

Loving 411

Chapter 411. Dowry For Xiaye (3)

“Who told you that his baby at home is his wife?”

Mu Yuchen pulled a chair out for her, and she sat down as she let her long, black hair down casually. She looked just like an ordinary girl when she was in her casual clothes.

She had recovered considerably compared to her gloominess several days ago.

“It’s not?”

“You’re the baby in our house. The baby in his house is a Persian cat.”

Mu Yuchen sat down opposite her, extending his arm over and slicing the steak up for her. She was pleasantly surprised when he delivered a piece of steak right into her mouth.

She ate it without any resistance.

“Grandfather’s matter is settled now. Li Si just came over and delivered the folder Grandfather gave you the last time. Inside it is the dowry he prepared for you,” spoke Mu Yuchen as he continued cutting the steak up.

Xi Xiaye was suddenly reminded that Xi Jiyang had mentioned leaving her some dowry since he was unable to attend her wedding.

“What is it?” she asked.

Mu Yuchen heard the sorrow in her tone, so he raised his head and looked at her. He fed her another piece of the steak. “It’s the ownership of West Park, as well as several lands in the east of the city. They are all pretty valuable. Grandfather made some arrangements with Lawyer Wang and those are all yours now. Sign your name on the document and Li Si will get stuff done for you.”

Ownership of West Park!

Stunned, Xi Xiaye's eyes turned blank as she looked at Mu Yuchen's eyes in shock.

"This is his compensation for you. Just take it and let him rest easy. Sign your name on it later. Those women are hunting for it. Ha, they think these are with Father now."

Mu Yuchen poured her a glass of wine after he finished cutting up the steak.

"Grandfather..." Xi Xiaye wanted to say something. However, as the words were teetering on the verge of her lips, she did not know what else she could say. Instead, she clenched her grip on the fork and then nodded slightly after a while.

"I'll sign it later. Please get Li Si and the others to work on it." She then sipped some wine.

"Grandfather also left Mother a letter. Give it to her when you're heading back to the Shen Residence. It's inside the folder."

"A letter?" Xi Xiaye shot him a doubtful look.

Mu Yuchen could already guess what it was about without reading it. It must be about the past, and with Li Si's investigation, he already knew exactly what had happened. Because of it, he felt that it would be best if Shen Wenna and Xi Mushan could get back together.

As for Xi Mushan and Yue Lingsi, he did not want to comment on it. Being a man himself, he could only say that he respected Xi Mushan like a father. Like Xiaye, he wished for Shen Wenna and him to be happy.

"I'll go back to the Shen Residence tomorrow then. I'll head to the office in the afternoon."

“It’s up to you. We’ve delegated all the work in the office anyway. Li Si will be busy working with Vice President Liu for the next few days. Please be my temporary personal assistant.” He laughed as he handed her a napkin.

Xi Xiaye stared at him, taking the napkin. “Why me? Didn’t you just get two new secretaries?”

“They’re not used to the job yet. Our wedding is coming up soon. What’s wrong with us communicating more? Aren’t you happy to be working with me?” Mu Yuchen squinted, analyzing her with his dangerous gaze.

While her expression seemed gentle, she rolled her eyes at him. After a while, she said, “Mr. Mu, people say that distance can create more sweetness.”

“Don’t listen to that unhealthy nonsense. Distance creates a third party. A relationship will only become stronger if the couple is always together,” he replied self-righteously.

“A third party? Are you someone like that, Mr. Mu?” She narrowed her eyes this time with a warning gaze. “If you dare to do so, I’ll end you, and then pour acid all over the woman’s face. Afterwards, I’ll get someone to curse you both!”

“That wicked?” Smiling, he gave her a very sweet gaze.

“Yes! I’m a wicked witch.” She then went on enjoying the steak.

Mu Yuchen stopped his movements and just looked at her quietly for a while. His long fingers snuck nearer and pushed the hair that got stuck on her face away. His tone of voice was sensual and serious. “Mr. Mu belongs exclusively to this witch. Don’t ask such silly questions anymore.”

“It’s a serious question. Why do you think it’s silly?” Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows before she raised her wine glass.

He raised his wine glass at the same time as well. “Because it sounded silly...”

“Damn it!”

...

Xi Xiaye did the dishes after dinner while Mu Yuchen went upstairs for a shower. He came out of the bedroom in his sleeping robe by the time she was done.

“Come and take a look. Sign it,” he said as he walked into the study room.

Xi Xiaye dried her hands and then went into the study room as well.

He stood beside the tall bookshelf and grabbed the folder. Then, he pointed at the table and she understood, so she went over.

“Take a look by yourself. I’ll give it to Li Si tomorrow after you’ve signed it. Are you okay going back to the Shen Residence alone?” He handed her the documents.

“Are you coming to the Shen Residence for lunch?” she asked as she took the documents from the folder.

“It depends. I’ll call you.”

Xi Xiaye was surprised again when she read through the documents. She never expected Xi Jiyang to...

She signed it after some hesitation.

Xi Xiaye looked at the letter for some time before asking, “What do you think Grandfather wrote to Mother?”

“You’ll find out when you read it to her tomorrow.”

She kept all the documents into her briefcase. Then, he continued, "Ah Mo is going abroad in two days. Lingshi just mentioned that she wants to hang out with you and Su Nan."

Chapter 412. Start Over (1)

Ah Shi and Nan Nan?

When he mentioned this, she then remembered that because of Shen Wenna and Xi Jiyang's recent matter, she had been mentally and physically exhausted, so she almost did not have time to meet up with them.

Su Nan seemed to have fallen ill with a cold and fever recently. Thankfully, Ruan Heng came back in time. Otherwise, Xi Xiaye would have been quite worried too.

Su Nan still blamed herself for Shen Wenna's incident. On the day Shen Wenna was discharged from the hospital, she went over even though she was sick. After that, Shen Wenna had to get Lan Zilang to personally send her home.

Xi Xiaye wanted to meet up with her to chat too. Given Su Nan's personality, even though she was usually quite carefree, if she were to clam up because of her problems, she could be quite a headache to deal with.

"Then, I'll go see them tomorrow evening. You drive yourself to work then. Tomorrow..."

"Oh, right, how have Ah Shi and Ah Mo recently been? Did she really go with Ah Mo?" Xi Xiaye suddenly thought about this.

Mu Lingshi seemed to be in a rather good mood recently. In fact, she did not seem quite as distant from Ah Mo as before. Naturally, she was delighted for them when she saw this.

Nevertheless, when this was mentioned, his eyes dimmed a little despite a gentleness on his face. "Ah Mo still needs to work harder."

When she noticed that him being rather down, she could not help but softly console him, “Ah Shi is actually a very sensitive and meticulous girl. As long as Ah Mo works a little harder, he’ll be able to warm her heart and move her. Don’t worry.”

Suddenly, she remembered what she had asked Detective Zhang to investigate. It seemed to have been quite a long time now, yet she had not heard any news from Detective Zhang.

In regards to the Qi family and Qi Lei, every time she thought about it, she felt like she was in a weird and unpredictable position, so she felt worried, though she was more concerned about him.

She fell silent for a while, then she suddenly looked up at him. She watched him take a book down from the shelf with a calm expression. As he was flipping through it, he did not answer her.

She sighed to herself, then abruptly got up and took the book in his hand. She put it back onto the shelf and frowned to say, “Okay, let’s rest earlier tonight. I haven’t been seeing you rest for these past few nights when I woke up in the middle of the night.”

He raised his brows and looked meaningfully at her, then he chuckled. “Feeling sorry for me?”

Ignoring him, she just hurled out her arms and pushed him out. He then grinned and bent over to pick her up. “Can you satisfy me tonight then?”

“Why do I find you more and more indecent now? Like a pervert!”

“If you’re on the receiving end, I’ll accept the title.”

“You...”

“We haven’t done it for quite a few days now. Aren’t you worried that our lives will be in disharmony?”

“I’m worried that we’re too much in harmony...”

“That’s a good thing, Missus!”

...

When they woke up the next morning, it was already past 10 a.m. The man had already left early for work. When Xi Xiaye finished washing up and went downstairs, breakfast was already waiting on the table.

After she rushed to finish breakfast, she made her way to the Shen residence.

The weather was not great. It was drizzling and the ground was wet.

When she reached the Shen residence, Shen Wenna was sitting on the sofa in front of the window and feeling through a notebook. Upon going over to look, Xi Xiaye realized that it was a book in Braille.

Shen Wenna felt one word at a time very seriously. Her expression was still and elegant as always, and she seemed very peaceful, not like someone who had gone through a lot of suffering and was wallowing in self-pity.

When Xi Xiaye saw this, she wanted to cherish her mother even more.

She stood and watched her for a long time before she walked over and helped her pick the notebook by her feet up. As she took the book, she said, “Mother, you don’t have to read these. We will find a way to heal your eyes. Don’t worry.”

“Xiaye...”

Shen Wenna lifted her head in surprise. Her unfocused eyes flickered for a while as she tried hard to get a clear look of Xi Xiaye, yet all she could see was still darkness.

“Why are you back here? Aren’t you working? Today?”

Shen Wenna subconsciously moved over, while Xi Xiaye slowly sat down close to her, she flipped the book in her hand and said, "I'll be going to work in the afternoon, our wedding is getting near, Mu Yuchen didn't let me take charge of any projects, so I'm quite free actually."

The moment Xi Xiaye finished, a familiar voice suddenly came from the kitchen. "Na Na, do you want tomatoes in your soup or do you want an omelet?"

That voice!

Father!

Xi Xiaye widened her eyes, turning reflexively to where the voice came from. She realized that Xi Mushan was standing at the kitchen door with a spatula!

"Father! You..."

Xi Xiaye looked at Xi Mushan in disbelief. She had just given him the key card yesterday and today he was here. Was he not a little too impatient!?

Thankfully, she just heard that Mu Yuchen and Shen Yue had gone to the South River. Otherwise, if he had known that she was going to be back, Shen Yue would have come home for lunch, then they would have bumped into each other, would they not?

His hand that was swollen from Shen Yue's hit a few days ago had started to heal slightly.

When he saw Xi Xiaye, warmth clearly surfaced in Xi Mushan's eyes. "Xiaye? You're back!"

"I came back to see Mother."

As Xi Xiaye spoke, she subconsciously turned to look at Shen Wenna, yet she saw that her expression remained calm as she ignored Xi Mushan.

Xi Xiaye pursed her lips, then she said to Xi Mushan, "Father, make tomato egg soup. Drinking more soup will do Mother good."

That was how she managed to resolve Xi Mushan's awkwardness. Xi Mushan nodded, then went back into the kitchen.

"Mother, when did Father come over?" Xi Xiaye probed to ask.

Shen Wenna's elegant little face turned poker straight as she said coldly, "Early in the morning after your grandpa left the house, he came over. How shameless! And I couldn't chase him away. Aunt Wu coincidentally had some matters too, so she left and he stayed to make lunch."

Shen Wenna's tone was hostile, yet Xi Xiaye could not help but laugh to herself at this sight. After she calmed down, she said, "Father wouldn't have been guarding outside the door and then sneaked in when Grandpa left, did he?"

"He's just the same as before. Shameless! Wait till your grandpa gets back. He'll really get it then!" Shen Wenna had a cold expression on her face and she looked rather annoyed.

Xi Xiaye cleared her throat as her smiling face brimmed with a rare gentleness. She softly said to Shen Wenna and then set the book aside on the table, "Mother, actually it's great for Father to come over too. You'd be pretty bored staying alone at home. When he comes over, he can cook for you and pass the time with you. What's so bad about that?"

Chapter 413. Start Over (2)

When Xi Xiaye said this, Shen Wenna could vaguely hear the joy that could not be concealed in her voice. She wanted to say something, but she did not continue.

"Mother, actually, sometimes when I see Mu Yuchen cook at home, I remember the time when the three of us were by the beach. He reminds me of Father."

When Xi Xiaye turned to look at the kitchen, she could vaguely see Xi Mushan's busy shadow inside, her heart was warmed, and she immediately thought of Mu Yuchen, she could not help but voice out her thoughts.

As Shen Wenna heard this, she smiled. Obviously, she could hear the tenderness in her voice.

In fact, it seemed to be the first time that Xi Xiaye spoke about such matters of the heart in front of Shen Wenna.

“Isn’t that quite good then? Your husband is a man that loves you deeply, can be your mentor, and can love you like a brother or father. This is what every woman yearns for.”

When the topic of the matters in her daughter’s heart came up, Shen Wenna became gentle. She seemed to have a deep understanding of it.

“When I was younger, I was proud and arrogant too. I thought that when I chose a husband, he should be an optimistic person. Not only would he have the scholarly manner of a philosopher and would be multitalented, but he would also have the extraordinary attitude of a gentleman. In work and life, he would interact with me like a close friend. He would understand me, and I would understand him. We’d help each other in simple circumstances. That was my dream husband.”

When Shen Wenna said this, she suddenly chuckled softly. She reached out to search for a while before she found Xi Xiaye’s slightly cold hands which she held gently. “Back then when I saw Mu Yuchen, he gave me such a feeling, so I’d always thought positively of your relationship. A man like that might know how to care for you better.”

“Father seems to have been like that too back then, was he not? I heard that the two of you were University A’s perfect pair, an ideal couple. Father also had a scholarly charisma and was multitalented.”

Xi Xiaye stared stunned at Shen Wenna. As she spoke, she could not help but tug at her long hair a little defeatedly. “Mother, Grandpa always told me that she really suspected whether I was your biological daughter. You and Father clearly excelled at your studies. How did you give birth to a daughter so terrible at studies? Even Mu Yuchen is good at studies.”

“Just treat it as an example of how once a certain limit is reached, a reverse is inevitable. If you aren’t my daughter, would you look exactly like me?” Shen Wenna smiled as some warm light slowly surfaced in her hollow eyes. “When I had you, you were the most tormenting child in the womb ever. I needed to constantly visit the hospital for checkups. Your father thought we almost couldn’t keep you. Your movements never stopped.”

“I know about that. I’ve troubled you, Mother. After that, Father never agreed for me to have another younger brother or sister, so it was only me.”

“You and Ah Chen can have one or two little ones. The Mu family also only has one heir. Who wouldn’t hope for their families to flourish with more children? With Ah Chen’s personality and the Mu family, if you got pregnant, you’d be cherished carefully and doted on from the bottom of their hearts.”

As Shen Wenna spoke, she gently patted Xi Xiaye’s hand. “You’ve been married for almost three months now. Why hasn’t there been any news?”

When this was brought up, two clouds of pink blush colored Xi Xiaye’s fair cheeks. She reached out to caress her flat belly while she pursed her lips and did not answer.

“Eat more tonics for your health. You’re quite stressed too and you’ve been working so hard. You have to know how to take care and love yourself.”

The mother and daughter rarely spoke with such calmness and without barriers. Xi Xiaye suddenly felt like Shen Wenna seemed to have changed in temperament after she lost her sight. She was never like that before. She used to be a little cold and distant, and hard to get close to.

“Mmm, I will, don’t worry, Mother. Have some water. I’ll go take a look at what Father has cooked. Later, I’ll get Mu Yuchen to come back for a meal.”

Xi Xiaye poured Shen Wenna a cup of water and handed it to her, then she walked to the kitchen.

In the kitchen, Xi Mushan was moving about in front of the stove. When he saw Xi Xiaye walk in, he asked, “Why aren’t you chatting with your mother? There’s quite a lot of smoke in the kitchen. Why did you come in?”

“Father, you... Are you really determined on getting Mother back?” Xi Xiaye leaned against a cupboard and fixed her eyes on Xi Mushan who was stir frying a dish.

When he heard his daughter's question, Xi Mushan paused. He turned to look at Xi Xiaye and sighed as he said, "Obviously, I am. Even if she won't accept it, I should be taking care of her."

"Don't worry. I can feel that Mother still has feelings for you, so you have to persevere. On Grandpa's side, Mu Yuchen previously suppressed his fury temporarily, so he won't interfere between you and Mother... Actually, I didn't think that you'd really come over. When Mu Yuchen and I discussed this, we were quite uncertain." Xi Xiaye sighed, lowering her gaze and thinking for a moment.

Then, she continued again, "Actually, long before Grandfather left us, he came looking for me and told me not to blame you... Now that Grandfather's gone, I realized that many grudges aren't actually that important. After you and Mother got divorced, I've always hoped that you two can get together again. Mother has never been able to forget you."

"Did she tell you that?" When he heard Xi Xiaye say this, Xi Mushan's eyes suddenly ignited with some hope, he turned and fixed his eyes on her.

"She said that she's given you all of her..."

"Your mother's a good woman, so good that sometimes I don't think I match her."

Xi Xiaye laughed bitterly. She pursed her lips. Seeing his desolate expression, she said, "I heard that in relationships, there's no such thing as compatible or not. It comes down to willingness."

"No matter what, I hope that you two can get back together again because I know that all these years, Mother has actually been very lonely too."

She suddenly felt that the atmosphere was a little too heavy. Reluctant to continue, she changed the topic.

"Okay, let's not talk about this anymore. Grandfather gave the property rights to West Park and some land in the east of the city to me. I know that they must have gone to look for you for the past few days, so you can just tell them that I've already signed the document and acknowledged it. If there's anything they are unhappy about, they can come to look for me. They don't have to bother you or continue latching onto you."

Xi Xiaye had already expected that if Deng Wenwen and the rest knew about this, they were going to explode in fury again. She could even imagine all the women's expressions when they found out.

Chapter 414. Start Over (3)

After Xi Mushan finished preparing the dishes, Xi Xiaye called Mu Yuchen and found out that he had lunch with Shen Yue outside, so the three of them enjoyed the lunch instead.

From what she recalled, the last time the three of them had shared a meal like this was almost more than 20 years ago.

That was already such a distant memory.

Now that they could relive such moments again, she felt quite emotionally stirred.

Throughout it all, Xi Mushan had carefully taken care of Shen Wenna, picking out the fish bones, spooning the food for her, wiping away the residue of soup at the corner of her mouth...

Xi Xiaye did not say anything. She silently watched Xi Mushan and Shen Wenna across her. She took in all their movements that were full of chemistry and could not help but feel a pang of sadness and tenderness.

It was not sure whether it was because Xi Xiaye, their daughter was present, but Shen Wenna did not reject Xi Mushan serving her, she silently lowered her head and ate the food in her bowl, but she did not say anything to Xi Mushan, instead, Xi Mushan spoke up from time to time.

After lunch, Xi Xiaye went straight back to the office while Xi Mushan remained in the Shen residence to accompany Shen Wenna. Of course, before she left, she handed the letter that Xi Jiyang gave her to Shen Wenna, but Shen Wenna did not open it. She just quietly kept it away.

The afternoon sky was still gloomy. The horizons held hints of rain whilst both sides of the walkway were filled with pedestrians rushing through with their umbrellas.

Xi Xiaye's car drove underneath the cold rain and went to the parking spot before the Glory World Corporation plaza.

...

Xi Xiaye had just reached her office and sat down when Xiao Mei walked in.

"Director Xi, Qi Kai's Vice President Qi came over. There's a document that needs to be discussed for amendment. VP Zhang Lan and Chairman Mu are doing inspections at the South River, so they asked you to review it on behalf of them."

Xi Xiaye frowned slightly and subconsciously looked up to see Qi Lei standing casually behind Xiao Mei. However, his handsome face seemed a little pale.

She hesitated momentarily before pointing to the sofa on the side. "Have a seat!"

Xiao Mei knowingly came up to steep the tea while Qi Lei sat down on the sofa. Xi Xiaye sat leisurely across him too.

Her assistant, Xiao Mei, left after steeping the tea.

"What document is it? Let me take a look," Xi Xiaye said plainly.

Cough cough!

Just as Xi Xiaye said this, Qi Lei suddenly coughed severely. His eyes filled with a demonic air and contained some fury as he glared at Xi Xiaye.

It was all because of this annoying woman!

Initially, his cold had not been getting better. After being caught in the rain that day and being tormented by her like that, he suffered a high fever for quite a few days upon his return. Following that, his cold became more severe. He had been staying at home for quite a while, yet his throat still hurt like it was on fire. He almost could not speak!

He coughed for quite a while, causing his demonically charming face to redden. He was clearly holding back his urge to cough with a lot of effort.

Xi Xiaye held her teacup and looked at him calmly with raised eyebrows. An amused smile could not help but surface on her fair face.

He held back, sipped some tea, and managed to suppress his frustration. Then, he frowned and cleared his throat to softly speak with a raspy and dry voice, "What are you smiling for? It's all because of you. I've never seen a woman as annoying as you!"

When Xi Xiaye heard his comment, she raised her brows even more and casually had a sip of tea. As she recalled the scene of tricking this lecher in the rain, she felt smug on the inside. She pursed her lips and smiled wider. "I think you're quite comical and funny. Besides, I don't need you to like me. Whether or not I'm annoying is none of your business."

Qi Lei coughed a few times again. He took a few deep breaths, then gasped. "You're really one to talk! Women who mess with me receive a slap and become handicapped if I go easy. In a worse case, you should be grateful that I've been happy to be a good person recently, so I won't be bickering with you. Otherwise, you would've been done for— Cough cough... Cough cough!"

As Qi Lei spoke, he drank some tea and then with a scarlet face, he turned to take a document out from his briefcase. He flipped through it before handing it to Xi Xiaye.

"This is the rough plan. It's already been amended according to your company's comments. Take a look... Cough cough! Cough cough..."

Qi Lei hacked quite badly and his handsome face turned red from trying to suppress the coughs down. When Xi Xiaye saw his agony, she reached out to take a tissue and handed it to him as she smiled coldly. "I couldn't tell that you're quite dedicated to your work, VP Qi. You're already this sick and still, you insist on working. The award for the model employee of the year should just be given to you."

As Qi Lei took the tissue Xi Xiaye handed, he covered his mouth and coughed quite a few times again before he calmed down after a while.

“You speak with such harshness. Every time I talk to you, it’s quite upsetting! Take the things and look for yourself!” Qi Lei flushed red as he breathed in and then tossed the document to Xi Xiaye who squinted at him before picking it up and looking through it.

It was the plan for the water palace surrounding the music fountain. This was what Glory World had requested for before, and Qi Kai had very cooperatively made amendments. Because Xi Xiaye was personally in charge of this project, she naturally had a very clear grasp of it.

“Wasn’t this part supposed to be supported by rhombus jades? Why... is it like this now?” Xi Xiaye squinted at the sketch and asked in puzzlement.

Qi Lei coughed lightly, then slowly got up to lean in and look. In one look, he replied, “A triangular shape would have higher stability and be steadier for support. Don’t these two look quite good joined together? Do you even know anything about construction?” He rolled his eyes at her.

Xi Xiaye then slowly looked up and glared at him. She then recalled that Qi Lei seemed to have been an outstanding student who had graduated from a certain prestigious school in construction!

Previously, she seemed to have heard VP Zhang Lan mention this before!

Would that then mean that this blueprint was personally designed by him?

Xi Xiaye raised her brows and looked at him. “Did you personally plan and design this yourself?”

She remembered that back then when Mu Yuchen suggested having a water palace and musical fountain, he had been hesitant because not many companies in City Z were well-versed with this aspect, yet this land required extreme perfection. It was a very important highlight in the entire South River project, so you could tell how important it was.

Now, by the looks of Qi Lei's blueprint design, it looked pretty impressive.

However, Xi Xiaye obviously did not know much about these. Perhaps she would need to bring it home to discuss with Mu Yuchen first.

"Do you think this little project will require my personal involvement? Hmm!"

Qi Lei shot Xi Xiaye a side look of disdain. He lowered his head and sipped his tea. However, he could not help but cough quite a few times again.

Xi Xiaye abruptly looked up and looked contemplatively at him. She did not say anything and just got up to return to her desk. Then, she pulled open a drawer and took out a pen.

Chapter 415. Start Over (4)

She was about to close the drawer after taking out a pen, but then she noticed that in the corner of the drawer, there was the medicine for flu and sore throat Ah Mo had brought her last time.

She took it out as well.

Thud!

As Qi Lei was coughing non-stop, Xi Xiaye tossed a tiny metal box to him. He stared at her in surprise while she was already reading the document on hand.

Qi Lei picked the metal box up and realized there were pills for flu and sore throat inside. A faint light appeared in his eyes as he glanced at her for a while before popping a pill into his mouth.

"I'll pass this document back to you in a few days. There are several parts that need to be discussed," Xi Xiaye told him after a while.

Qi Lei coughed again before pointing to the blueprint to say in his hoarse voice, "Here's the part you guys requested for amendments. The effect graph is over here."

“Mmm, I got it. I’ll take a look at it and leave feedback later.”

Xi Xiaye closed the document and stood up. “Vice President Qi, you should head back now. Thank you for coming all the way here.” She used a clipped, business tone.

Qi Lei’s scarlet face was sweaty and he looked pretty uncomfortable. He grabbed the pen from Xi Xiaye and wrote a bunch of numbers in the empty corner of the document.

“Give me a call after you’re done.” Without staying any longer, he left after he packed up his stuff, taking the pills along with him too.

When he arrived at the door, Qi Lei suddenly turned back and looked at Xi Xiaye. He waved the little metal box in his hand, but his eyes did not have the usual wickedness he had before.

“I know you guys have been gunning for Yueying, but my advice to you is to back off a little. Things have been rather chaotic lately. Glory World isn’t the only one aiming for it. Well, I’m taking this as compensation to my reminder. That’s fine, isn’t it?”

Qi Lei left after saying that to Xi Xiaye. She stood there, listening to the sound of his coughing in the corridor.

Xi Xiaye clenched the document in her hand after he left. Her eyes quieted down before they became clear again.

In his words, was he telling her that Qi Kai was gunning for Yueying too?

She remembered that he was the representative of Qi Kai who was handling Yueying, as well as one of Xi Xinyi’s strongest back-ups, so he should not be telling her this.

Xi Xiaye was getting more and more confused as she thought about it.

Inspector Zhang’s words flashed in her mind. Qi Lei and his father Qi Qiming were not on good terms.

Qi Qiming obviously favored his eldest son Qi Feng more and was not very pleased with this other son of his.

Having investigated deeper on her own, Xi Xiaye found out that Qi Qiming and Qi Lei's mother, Huang Qin, were just purely connected by marriage. Currently, Wang Qin held most of Qi Kai's stock, thus Qi Qiming could not just do anything he wanted.

Wang Qin was being considerate about her own son. It had been forever since she wanted Qi Lei to become CEO of Qi Kai, but Qi Qiming never agreed. The couple was cold to each other, and apparently, it was not really a secret.

However, she felt something was wrong with what Qi Lei said.

Could Qi Qiming want Yueying as well?

...

She was troubled for quite some time until the end of the workday. Finally, she kept her thoughts to herself and went to meet Mu Lingshi and Su Nan.

Back in Maple Residence, Mu Yuchen arrived home in the evening. Together with Su Chen, Zhou Zimo, and Ah Mo, they were planning to go Imperial Sky initially, but Su Chen would not let this chance slip by.

He missed the excellent wine in Mu Yuchen's cellar, so the few of them went to Maple Residence as well.

Mu Yuchen was busy cooking in the kitchen while the three of them were playing cards in the living room. Afterward, they felt a little uneasy, so they went to help Mu Yuchen.

Su Chen was peeling the potato skins as he asked, "I don't see your wife around. Is she still at work?"

“She went out with Lingshi and might come back late tonight,” Mu Yuchen replied while he was concentrating on mixing some spices.

“Regarding your father-in-law, Xi Mushan, is that just going to happen? I heard about it during the meeting today. It felt...” Su Chen frowned as he looked at Mu Yuchen.

“Father doesn’t want to work in the political field anymore. It’s enough that he stayed in the field for decades, so he’s decided to quit now and spend time with Mother, which isn’t a bad idea,” Mu Yuchen replied.

Su Chen nodded. “How about your mother-in-law? The media went crazy about her a while ago. I know Shen Yue and you suppressed the news, plus the government helped out a bit as well. Now that it’s in the past and with Xi Jiyang left, you wouldn’t just let those women go, would you?”

“I’ll hunt them until the very end.”

His tone was firm, “At the same time I want to see what Qi Kai will do. I have a feeling that we’ll find something out after this storm is over.”

“I heard you’re sending Ah Mo and Lingshi over to Los Angeles?”

Su Chen gave Mu Yuchen a meaningful stare, “Are you thinking that someone might be there?”

“Xiaye said she wants to visit South America, the view is nice over there, it’d be good to have our wedding there too, Ah Mo and Lingshi are back together now, I’m letting them take a short vacation together while they scout the place.”

Su Chen nodded. “I had a talk with Zimo yesterday. Every time Qi Qiming went abroad, he’d always pass Los Angeles. I think we can leak this information to Qi Lei or Wang Qin to test them.”

“It might be better if we let them struggle among themselves while we take action only when needed.”

...

Su Chen had put a lot of effort into this lately. It was evident that he worked hard to track Qi Qiming down.

“Zimo purposely went to a hotel in San Francisco that Qi Qiming has stayed in before. He found out that he actually went there for business. Nothing seemed odd.”

Mu Yuchen’s eyes darkened, but his hands did not stop at all.

Chapter 416. Happy Times (1)

Su Chen’s expression darkened as he hesitated for a moment. “Get Ah Mo to investigate it thoroughly when he’s over there this time. We might be able to find something out.”

“Qi Qiming is really skilled at anti-spying. His background has made him really sensitive about it. I tried sending people to follow him, but all of them lost him somewhere. He must be really vigilant.”

Mu Yuchen’s expression turned serious as well while a cold light was emitted from his deep, dark eyes.

Su Chen suddenly thought about it and asked, “How’s the investigation on the accident in City B? Don’t tell me it’s really just an accident. It doesn’t add up. That’s the Gu family’s turf. You might’ve been watched the whole time you were there. Moreover, it’s such massive news that you came back to take over Glory World. They must have been aware.”

Mu Yuchen put aside the spices he just mixed, then he took the potatoes Su Chen washed and started slicing them up. His expression returned to his usual calmness.

“The driver is in the last stage of lung cancer and he’s unconscious now. Before that, his lover suddenly received a transaction of \$200,000. After some investigation, we found out the driver transferred it to her, but the clues ended right there.”

Mu Yuchen’s voice was calm, but Su Chen frowned. “So, the driver might have something about that person? Didn’t you check his account?”

“The driver banked the cash in. We couldn’t get any useful information about it unless the driver can talk.”

Su Chen held his forehead. “This seems really tricky. I think you should be more careful as I’m feeling quite uneasy about this. If someone were behind this, they’d be coming for you. You should be more alert from now on. Assign more bodyguards with you. You’ve got many anyway.”

He continued, apparently worried about it, “I’m worried that the Gu family or the Qi family might be behind this. You’ll be in a very passive position. Be careful before we’re clear what’s happening. The enemy is in the dark, after all, so be cautious.”

“Don’t worry. They need to reevaluate themselves if they really want to come at me.”

Su Chen shrugged when he heard Mu Yuchen’s relaxed tone. “You’re really not worried at all, huh? You’d better take care of yourself. If something happens to you, your wife might just go down with you. I know it’s not something nice to hear, but I don’t think she can take a second blow now. I heard from Lingshi that Xiaye almost broke down when Elder Xi passed away.”

When Xi Xiaye was mentioned, Mu Yuchen’s expression was not as cool as before. He paused for a little. “She’s just like that. She’s very fragile emotionally. Although she’s a totally different person than when she’s at work, I’m used to it already.”

Su Chen laughed and teased him, “Look at you caring about her. Are you really a man?”

“A real man cares about his woman. Smart men should be like me. Find someone and settle down. Zhou Zimo and you are like the clouds in the sky floating casually. I feel lonely for you guys up there.”

Mu Yuchen’s serious words made Su Chen roll his eyes at him. “Although I don’t agree with people saying that women are tools to warm the bed up, don’t you think that marriage is really like a cage?”

“A cage? That’s how they see it. I don’t know, and I don’t want to know. Only people who know how to appreciate it can be happy, wise, and accepting, and you’ll be fine.”

While Mu Yuchen felt it was relatable, his tone started to become low. "If you feel that you can live better after marrying someone, that means you've made the right choice, and now I'm feeling it."

Su Chen sighed as he looked at Mu Yuchen with an envious smile. "You're lucky to have met the right person. My father always tells me and Zimo to follow your example, but they don't understand how hard it is to find true love in this world."

"When I just met Xiaye, I just admired her and didn't dislike her. Thinking back now, I'm surprised that I suggested marrying her." Mu Yuchen stopped his hand movements and looked at Su Chen.

Su Chen gave him a wry smile while he patted Mu Yuchen's shoulder. "You think I don't know you? You must be lusting after her beauty. The way you call Xiaye is so flirtatious... Ah!"

Before Su Chen could finish his sentence Mu Yuchen gave him an uppercut. Su Chen groaned and then shut up, swallowing the blood that came from biting his tongue.

"That was harsh! Are we really friends?" Su Chen groaned again as he gave Mu Yuchen a frown.

"I don't think you transferred the money to me the last time we played cards, did you?" Mu Yuchen said.

"I'll go and see what they are up to!" Su Chen swiftly ducked away.

The dinner was a feast. It had been a long time since they gathered, so they drank a lot right until midnight, then Su Chen and Zhou Zimo went back drunk.

After sending Zhou Zimo to his car, Ah Mo turned around and told Mu Yuchen, "Master, Vice President Liu has started taking action. More than half of Yueying's stakeholders are willing to join Chenye Movies and Televisions. I'm sure the directors, as well as the actors, will support us too."

Mu Yuchen nodded. "I'll wait for your good news then. After the preparation is complete over there, you can start spreading the news. Let them struggle after that."

“Yes, Master, Li Si is working on it already. I’ll bring you positive news in a few days’ time. After everything is settled here, I’m sure you can have a peaceful wedding with Missus.” Ah Mo smiled genuinely.

“Mmm, it’s pretty late now. You should go back. Ask the chauffeur to send them home. Your sister-in-law and Lingshi should be heading back as well.”

Chapter 417. Happy Times (2)

As Ah Mo’s car left and Mu Yuchen turned around, he heard the sound of a car engine coming closer. He looked over and saw a pair of headlights advancing nearer.

He then saw the woman in the driver’s seat.

The car was quickly parked and Xi Xiaye got down. Mu Yuchen remained stationary and watched her with a smile. His gaze was warm and gentle, even sweet.

Xi Xiaye closed the door and locked the car. She held a bag in her hand as she swiftly went over to Mu Yuchen.

He saw a bright smile on her face as he closed in and put his arm over her shoulder. “Did you have fun?”

“It was alright. I thought you haven’t had dinner, so I bought you some wantons. I tried it with Su Nan last time and thought they were nice. I didn’t know you guys had a party at home.” She waved the bag around in front of him.

“Just in time for supper. I drank quite a bit today. The food I ate just now doesn’t feel like it’s there anymore,” he said while grabbing the bag.

“No wonder there’s such a strong stench from you. Didn’t I tell you not to drink so much? You can’t drink as much as you think you can.”

“It’s not that much. Besides, Su Chen and Zimo drank more. Come, let’s head in.” He dragged her inside.

...

He unpacked the still warm wantons and started munching on them as she sat opposite him and rested her chin on her arms, watching him eat with a quiet gaze.

Mu Yuchen looked at her intensely. He took a wanton and dangled it right in front of her mouth. Mercilessly, she chomped on it.

“Why are you looking at me like that? Did I become more handsome lately?” He laughed after she ate the wanton.

Xi Xiaye swallowed the food before she pursed her lips and looked at him with interest. She then replied with a serious tone, “Mr. Mu, I noticed something very important.”

“Mmm?” He looked at her as he ate a wanton elegantly.

“I noticed... You. Have. Gotten. Fatter!” Xi Xiaye enunciated slowly and clearly while shooting him a teasing look.

As expected!

“Ugh!” Mu Yuchen was shocked by her words before he got to swallow his food. He choked as he glared at her, coughing hard.

Xi Xiaye quickly grabbed a tissue and handed it to him. She chuckled when she saw him react so horrified. Being the caring wife she was, she also got him a glass of water.

His face turned a little red from all the coughing, Xi Xiaye stopped laughing and asked him in concern, “Are you alright?”

Mu Yuchen glared at her as he took the tissue and wiped his mouth. He cleared his throat and spoke as a faint light flashed in his eyes, “Not at all!”

Xi Xiaye turned her head away and started chuckling again.

“Really? I’m not, am I? It’s not fat unless you can see my double chin...” Mr. Mu who had been confident about his body went to check his waistline and jowl for the first time after his woman made such a comment.

Xi Xiaye roared with laughter when she saw what he was doing. “I’m just kidding. Look at you! You’re even more concerned about body size than I am!”

Mu Yuchen stopped and pinched her little face. “You trickster!”

Xi Xiaye pushed his claw away and laughed more. “Actually, you’ll look amazing even if you get fatter. You being bigger makes me feel safer when I’m around you.”

“So, are you saying that I’m not giving you enough sense of security now?” He glanced at her warningly. “Shouldn’t you be happy that I’m keeping such a trim figure?”

She giggled again and handed him the glass of water. “Mother even praised you today. Of course, I’m happy.”

He took a sip of water before asking, “What did she say?”

“She said you have an elegant vibe around you, smart and very gentlemanly... I think she mentioned it before!” Her eyes were like the sun, emitting a warm gaze. “From what she said, it sounded like you’re everyone’s baby instead.”

“That can’t do. No one can be even more precious than you, my dear. You’re my baby!”

It was difficult to judge whether he was lying from his serious tone, but the warmth in his eyes was almost drowning her.

“Really?” She beamed. His recognition made her really delighted.

“Mmm.” His heart turned into a fluffy marshmallow when he saw her beautiful smile. He could not help but pat her head lovingly. “You’re everyone’s baby because everyone likes the silly you.”

She was stunned for a moment before she pushed his hand away. She scowled at him in disagreement. “I’m not silly! I just never displayed my intelligence!”

“You’re not silly, just a little low in EQ. Usually, people who are stupid won’t admit they are stupid.”

“How can you say that!? I even praised you just now! Hey! What are you doing!? I’m not done talking...”

“Clean this up. I’ll take a shower, but of course, I don’t mind if you want to join me!”

“You...”

...

He was done showering when Xi Xiaye went upstairs. When it was her turn to shower, he read a book casually. After that, she got into bed as well.

“What are you reading?” She dragged the blanket over a little and poked her head over.

It was an architecture-related book, She felt a headache after several glances at it, but he just dragged her closer without looking at her.

He finished about a third of the book in that one session. He had been reading similar types of books in the past few days.

It must be because of Shen Yue! Xi Xiaye remembered that Shen Yue had given him a few books as well as some documents to read.

“Several more pages, hmm?” He flipped another page.

“Can you really go on reading this?” She looked at him with a frown.

“Why not? You have to put something in your brain if you need it. You can read it if you quiet your mind down,” he replied.

Chapter 418. Happy Times (3)

She breathed in, and with one hand propping up her head, her clear gaze looked towards the page in her hand. When she saw those diagrams, she immediately recalled the document that Qi Lei had sent over that afternoon.

“Ah, I almost forgot!” she cried out and got up.

“What is it?” He looked up to her, yet saw that she had already put on her shoes and was rushing towards the door. A while later, she brought a document back.

“This! Take a look! Qi Lei delivered it this afternoon. It’s amended based on our requests. I’m not too well-versed with this. We should get the opinion of the discussion group, so I brought it back.”

“Qi Lei? When has he become so proactive? He even sent it over personally?” he asked with a deep voice as he squinted at her.

Xi Xiaye shrugged. “Who knows? But based on this blueprint, it should be his work. I heard that he’s an outstanding student in a certain prestigious university abroad for construction, and even did his Masters in management. He sounds like he’s pretty clever.”

“You are also a graduate of a prestigious university abroad,” he simply answered, and then flipped the document open. “He’s quite talented at barely 30 and he’s already gotten quite a few awards. I do quite admire him personally. He has high potential. If he was seriously unearthed, he’d be far better than Qi Feng...”

As he mentioned Qi Feng towards the end, he subconsciously stopped talking. His movements abruptly paused too while his still eyes dimmed. After that, he did not go on either.

Xi Xiaye naturally took in all his reactions. After thinking about it, she then clung onto his arm. “But to me, no matter how excellent he may be, he’s far from being compared to you!”

“You’re really getting more and more self-aware now.” He then smiled.

“Of course, no matter how good someone else may be, they wouldn’t be mine. Only your kindness to me is real. However, he said unkind things about you in front of me, yet you said you admire him to me. Based on this alone, Mr. Mu, you trump him.”

When he heard her declare so, his gaze turned gentle. To be able to hear praises from her obviously made him very pleased.

...

The husband and wife couple patiently and meticulously went through the whole design blueprint and made notes where minor amendments were needed. When they were done, it was close to midnight. Xi Xiaye was quite tired that she almost could not keep her eyes open. Mu Yuchen had just kept the things away when she had already fallen asleep.

Mu Yuchen got up to put the documents away in the study room, then he laid back down.

“Mu Yuchen...”

He had just laid down when she subconsciously reached out to search for him. Nowadays, it was almost a routine every night. When she could not sleep soundly, she would call out to him and reach out to see if he was still by her side.

“Hmm?” He would also respond by routine naturally and without waiting for her to answer, he would pull her tightly into his embrace.

Every time at this second, his heart would melt and he could not help but feel a slight ache because he wanted to possess her even more.

He was not sure when he had actually begun to have such vulnerable and tender feelings.

On calm and warm days, he got used to her presence. Now, he unexpectedly willingly became addicted to her.

All of these wonderful things would continue on...

Meanwhile, in this dead of the same night, that in a certain luxurious villa in the Grand Lakes Area.

As usual, Qi Lei habitually stood in the breeze on the second-floor balcony in his pajamas after a shower and watched the flickering light on the lake across.

Cough cough! Cough cough!

In the cold wind, his coughs came from time to time.

This time it really was quite bad. He had not recovered after resting at home for a few days. Earlier on, he even had to be put on drips.

It was all because of that woman!

If it were not for being caught in the rain that day, he would have recovered from his cold by now. She had even tricked and tormented him, upsetting him thoroughly!

Qi Lei covered his mouth and coughed harshly a few times. He subconsciously reached into his pocket to get a handkerchief, yet he found a little metal box instead. When he took it out to look, he realized that it was the cough drops he had gotten from Xi Xiaye in the afternoon.

He gazed down at it for quite a while, then his handsome face relaxed. It was not the usual demonic charm on him. Instead, he looked much more gentle right now.

He fell silent for a while, then suddenly turned to walk towards the bedroom behind him. Taking huge strides to the side of his bed, he pulled the drawer open. Inside was a sketchbook.

It was Xi Xiaye's sketchbook that he had picked up from the hospital the other day.

He put the little metal box inside, and then closed the drawer before he laid down comfortably on the huge bed.

However, just as he laid down, his phone vibrated. Looking at the screen, he saw that it was Assistant Yang Sheng.

He stared for a while before he answered it.

The phone call had just gotten through when Yang Sheng's anxious voice came through.

"Master Qi, the butler at Qi Park just called. He said that the CEO is back and had a huge argument with the Madam who left the house angrily in the dead of the night. She drove by herself. Madam cut her hand when she made dinner for you the other night and it still hasn't healed..."

When he heard this, Qi Lei instantly frowned. An incredulous look crossed his handsome face. "These arguments are common. Mother's not a child either. What are you worried about?"

Qi Lei was quite calm since he was already used to all of these and did not find it out of the ordinary.

"But, Master Qi, it's already past midnight right now. Madam, she..."

Yang Sheng still could not help but want to say something more—

“Don’t worry. She has an apartment in Century City. She should be there. Get someone to take a look,” Qi Lei said quite calmly. Then before Yang Sheng could respond, he hung up.

As he watched his phone screen dim, Qi Lei’s handsome face slowly curved with a sneer.

Pa!

In the darkness, a black shadow cut through the air and shot straight towards the wall across. Then, with a resounding smash, the phone that had been in his hand earlier shattered into pieces on the ground...

The brand new phone was turned to scrap.

He took a deep breath as he took the pillow beside him and covered his face with it. Immediately, intense sounds of coughs could be heard in every corner of the room!

He was done dealing with these conflicts for all these years. Initially, he thought that maybe it would get better once he moved out, but who would have thought...?

Chapter 419. The Beautiful Past (1)

The next day, the husband and wife woke up quite early. After they leisurely finished their breakfast, they went straight to work.

They brought the blueprint that they had amended together the day before. Xi Xiaye called for an early morning meeting and explained everything to get a consensus from everyone’s opinions. After the whole morning, they finally managed to settle everything.

These few days, she had been mainly assisting Mu Yuchen in the office while Li Si was busy helping Vice President Liu Lingyu. Mu Yuchen had delegated all the work on her hands, so she now really became an idle person.

Inside Mu Yuchen’s office, he was sitting at his desk and discussing something with Vice President Wen Hai. Xi Xiaye stood by the side of the table as she put a stack of documents into a folder while he was still on the phone.

She hesitated momentarily, then decided not to disturb him and just go over herself. However, just as she picked up the folder, the man hung up.

“Where are you going?”

Seeing her about to turn around, he suddenly reached out to pull her back.

“Send these documents over to Qi Kai. There are some little details that still need to be explained to them. It’s now a little over 10 a.m. By the time I’m done, it should be noon, just in time for a break. I won’t be back for lunch then, so get your secretary to get you lunch. I should be able to rush back for work in the afternoon.”

Xi Xiaye reached over to pull the drawer beside him open before taking a car key out. “You aren’t going out at noon, are you? I’m going to drive over...”

“Come back sooner. I have to make a trip to the South River in the afternoon,” he said and handed his phone to her.

Xi Xiaye nodded. “Mmm, bye.”

...

When she reached Qi Kai, the person who greeted her was Qi Lei. He looked much better than the day before. Although his voice was still raspy and dry, he did not cough as badly as yesterday.

“We’ve roughly approved it on our side. There are just some minor details that we hope you could pay a little more attention to. Here’s the amended blueprint. Take a look to see if there’s anything you don’t understand.”

Xi Xiaye sat on the sofa and spoke seriously as her slender and fair fingers gently pushed the opened document towards Qi Lei. “Here, I hope that you can change it to Glory World’s logo. This area will become one of the main recreational centers for the people of the South River. This part that Qi Kai is in charge of is extremely important.”

“Did Mu Yuchen say he wanted to change it to your logo? It doesn’t say so up there.” Qi Lei’s raspy voice was heard as he frowned at the document and pointed out the details that were noted at the top of the document.

“No, I just thought of it,” Xi Xiaye answered quite frankly.

Qi Lei could not help but roll his eyes at her. Glaring at her, he said coldly, “You really know how to bargain. Two logos aren’t easy to handle.”

“Then, just ditch Qi Kai’s logo and change to Glory World’s. The actual people in charge of this project is Glory World anyway.”

She did not tolerate it further and packed her things up. “Okay, I’m done explaining and you’re clear about everything, so just follow this plan. I’m leaving now. If there’s anything, you can just contact our Vice President Zhang Lan.”

“It’s almost time for lunch. Let’s have lunch together.”

Qi Lei packed the documents and slowly got up.

With lifted eyebrows, Xi Xiaye was about to reject him, yet Qi Lei spoke up, “You wouldn’t reject me on this, would you? Of course, you can first ask Mu Yuchen for permission based on the way you look all obedient to him...”

Xi Xiaye did not like to hear these words Qi Lei just uttered.

What did he mean by that, implying Mu Yuchen had tamed her to be all docile?

They just got along well and lived in harmony!

However, since he had made it sound that way, she would obviously not reject him!

She squinted slightly and took a look at him. A faint ripple appeared across her elegant and beautiful face. She did not reject him and nodded gladly. "Okay, Vice President Qi, since you're so sincere, if I don't agree to this invitation, then it won't be very nice."

"It's my utmost honor!"

Qi Lei's handsome face brimmed with a smile, then he caught up with Xi Xiaye's stride.

After 20 minutes, they were at Emperor Hotel, City Z's most luxurious and deluxe hotel.

Xi Xiaye ordered a whole table of food that were all extremely expensive. After a complete meal, it was probably...

Qi Lei who sat across her was looking at Xi Xiaye who was looking down at the menu. When he heard her order all those food, he tried to hold back a laugh.

"That's just it. Right, for the first five dishes, I'd like to also take one set of it away. Thank you." Xi Xiaye closed the menu and handed it to the server.

When Qi Lei heard the words that came after that, he was slightly stunned. "You really didn't let go of an opportunity to butcher me." With a smile, he rather chivalrously handed the wet handkerchief to Xi Xiaye.

"Shouldn't you be happy that I've given you so much face?" Xi Xiaye reached out to take it, then plainly answered.

"Aren't you worried I have ulterior motives right now?" Qi Lei obviously did not forget that this woman seemed to have been quite on-guard against him many times previously.

"If I am, will you stop having ulterior motives? Actually, I've always been wanting to know what kind of grudges made you dislike Mu Yuchen. He even told me last night that he admires you. Instead, it's you

who keeps talking bad about him. Don't you know that doing so will make you seem very narrow-minded?"

She squinted her twinkling eyes while her eyes were filled with judgment.

"I thought you were really not curious!"

When this was raised, Qi Lei's expression darkened.

Xi Xiaye lowered her gaze and looked coldly at the teacup in front of her. Her tone was quite calm as she pointed out, "The other day, when Xiao Mei and I sent you to the hospital, you kept calling out for 'Sha Sha'. That should be Gu Lingsha, shouldn't it?"

When Gu Lingsha's name was mentioned, Qi Lei's eyes instantly turned silent. The light in his eyes turned stagnant as his grip on the handkerchief abruptly tightened.

"She must be the person that you've always been missing, isn't she?"

She took in all of his reactions. Then, Xi Xiaye hesitated for a moment before she continued to ask.

Previously, she had heard the name Gu Lingsha from Mu Yuchen too. However, she vaguely felt that the situation was not as simple as he made it out to be. The Mu family seemed to treat this as a taboo and never mentioned it.

Even that one time when she accidentally probed Mu Lingshi, she seemed to be very unwilling to recall these things, so she could only just let it be.

Well, it was no wonder. She was sure that those memories were a scar that could not be touched in Mu Lingshi's heart forever. Not even Mu Yuchen could approach them.

After that, she did not continue asking about it. She could only put all her hope onto Detective Zhang, praying that he would be able to find out more.

Yet, Detective Zhang did not have any news.

Now that Qi Lei had brought it up, she wanted to probe further. From the way Ah Mo and the rest brought up the incident in City B, perhaps there would be some clues.

Chapter 420. The Beautiful Past (2)

When Xi Xiaye finished, Qi Lei did not seem to respond for a long while.

The two of them suddenly fell silent, and there was a faint repressive atmosphere that filled the air.

When he did not answer, Xi Xiaye obviously did not continue questioning. She just quietly lowered her head to sip her tea, then she felt her phone buzz in her pocket, so she took it out.

It was a certain someone's text message reply.

The last message she sent was: Mr. Mu I'm bringing food back for you. Someone treated me to lunch, so I'll get you a set.

He asked: Whose treat?

She responded: Qi Lei.

Now, his new reply was: Choose the most expensive dishes.

...

When she read this, she really wanted to giggle as she pursed her lips. After a while, she calmed down. At this moment, the waiter had already brought the dishes.

Qi Lei finally snapped back to his senses as well.

When the waiter was done serving them and had retreated, Qi Lei softly asked, “Did Mu Yuchen tell you about Sha Sha?” His tone could not conceal his disappointment.

Xi Xiaye looked up slightly and saw the dim light that flowed in his eyes. She lowered her gaze momentarily and then picked her drink up. “He mentioned her. I know that she and your brother, Qi Feng, were very close, but I think that for her to make someone like you miss her, this Gu Lingsha must be pretty amazing.” She then continued sipping on her drink.

When he heard this, a smile surfaced on Qi Lei’s handsome face immediately. He looked down at the swaying liquid in his glass, then looked up at her after a while.

“She is quite excellent. She’s about your age and is quite competitive. Sometimes, I do see hints of her in you. However, I know that she doesn’t share your frame of mind.”

Qi Lei seemed to be chasing some faraway memory as there was a listlessness in his eyes. His tone was soft as he spoke, “But she’s probably more exceptionally intelligent than you.”

When she heard Qi Lei say that without any apprehension, Xi Xiaye did not quite care. She shrugged and said calmly, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so I won’t argue with you on that.”

She did not care how she looked to other men. As long as Mu Yuchen liked her, she was fine.

When she thought this, even she herself was not sure when she had become so open-minded and generous, yet she could also be quite petty!

Just as how he had said it the other day—

I thought the only woman at this banquet is you!

Seeing her indifferent and calm little face, the light in Qi Lei’s eyes flickered for a moment and he suddenly asked softly, “I heard that you used to love Han Yifeng very much... Is that true?”

However, when he said this, Xi Xiaye's movements stopped. Her clear gaze slowly looked at him. As her expression was calm, you could not tell how she truly felt.

In regard to Xi Xiaye's matters, Qi Lei was quite familiar with them. He had long heard about how Han Yifeng used to have a fiancé. In fact, the marriage had been determined since young, but sadly and unexpectedly, Han Yifeng fell for Xi Xinyi after that and rejected the marriage contract. Otherwise, Xi Xiaye and Han Yifeng should have been engaged more than a decade ago.

In fact, he remembered that scene at Elder Xi's birthday banquet.

This woman did not seem to know how to protect herself. As he recalled that scene, he could not help but tense up too.

"That's already the past," Xi Xiaye answered apathetically. She frowned slightly and finished the drink in her glass before she continued, "If we could all meet sooner and love each other sooner, then we wouldn't need to have gone through so many tragic incidents."

"Meet sooner? Love each other sooner? Are you referring to yourself and Mu Yuchen, and Han Yifeng with Xi Xinyi?" Qi Lei asked.

Xi Xiaye smiled and nodded gently as her hair fell on her shoulders in an unruly manner. It interweaved like dark clouds on her chest while she casually twirled it. "But sometimes, it's when the heart is hopeful and can't let go that the one who's hurt will always be the one that gives. Are you that person too?"

She looked at him whilst a hint of a smile floated in her eyes.

As Qi Lei listened, his handsome face flashed with a bitter smile. "Do you suddenly feel like you've found a lot to resonate with me?"

Xi Xiaye spread her arms and said, "If it were in the past, maybe, but now, I'm only left with lament and no resonance."

“I heard that Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi seem to be getting a divorce. If Han Yifeng goes back to you, would you turn around? After all, you once cared that much about him and you did have a beautiful past.”

The fact that the two of them could sit down so calmly and chat about these things was probably unimaginable to them.

Nevertheless, when she heard Qi Lei ask this, Xi Xiaye instantly frowned. She responded after a pause, “As much as I cared for him, that was before. As beautiful as things were, it’s just the past. No one should live in the past. I’ve chased him for more than 20 years now. I only realized afterward that I’ve been going after the wrong person. He doesn’t belong to me, and I don’t belong to him either.

“However, I still hope that he can live better. After all, no matter what happens, he was once a dream and hope that I chased after. Now that I think about it, he’s actually not all that great because I hadn’t met him back then...” Xi Xiaye plainly said, then poured him more drink. Qi Lei’s still gaze started to flicker uncertainly in that instant as he fixed his eyes on her beautiful face.

Obviously, he could hear that the former and latter ‘him’ were two different people, so he suddenly smiled. “I’m not any worse than the two of them, but why am I the bad person to you?”

“Because a good person wouldn’t keep calling themselves a good person all day.” Xi Xiaye shot him a glance.

“Then, what if I call myself a bad person? Will we be able to chat so nicely next time?” Qi Lei raised his brows with a smirk. Then, he took the wine bottle from her and poured her a drink too as he teased.

“No, we can’t,” she rejected frankly and swiftly.

“Why’s that? I think that it’s quite amusing to chat with you. I’ve never befriended anyone simply, especially women!” He raised her brows in surprise at her.

“Because I’m a married woman.” She flaunted her hand that had her wedding ring.

“Is Mu Yuchen so stingy that he doesn’t even have the money to get you a huge diamond ring? He let you wear such a little thing! No matter what, a larger one should suit you better.”

“Only tacky people like you would have such thoughts.”

“I won’t be going after you. You’re not my type. Don’t worry.”

“You’re far from my taste.”

“Why... I’m a good...”

“Even if you’re a good person, you’re not as dashing as he is!”