

Loving 31

Chapter 31. Need A Marriage (1)

“Director Xi, your drawing of that pig is really good!”

Mu Yuchen’s voice floated into her ears followed by Li Si’s cheerful laughter.

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment before turning back. Li Si was staring at a certain direction on the ground. Following his line of sight, her whole body trembled and her face turned red!

A drawing had fallen right beside Mu Yuchen’s feet. On the paper, there was a pig, a snake, and a woman holding throwing knives. The pig seemed pretty realistic with a knife plunged right into its heart. The name “Han Yifeng” was written right above it while the snake was cut into half with the name “Xi Xinyi” scrawled above it. The woman who seemed like a queen was stepping on the snake and below her were the words “Queen Xi Xiaye”.

It had probably fallen out of her folder just now.

It was true that she had drawn the pig, but the snake, the woman, and the names were all added by Su Nan who had flipped through her drawings the day she came back. On a whim, she just added all the extra stuff.

Xi Xiaye really want to disappear at that moment. She quickly rushed over to pick up the drawing, but —

A large hand was quicker than hers and picked the drawing up first.

“Give it back!” Xi Xiaye’s expression turned flustered and regretful as Mu Yuchen took the drawing. She saw him shoot her a mischievous look and she started to get angry.

“Mu Yuchen! Give it back!”

She tiptoed and tried to grab it, but he raised his hand and she could not reach it at all.

Mu Yuchen was over 180cm tall while Xi Xiaye was just over 160cm. Her height barely reached his chin, so of course, she could not have reached the drawing if he raised his hand.

“I didn’t expect your drawing to be pretty good, Your Royal Highness? Xi Xiaye?”

Mu Yuchen smiled and shot a glance at Xi Xiaye; it was an odd and childish look.

Xi Xiaye was really frustrated as she glared at him and her face became even redder. Li Si’s laughter was not helping the situation. The perfect image she had been trying to hold up was going to be ruined!

A sudden call saved her from this embarrassing situation.

She took out her phone and saw the name “Su Nan” appear on the screen.

Xi Xiaye quickly tapped the phone and answered the call. Su Nan’s sweet voice came through accompanied by a slight tone of anger and worry. “Xiaye! It’s me!”

“What’s up?”

Xi Xiaye frowned when she heard that Su Nan’s tone did not sound right. “Did Ruan Heng look for you?”

“It’s not about him and me. Xi Xiaye, didn’t you look at the messages I sent you? I’ve been calling you and you didn’t pick up. Where did you go?”

Su Nan started complaining and she sounded as if she had just eaten a bomb.

“What messages? I left my phone in the office. What’s the matter?”

“I made an appointment for you tomorrow. He’s pretty good overall. He’s a son of my father’s good friend who just came back from abroad and is a Masters degree holder. I used to play with him when we

were kids. He's quite tall and good-looking... I don't care! You have to come out and meet him tomorrow!"

Su Nan started to ramble on and on. Her loud voice was especially clear within the enclosed space and Xi Xiaye could not help but move the phone further away from her ears.

"Are you listening to me?" Su Nan asked when she did not hear any response from Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye put her palm over her forehead. Just as she was about to reply, Su Nan interrupted her, "Xiaye, I just saw that cheating pair near Hospital T. I'm really mad at their lovey-dovey acts. I overheard that they are getting engaged soon. Xiaye, don't you feel like turning the tables around? Get married to an exceptional man before their marriage! Show them how good you can be and reign at the top! I'm just... so... frustrated!"

Su Nan could not help but berate them as she thought of their faces.

Engaged?

Xi Xiaye's chest felt weighed down and her facial expression froze as well.

"Right, Xiaye, are you going back for your grandfather's birthday this weekend? I think you shouldn't. You might get disgusted when you see their faces!" Su Nan huffed.

Xi Xiaye took a light inhalation. As she remembered Deng Wenwen and Yue Lingsi's attitude back at the hospital, she put up a cold smile and her tone was chilly. "Why not? It's Grandfather's birthday. Of course, I'll go back! They should be the one hiding, not me."

"But... I'm worried about you. Who knows what that witch will do?!" Su Nan's tone softened as she was genuinely worried.

Xi Xiaye smiled and her voice became gentler as well. "Thank you, Su Nan. It's been a long time since I've gone back. I should go back even if it's just to take a look at Grandfather. I have to go back to the Chen residence tomorrow. I've got something to do."

“Got it, I’ll reschedule the appointment then. Please be careful on your own. Give me a call if there’s anything. I’m just worried that you’ll feel upset when you saw that cheating couple!”

“Mmm.”

Xi Xiaye hung up and she unconsciously clenched the documents she was holding with a bitter smile on her face.

Chapter 32. Need A Marriage (2)

Ding!

The sound of the lift rang and the door opened.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath, seeming a little out of it as she walked out of the lift. She appeared to have forgotten about Mu Yuchen and Li Si behind her.

“Di-”

As Li Si was about to call out to Xi Xiaye, he stopped when he saw Mu Yuchen’s face.

Mu Yuchen’s eyes had darkened slightly as he looked in the direction Xi Xiaye left. He only exited the lift slowly after a short while.

“Master, Director Xi seems to be related to Mayor Xi. If I’m not mistaken, Xi Xinyi is the daughter of Mayor Xi and Han Yifeng is the master of Han Corporation. Both of them have just returned from abroad not too long ago. There’s also news that the Xis and the Hans are going to be connected through their marriage. Han Yifeng is probably getting engaged to Xi Xinyi. As for Director Xi...”

Li Si felt doubtful. Actually, the whole of Glory World Corporation was not very familiar with Director Xi’s background. She was rather secretive and never really talked to anybody aside from work-related matters. It was near impossible to know her personal information.

“Oh right, Master, I’m not sure if you remember Xi Xinyi. The Imperial Sky Jewelry City is finishing up soon and the Public Relations Department was thinking about inviting her to become our company’s jewelry ambassador. She’s very popular now. After all, as a young girl with a very positive image, she’s pretty great overall. The Public Relations Department sent you the proposal several days ago and you gave the green light too,” Li Si explained when he saw that Mu Yuchen did not say anything.

“Imperial Sky Jewelry City? One of the projects within Imperial Sky Entertainment City?” Mu Yuchen asked after giving it some thought.

Li Si nodded. “That’s right, Master! It’s one of the projects within Imperial Sky Entertainment City which is nearly done now. All the shops are filled and we’ll be able to run it very soon. The Planning Department and the Public Relations Department are working on the opening ceremony. By estimates, we’ll be able to have the opening ceremony by the Chinese New Year.”

“Who’s handling this project?”

“Master, this project is handled by Director Xi and Director Chu. After Director Chu shifted away, all the plannings and execution were mostly done under Director Xi’s supervision, including the phase to recruit businesses to join. After that, it’s the Planning Department and the Public Relations Department’s job to work on the opening ceremony. The old chairman was happy with her efficiency, which was why he appointed Director Xi to handle New Era Plaza.

“However, I’m not sure if you’ve read the news in the past few days. Yueying Culture Media that’s run by the Elder Madam of the Xi family initially contracted several big projects with Qi Kai, but Qi Kai suddenly backed out. Moreover, the Vice President of the company embezzled the company funds and ran away to another country. It seems to be in a bad state at the moment. Xi Xinyi is from Yueying. During the meeting with her about the contract, she briefly mentioned that she’s interested in becoming an actress. She’s probably inviting us into the movie and television industry.”

Li Si took a pause after reporting everything he knew about the situation to Mu Yuchen. Then, he asked, “What do you think about the movie and television industry?”

He knew that his boss avoided of such industries but still, he asked quietly and carefully, “The old chairman had such thoughts before and wanted to give it a try to boost Glory World’s image.”

Mu Yuchen suddenly thought of something and a cold light passed through his eyes. He asked as he glanced at the drawing in his hand, "Did the Public Relations Department sign the contract with the ambassador already?"

"Mmm, I heard they signed the contract yesterday. They'll come over and discuss the specifics in a few days' time. I heard about it from the people in the Planning Department. However, this matter should be handled by Director Xi's subordinate, Vice Director Xu. He should know about all of that."

Mu Yuchen suddenly frowned and looked at the drawing again. After a while, he wordlessly handed the drawing to Li Si.

Li Si quietly observed Mu Yuchen and noticed that his eyes seemed complicated, but he did not ask much and took the drawing carefully, keeping it in the folder in his hand before following him.

...

The wind was chilly at night. By the roadside two kilometers away from Glory World Corporation building, Xi Xiaye frowned as she tried several times, but the car just would not start at all. She left the car feeling defeated as she realized that something was wrong with the car.

A strong wind blew towards her the moment she stepped out of her car and her whole body shivered as her waist-length hair got riled up into a mess.

She sighed helplessly and tried to fix her messy hair before popping her car bonnet up and looking around. There was a malfunctioned part but she did not have a toolbox even if she wanted to fix it. After some thought, she took her phone out and made a call to the car repair company.

The moment she found the number in her address book, a classy, dark silver Porsche stopped before her. Before she could react, the window rolled down and a strong-willed voice called out to her, "Get in the car!"

Xi Xiaye was surprised to see Mu Yuchen's handsome face and was not sure how to react.

Mu Yuchen sighed helplessly. He pointed his long finger at Xi Xiaye and said, "Xi Xiaye, get into the car!"

Xi Xiaye finally reacted she heard her name being called. She hesitated and said, "My car broke down. I don't want to get invited to the police station for a tea session."

Chapter 33. Need A Marriage (3)

Mu Yuchen's eyes that were as deep as the ocean eyes skimmed Xi Xiaye as he took his phone to call Ah Mo to come over and handle this. Then, Xi Xiaye got into the car a little helplessly.

After Xi Xiaye put on her safety belt, Mu Yuchen started the car and drove slowly.

"Don't you want your drawing anymore?"

The sudden deep voice broke the silence in the car, also startling Xi Xiaye who had been leisurely leaning back in the car seat and looking out of the window at the nightscape.

She unhurriedly turned over and watched him focus on driving. She hesitated for a moment and her silent eyes twinkled with a dim light as her thin and calm lips gently parted. "I'll give it to you."

He had already seen it anyway, so she did not mind anymore.

"I know those words aren't your handwriting."

He had thought about it before suddenly saying this. When he did, Xi Xiaye immediately raised her brows and looked at him in surprise.

"On the South River project proposal that you previously handed in, your signature and handwriting were there," he explained.

"How do you know that I don't actually think this way? I'm afraid that I really am that malicious!" Xi Xiaye laughed a little bitterly and sighed disappointedly, "Seeing them being happy together, I don't feel calm inside at all. I keep having the urge to destroy them, yet I hold myself back..."

“That means that you’re a normal person. You should feel happy about that,” Mu Yuchen quietly replied. He paused, then suddenly said in a lowered voice, “However, I don’t deny that what your friend said made some sense. To let the past be the past, the most straightforward way would be to start a new life, turn the tables. Let everything go and then forget it.”

When she heard his advice, Xi Xiaye suddenly fell silent. Su Nan’s words from earlier still clearly echoed in her ear.

Get married to an exceptional man before their marriage. Show them how good you can be and reign at the top! Take your revenge...

The plan sounded quite ideal but how many people could really find the guts to succumb to this madness of self-exile?

Marriage was not racing. Would she find the courage?

Besides, where was she going to find someone to be as crazy as her to be so unruly and be sent into exile too?

When she thought about this, Xi Xiaye suddenly lowered her eyes a little sadly. She inhaled and helplessly propped a hand on the car window at the side, gently holding her head that was a little dizzy and tilting her gaze ever so slightly. Her eyes were a little dazed as she watched Mu Yuchen driving. Her light voice softly came through. “I’m afraid I can’t bear the consequence. Besides, this would be extremely unfair to the person who’s invested in the relationship. I can’t just create another tragedy because of a tragedy, can I?”

“How do you know that you’d be creating a tragedy and not a comedy? You can’t just keep being so pessimistic about things. Otherwise, the only thing you’re trapping is yourself.”

He suddenly sighed lightly. With his extremely low voice, that way, he did not know whether he was talking to the girl beside him or to himself.

It seemed like Mu Yinan’s aged voice started to echo in his ears again.

Chen, let the past be the past. Life still has to go on...

Suddenly, he felt a little tired.

Yes...

He felt tired...

These days, people who were stranded in time wandered about for years in this lonely and sad city, filled with the damage done from years ago. Only time could wipe away all of the memories, so maybe, he should come to some sort of realization too.

He felt a mix of emotions and he thought about it for a long when suddenly his heart skipped a beat. He did not know what prompted him to suddenly step on the brake. The Porsche that had been moving forward at the speed of light abruptly stopped. He suddenly turned his head and looked at the girl who held her head with her eyes shut.

Her beautiful little face looked a little gloomy under the dim lights. It looked as if there was a light, an indescribable air of melancholy around her. She seemed a little worn out too and he suddenly realized that she was actually very thin. Her body shrunk underneath the windbreaker and appeared very frail.

"Xi Xiaye... I think, maybe you're the same as me. You need a marriage too."

When Mu Yuchen said this, Xi Xiaye who had been resting on the side suddenly felt herself stiffen. She slowly opened her eyes and quietly turned her head to gaze at the slightly distracted man beside her. What met her sight was his jet-black eyes that were as dark as the night sky. His pupils condensed with a shifting light. She could not see through him at all, yet she seemed to pick something up from it.

Such as sincerity.

Or say, fatigue and pity.

Was he taking pity on her? Or on himself?

She knew that he should be someone with a story too, but she did not want to ask too much. After all, other people's relationships had nothing to do with her. Even if she knew about it, it was meaningless.

"You..."

Her twinkling eyes started to turn misty as she looked at him in astonishment. Her head had not yet wrapped around what he just said.

Mu Yuchen saw her looking a little dazed, then his calm lips suddenly turned into a shallow curve. His deep voice had a rare tenderness in it. "If you don't mind, marry me. Be my wife, be the head lady of Glory World. That way, you should be able to come out ahead."

His words were blunt and straightforward like a sudden clap of thunder that flashed across the pitch-black night sky, instantly turning Xi Xiaye's mind temporarily blank. She was so shocked by his words that she was stunned.

When he saw Xi Xiaye astonished for quite a while without responding, he smiled calmly. He was always the kind of person to immediately plan and act whenever he had a thought.

Many years of his military life and business experience had formed the decisiveness he had today, further settling his calm and cool personality.

As a businessman, he would always prioritize pursuing a win-win situation. If he married this girl beside him, perhaps it would be a good thing for both of them, would it not?

"I'll give you a chance to sleep on it. Let me know your answer in three days, hmm?"

He gazed at her quietly. His low voice was gentle while carrying an indescribable charm...

Chapter 34. His Tyranny

Xi Xiaye kept silent. Her usually clear eyes that were looking at him gradually zoned out into a daze. Mu Yuchen's gaze that could see through everything could very quickly catch on to the mixed feelings she felt.

Startled...

Helpless...

Even a faint, uneasy melancholy...

"What does your silence mean?"

When he saw her keeping silent for quite a while, he suddenly smiled. His tone was resounding and did not allow defiance. "If you're not going to say anything, then I'm just going to take it that you agree."

"I..."

When she heard his words, Xi Xiaye then returned to her senses. Just as she was about to say something, she was stopped by Mu Yuchen. His profound eyes looked at Xi Xiaye with a gaze that made Xi Xiaye feel like she had nowhere to escape.

"I don't want to hear your answer right now without having you considered it. Sleep on it when you get back. I trust that you're a smart person. You should know what kind of answer to give me."

The man's tone was low yet firm, stopping the words that were about to come out of Xi Xiaye's mouth.

Her clear eyes looked at him for quite some time before her light-colored lips gently parted. She thought about it and then asked, "Why? With your qualities, I'm afraid the entire pool of City Z's women would be yours to pick."

When he heard her question, Mu Yuchen's gaze paused. He suddenly lowered his gaze silently and seemed to contemplate for a moment before he abruptly looked up. "There doesn't need to be a reason for everything. If you really want an answer..."

As he said this, he paused and silently looked at Xi Xiaye. His voice was muffled while being sincere. "I still need a wife... and I don't repel you. Don't worry. Marry me and I'll do my best to satisfy all of your needs. I just need your loyalty."

He suddenly turned his head over and took in a shallow breath. He looked indifferently out of the window at the dim streetlights. "Are you satisfied with this answer?"

Xi Xiaye was a little startled. Her confused eyes stared at him for quite a while before she quietly tightened her fists and lowered her head without a word.

"Remember my words. Now, I'll bring you for dinner." Mu Yuchen had already retrieved his gaze and glanced at her before starting the car once again.

He was blunt and decisive, completely ignoring whether or not Xi Xiaye could handle it. Xi Xiaye looked up at him and saw that he was already focused on the road ahead as he continued to drive. She could only frown a little...

The dark silver Porsche had swiftly driven through the cold, hazy night, going past a few busy traffic ports, shuttling past the flickering lights of brilliant colors, and lastly stopping in front of a high-class Western restaurant.

"If you have any more questions, think about it when you get back. Now, get down from the car to eat."

Mu Yuchen looked towards Xi Xiaye who was still a little absent-minded on his side. He could not help but chuckle before pushing the car door open to get down.

Xi Xiaye then reacted. When she saw that his tall figure had already bypassed the car, she followed him.

"Hello, Master!"

When the valet at the entrance saw Mu Yuchen's figure, he quickly walked up to greet him enthusiastically.

Mu Yuchen nodded and tossed his car keys over to the valet who very knowingly caught them. However, when he turned around, he almost bumped into Xi Xiaye. It was fortunate that Mu Yuchen pulled Xi Xiaye away in time.

"Sorry! Sorry!"

The valet apologized in panic, especially when he saw Mu Yuchen's gently furrowed brows. He was afraid that he was going to get fired just like that.

"No worries. Be more careful next time." Xi Xiaye smiled, then she looked up at Mu Yuchen.

Obviously, he understood that gaze and did not say anything. He just slowly let go of his hand that had cuffed onto Xi Xiaye's wrist before walking into the restaurant while the valet retreated gratefully.

They followed the restaurant manager and found a private room. Mu Yuchen casually flipped open the menu that the manager had delivered.

"What do you want to eat?"

His deep and perceptive voice was heard.

"The most expensive one," Xi Xiaye suddenly said, seemingly acting in a fit of pique. When she thought about how he stopped her words right away earlier, she felt a little unhappy, and of course, there was the thing about the pig drawing too.

When she said this, the man opposite her paused. He looked up from the menu with astonishment and the light in his dark eyes shifted. Studying her with some interest, he then very admiringly nodded and smiled. "Very good. I didn't expect your class-consciousness to be this high."

When he said that, Xi Xiaye's beautiful face instantly blushed. She shot him a glare unhappily. Then, seeing the restaurant manager holding his laughter back too, she instantly felt a little embarrassed. She could only turn her head away and silently look at the row of unevenly decorated little light decorations that were emitting a soft light, not saying another word.

Mu Yuchen did not trouble her either. He gently turned to look at the restaurant manager and quickly ordered two sets of steak, a bottle of red wine, and some dishes.

The restaurant was highly efficient and it was only a short while before the food was served.

A gentle and pleasant piano tune started to play. Underneath the soft yellow lights, Xi Xiaye could very clearly feel the chill around her break up bit by bit. As she silently watched the man opposite her who was elegantly pouring her a glass of wine, there was suddenly mixed emotions in her eyes.

"Aren't you hungry? Why are you watching me?"

He noticed that she had not moved, so Mu Yuchen then laughed softly. "To answer you, it is the most expensive dish, so you can enjoy it to the fullest."

Xi Xiaye then awkwardly retrieved her gaze. She looked down and picked up the knife and fork before her clear voice was finally heard. "How do you know that I'm not just letting you order the most expensive thing and then pay for it to thank you for helping me out tonight?" She asked while sulking.

Mu Yuchen looked up a little astoundedly at her. He thought about it and then said softly, "You've already treated me to a meal before this, so I don't mind you thanking me in a different way."

When she saw that meaningful look in his eyes, Xi Xiaye immediately thought of his words in the office today. Taken by surprise, she then replied after a while, "But I like thanking through treating people to meals."

"Did you learn all of that from being in the business world all these years?" Mu Yuchen asked as his long arms reached over to help her slice her steak with familiarity while Xi Xiaye just thought about it a little

distractedly. When she saw what he was doing, she turned blank at that moment, and then sighed softly, "Maybe... actually, I didn't know I'd have such thoughts too."

He retrieved his hands and said, "Where are all of your thoughts coming from? Let's eat."

"Mmm, Mu Yuchen, you're pretty good at slicing," Xi Xiaye complimented as she took a look at the steak on her plate.

"It should be on the same level as your drawing skills." The man did not know what humility was.

"Can the two even be compared?"

...

Chapter 35. Returning Late

When they were done with dinner and finally left the restaurant, the streetlights were gloriously shining outside. The wind was very strong and very cold while the night sky seemed to be a little depressing, and the air wafted with humidity.

It was already the beginning of spring. City Z was a city close to the south, so every year after spring began, there would always be a period of time when the weather was like this. This year, spring had arrived earlier than the past years. In particular, this season was not one that Xi Xiaye liked.

She looked up a little helplessly at the drizzle outside the car window. After a while, Xi Xiaye suddenly turned to look at the man who was driving with concentration. The car was very quiet, so quiet that they could almost hear the sound of them breathing.

"Play some music," Xi Xiaye suddenly said.

"The CDs are in the hidden compartment below," replied Mu Yuchen.

Xi Xiaye bent down, opened the hidden compartment, and casually picked a CD out. She reached out to turn on the player and put the CD in. Soon, some distant singing crooned.

The song was a very familiar one. It was a very, very old song, Zhang Guorong's "There Is Only You In My Heart".

Looking back slowly at the night when we belonged to each other.

You are still the red sunshine that keeps my heart warm.

If I am silly enough to shed my tears, please be considerate and forgive me,

After parting with you tomorrow morning, the road may be lonely and long,

...

Even though there were thousands of romantic encounters

On my way ahead,

Even though there were thousands of night stars

That are brighter than the moonlit tonight,

At least, let them be compared to the deep affection between us...

...

She was not sure why as she listened to this singing, Xi Xiaye vaguely felt an unnamed sorrow. As the song was about to end, she suddenly could not hold herself back and reached out to click on the repeat button.

“I can tell that you’re a nostalgic person too. It’s just a song, but you already relate?”

After a long while, Mu Yuchen’s deep and perceptive voice was suddenly heard from the side. His tone sounded vaguely warm like the wind that blew past underneath the dim, yellow streetlights, appearing a little surreal.

“Isn’t this CD yours?” Xi Xiaye asked softly.

Mu Yuchen smiled but did not respond. Instead, a dim light glowed in his silent and starry eyes.

“Don’t you feel that this seems quite relatable to us?” Xi Xiaye suddenly looked at him.

A faint smile flashed across his honorable and handsome face. His deep and intoxicating singing was very warm and sentimental.

“Even though there were thousands of night stars that are brighter than the moonlit tonight,

at least let them be compared to the deep affection between us... Never would I appreciate them, because tonight you sing with me...”

His low singing voice entered her ears and she felt a slight warmth in her heart. She could not help but become intoxicated by his singing.

She would not have expected him to know this song and to even sing it so well.

She pursed her lips slightly and smiled as she turned to quietly look out of the window. The two of them said nothing, yet the car was floating with an indescribable warmth. On this rainy night, it felt a little magical.

She was not sure how long had passed when the car finally cruised through a traffic port and slowly stopped before an apartment. Then, the lights in the car were switched on.

Xi Xiaye quietly undid her safety belt and her body reached over to take the things from the back seat.

She was about to take her handphone and handbag when she noticed that the man had already casually picked up her phone.

He looked down at the lit-up screen and asked in a whisper, "What's your password?"

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a while, wondering about whether or not to take her phone away. She struggled for a while, then seeing the look he gave her, she could only softly spell it out.

Mu Yuchen very quickly unlocked the phone. His fingers elegantly clicked around, then there was the melodious sound of the phone's ringtone. After that, he locked the phone and tossed it into Xi Xiaye's handbag.

He leaned over to help Xi Xiaye open the car door as he asked, "What floor do you live on?"

"The seventh floor," Xi Xiaye answered.

Mu Yuchen nodded. When he saw the drizzle continued outside, he suddenly got down from the car.

Before Xi Xiaye could react, she unexpectedly heard footsteps from beside her. She picked up her things and was about to get down from the car when she realized that the falling rain before her was cut off.

"Go home and take a hot shower. Rest earlier. Remember to think about what I suggested. I'll be waiting for your answer." Mu Yuchen's deep voice had a determination that could not be resisted. He handed the umbrella in his hand to Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye looked up at him without a word. In the end, she inhaled, nodded slightly and accepted the large, black umbrella in his hand. Her slim and frail body passed him.

She had just taken two steps when she suddenly thought of something. She abruptly stopped in her steps and turned around, her calm eyes falling onto the man that remained standing by the side of the

car. "You go home earlier too. No matter what my answer is, because you asked, I, Xi Xiaye will always feel grateful towards you. Thank you for being there when I'm at my worst..."

In the end, she did not finish her sentence. Xi Xiaye just smiled at him before turning around to enter the apartment.

Her slim figure very quickly disappeared in the hazy drizzle.

Seeing the calm and elegant figure gradually vanish from his line of sight, Mu Yuchen tore his eyes away. The cold wind and rain continuously attacked him but he stayed silent for a long while before reaching into his pocket to take a box of cigarettes out. He casually pulled a stick out...

Lighting it, he took a whiff...

Amidst the faintly discernible mist that shifted, one could only hear him suddenly coughing lightly a few times. It was quite a while before he finally tossed his cigarette butt into the rubbish bin beside him. He subconsciously looked up at the apartment and saw the light on a certain floor suddenly being switched on. Then, he got into the car and started it.

Chapter 36. The Feast Begins

When the weekend came, Xi Xiaye did not wake up early because she had worked hard until the wee hours of 3 to 4 a.m. of the night before, preparing and arranging the details for the South River project. Once she got busy, she lost track of time.

By the time she woke up, it was already close to noon. Her phone that had been on silent showed that there were quite a few miss calls. They were from Su Nan, but she already knew what she had called for. Pondering for a while, she decided not to call back.

After she washed up and had breakfast, she changed and prepared to leave.

She dressed up as usual in her black top and black pants. On the outside, she wore a black mid-length windbreaker. With her jet-black head of shiny hair tumbling onto her shoulders, she looked very thin and frail as a whole.

When she left the house, it was a rare cloudy day and the wind was dry.

It was the 70th birthday of her grandfather, Xi Jiyang, so she had to go.

If anything in that huge house was worth her recalling fondly even just a little bit, it would be her grandfather.

Xi Jiyang loved her rather dearly. She had not been back to see him for quite a few years. Even though she knew she should not have done that, she had no choice. There were too many memories that she did not want to remember in that huge residence.

Yes, Xi Jiyang's birthday banquet would be held in that huge house: West Park.

West Park was the Xi family's old residence, occupying a vast space. It was the kind of noble and lavish European-styled house that seemed like a castle.

At this moment, West Park was already lively. There was a beautiful arch at the entrance, a luxurious red carpet stretched from the door and into West Park while both sides were filled with gorgeous flower baskets.

Inside the residence, where the hall was decorated majestically, all sorts of dishes, desserts, and drinks were spread out on the tables that were neatly arranged while the seats on both sides were fully seated with people.

Well wishes kept on coming.

The banquet had not yet started. Up front greeting the guests were Yue Lingsi, Xi Xinyi, and the rest.

"Congratulations! May the Elder enjoy boundless longevity!"

"Thank you, Director Wang!"

Xi Xinyi's sweet-tempered face had on a courteous smile as she gently thanked the guests who offered their well wishes.

"Miss Xi is really becoming prettier and prettier. The Xi family is very blessed to have such a beautiful and kind daughter. I just wonder who'll be able to get married to such a lovely wife."

"Yeah, she's even a popular celebrity in the movies and television industry. Look at that charisma! How impressive! She is indeed Mayor Xi's daughter. She just looks extraordinary!"

When they watched Xi Xinyi greeting the guests, many of the wives from wealthy families were privately discussing her while Yue Lingsi felt very proud on the inside as she listened.

This daughter of hers had always been Yue Lingsi's pride and joy. Not only was she smart and capable, but she was especially understanding of others and she was pretty too!

"I wonder if Miss Xi already has a partner. I'd really like to introduce my son to her."

"Don't even think about it! I heard that she's going to be engaged to Han Corporation's new CEO, Han Yifeng. That CEO Han is a fine young man. I'm afraid your son won't have that chance..."

"Sigh, what a pity!"

...

Yue Lingsi smiled as she walked up to Xi Xinyi.

She had looked for a long time and still did not see any signs of Han Yifeng, so Yue Lingsi suddenly asked, "Xinyi, where's Yifeng? Why isn't he here yet?"

"Yifeng came a while ago. He's probably discussing something with Father in the study room. He should be coming over with Father soon, but earlier, Grandfather called Father over too. Maybe they're a bit delayed," Xi Xinyi explained with a smile.

“Your grandfather called your father over?” Yue Lingsi was a little surprised.

“Yes, Mother, entertain the guests first. I’ll go upstairs to take a look.”

Then, with a smile, she turned to walk up the stairs beside her.

At this moment, on the wide cemented road that led towards the West Park’s back entrance, a black Volkswagen Passat sped over. The brakes squealed before the car steadily parked beside the back entrance.

Xi Xiaye stopped the car and took the present beside her before swiftly getting down from the car. She walked towards the back entrance and was about to ring the doorbell when suddenly, the door opened from the inside.

A slightly chubby middle-aged man walked out. When he saw Xi Xiaye, he was suddenly stunned.

“Miss!”

His cry out loud was filled with pleasant surprise. “Why are you back?”

When she heard him, Xi Xiaye instantly frowned slightly. She looked coolly at the middle-aged man before her.

She obviously remembered that this person was West Park’s butler, Guo Fu, who had been working in West Park for quite a few years. Back then, he seemed to have been Deng Wenwen’s subordinate.

When he saw Xi Xiaye looking oddly at him, Guo Fu seemed to have realized something and smiled a little unnaturally. “I’m sorry, Miss. What I meant is that you haven’t been home in a long time. I didn’t expect you to come back for the Elder’s birthday. For the past few years you...”

Xi Xiaye took a look at him indifferently before she walked in as she said coldly, "I've troubled you, Butler Guo."

Guo Fu suddenly remembered something and turned around to catch up with Xi Xiaye. "Miss, I remember now. Elder Madam said that if I see you return, I should get you to make a trip to her study room. She has something to discuss with you!"

"There's nothing much to say between her and I. If there's anything, just let her get Xi Xinyi," she said this with indifference, then she walked into the residence.

The reason she had gone over today was simple. She just wanted to take a look at Grandfather, offer her gift, and then leave. She did not have the mood to join their banquet. Besides, based on what she knew, this entire function was probably not Grandfather's wishes too. Grandfather was always a very simple and low-profile person. Such a feast did not seem like his idea.

It was probably Xi Mushan and the rest behind it.

However, Xi Xiaye thought to herself that all of these had nothing to do with her anymore.

Chapter 37. Sign It, Hand Over The Right To Inheritance!

Xi Jiyang's room was on the second floor. From her memory, Xi Xiaye found the room very quickly. When she went over, the few servants who saw her in the corridor were all shocked but she just ignored them.

Outside Xi Jiyang's room, Xi Xiaye stood at the door for a long time before she finally lifted a hand to knock. However, quite a while after she knocked, there was no response, so she pushed the door open to enter.

The entire room seemed a little dark. Xi Xiaye stood at the door to look for a long time before her eyes adapted to the darkness. Then, she skimmed the room and finally, her eyes fell on the recliner in front of the French windows.

She pondered for a while before carefully walking over.

Indeed, in the recliner, she found Xi Jiyang who was fast asleep with his eyes closed.

His gaunt figure and grizzly hair made him look a little wan and sallow. His breathing also did not sound very smooth. His entire being was akin to a burning candle in the wind; it was sometimes alight, sometimes extinguished as if there was a possibility of dying out anytime.

When she saw him like that, she instantly felt a little sad as a bitter taste rose from her throat. Her chest hurt and she could only turn away and blink the bitterness back.

A while after that, she put the item in her hand down and took a blanket from the sofa, covering him with it. However, just as she was about to get up, Xi Jiyang's worn voice suddenly rang in her ears.

"I thought that you wouldn't be back this time."

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye was slightly startled. She looked up at Xi Jiyang, paused, and then forced a smile. "I just wanted to come back and have a look at you. Happy birthday, Grandfather!"

"I already have one foot in the grave. I don't care about these things anymore. These past few years, I've just been missing you. It's good you didn't come back too..."

Xi Jiyang gripped onto the arm of the recliner and trembled as he got up with much strain. When Xi Xiaye saw his feeble attempt, she quickly held him up. The granddaughter and grandfather duo then sat down on the sofa.

"I'm sorry." Xi Xiaye lowered her head bitterly. Before this elder that truly loved her, she yielded defeat with her head down.

"I don't blame you. Those things aren't even your fault in the first place. Do you still blame me for not helping you fight for Han Yifeng back then?" Xi Jiyang's gaze was suddenly fixated on Xi Xiaye who had lowered her head.

Xi Xiaye fell silent for a while, then her beautiful face forced a smile as she shook her head disappointedly. She bent down to pick up two empty cups and filled them with water as she said, "I

know that you have your reasons. In fact, how could I rely on someone else to fight for my own happiness?”

When she said this, Xi Xiaye suddenly breathed in a little and handed one of the cups to Xi Jiyang. Taking a gulp, her twinkling eyes exposed a distant gloominess as she lamented, “I’ve tried hard, Grandfather... but no matter how hard I try, if it isn’t mine, it isn’t mine. I could move someone else or even myself, but I couldn’t move him.”

As Xi Jiyang listened to her, pity and love were apparent in his eyes. He said very lovingly, “Don’t be sad, Xiaye! You are so much like your mother from back then. Listen to me. You deserve much better.”

Then, he gently patted the back of Xi Xiaye’s hand and sipped on the water. As if he suddenly remembered something, he looked at Xi Xiaye and said, “Right, I’ve heard about Yueying. Your grandmother told me that this issue is a little tricky...”

When he said this, Xi Jiyang suddenly paused as he found some difficulty to continue. After contemplating it for a long time, he said, “Your grandmother said that the Han Corporation might be willing to help handle this mess, but the precondition is that we must let your sister inherit Yueying, which means that they hope that you could hand your right to the inheritance over.”

When he told her this, Xi Xiaye instantly stiffened. She turned to look at Xi Jiyang, her eyes filled with too many emotions. Shock, disappointment, sadness, and even pain...

“Well then, what do you think? Do you hope for me to hand the right to inherit over, or do you hope that I’ll be firm and not concede? I remember back then when Father and Mother got a divorce, to compensate Mother, she received 20 percent of Yueying’s shares even though she never cared for it. Until today, that contract had never been brought up. Grandmother should be very clear about that herself, shouldn’t she?”

Xi Xiaye smiled bitterly.

“Xiaye, actually I hope that you won’t be involved with this mess. Now that Yueying’s already in shambles, you wouldn’t be able to handle it even if it’s handed to you. Giving up isn’t bad. I know that you don’t care about these things either. I was just hoping that you could live...”

Bam!

Before Xi Jiyang could finish, the closed door was suddenly flung open. Deng Wenwen walked over in a stern and imposing manner, and behind her, Xi Xinyi followed.

“Did you forget how to knock too?” Xi Jiyang frowned a little unhappily, yet Deng Wenwen just looked past him and walked over in a few huge strides.

“Sis, you’re here!”

Xi Xinyi’s delighted and gentle voice was heard. A beautiful woman in pink had very quickly zoomed over. There was a light fragrance, and before Xi Xiaye could react, Xi Xinyi had already clung onto her arm.

“I was really worried that you wouldn’t come. Today is a rare day for the whole family to have a reunion. If you didn’t come, then Grandfather would feel that this birthday would be meaningless too. Right, Grandfather?”

Xi Xinyi laughed gently as a lovely smile enhanced her sweet-tempered face.

Xi Xiaye shot her a cold look from the side. Apathetically, she pulled her arm away, not even bothering to respond to her. At this moment, Deng Wenwen had already sat across her with a document in her hands too.

“Regarding Yueying, I’m sure your grandfather has just explained it to you. Xiaye, I hope that you can be a little rational. Sign it. As long as you sign this, we’ll compensate you accordingly. Otherwise, even if you insist, Yueying wouldn’t be yours. With those shares that you’ll inherit, it’s far from enough. In fact, you might even need to take on a huge amount of debt. We’re just doing this for your benefit.”

Deng Wenwen tossed the document and a pen to Xi Xiaye.

“Sign what? Grandmother, about Yueying...”

Xi Xinyi looked puzzled at Deng Wenwen, her beautiful eyes filled with confusion.

“Xin Er, this has nothing to do with you. I need to discuss something with Xiaye. The banquet downstairs is going to begin soon. Yifeng is probably downstairs. You go down first, I heard that Yifeng has a surprise for you later.”

Deng Wenwen smiled lovingly towards Xi Xinyi.

When she heard, Xi Xinyi’s face instantly showed an understanding smile, so she nodded and said, “Okay then, I’ll go out first. Grandmother, Sis, come down quickly. In fact, Grandfather, you’re the man of tonight, okay?!”

Chapter 38. Han Yifeng's Proposal

The sound of the door closing clicked and the entire study room instantly fell silent once again. A terrifying, stifling atmosphere quietly assaulted the space.

Deng Wenwen’s pair of sharp and threatening eyes kept staring straight at Xi Xiaye who was sitting still. Her tone was very stern. “This is the only way to resolve Yueying’s issue. Now, Yueying’s funding gap is widening. It’s the heart and blood of the Xi family. Do you really wish to see it destroyed just like that?”

“Can’t you just say things nicely? What’s wrong with you, being so overbearing? Cough, cough...”

On the side, Xi Jiyang could not stand Deng Wenwen’s tone, so he could not help but reprimand her. In his fury, he started coughing intensely.

“I’m just telling the truth. Otherwise, what better way do we have right now? I can’t just let half my life’s work be destroyed in a day. Xi Jiyang, are you able to just sit and watch Yueying be toppled? In this period, I’ve been running all around for Yueying. Can one of you be considerate for me? And you still blame me for being overbearing?”

Deng Wenwen’s fury had just calmed down when it surged again and her tone rose. “Don’t forget that you’ve agreed to this too! Otherwise, Xiaye, you can ask him!”

...

Xi Xiaye had been staring at the documents in front of her. Her eyes were blank for a long time. A while after that, she slowly lifted her head to look at Deng Wenwen across her. As her pale lips parted slightly, she finally asked, "Does Father know about this?"

"Your mother has already told him about it and he accepted it. Xiaye, you're a smart child. You should know how to choose. Besides, your interest isn't even in movies and television, so this is beneficial to you."

Deng Wenwen finally eased her tone at this point.

However, just as she said this, Xi Xiaye's chest instantly tightened. She seemed to have just heard the sound of her heart smashing to pieces after it had just been pieced together. After quite some time, she took the documents in a daze...

"\$5 million in compensation..."

She muttered to herself, then chuckled at herself, "I never knew that this thing in my hand was actually this valuable. If I did, I should've just sold it off right away..."

After staying silent for a long while, she slowly turned to look beside her. Then, she realized that Xi Jiyang had already stood up with his figure stooped and his back towards her. He looked out of the window with indifference and loneliness.

Her eyes started to burn, the feeling of pain and sadness suddenly surging in her akin to a drowning flood, instantly submerging her entirely, yet she was helpless...

Finally, she felt how weak and defenseless she was.

Unsure how much time had passed, the light in her eyes gradually dimmed like ashes that burned once more. She reached out to retrieve the pen and her hand trembled as she wrote her name down.

Pop!

She tossed the pen in her hand away...

Deng Wenwen then nodded, feeling satisfied as she picked the documents up. "Okay, everyone, go down to join the banquet. The guests have been waiting for a long time!"

Then, she smiled and walked out with the documents.

Xi Xiaye stood up in a daze too. She knew that perhaps, from today onwards, this family might have nothing to do with her anymore.

She sighed disappointedly. Even though she felt pained, this was to her, perhaps, a good thing.

"I'm leaving now. Take care."

She left with detachment, about to walk out of the door.

"Child, Grandfather will leave better things for you. Don't be sad!"

Xi Jiyang's aged voice was heard and a helpless sigh came with it.

Xi Xiaye was startled. Stopping in her steps, she thought about it, then smiled and said, "No need. I've never thought of getting anything from you guys. I never would've expected that today..."

In the end, she did not continue. She just pulled the door open with a lack of regard and walked out.

She had just stepped out of the room when she heard the bustling clamor and the soft, melodious dance music. Lighthearted peals of laughter came wave after wave.

This liveliness only belonged to them. All she had at that moment was just dismal sorrow...

Xi Xiaye took in a deep breath, blinked, and then pushed back all of those emotions that were about to leak out. She wanted to turn around and leave immediately, yet upon doing so, she saw Deng Wenwen's familiar figure walking towards her. Beside her was a tall, gentle-looking man accompanied by two black-clothed bodyguards.

She smiled coldly before just turning around and walking towards a different direction.

From this end, it was straight to the banquet hall below. She had just walked to the end of the staircase when she heard cheers from below. The dance music suddenly changed to a romantic and soothing light ballad.

Her gaze followed the sounds of the crowd's cheers. This was when she noticed that the crowd that was initially lingering on the dance floor had stopped. At this moment, in the center of the dance floor stood a pair of very dazzling couple — Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi!

Underneath the soft lights, Han Yifeng looked tenderly at Xi Xinyi. He slowly reached into his pocket and took out a small, red box. He opened it and bright rainbow rays instantly flickered. He pulled Xi Xinyi's hand with his and suddenly knelt down on one knee. He said lovingly, "Xinyi, will you marry me?"

The second Han Yifeng said that, the crowd instantly celebrated and they all shouted with jubilation, "Say yes! Say yes!"

Xi Xinyi was surprised. She could not help but lift a hand to cover her face in disbelief. Her beautiful face was brimming with happiness at this moment as she nodded gladly and was so moved that she wept on the spot.

Han Yifeng then smiled and put the ring on Xi Xinyi's finger. Then, he got up to pull her into his embrace. Immediately, the crowd downstairs erupted into a thunderous applause. Han Yifeng could not help but lower his head to plant a kiss on Xi Xinyi's lips. Xi Xinyi gladly accepted it as her arms gently held onto his neck.

When Xi Xiaye saw the way their faces brimmed with happiness...

In that instant, she felt too much. She suddenly felt like her eyes had been stabbed with needles. It actually hurt a little and her twinkling eyes immediately dimmed.

However, it was in just that one instance that she took a deep breath and her gaze returned to its usual calmness. She coldly tore her eyes away and abruptly turned around to walk ahead.

“Sis!”

Right at this moment, there was suddenly a surprised cry from below. She already knew whose voice it was without having to hear it.

A cold smile flashed in the corner of Xi Xiaye’s mouth. Neither did she slow down her footsteps, nor did she see the people walking over. She just lowered her head to walk past everyone in huge strides.

Chapter 39. Knife Through The Shoulder, Paying You Back! (1)

“Sis! Sister!”

Xi Xinyi quickly shoved Han Yifeng away, lifting her skirt and running upstairs.

When the crowd saw this, they were all instantly shocked.

They had only heard of Mayor Xi’s daughter, Xi Xinyi, yet she had just called that woman in black “sister”? In fact, she had called her out loud and ran over without caring for her image.

What was happening?

The crowd all looked up in surprise as their gaze followed the direction that Xi Xinyi had ran towards. They only vaguely saw a slim, black figure on the second-floor corridor.

When Han Yifeng saw this, he frowned slightly. After a split second of thinking, he finally followed her upstairs too. The entire hall instantly became quite chaotic as whispers erupted all around. The crowd all stared in astonishment at the second floor.

“Stop right there!”

Xi Xiaye had just walked past her shortly when Deng Wenwen’s stern voice was instantly heard. She wanted to ignore it, yet the two black-clothed men behind Deng Wenwen had also followed her and instantly blocked her way. She was forced to stop.

“You’ve already gotten what you want. What else do you want from me now? Director Deng?”

Her cold tone did not have any hints of warmth.

“What attitude is this?” Deng Wenwen frowned very unhappily.

“This should be the legendary heiress of the Xi family, Miss Xi Xiaye, isn’t it?”

There was suddenly the evil laughter of a man. Xi Xiaye looked past the man from the corner of her eyes, noticing that slightly feminine but charming face which was very familiar. If she remembered correctly, he should be the young master of Qi Kai, Qi Lei!

When she saw that Xi Xiaye did not respond, Deng Wenwen shouted, “Xiaye, quickly come over and greet Master Qi.”

She had invited Qi Lei over with quite some difficulty. Obviously, Deng Wenwen did not want to ruin things just like that. If Qi Lei could take a fancy to Xi Xiaye, it would definitely be a fantastic thing. Not only would it perfectly resolve Yueying’s crisis, but Xiaye would also be able to marry into a prestigious family and get a decent home.

Qi Lei’s eyes fell onto Xi Xiaye. When her stubborn and indifferent look entered his eyes, there was suddenly a light that glowed in his eyes. It was the kind of flickering gaze a beast had when it discovered a prey.

They had let Xi Xinyi show up a few days ago since they thought that he was interested in the woman and wanted Qi Kai to consider investing in some things. However, since it was the mayor’s daughter, what was wrong with having some fun?

Now, very clearly, the Xi Xiaye in front of him at the moment was even more attractive to him. It was not only because of her cold and exquisite appearance but more so because she was Glory World Corporation's Planning Director. At such a young age, there were not many women who had both beauty and brawns. Fascinated, he was already rather interested in her.

Qi Lei's reaction was picked up by Deng Wenwen and she smiled, well aware of what was going on.

Deng Wenwen gave Qi Lei a look and suddenly softened her tone to say, "Xiaye, Master Qi is our Xi family's special guest. Take Master Qi out for a walk. There're many people inside. Master Qi doesn't quite like crowds like you. Maybe you can visit Master Qi's residence. That'd be good too since your mother is very close to Uncle and Auntie Qi."

"I wonder if I have the honor? Miss Xi?"

Qi Lei's plain and evil laughter rang out.

"I'm afraid you've got the wrong person, Master Qi. There's only one Miss Xi in the Xi family and that's Xi Xinyi." Xi Xiaye suddenly turned around to stare straight at Deng Wenwen with an incredibly calm gaze. "I've told you... If you want to use me as a chip in your marriage transactions, dream on!"

"Move away!" She coldly barked. As Xi Xiaye wanted to shove the two men in black who were blocking her way, she had just lifted a hand when she felt her head become dizzy. She suddenly felt like all of the energy in her was gradually draining...

She stumbled and Qi Lei immediately went up to hold her by her slim waist.

"Let go of me!" Xi Xiaye subconsciously struggled. Propping herself up with a hand on the wall and panting, she shook her head and tried hard to stay clear-headed.

Something was not right!

Her heart sank. She suddenly felt that there was something amiss. She abruptly looked up at Deng Wenwen, but she noticed that the woman had exchanged a knowing look with Qi Lei.

Scenes started to swiftly replay in Xi Xiaye's head —

That cup of water in Grandfather's study room!

But Grandfather had drank it then too...

Her body felt stiff and weak as she leaned against the wall. Her dimmed eyes stared quietly at Deng Wenwen and her eyes that firmly endured this were still flickering with a mixed light —

Desolation, disappointment, gloom, sadness, and even pain...

Seeing that gaze, even Qi Lei could not help but feel something on the inside while Deng Wenwen just turned away and pretended that she had not seen that.

"W-why?" Xi Xiaye held both her hands and asked with a ton of effort.

Deng Wenwen did not answer as Qi Lei just looked at her and smiled faintly. Then, he moved closer towards Xi Xiaye.

"Sis! Are you leaving when you've just arrived?"

At this moment, Xi Xinyi's voice suddenly came. Before the crowd could react, the little figure instantly rushed over and when she saw Qi Lei and Deng Wenwen, something flashed in her eyes. Then, she looked at Xi Xiaye...

"Xinyi!"

Han Yifeng trailed after her.

“Sis, are you okay? Why do you look so pale?”

Xi Xinyi went over and wanted to hold onto Xi Xiaye’s arm, she just took a step back, evading her with a gaze that was both hostile and distant. “Don’t touch me.”

“Sis, are you okay? You look really pale. I’m really worried about you! Don’t be like that, alright? I... seeing you like this, I... I feel really pained...”

Xi Xinyi stiffened as she bit her scarlet lips and teared up. She turned pale too. “If it’s still because of Yifeng that you... worst comes to worst... worst come to worst, I can just return him to you...”

Three voices were heard at the same time.

“Xinyi! What are you saying?!”

“Xin Er, you’re crazy!”

“Nonsense!”

Chapter 40. Knife Through The Shoulder, Paying You Back! (2)

They were voices of Han Yifeng, Deng Wenwen, and Yue Lingsi.

Xi Xiaye was having difficulty breathing. The hand that was supporting her against the wall was slowly losing strength. She raised her head and looked at Deng Wenwen in disbelief, yet she suddenly could not say anything.

Xi Xinyi started crying all of a sudden, “I’m sorry, I can’t. I can’t accept a marriage without Sister’s blessing especially when I... I just want your forgiveness, Sis... Xiaye, how do I make you feel better? Would you forgive me, forgive everyone else if I let go?”

Xi Xinyi’s eyes were filled with tears as she looked at Xi Xiaye. “If that’s the case, I’m willing to let go...”

“Xinyi!” Han Yifeng frowned as he dragged Xi Xinyi over anxiously.

“Xinyi, what are you saying?!”

Yue Lingsi looked at Xi Xinyi in horror. Finally, she looked at Xi Xiaye. “Xiaye, Yifeng and Xinyi are getting engaged soon. You know for yourself how Xinyi has treated you all these years. Why do you still cling onto the past when they are both in love with each other? Back then, Xinyi went out of her way to save your life. Is it so difficult to ask for your forgiveness now?”

“Mother, stop it!” Xi Xinyi shouted at her.

“I’m just telling the truth. Isn’t it all because of her that our family has become like this today? Your body is still weak because of that incident, yet now she’s being ungrateful and isn’t even willing to forgive you? Xinyi, you’re too kind. You care about her and the peace within the Xi family. Don’t you know that she doesn’t appreciate all of these!”

Yue Lingsi looked at Xi Xiaye with disappointment.

Xi Xiaye’s face looked drained. Did they actually say that she was the one who had messed the Xi family up?

What about her family?

Who messed her family up?

Many years ago, this woman had ruined her happy family, yet now the perpetrator was blaming her for it!

She lowered her head and tried to breathe. Her burning eyes blinked but no tears fell from her pair of dry eyes. Her voice at the moment was as calm as the surface of the quiet water.

“I messed up the Xi family and ruined the peace in your family? Don’t you think you destroyed someone’s family when you took my father away from us back then? Was Xi Xinyi guilty when she approached Han Yifeng with other intentions?”

Her calm criticism made the expressions of Yue Lingsi and Xi Xinyi freeze.

“Among the whole family, you two have no right to talk about this. Forgiveness? I wouldn’t forgive both of you even if I died. If you guys really think I owe Xi Xinyi my life...”

Xi Xiaye pushed Xi Xinyi away and rushed towards a dining cart before tripping because of her unstable steps. Qi Lei tried to help her, but she pushed him away and grabbed onto the cart.

A bright reflection flashed in everyone’s eyes.

Thud!

Everyone could hear the sound of a steel knife stabbing into flesh.

“Xiaye!” Han Yifeng was stunned as he gaped at Xi Xiaye.

“Sis!” Xi Xinyi’s body trembled as she saw a fruit knife go right into Xi Xiaye’s shoulder. Bright red blood dripped from the wound...

Deng Wenwen and Yue Lingsi were in shock as well. They never expected the quiet Xi Xiaye to do something like this when she was being stubborn.

A cold and sharp pain surfaced, helping her to stay conscious. Her eyes were as cold as ice. She forced herself to pry the knife out of her shoulder while the strong, metallic smell of blood wafted in the air.

“Xi Xinyi, this is me paying you back. From now onwards, I don’t owe any of you...”

She threw the knife away and blood suddenly came gushing out of her shoulder. She pressed on the wound as she used her large, black windbreaker to cover her shoulder that was drenched in red.

Miraculously, she had never felt so clear-headed before. She could even walk away calmly as everyone looked at her with an aghast expression.

There was a trail of blood in the direction that Xi Xiaye left.

As she reached the turning corner of the stairs, she heard the loud sound of a slap followed by Xi Xinyi crying, yet Xi Xiaye did not have the mood to care anymore.

From now onward, she had nothing to do with the Xi family anymore.

...

On the other hand —

“Father! How could you hit Mother?”

Xi Xinyi’s eyes flew wide as she looked at the angry Xi Mushan and Yue Lingsi’s face swelled.

She could not believe that his usually calm and collected father would hit somebody and even did so in front of Han Yifeng and Qi Lei.

“Are you not embarrassing enough? The guests are all waiting downstairs. Why don’t you get Father already?”

Xi Mushan glared at Deng Wenwen, then he turned around and looked at Qi Lei. “CEO Qi, the banquet is downstairs. Please forgive us for any inconvenience caused.”

Qi Lei raised his eyebrows and took a glance at everyone before he nodded and went downstairs with his bodyguard.

“Xi Mushan! How dare you hit me?”

Yue Lingsi teared up as she looked at Xi Mushan, unable to believe what had just happened.

Xi Mushan threw her a cold and frightening gaze before heading downstairs. “Today is the Elder’s birthday. Don’t blame me for being merciless if anyone causes any more trouble.”

“Xinyi, go and get your grandfather downstairs!”

He then proceeded downstairs as his assistant Ah Hui caught up with him.

“Go and take a look. Make sure to send her to the hospital.” Xi Mushan sighed quietly.

“Yes!” Ah Hui replied and went down swiftly, quickly rushing towards the direction of the backyard.