grandfather is right. Since things have turned out like this, we should both compromise. After all, the 37% of shares have already been set. Sister is now the Operating President on behalf of Glory World in Yueying, so we can only hope for peace in the future."

Xi Xinyi gave it some thought before she closed her eyes and said solemnly, "I never expected things to turn out this way. It's all my fault, but don't worry, Grandmother. Sister is a member of the Xi family. I believe she wouldn't betray us. Let's forget this happened and take it as my compensation towards her."

Yue Lingsi totally agreed with what Xi Xinyi said. "Mother, you don't have to worry about it. Xi Xiaye is the same as Shen Wenna. Not many people can stand them. Father isn't penalizing you. It must be Xi Xiaye who begged them to keep it a secret. Yueying is still fine now, especially since we still have Yifeng managing it!"

"That's right, Grandmother. I've decided to go back to Yueying once I get better to help Yifeng out. I'll manage Yueying well and I'll learn from him. I'm sure I'll make Yueying even better! Mother is around too. Along with Yifeng and my uncle helping out, Yueying will be fine. You should just focus on recovering your health at this moment."

Deng Wenwen's expression softened when she heard Xi Xinyi's persuading. She drank some water and looked at Xi Xinyi, her face still in shock. "Xinyi, you mentioned that Xiaye really married into the Mu family. Glory World Corporation's Mu family? That Mu family..."

A cold light flashed through Xi Xinyi's eyes as she nodded and replied quietly, "Mmm, that should be the truth. With the 37% of shares under Xi Xiaye's control, and 17% of that directly under her, it's pretty obvious, isn't it?"

"But don't worry, Grandmother. I won't let Yueying fall. I'll take care of it."

Xi Xinyi turned her head to Yue Lingsi and said, "Mother, you should help Grandmother back to her room to get some rest. It's getting pretty late and I should go back soon. Yifeng will be coming back at night."

Yue Lingsi nodded. "Okay, by the way, remember to take those tonic!"

...

Xi Xinyi never gave Han Yifeng a proper reply ever since he offered her two options, but she moved into Han Yifeng's villa and had stayed with him after she was discharged several days ago.

Han Yifeng did not go back to the villa in the past few days. He went back to the Han Residence instead, so Xi Xinyi only met him once during this period of time. Obviously, he was trying to avoid her.

However, Xi Xinyi did not care because she had already decided that by the time her body recovered, the negative news would have gone away. Then, she would return to Yueying and learn from Han Yifeng and take control of Yueying.

She believed that it was impossible for their relationship to vanish just like that. She wanted to get Han Yifeng back, so she tried to delay the pressing matter and slowly get back into his heart.

She believed she could do it.

After all, Xi Xinyi was not any inferior compared to Xi Xiaye. If Han Yifeng noticed her good side again, she would be able to win him back!

...

After parting with Xi Mushan, Xi Xiaye went to Su Nan's place and brought her some tonic. Su Nan seemed chubbier than before. She appeared to be in good health.

"Looks like Ruan Heng takes care of you very well."

On their apartment balcony, they sat opposite each other. Su Nan was flipping through a children's artbook while Xi Xiaye was making some honey for her.

"Of course, look at me now. I'm his queen! He has to listen to whatever I say. I'm that precious!" Su Nan replied straightforwardly.

"You're happy now, huh? Poor Ruan Heng. I never knew you were such an expert at controlling your man." Xi Xiaye laughed as she handed her the glass of honey.

Su Nan took a few sips as she squinted her eyes and looked at Xi Xiaye. "What now? Do you want to learn from me? I can tell you my secret, and I'm sure Master Mu will forever listen to whatever you say!" She looked at Xi Xiaye with a seductive gaze as she wore a sly smile on her face.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows and shrugged. She drank her tea and said, "Do you have a secret? Mu Yuchen told me before that you have the potential to be a relationship counselor."

"I'm surprised that your man gave me such high praise. My impression of Master Mu is getting better!" Su Nan giggled. "However, I'm still going to tell you this secret whether you want to hear it or not because I want you to always be happy. Maybe it'll be useful for you too."

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment. She closed her eyes and tried to hide the eagerness in her eyes.

Chapter 310. Absence Makes The Heart Grow Fonder (2)

Su Nan cleared her throat as she put on a smile and said to Xi Xiaye quietly, "First and foremost, you need to go to people in the Mu family like his grandparents and parents. Get them on your side. Creating a good relationship with them is the very first step. I'm now practically sisters with Ruan Heng's mother. If Ruan Heng were to say something bad about me, his mother would be angry for my sake!"

Hmm, the mother-in-law, huh?

Xi Xiaye then frowned as she thought about Zhuang Shurong...

She did not need to do that, did she? She felt that Zhuang Shurong was an understanding and easygoing person. Even though she seemed pretty strict, she treated her very well. Moreover, Mu Yuchen and her were not staying with them, so it was not really much of an issue.

"Also, I think you're a really honest person. You'll always keep quiet when you're unhappy. I'm sure you're the same when you're with Master Mu, am I right?" Su Nan's eyes saw through Xi Xiaye and teased her.

Xi Xiaye stared at her. "So, you're smart enough to guess how I'd react now, huh?"

"Of course, how long do you think I've known you for? But let me tell you, no words can be as effective as 'you naughty thing!'. Believe me, this is the conclusion I've gotten after trying so many times. You need to learn how to act all coquettish. Women who know how to do that have the best lives!" Su Nan said with a grin. She did not forget to turn around and peek at Ruan Heng who was busy at the moment, afraid that he might hear her.

Xi Xiaye choked because of what she said!

After some coughing, her eyes locked onto Su Nan. "You naughty thing?"

"Yes! What? It's the truth! If you tell Master Mu that and assume the position of a foxy, little woman, I'm sure his heart will melt instantly! Try it!"

"No!" She was too embarrassed to say that to Mu Yuchen.

“Really! I’ve tried it with Ruan Heng so many times before!”

...

It was 10 p.m. when Xi Xiaye arrived back at Maple Residence after leaving Su Nan’s place. She had dinner back at Su Nan place since her friend did not want her to eat alone at home.

She had been going to bed pretty early in the past few days. Since she felt pretty tired, she fell asleep very quickly.

The whole villa was quiet as stars filled up the black sky outside. The breeze was light and the night seemed beautiful.

The curtain inside the room was not closed, so the light from the stars scattered all over the floor while the scent of the flowers from the backyard floated all around the room.

She had quite some free time these few days, but without the man around, she felt a little odd like something was missing since she was used to having him sleep beside her for months. She could not sleep well without him, but after several days, she gave in to exhaustion and finally fell into a good, deep sleep.

After some time, as she was still in her deep slumber, she unconsciously heard the sound of the door opening. She somehow saw the man watching her beside the bed. After a while, the figure went missing, and then she heard the sound of water coming from the bathroom...

She thought she was dreaming again since she had been dreaming about him for the past few days.

Not too long after that, she could feel the blanket being pulled away, and his exclusive scent was all over her. She woke up instantly, and before she could react, she was already inside his arms.

“You’re back!” She could not help but shriek after realizing it was not a dream. Her eyes flew open wide.

With the help of the dim wall lamp, she saw Mu Yuchen's face before her eyes like the quiet, dark sky with stars inside them.

"I saw you were asleep, so I didn't call you, but the way you slept was really comparable to some animals." He tugged at the blanket a little as he spoke softly, seeming tired.

"I haven't been sleeping well. When did you come back? You should've called me first..."

She rubbed her eyes and fell into his arms. The familiar smell was back, and she could feel the odd void inside her heart being filled.

He hugged her and left a kiss on her forehead. "I rushed back after I was done with stuff over there. Why don't you seem excited? Someone sent me a message and told me that she misses me..."

Xi Xiaye's eyes were like the stars in the sky as she raised her eyebrows and replied him cheekily, "Who sent you that? Your admirer?"

"What a heartless woman!" He ranted helplessly as he ran his fingers through her long, silky hair. He tucked her hair behind her ears, then touched her beautiful face. "You seem to be pretty used to my absence. Are you?"

Her eyes darkened when she heard him. Her tone was soft as she looked at him in the eye. "Nope, I ate bread and instant noodles for breakfast and dinner. No one would prepare the bath water for me... and the house is empty. I'm actually a little scared..."

"Didn't I ask Sis Wang to come over? Did she not come?" Mu Yuchen frowned.

"I asked her to go back. She caught a cold and needed more rest," she replied softly.

"Mmm? Let me see... Did you lose weight? It was tough for me to fatten you up."

He wrapped his hand around her waist, but she backed off slightly and stared at him. "I didn't lose any weight! The weight I put on some time ago didn't go away. Summer is coming soon., I don't think I can wear my qipao now and it's all your fault! I think we should start going vegetarian..."

"Don't wear it if you can't then. It doesn't matter to others if you have curves or not. I've brought back a lot of clothes this time. Li Si will be sending them over tomorrow, so you can take a look and see if there's anything you like."

Before she could react, he untied her sash and went down on her. His cold lips met hers.

"You... don't..."

"It's been so long. Don't you miss me?" He raised his head a little and looked at her.

"Xi Xiaye... I don't care if you miss me or not. I missed you..."

He then ignored her and went down on her!

Xi Xiaye was helpless against this pervert! She was not even done talking yet!