

Loving 311

Chapter 311. Absence Makes The Heart Grow Fonder (3)

Their affectionate battle lasted till it was close to dawn before the husband and wife fell asleep.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. He had spent the past few days missing her with a burning longing in his chest. Naturally, he would not let go of her so easily. This was the only way he could fill up the empty void he had felt for the past few days.

Initially, Xiaye was planning to speak to him after resting a while, but after his demands that knew no limits, she had forgotten all about it.

The silent night was very quickly chased away by the first rays of the morning sun. It felt like they had not slept for long before the sky started to turn bright outside. The warm beams of the morning light poured in through the window, and then slowly it moved. The soft, scattered light came in through the light-colored cotton curtains on the side...

A long while after morning arrived, the two of them were still curled up and asleep in bed.

It felt as if a century had passed before she slowly turned around in his embrace. He immediately subconsciously reached out to pull her in as he called out softly, "Xiaye..."

"Hmm?"

When she heard his low, raspy voice, she seemed to be awakened from her sleepy daze. She answered softly and opened her eyes, rubbing them before she looked at him. Then, he noticed that he was still in deep sleep.

Adjusting to a different timezone, he had said!

At first, she was already quite tired, and last night, they had tossed and turned around sleeplessly. Although she had said no quite a few times, he did not let her go. How could she not have immediately distinguished that he was a pervert hiding beneath his cold and distant appearance?

She breathed in deeply and watched him deep in his slumber. Then, she carefully moved his hand on her waist away. She got out of bed to pick up the clothes on the side and scratched her messy head of hair. After that, she walked unhurriedly to the bathroom.

Because he was sleeping pretty soundly, Xi Xiaye went straight downstairs to prepare breakfast after she was done washing up.

These past few days, she had learned two simple home-cooked dishes that they both liked from Shen Wenna. When she let Shen Wenna try it, she had declared her approval, so Xi Xiaye decided that if she were to cook in the future, she would only cook those two dishes.

She cooked chicken soup which was made with ingredients that she brought back from the Mu residence. Then, she cooked another two more side dishes, and that was about it. When she served the dishes, the man was still nowhere to be found in the living room. She was thinking about whether to go upstairs and call him down when suddenly there was the sound of footsteps from upstairs. She looked up and saw him walking down, still dressed in his pajamas although his messy black hair was still a little wet.

“Come over to eat.” Xi Xiaye wiped her hands, then handed the towel to him.

“What yummy food did you make?” Mu Yuchen took the towel and wiped his hands. He sat across her and looked at the dishes on the table. They all looked quite appetizing. Then, he stared at her in shock. “Did you sign up for cooking classes while I was gone?”

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye could not help but laugh as she raised her brows. “I’m taking this as a compliment from you!”

“I’ve been learning how to cook some dishes from Mother at the Shen residence. Even though this is a product of a lot of effort, I swear that I’ve worked very hard to learn. God knows I don’t have talents in such aspects, so it’s best for you to handle our future meals, Mr. Mu.”

He frowned and hesitated when he heard this. “No one’s asking you to be a good trophy wife and a loving mother. Just get two maids from the Mu residence.”

“I don’t want to. We can do it ourselves.”

Xi Xiaye took the soup he served as she answered, “Right, Ah Mo and Vice President Liu have already flown to City B. Ah Shi’s pretty much adapted to the entertainment club. If you’re free tonight, you should go over to take a look. Su Chen’s been coming over to help out these past few days.”

“I’ll go over to take a look tonight. Are you coming along too?” He answered, then continued drinking his soup.

She nodded. “Initially, I was planning to go take a look tonight, but there’s a tender meeting tomorrow, so I need to prepare for it. I’ve been getting people to check on the situation over at Qi Kai, and they seem to be quite confident. Qi Lei’s always socializing with the people from the government. I wanted to raise this to Father...”

“No need to tell him about this. Don’t worry. I’ll handle it.” He suddenly looked up at her and said, “You don’t have to tell them about the company matters.”

Xi Xiaye nodded. She knew how he was like; he would not tell Mu Tangchuan anything, just as how she would not open up to Xi Mushan.

“Yesterday, my father came looking for me. I had lunch with him. Unexpectedly, when we returned, I bumped into Xi Xinyi and her mother again.” She could not help but whine to him, “Every time I see them, I just don’t feel happy, especially when I see them with my father!”

“Mmm? What’s wrong? Are they causing trouble and making you angry again?” Mu Yuchen stopped what he was doing as he frowned slightly and demanded in a cold tone.

“Well, no. Yue Lingsi said that she came to look for me. I think it must be because of Xi Xinyi’s matter, but Father stopped them. Okay, let’s eat.” Xi Xiaye breathed in, then picked up her bowl.

“Just don’t let yourself be taken advantage of. Don’t be nice to them. If anything happens, just let me take it on.”

“Mmm...”

“Eat more. Later, I have something to show you!”

“What is it?”

“Finish this up. I’ll consider it a reward for you.”

“How insincere of you...”

...

Not long after lunch, Li Si and two black-clothed bodyguards came over. They brought all the things that he liked over there and had bought for her.

When she saw the sofa piled up with bags, she was dumbfounded.

She flipped through quite a few items and picked one up to put it against her body. She also wore a delicate jade bracelet on her wrist. Then, she looked up at him while he was going through some documents. She said calmly, “Mr. Mu, don’t you think that if I wear this color and match it with this bracelet, I’ll look a little mature?”

Mu Yuchen glanced up at her from his documents and nodded happily. “Mmm.”

Then, he continued looking down at his documents.

“What about this?” She picked up another apparel and gestured it about.

“Mmm, not bad too.” He looked up again and replied, “How bad can my wife’s judgment be?”

Then, he closed his document and took a brocade box out from the drawer of the coffee table and handed it to her. "Come here. I'll put it on for you to try."

"What is it?"

...

"It's pretty."

Admiring her casually pinned-up hair and the shine of the sapphire blue flickering about by her ear, he nodded with satisfaction. He looked at her with a profound gaze and suddenly said in a lowered voice, "Missus, let's take wedding pictures on the first of May, and then we have our wedding in June. I don't want to take too long."

He wanted to marry her grandly. That way, he could kill the intentions of those annoying admirers.

Chapter 312. Absence Makes The Heart Grow Fonder (4)

When he said this, she was startled and she peered up at him. Her eyes twinkled like the stars as they brimmed with a faint glimmer. A while after that, she muttered, "Didn't we decide on October first? We'll have more time then."

"I don't want to wait too long. It's not a bad thing to have our wedding. Just let Grandmother handle it, hmm?"

He held her hand, the faint gleam on her ring finger flickering gently. He gazed down, then held her tightly. "I want to marry you sooner. I want to let other people know that you're mine."

When Xi Xiaye heard this, her heart trembled. She slowly gazed down and let him hold her hands tightly till they hurt, but she did not say anything.

"If you don't say anything, I'm going to take it as a yes," he said, lifting his hands to hold her frail shoulders and pulling her gently into his embrace. He planted an emotional kiss on her forehead before he breathed in and said in a lowered voice, "That way, we can save the trouble. We have to do it sooner or later anyway, so it might as well be sooner."

“But...”

“No buts. You just have to be a bride when the time comes. You don’t have to worry about anything else. Hmm?” His voice was sensitive and gentle. It even carried a fatal seductiveness. His wise eyes that could see through everything were filled with a distant vortex. As she watched them, she found it hard to pull away. Instead, she fell deeply into his gaze bit by bit, and was extremely attracted to him.

He locked onto the gleam in her eyes and said tenderly, “I’ll give you a grand wedding. After the magnificent curtain call, our lives will return to this peace. Whatever anyone else has, you can have too.”

When he said this, Xi Xiaye felt her heart soften. She felt touched in a way that could not be described. With a deep inhale, she stared at him in contemplation. A while after that, she asked softly, “Why are you so...?”

“Because you are Missus Mu, the only official genuine one, the only one Mr. Mu acknowledges.”

She did not finish what she said when he answered. She could not deny that he could immediately see through her thoughts.

Even he did not know that they had such excellent chemistry between them.

Xi Xiaye almost laughed out loud at his words. She could not help but purse her lips and chuckle. All of a sudden, she threw herself onto him. “Only official genuine one? There must be a lot of pirated ones then. Say, did you womanize around on your trip this time? I heard that the women there are very enthusiastic. In fact, they’re all very pretty!”

“Mmm!”

When she threw herself onto him, he groaned and quickly reached out to catch her. “No, I returned to the hotel when I was done with work, Missus. Mr. Mu is one with his wife. He’s a good man that’s loyal to his Missus. Why would he go and provoke those commonplace women?”

“Do people really praise themselves like this?” Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes at him. She thought about it and said, “Would it be too rushed? If we have our wedding shoot in May, where should we take it?”

“Where do you want to go? Maldives or Bali? We can just go for a breather and relax. There’ll still be one to two months till the wedding, which will be enough time for preparation.”

He tilted his head casually to the side and lay down with his arm supporting his head as a pillow.

She lowered her body too as she looked at him and said, “Then, I’ll tell Grandpa and Mother.”

“Mmm,” he responded, and his arm around her shoulder tightened.

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The setting sun was dragging the faint twilight by the horizon as evening came around. Xi Xiaye was going to read a book, yet he dragged her off the sofa. He insisted on riding around the villa area.

Helpless, Xi Xiaye could only do as he wished. After one round, she was almost out of breath and her face dripped with sweat.

When the husband and wife returned to Maple Residence, the sky had darkened slightly. The world was a dull gray as the evening breeze blew gently and the streetlights had been switched on.

When they got home, the two of them swiftly took a shower and had a simple meal before they rushed out to Imperial Sky Entertainment Club.

The car sped all the way and rushed toward Imperial Sky Entertainment City with Xi Xiaye at the wheel.

Xi Xiaye who was focused on driving suddenly spoke up, “I talked to Ah Shi about her and Ah Mo. After that, I heard Ah Mo say that Ah Shi did call him. I think that she cares about him. When I spoke to her

the other day, I saw that when I mentioned Ah Mo, she was moved. I think that they must have been a pretty loving couple back then.”

“They were already thinking about getting engaged.”

His mood seemed to turn gloomy. “She’s a stubborn person too. Ah Mo didn’t have the heart to force her. All these years, I’ve taken everything in.”

“Mmm, but she’s quite a strong girl. When I see her, I think of myself,” Xi Xiaye sighed, “Such a good girl, yet she has to suffer all of this. I feel quite sad to witness this.”

As she said this, Mu Yuchen’s eyes darkened. When she unexpectedly turned to look at him, she caught his moody expression and her heart tightened. “Okay, let’s not talk about this anymore. It’ll all get better. No matter what, life goes on.”

Mu Yuchen reached out to hold his forehead as he sighed, “Mmm, don’t worry. I’m fine.”

Xi Xiaye nodded. “As long as the two of them can get back together again, everything might get better. There are many times when we make things worse because we are miserable, and even more so when we just can’t let go of some things ourselves. Take myself for example, I could’ve been more forgiving and not care too much. Then, I would’ve lived more peacefully and happily even though... Anyway, I still believe that there are many kind people who are still contented, such as us, Ah Mo, or Ah Shi...”

He could not help but admit that when it came to this woman, listening to her speak felt like a sort of delight. If he had not found the reasons he admired her or wanted her, then at this moment, he could clearly tell himself that her unyielding strength and optimistic must be a very important reason as to why he had been attracted to her.

She was clearly just a woman who had been pushed around in life, yet she wanted to use her little strength to influence and help others. Sometimes, he really did not know whether to call her silly or say that she was too ambitious!

She had bizarre energy around her, the kind that could make one more forgiving and optimistic when they saw her. All of this seemed to be what he needed. It was hard to imagine that after going round and round, he would find all of this within a little woman like her.

Nevertheless, whether it was out of habit or whether his admiration for her, he hoped that they could peacefully spend the rest of their lives together, work together, live together, get married, have children, and quietly wait for time to pass as they grew old together.

Chapter 313. Bump Into (1)

It was 8 p.m. when they arrived at the parking lot of Imperial Sky Entertainment Club. The lively nightlife was just about to begin. The multiple neon lights outside enveloped the city in a reverie.

The Entertainment Club was actually two clubs facing opposite each other. It was something similar to a street full of bars, but this street only had two super huge clubs.

It was crowded when Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye went into the club, and loud music was blaring from the speakers. Many waiters were walking around serving guests. There were also three people writhing on the stage in front.

Many youngsters were shuffling on the dance floor.

The club had two floors. The top floor consisted mostly of rooms which were all equipped with an impressive soundproof system. The music outside would not be able to reach inside the room, but one could still see what was happening below through the glass window. The setting of the room was similar to a karaoke room.

When the couple arrived at the room, Su Chen was already waiting inside. Su Chen's cousin and his wife, Su Hai and Xiaoying, were also there. They seemed to be pretty close to Mu Yuchen, addressing him "Bro Chen" and "Sis-in-law Chen" when they went in. It made Xi Xiaye feel a little embarrassed.

Su Chen dragged Mu Yuchen aside and started singing while Xi Xiaye just sat there and listened to Xiaoying's singing. Her voice was pretty melodious and she was really into the performance.

Xi Xiaye was not really fond of visiting places like this. Although she had come with Su Nan before, listening to Su Nan and Ruan Heng singing love ballads to each other was pretty interesting, but now, several men were drinking together and she was not really familiar with Xiaoying, so...

She tilted her body a little and looked down. Beside the stage, Mu Lingshi was working with the other DJ and the dancers, spinning some songs from time to time.

Mu Lingshi dressed as usual with her long, white shirt on the inside and a silver and black coat on top. Donning large, dark sunglasses and a black cap, she seemed pretty young and trendy.

Xi Xiaye's eyes shone as she suddenly stood up and went outside after giving it some thought. Mu Yuchen instantly noticed her getting to her feet, so he quickly looked at her.

Xi Xiaye pointed downstairs and Mu Yuchen gave her an understanding nod.

After a while, she walked past the long corridor and reached downstairs. The beats were really intense whilst colorful lights crisscrossed and rippled everywhere.

When Xi Xiaye found Mu Lingshi, she was standing aside and speaking with two managers on something. She waved to Xi Xiaye when she saw her. "That's that then. You guys can go work on it now."

"Noted, Manager Mu!"

The two people nodded before leaving. When they saw Xi Xiaye, they greeted her respectfully, "Hello, Director Xi!"

"Hello," Xi Xiaye replied them briefly.

"Sister-in-law? Why are you here?"

Mu Lingshi looked at her in surprise before waving her hands at the waitress beside the bar. Soon, someone quickly sent two glasses of wine over.

“I’m pretty bored, so I just came here to take a look.”

Xi Xiaye took the wine from Mu Lingshi. “Your brother came back late last night. He’s here today too. Are you used to the work here?”

“Is Brother back?” Mu Lingshi took off her glasses and seemed thrilled. “No wonder Bro Su Chen brought some people over. I’m fine. Things are alright here. It’s much more structured than when I was in France, and the managers here are very capable. I only need to give them minimal instructions. Where’s my brother?”

“He’s drinking with Su Chen and the others. I just came over to check on you. Do you want to join us?”

“Let’s go!” Mu Lingshi then went forward on her own.

When they arrived at the room, the men were all drinking happily.

“Lingshi, come here!” Su Chen greeted when he saw Mu Lingshi.

Mu Lingshi nodded as she glanced through the whole room. She swiftly found Mu Yuchen sitting on the sofa with some cards in front of him. She rolled her eyes at them. “Can you guys not always drink and play cards when you gather?”

Mu Lingshi went over and sat down beside Su Chen. On the other side, Xi Xiaye sat down beside Mu Yuchen.

“We were just talking about you and you’re here! Lingshi, I remember that you sing very well. During the singing competitions in high school, you always came out at the top among all the contestants, didn’t you? Even Xiaoying had to admit defeat.”

It was Su Hai talking. He was from the same batch of students as Mu Lingshi and Mo Xiaoying, and because of Su Chen’s relationship with Mu Yuchen, he was close to Mu Yuchen as well.

Knowing them well, Mu Lingshi offered a suggestion. "I'll give you guys a chance here. Doesn't Bro Su Chen have a marvelous voice as well? You guys can ask him to sing some songs, or you guys can play cards and whoever loses will sing. I'm sure you guys have done that a lot before, haven't you?"

"With what's going on, do we want to play truth or dare?" Su Chen touched his nose and chuckled. His eyes glanced over at Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye.

"I..." Xi Xiaye wanted to decline, but before she could answer, Su Hai and the others already started distributing the cards. She frowned as she looked at the man beside her.

He seemed calm as he glanced back at her and took a look at his card. The others were checking out their cards as well.

Feeling helpless, Xi Xiaye was forced to join the game.

For several games, it was always Su Hai and Su Chen. The questions everyone threw were odd and peculiar, and Xi Xiaye found out that Mu Lingshi could be pretty wild if she wanted to.

After another round, Mu Lingshi asked Su Hai who had lost, "Did you give your first time to your left hand or the right?"

Su Hai's face blushed as he coughed lightly. After a long hesitation, even his wife Xiaoying started laughing. "Be quick and tell us! We're going for another round!"

Su Chen stared at her with his sharp eyes. Su Hai was a little scared and quickly responded, "Left hand!"

"Pfft!" Mu Lingshi spat some of her drink out!

"So, you really rubbed it out yourself?"

"Lingshi, you're messing with me aren't you!"

“Haha!”

Chapter 314. Bump Into (2)

Xi Xiaye was surprised and almost could not react. After a while, she looked over to Mu Yuchen, who was still sitting there calmly with a smile on his face.

The next round, Xi Xiaye was “it” and it was Mu Yuchen’s turn to make a request.

“Bro Chen, make her kiss you right here!”

“No, Bro Chen, make Sister-in-law confess to you!”

“Chen, I think you should just ask Xiaye to give you a kiss!”

...

Xi Xiaye’s face looked a little strained as she looked at the man beside her, shooting him a warning glare.

Mu Yuchen’s expression was gentle. He grinned as he flicked the card with his finger. Then, he looked into Xi Xiaye’s eyes and asked in his deep voice, “Truth or dare?”

Stunned, she could not find the right words to say as she stared at him squarely in the eyes. After a while, she replied, “Truth...”

“Up until this point, who do you think’s better: him or me?” He asked quietly.

“Of course, you’re better!” Naturally, Xi Xiaye knew what he was asking about. It was not a difficult question at all. He was the one who treated her better anyway, so she replied almost instantly.

Mu Yuchen was satisfied with her answer. He nodded as the smile on his face grew wider. It was a pass.

Su Chen and the others were horrified.

“What? That’s it?”

“That’s obviously cheating, isn’t it?”

“No way. Do it again! Again! We’ll make sure they get it again!”

The whole bunch then started penalizing the couple. They used all sorts of tricks to catch Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye, and tried to ask her all kinds of embarrassing questions.

“How many times did you guys do it the first time with my brother?”

“I think it was two times.”

“It’s three!”

...

They were really having fun until an urgent knocking rapped on the door. The crowd froze and looked over at the door.

The one who came in was Mu Lingshi’s temporary assistant, Xiao Yu! He seemed frenetic and nervous when he came in.

“Director Xi, Manager Mu!”

Xiao Yu could only recognize Xi Xiaye and Mu Lingshi.

“What’s wrong?” Mu Lingshi noticed that something was not right with Xiao Yu, so she asked with a frown while she still held the cards in her hands.

Xiao Yu stopped beside her as he quietly said, “Something’s happened outside. A new waiter bumped into Master Qi’s female partner and poured drinks all over her. Moreover, they even broke his partner’s necklace, so he wants someone to compensate them and he wants to see our manager now.”

Mu Lingshi frowned as her eyes darkened. She put the cards in her hands down and stood up. Then, she took the sunglasses out from her pocket and put them on before heading outside.

“I’ll head over for a bit. You guys have fun.”

She left the room after saying that. Xiao Yu made an apologetic bow to Xiaye and the others before leaving and catching up with her.

“What happened?” Su Hai frowned after Mu Lingshi left the room. He glanced at the door and quickly looked at Mu Yuchen. “Is someone causing trouble? Things seemed pretty okay this few days. I didn’t see any conflict taking place.”

“That person just now seemed pretty anxious. It must be quite important. Should we go and take a look?” Mo Xiaoying asked in a worried tone.

Su Chen’s expression was calm. “Don’t worry. The current Lingshi isn’t the same Lingshi as before anymore. She’s not an easy opponent to deal with.”

Su Chen’s gaze locked onto Mu Yuchen when he was talking. He gave it some thought before continuing, “I kept watch for the past few days. Some people were causing trouble, but Lingshi dealt with all of them flawlessly. I can only say that I’m seeing her in a new light.”

Mu Yuchen put his cards down and his expression darkened slightly. After a brief moment, he asked, “Didn’t I ask you to keep watch on Qi Lei? Did he and his people do anything odd?”

Su Chen tensed up after Mu Yuchen spoke. His hands gripped the cards tighter before he threw them on the table and looked at Mu Yuchen.

“Qi Lei has been coming here very frequently. After Zimo called me, I came here almost every night, and I bumped into him every single time. He probably came tonight as well.”

Suddenly, Su Chen remembered something as he went over to the glass window. He opened the curtains and looked down as he continued, “I think Zimo’s analysis is right. He’s probably targeting Lingshi. His motive is questionable!”

Su Chen was watching outside, and he saw the situation underneath. Before Mu Yuchen could even reply, he called out to him quietly, “Chen, come over here and see what’s happening!” His voice sounded doubtful.

There were several people standing near the corridor beside the overly crowded dance floor. A lady in a pink dress with heavy makeup seemed to be scolding the waiter before her. She was even poking the waiter’s chest as she spoke.

The waiter was blocked by two bodyguards in black suits while he lowered his head and apologized. There was a man in a gray suit beside the lady.

With that evil-looking face and an odd grin, accompanied by a wicked aura all around him, who else could it be aside from the Master of Qi Kai, Qi Lei?

Another manager was trying to help out, but he was dragged aside by another bodyguard.

“Chen, isn’t that Qi Lei from Qi Kai? Tell me if that’s him!”

Su Chen’s face started to frown and his face turned cold. A harsh light flashed in his sharp eyes as he turned over and looked at Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen looked downstairs, cold light gathering in his eyes as they started to harden.

Chapter 315. Bump Into (3)

At this moment, Mu Lingshi swiftly headed downstairs.

“Manager Mu, that woman was really angry. Manager Liang said that he’ll take care of it, but that woman is persistent. She seems to be Master Qi’s fiancée. Manager Liang was afraid of offending Master Qi, so he asked me to talk to you,” Xiao Yu explained to Mu Lingshi as he walked behind her. “That woman demanded that all the managers of our club apologize to her. She’s being super unreasonable!” Xiao Yu seemed infuriated.

Mu Lingshi’s expression darkened. Her eyes behind the pair of large sunglasses turned cold as she put on a chilly smile. “She’d better not be messing with us. If not, I’ll make sure she knows what I’m made of!”

“Manager Mu, that’s Master Qi’s woman!” Xiao Yu pointed out worriedly. Mu Lingshi hastened forward.

“What now? Are you not happy? Do you know how precious this dress is? Lei bought it for me. Does everyone here have the same attitude as you? Do you think you can really compensate for this? Where’s your manager? I want to speak to your bosses!”

Enraged, the woman kept prodding the waiter’s chest. She looked like she was about to explode any second. Her trendy pink dress was drenched in alcohol and she looked kind of awkward.

The waiter before her kept on apologizing profusely, but it was not enough to ease the woman’s rage.

She had spent so much time and effort dressing herself up for a date, and with what just happened, her mood was absolutely ruined!

The woman was still berating the waiter. Mu Lingshi could not stand it anymore, so she went forward and grabbed the woman’s hand as the irate woman pushed the waiter away. Then, Mu Lingshi pushed her hand away fiercely.

“Who are you!? How dare you touch me? Get lost!”

The woman stumbled slightly and grabbed onto Qi Lei after Mu Lingshi flung her hand away. She barely managed to balance herself.

“We’ll compensate you however much your clothes cost, but do you really need to run your mouth and be this mean?” Mu Lingshi’s frigid voice reached the woman’s ears like a sharp needle. “Look for me if you have any issues. How much does your outfit cost? Name me your price.” She snapped in a cold and emotionless, official tone.

Mu Lingshi’s attitude towards people varied. She would never go soft on someone like her. Otherwise, the woman would just become more and more aggressive.

“Long time no see, Ms. Mu! Do you still remember me?”

Suddenly, Qi Lei, who had been watching the whole thing, spoke up. He sounded cheeky and he did not put on any particular expression.

Mu Lingshi lifted her head, noticing Qi Lei when she walked over. She had seen him around for the past few nights as well. Every time he came here, he would be with a big group of people, so it would be odd if she did not notice him.

“The well-known Master Qi, how could I forget you?”

Mu Lingshi laughed coldly before glancing at the woman beside her. “Your taste in women seems to have gotten worse. Are you okay being with a woman like her? You sure have a unique taste!”

“What now? After so long, you still speak so sarcastically, huh?”

“Lei, if she doesn’t know how to speak properly, then we’ll have to educate her well. Wearing such huge sunglasses at night, does she think she’s being mysterious? I can’t stand people like her...”

The woman was already offended by Mu Lingshi, and the degrading comment about her made her extremely uncomfortable.

Mu Lingshi glared at her before averting her gaze to Qi Lei. "What happened tonight is just a mistake from my employee. We'll compensate you. Plus, we've apologized anyway. If you want to cause trouble, I'll play along."

"How dare you talk like that?!" The woman yelled coldly as two bodyguards in black suits stepped forward.

"That's how I talk! What now?" Mu Lingshi stared at her coldly when the woman approached her. She raised her hand at the back as several club bouncers came near.

"Master Qi, do you really want to cause trouble at our place tonight?"

Mu Lingshi had an intense vibe around her. She was not at a disadvantage at all when facing Qi Lei. Instead, she pulled her sunglasses down slightly as she looked at Qi Lei with a cold smile.

A cold light flashed through Qi Lei's eyes when Mu Lingshi pulled her sunglasses down. He put on a grin. "It seems like it's not just a certain someone who has had it tough all along these years. I actually feel much better when I see you guys not doing so well. I wonder if Mu Yuchen could still remain calm when he sees your face?"

Mu Lingshi's expression changed as he shot Qi Lei an icy stare. "These things have nothing to do with my brother. You don't have to blame him. Those two idiots took it upon themselves!"

"Brother? Haha... Ms. Mu, I remember your brother's name is Mu Lingtian, isn't it? That's your real brother, and now you're calling Mu Yuchen your brother like he actually is. Don't you guys feel any sense of regret for Mu Lingtian's death?"

"We can't control life and death. Someone else should be regretful instead. Death doesn't mean you're able to avoid an issue. Furthermore, aren't you happy that Qi Feng died? You didn't really like him, did you? I'm sure you hoped that he'd disappear and the whole of Qi Kai will be yours! From what I understand, you should be really grateful for that accident. Why act like you're hurt about it? It's terribly fake," said Mu Lingshi as she slid her sunglasses back up.

Qi Lei's smiling face darkened when he heard Mu Lingshi. His eyes turned sharp as he glared at her and his voice sounded chilly as well. "You'd better not let me hear something like that again! Just how much people do you think Mu Yuchen has troubled?"

"If you still intend to cause trouble here, I don't mind saying even harsher things. I heard you're the Vice President of Qi Kai now. I almost forgot to congratulate you! It's really unfortunate. If Qi Feng was still alive, your father would've let him inherit the President's position already, wouldn't he? Sometimes, I really doubt that you're your father's biological child. Have you guys taken any DNA test?" Mu Lingshi was delighted to see the terrible expression on Qi Lei's face!

Chapter 316. Thank You, Missus (1)

Qi Lei's demonically handsome face turned cold. All over him, there was a hostility that shrouded him. Even his date could feel it clearly. She could not help but tremble and look worriedly at him.

"Hey, watch your mouth!"

That woman then glared at Mu Lingshi as she clung onto Qi Lei, yet he shook the girl's hand off. Icily, he walked up to Mu Lingshi and looked down at her while she remained fearless with her back straightened, staring right back at him.

A while after, Qi Lei was not angry and laughed instead. The bitterness on his face was instantly concealed as he sneered and nodded. "You're one with a gift of the gab!"

"I'm like that to certain types of people. Master Qi, if you're just here to whittle the time away and support this place, I, Mu Lingshi would welcome you very much, but if you're here to cause trouble, then don't blame me if I'm not courteous!"

Mu Lingshi's tone was resounding. When she said this, the few bodyguards behind him came up. Even Qi Lei's date could not help but pull at his sleeve, hinting at him. Then, she glanced down at her dress that was already turned to shreds.

"Cause trouble? You sure it's us looking for trouble and not your people who are useless? Otherwise, how would you explain this tonight? This dress is a limited edition. You might not be able to buy it even if you had the money! Hmph!"

The woman finally became so mad that she shot Mu Lingshi a look. Her tone was very sharp while her eyes were filled with disdain and condescension. She took a glance at the scar on Mu Lingshi's face that could not be hidden by the sunglasses, and her bright red lips curled up.

When Mu Lingshi heard that, her gaze darkened. She subconsciously examined the dress on the girl, and when she saw her disgusted eyes, her hands that hid under her sleeves clenched slightly tighter.

"What's wrong? Unhappy? Is there no one else in your club? How did they get someone so hideous to rouse the crowd? Aren't they worried that you'll scare the customers?"

When the woman saw Mu Lingshi's face that hardened, she laughed out loud delightedly. "How dare you talk about others? You should take a look at yourself!"

"Do you want to die?" Mu Lingshi's fists clenched tighter. Her beautiful eyes that hid beneath her sunglasses were already colored with a flash of coldness. She was worried that she would not be able to hold back her punch!

At this moment, Xiao Yu's voice came from behind. "Director Xi!"

"Hello, Director Xi!" Manager Liang's voice came through too.

Mu Lingshi subconsciously turned to look too. Then, she realized that Xi Xiaye was walking over, still on the phone.

"Okay, please send it over right away. Mmm, right away."

Then, Xi Xiaye nodded to Manager Liang and the rest. Her gaze very quickly fell onto the woman beside Qi Lei as she said plainly, "I've got the latest spring dress from Dior's XX series. Even though it's limited edition, that doesn't mean we can't afford to compensate you. The dress is being sent over right away. Miss, I'm sure you must be an honorable daughter of a prestigious family, but the way you bully others is a little overboard. Besides, I think Master Qi should know whose turf this is."

When Qi Lei saw Xi Xiaye, his faintly cold face suddenly flashed with a smile. He called out rather intimately, "Xiaye!"

Xi Xiaye frowned as she looked at Mu Lingshi whose expression could not be fathomed. She then reached out to gently hold one of her fists that was clenched tightly underneath her sleeve. Subsequently, Mu Lingshi took a deep breath and eased a little.

When Qi Lei saw that Xi Xiaye did not reply, he was not angry. Instead, he grinned and asked again, "Did you like the flowers I sent?"

"Thank you, Master Qi, for the kind thought. The flowers were too low quality, so I just gave them to the janitor of our Planning Department. I told you that I only accept roses that are made of gold or embedded with diamonds. Didn't you hear me right?" Xi Xiaye answered rather calmly.

"Who are you?! You're so..."

When Xi Xiaye responded that way, the woman's face instantly sank. She was about to say something more when Qi Lei pulled her away and walked up to Xi Xiaye. He stared at Xi Xiaye through squinted eyes for a long time, then smiled demonically as he whispered into her ear, "I didn't know you liked such tacky things. I like them too. Very well. I like that very much. If you're friendlier to me, I'll just forget about tonight. How about that?"

"I can get the bouncers to chase you two out. I can try if you don't believe me!" Xi Xiaye turned over slightly and said calmly.

"What a heartless woman! I came all the way here just to see you. I even dreamt of you every night! Why? Don't you believe me?"

Xi Xiaye did not wait for Qi Lei to finish. She just said, "Manager Liang, please see Master Qi out. I'll send this lady's dress over later on."

"Why are you so...?"

The woman's expression darkened. She wanted to curse her more when Xi Xiaye's resounding voice came through. "Didn't you hear me? Send them out!"

"Yes, Director Xi!"

Manager Liang and the rest were then shocked. They realized that quite a lot of people had started to pay attention to the commotion, surrounding them. In turn, they quickly responded.

"Master Qi, this way!"

Manager Liang braced himself as he walked up and indicated for Qi Lei to leave.

The smile on Qi Lei's face became wider, yet it looked rather sly. He lowered his body slightly and whispered into Xi Xiaye's ear, "Are you just going to embarrass me like that? To be honest, this is the first time I'm being this patient with a woman. Why can't you just see my sincerity?"

Xi Xiaye scoffed, turning away and not even bothering to take a look at him.

When he saw that Xi Xiaye did not respond, Qi Lei rubbed his nose and laughed demonically. "Okay, today I brought a vase out and caused trouble. Don't be angry. I won't do this next time, but don't you dare doubt my sincerity."

Then, Qi Lei straightened and faintly smiled toward a certain direction behind Xi Xiaye. Then, he abruptly turned and left.

When the woman saw Qi Lei leave, she groaned and then followed the black-suited bodyguards.

When she saw Qi Lei's figure vanish at the end of the walkway, Mu Lingshi turned to Xi Xiaye and asked softly, "Sis-in-law, do you know Qi Lei?"

Xi Xiaye lowered her gaze as it turned sharp. "We have some grudges."

Hearing this, Mu Lingshi nodded gently, pushing her sunglasses that slid down slightly up and contemplated for a moment. Then, she said, "If that is so, Sis-in-law, I hope that you won't get too close to someone like him. The Qi family goes deep... In fact, they have grievances with us Mu family..."

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye was startled. When she was about to ask something, there were already footsteps from behind.

"Bro!"

The two of them turned to look and saw that Mu Yuchen, Su Chen and the rest were walking over.

Before they got closer, Su Chen's voice was heard and it held a hint of hostile sharpness. "Have they left?"

Chapter 317. Thank You, Missus (2)

"They've left!"

Mu Lingshi's expression quickly returned to normal. She shrugged and looked toward the empty walkway. "He's become even weirder and unfathomable compared to a few years ago. I can't tell what his motives are."

Su Chen stopped in front of her and said, "If you could tell, he wouldn't be Qi Lei. Even I can't guess what he's thinking."

"Ah Chen, I think he might be here to target you. You should be more careful yourself. I've already been watching his entry and exit movements, hoping to find any hints."

Then, she turned to look at Mu Yuchen whose expression was calm as usual while his eyes shifted mysteriously. "Actually, that incident never ended. Once you returned, they could not hold back either. Okay, it's late. I'll be going back first. Same thing, if you need your bro, just let me know," Su Chen said, then lifted a hand to pat Mu Yuchen shoulder before he walked ahead.

...

After Su Chen left, the husband and wife returned to Maple Residence. Along the way, they did not talk much until they reached home and had a simple shower. Xi Xiaye began to prepare the documents for the tender meeting the next day.

“Actually, Qi Kai’s quite confident about this project too. They’ve spent tonnes of effort this time. They maintained a good partnership with the Han Corporation, which has been doing quite well in developing this place and they have a good reputation. The collaboration of those two companies is quite a huge pressure on us.”

Xi Xiaye kept the documents in the briefcase as she looked up at him casually lying on the couch in front of the shelves and reading.

“In fact, in terms of materials, Qi Kai seems to fare better than other companies, so I was thinking that even if we get this project, when it comes to project materials, the government might still consider Qi Kai. Take Qi Kai’s Lighting City for example. Almost a third of the entire City Z includes them. If they plan to develop according to the proposal, I can’t guarantee the government will immediately accept the musical fountain...”

Xi Xiaye did not continue, but Mu Yuchen understood what she meant.

“We’ll see what happens at tomorrow’s meeting. Even if that is so, that’s just a small part of it. Give that part of the proposal to them and let them squander it.”

Then, he closed the book in his hand and slowly stood up before walking towards her.

Xi Xiaye, who was tidying up, saw him standing by her side and looking at her with a darkened gaze, so she asked, “What is it?”

“Pack these things up tomorrow. We only start at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow, so let’s rest earlier tonight, hmm?”

He took the documents in her hand and set it aside on the table. Before Xi Xiaye could react, he had already grabbed her by the waist and was walking towards the bedroom.

The husband and wife lay underneath the blanket. Suddenly, Xi Xiaye asked while watching the muslin curtains that swayed gently above, "Are you unhappy? Because of Qi Lei?"

"Why do you ask that?" He answered very quickly.

"Because you've been frowning ever since we left the club. All the way you didn't talk to me either. I want to know what happened... Why would Qi Lei have such prejudice against you, and..."

As Xi Xiaye said this, she turned to look at him, yet she saw that he had already closed his eyes and did not respond.

When she noticed this, she could not help but feel a coldness flash through her. She sighed and did not continue as she watched him for a while, then turned away with her back facing him.

Quite a while after that, when Mu Yuchen did not hear her continue, he slowly opened his eyes and looked at her. When he saw that she had his back towards him, his eyes hardened. Without hesitation, he reached out and rolled her over, then pulled her into his embrace. "Are you angry?"

Xi Xiaye ignored him. She just struggled and pulled her blanket, yet he had locked her down firmly. "This isn't a good habit. You're not allowed to turn your back towards me..."

"I don't want to talk to you," she said, her tone clearly sounding upset and unhappy. Mu Yuchen could not help but chuckle at this. He slowly reached up to touch her head, and said softly, "I didn't say I won't tell you. Some things are too remote. You've got to let me think about how I should tell you about it."

"Then, why won't you tell me what's up?" She glanced up at him from his embrace.

"It's all unhappy things... I remember that I told you about Lingtian's accident before. Do you remember?" He said softly, his still eyes seeming vaguely sorrowful and dazed.

Xi Xiaye nodded as she said calmly, "It's Lingshi's brother. You said that he passed away in a car accident..."

“That night was a rainy night, and the roads were slippery. After the car brushed past a truck, it skidded straight down the steep slope. Lingtian passed away right away. As for the other two people in the car, one of them is Qi Kai’s eldest son and Qi Lei’s elder brother, Qi Feng. You might not have heard about him. He was a new performer in the business world and was pretty talented. He joined the business world a few years before me while I’d just retired from the military quite recently then. Grandfather arranged for me to further my studies in New York, and I was tasked to handle the branch company over there...”

Qi Feng!

When she heard this name, Xi Xiaye was startled. She had been paying attention to this name for the past few days. To say that he was the Prince Charming among the many young ladies who were from prestigious families in City Z would not be an exaggeration!

Just like how Mu Yuchen was right now!

Not only did he have an outstanding appearance, but he was also brimming with talent and was all-powerful in the business world.

“When we rushed over, we could only see that Lingtian had died horribly. He was lifted out by the police from the car while Qi Feng had gone missing. We heard that the Qi family had arrived in time and saved him. They said that Qi Feng was very severely hurt. After that, the Qi family just locked down all the news from being leaked outside, and then we didn’t hear much after that. There are many rumors that said Qi Feng didn’t make it back then. When the car accident happened, Lingshi and Ah Mo were in the car chasing them. After the truck smashed into Lingtian’s car, it crashed into Lingshi’s car, so...”

“You said that there were two other people in Lingtian’s car. One was Qi Feng, so who was the other person? How’s that person now? Did they pass away too?” Xi Xiaye very quickly caught onto the keyword.

When Xi Xiaye asked this question, Mu Yuchen’s arm around her waist froze. He was immediately shrouded in chilly air, and there was a gloominess that could not be concealed in his eyes.

Chapter 318. Thank You, Missus (3)

Xi Xiaye felt doubtful when she saw him like this. She just looked at him quietly as a warm light crossed her eyes.

He took a deep breath and closed his eyes. After a while, he opened them and returned to his usual calmness.

“It was a woman,” he said quietly as he looked at her genuinely. “Xiaye, I’m not looking into who’s at fault here, I won’t deny what I’ve done in the past as well. If telling you these can help you understand the truth better, I’m more than willing to tell you...”

She was stunned for a moment as she blinked several times. After giving it some thought, she seemed to understand something. “A woman? You liked that woman before? Or was she someone who loved you?”

He suddenly laughed as he studied her with his quiet eyes when he patted her head. He shook his head and said, “Nope, we’ve just met a few times. How could that happen?”

She narrowed her eyes at him and said, “Who knows? It might be love at first sight!”

“She likes Qi Feng, and if I’m not mistaken, Qi Lei was making advances at me most probably because of her. Qi Lei’s feelings for her were no lesser than Qi Feng. Back then, Qi Feng and Lingtian were good friends...”

As he was reminded about the tough past, his eyes darkened and he suddenly stopped talking.

After a moment of silence, Xi Xiaye said, “It’s fine. I won’t ask about this anymore. Whether you’re right or wrong about this, I’ll fully support you...”

“Why?” He asked as he looked at her smiling face.

Xi Xiaye smiled as she wrapped her arms around his shoulders and pulled him down. She left a soft kiss on his lips before whispering beside into ears, “Because what I want is very simple. As long as you’re good to me, I’d do anything for you.”

Her words were clear and her straightforwardness melted his heart. He hugged her tightly, his vision becoming clear as he looked at her. His voice turned gentle. "Thank you, Missus."

Those words were enough for him. There was a moment that he hoped he could have met her much earlier. Then, he would not have had to feel so lonely all this while.

"Didn't we talk about not saying those two words again?"

She smiled and poked his forehead playfully. "Don't be unhappy, Mr. Mu. You're always the undefeatable god in my heart. You're my faith..."

Her words turned his heart even softer. He felt comforted and touched.

It might be hard to believe, but he was not a person to feel easily touched, yet he had experienced this several times with her. Somehow, he discovered a lot of new emotions that were brought forth by her.

"Undefeatable god? Your faith, huh?" He repeated her words, yet his eyes never moved away from her pretty little face.

She nodded and looked at him seriously. "I hope that our life can be simpler and braver unlike my parents'. I told Lingshi not to let things wait too long and fight for the present, so I believe that being with you isn't wrong."

With just these words, it was more than enough for him to offer everything he had to treat her well. He should tell her that he would love her forever.

"Yes, it's not wrong. I won't let you feel that it's wrong," he mumbled quietly as he embraced her, and they stayed like that for quite some time.

He could not verbalize it, but at this moment, he felt sweetness rise inside. How he wished he could merge together with her!

After a while, she mumbled under him, “Mr. Mu, I’m finding it a little difficult to breathe.”

He swiftly came back to his senses and let go of her. He asked gently, “Did I hurt you?” He felt guilty when he saw her rubbing her arms.

She did not reply his question and said instead, “I said that you’re my god...”

Mu Yuchen nodded. “I know, Missus.”

“And then?” Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows as she looked at him intently.

Mu Yuchen was startled as he looked at her in doubt. “Then, what?”

“Shouldn’t you say that I’m your goddess?” She stood straight up and looked at him with a pout, putting up a tough front.

“Huh? Is that how it works... Ah!”

“Are you saying it or not?”

“Yes! You’re my goddess! Goddess...”

“Hmph!”

“Missus, your strength has reached another level. Let’s not play this ever again.”

“Mu Yuchen?”

“Hmm?”

“Can I ask you one last question?”

“Sure.”

“Is that woman prettier than me?” She was still feeling insecure.

“She has a very long way to go compared to you!” He replied almost instantly.

Xi Xiaye was finally at ease with his answer. After giving it some thought, “Mr. Mu, I have one last question. Is that woman your childhood friend?”

“I don’t have any young childhood friend. I have a super close friend though.”

He looked at her with a wicked smile on his face. “Who?”

Her face was strained as her eyes darkened. “You!”

...

It was 7 a.m. when the man woke up the next day. He woke up half an hour earlier than Xi Xiaye to go down to make breakfast after washing up while she continued sleeping.

She would let him handle all the kitchen work whenever he was at home since her cooking skills were mediocre anyway.

She changed into a plain-colored dress today, tying her long hair up. Unlike her usual days when she wore her business suit, she looked much more elegant.

He was satisfied with his own taste, glad to see that she looked great in the outfit he had bought for her.

When she came downstairs for breakfast, Mu Yuchen's quiet eyes glittered upon seeing her.

Chapter 319. Tender Meeting (1)

"What are you looking at? Do I look good in this?" Xi Xiaye put her briefcase on the chair as she did a turn in front of him. He handed her a napkin with a smile on his face.

"It looks good. The colors are great." He sat down.

Xi Xiaye laid open the napkin and started eating her breakfast.

Li Si appeared on time as the couple was done with their breakfast. There were also two bodyguards in black suits behind him.

"Good morning, Master, Missus!" They greeted respectfully.

Mu Yuchen nodded. He turned around and looked at Xi Xiaye who was checking on the documents again. "We'll head right over there. We're not going to the office."

"Noted, President Mu!" Li Si replied.

"Let's go." He grabbed Xi Xiaye's briefcase and handed it to Li Si before heading outside.

The car went straight to their destination. Even though they had done plenty of analysis and preparation, Xi Xiaye still could not help but feel anxious at this moment.

It was her first time handling such a tremendous project, after all. The huge amount of estimated tender she calculated gave herself a big shock.

Needless to say, a lot of money would be involved since it was a priority project from the government, but inside City Z, only the huge, capable companies would be able to take on this project. She saw the project listings. The total funds involved was eight hundred billion dollars, and the South River project took up nearly half of it.

The South River project she was handling was only a small part known as South River 1. The whole theme was to “build a new city in the south”.

Many industries were involved. Even after the proposal phase was over, there would still be a lot of work to do after that. They needed to invite partners and carry out many other miscellaneous processes, which was partly why Xi Xiaye wanted to delay their wedding.

However, since he did not want to, she did not have any objections as well as long as they were happy.

It was a quarter past nine when they arrived at their destination. They reached right on time.

The parking lot was full, and the entrance was heavily secured. They could only enter after a thorough identity check.

The tender was happening in the meeting hall on the 17th floor. There were several other big projects similar to South River 1 happening together, so a huge crowd was gathered.

The meeting hall was fully seated. The screen in front displayed the topic for the day while many important leaders from the government sat in front, including Xi Mushan. When he saw Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye, he gave them a curt nod, and Xi Xiaye smiled back at him.

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye’s seats were at the very front. As they sat down, they noticed the seats beside theirs were for Qikai, and that Qi Lei was right there!

Qi Lei gave Xi Xiaye a wide grin when he saw her.

Mu Yuchen did not see Qi Lei. Instead, he lowered his head and was looking through some documents Li Si had just handed him.

Soon, it was 9.30 a.m. Xi Mushan and the others on the stage stopped talking as the tender officially began.

The host started off with a round of greeting and introduction of the guests, eliciting a loud round of applause from the crowd.

“The one on your left is Wang Ziluo from the Wang Corporation. He just took over the company not long ago. They are pretty good. When the New Era Plaza just launched, Grandfather thought they were quite reliable, but for some reason, we didn’t really get to work with each other in the end.”

Xi Xiaye glanced over at the person beside Mu Yuchen as she told Mu Yuchen quietly.

“The Wang Corporation? Wang Ziluo? The guy who had a crush on you for many years?” He demanded.

Mu Yuchen only noticed the person beside him when she mentioned him. He saw Wang Ziluo was leering at Xi Xiaye and it made him displeased. He put his arms over her shoulder, exerting his dominance on the spot.

Xi Xiaye glared at him and pushed his hand away. “It’s a public venue. Be more serious.”

“What now? I’m very serious and calm right now. Smiling at you like that seemed silly. I hope you don’t like him...”

“I’m not talking about that! I’m reminding you to keep an eye on them. We need to look for partners in the future. They can be an excellent choice.”

“I notice that you’re really a man magnet, aren’t you? Didn’t you tell them that we’re married? The ring on your hand is just for show, huh?”

Mr. Mu was really irritated with Wang Ziluo. As he wanted to shoot daggers at him, the host finished with the introductions. Coming up was the South River 1 project.

The host spoke through the mic, “Bidders, please confirm your documents once again. Check if it’s undamaged, and sign it before submitting it to us. Otherwise, we’ll assume that it’s fine by default. All the bidders for the South River 1 project, please come forward!”

Mu Yuchen glanced at Xi Xiaye, who nodded at him and went forward. At the same time, Qi Lei went together with her.

It only took Qi Lei a few steps to catch up with Xiaye. The two of them walked beside each other for a couple of seconds when Qi Lei asked quietly, "Do you think Qi Kai or Glory World will win this time, Xiaye?"

"Won't you know when the results are revealed?" Xi Xiaye replied coldly.

"Xiaye, you have a huge misunderstanding towards me. Because of you, that woman nagged me throughout last night, and I endured all of it. Geez, can't you be friendlier to me?"

Qi Lei grinned. When he looked at her serious face with her pink cheeks, he thought that she was really cute.

Xi Xiaye stared at him. "I can't be friendly to people that I hate, Vice President Qi. I notice that you're quite a narcissistic person!"

Qi Lei's smile grew even wider and Xi Xiaye looked away. She checked the document again before signing it.

Without looking at Qi Lei again, she turned around and went back.

As she passed him coldly, Qi Lei touched his nose. He turned around and looked at her back. Instead, he caught sight of Mu Yuchen's deep, dark eyes.

Chapter 320. Bid Meeting (2)

There was suddenly the smell of gunpowder in the air, especially with Qi Lei's eyes that suddenly turned cold and sharp. Xi Xiaye was startled by this sight too. She looked at Mu Yuchen, and he seemed calm. He only took one look at Qi Lei before he lowered his gaze and continued flipping through the documents in his hand.

Xi Xiaye quickly returned to her seat.

The bidders upfront promptly finished confirming the documents and signing them. Then, the host announced that all of the bidders' documents were valid.

"Next up, I'll invite the staff to open the bidders' documents according to the time that they handed it in, and then deliver it to the notary office for inspection."

The moment the host finished, those tightly sealed documents were opened and delivered to the rostrum upfront for the leaders to browse and examine.

Xi Mushan was very seriously browsing through the documents in his hand. From time to time, he discussed something with the people beside him.

"There are many companies joining the tender this time. Over there is Kang Wei Co. I heard that they had a very close working relationship with Qi Kai previously, but because of a project, they fell out, so now the two companies seem to have a very fragile relationship."

Being observant was a necessity for them in the business world, so Xi Xiaye was very sensitive to such information.

Mu Yuchen looked up from the documents and said plainly, "There's no such thing as enemies forever in the business world. Neither is there anything such as friends forever. Only interest is forever."

Xi Xiaye nodded in agreement. "You're not wrong; such as how Glory World has had many close partners in business all these years, but we've also become a thorn in the side of many companies."

Mu Yuchen understood what Xi Xiaye was implying. She turned to look at him and saw that Qi Lei was saying something to his assistant, yet his gaze kept looking over to them.

"Master Qi, Mu Yuchen returned yesterday night. I've confirmed that he is indeed married to Xi Xiaye. This morning, I called the Civil Affairs Bureau to confirm that. In fact, this South River 1 project has been left in Xi Xiaye's hands throughout and I heard that she had made the proposal very early on. Mu Yuchen appreciated her very much." Assistant Yang Sheng was glancing over at Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye at the moment as he reported.

“Such difference in treatment!” Qi Lei watched them, yet he faintly smiled as he rubbed his nose.

Yang Sheng hesitated and could not help but express his opinion, “Master Qi, they’ve registered for their marriage at the end of last year. If I calculate the time, it should be after Han Yifeng proposed to Xi Xinyi. I remember it back then... Do you think that there’s an inside story to their marriage?”

“Inside story? What inside story could there be?” Qi Lei listened and immediately squinted at Yang Sheng. “I can see that this Mu Yuchen is very sweet to her, but...”

This woman was quite interesting. She was very different from all the women he had met before.

When Qi Lei thought about this, he could not help but stare contemplatively at Xi Xiaye again.

“Master Qi, if we can get the South River project this time, it’ll be a slap in Mu Yuchen’s face. Glory World and the Li Corporation developing a Movie City has made the President very upset. The Li Corporation doesn’t know how to appreciate favors. Previously, the President has tried to meet up with them quite a few times, but they vaguely rejected, and now they are unexpectedly collaborating with Glory World.” As Yang Sheng spoke, he started to look sour too.

“The Li Corporation and Glory World do have a pretty solid relationship. It’s the old man who’s indulging in his wild imaginations, so it’ll do him good to be a little angry.”

“Master Qi, do you think Glory World...?”

“Don’t ask too much. Just watch and you’ll know.”

Qi Lei saw that Mu Yuchen did not even care about them. He remained casual and calm, yet he could not help but feel angry although he concealed it well. His grip tightened onto the table before him and he lowered his gaze to conceal that flash of coldness. There was even hatred!

Before they could have any further thoughts, the host began the fifth agenda of the meeting.

“Now, we will begin to call for bids. We have our first bidder, Kang Wei Co. Their bid is XXXX million with an estimated completion date of XXX days. The quality of the project qualifies.”

“The second bidder is Zhongyu Huaxin Group. Their bid is XXXX million...”

...

When the host read such huge amounts of bids, everyone gasped. After all, with such a huge project, the funds that needed to be allocated would be a surmountable number.

With quite a few companies down, their bids did not vary much, so the difference was not very drastic.

Xi Xiaye watched the data and information on the electronic screens. From time to time, she would discuss with Mu Yuchen beside her. “It looks like the bids are about the same. So are the project completion dates too. Zhongyu Huaxin Group was still a medium-sized firm a few years ago. Unexpectedly, they’ve been developing rather quickly in recent years.”

“They’ve been going through intense reforms in the past few years. They are specialized in developing, so they’re pretty stable.”

...

“The seventh bidder, Glory World Corporation with a bid of...”

“The eight bidder, Qi Kai Corporation with a bid of...”

When the host finished reading out the final two companies, the whole place fell silent!

When she heard the announced figures, Xi Xiaye could not help but raise her brows in surprise. She looked at Mu Yuchen. “This is not the proposal I prepared. Did you...”

“I made some slight changes. Let’s see the results.” Mu Yuchen was calm as usual.

When they confirmed the signatures once again, it was time to review the bids. The crowd fell silent for a while, then everyone began to whisper to one another.

Quite a while passed before the host began to speak again. “This time, we’re using the average scores to review the bids. The judging will be based on the bids, skills and capability, and the promise of service. We will run the average score, and the scoring rules are as shown on screen. Ladies and gentlemen, the final results are out. Announcing from the highest to the lowest score, in first place is Glory World Corporation with an overall score of 98.2. Second place goes to Qi Kai, with an overall score of 98. In third place...”

When the host read out the scores and she heard Glory World was first, Xi Xiaye’s eyes immediately lit up. She could not help but grin and turn to Mu Yuchen, who smiled calmly at her.

“How wonderful, Mr. Mu!”

She smiled in delight and her eyes looked at him, filled with an admiration that could not be concealed. “How did you know? Did you make some changes? Previously, didn’t you hand in that document? This sounds like the data we came up with at first. You...”

“Missus, you’ve worked hard, but I still trust in my first instincts.”