## Loving 471

Chapter 471. Wedding Banquet (1)

They were having their banquet on the 7th floor of the Imperial Sky Hotel. After a simple lunch, Mu Lingshi and the rest went to the hotel to start preparing.

They did not invite many guests. The guest list consisted mostly of just close family and friends. Besides that, they did not overly promote their wedding and reporters were forbidden from entering the hall as well.

Mu Yuchen was wary of the paparazzi since everyone in the industry knew about it. Naturally, Mu Lingshi was aware as well.

"Manager Mu, is the lighting alright?"

Beside the stage in the wedding hall, Mu Lingshi was busy setting the mic up as she was talking to the staff working on the lighting.

Mu Lingshi raised her head and took a look. She glanced around to check and then nodded. "It's okay. Try going through the whole rundown. It'll be fine if it goes well."

"It's almost time now, Manager Mu. The guests will be seated in around half an hour. Elder CEO and the others are busy greeting the guests. Oh, Elder Madam wants you to give Chairman Mu a call."

"Manager Mu, the sound system is adjusted!"

"I'll go and take a look. Tell my grandparents that my brother is arriving soon. Don't worry."

Mu Lingshi then picked up her phone and called the Maple Residence.

When they received the call, Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye were on their way out. Li Si had been waiting for a long time and he became anxious when he got the call from Mu Lingshi.

"Master, Missus, Ms. Lingshi called. It's about time and we should really head out soon," Li Si said.

Mu Yuchen nodded as he adjusted his sleeve casually. "We can go now. Let Su Chen and the others know."

"Yes, Master!" Li Si replied and then moved aside to let them go first.

Several black luxurious cars were parked outside of the Maple Residence. Outside the door were eight bodyguards in black suits who bowed respectfully when the two of them walked out of the door.

Things had not really been peaceful lately. Ah Mo had arranged for several more bodyguards around Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye ever since the accident in City B. Although Mu Yuchen was not really happy with them following him around, it was necessary with such a huge occasion today.

Xi Xiaye could feel that something was going on and her chest felt strained.

"Hello, Master, Missus!"

After a round of greetings, they opened the car door for them. Li Si quickly called the groomsmen Su Chen and Zhou Zimo, informing them to meet at the Imperial Sky Hotel.

As Xi Xiaye sat down in the car, she sighed and ranted, "We'll be able to relax after the wedding banquet. We've been rushing this too much. It was initially set for November, but we've pushed it so much earlier now."

He smiled. "Things will settle down after this. We can have two days of break to rest up."

"Mmm, we should be focusing on the South River project after the wedding. I gave Vice President Zhang Lan a call the other day and the project is going well. The operations have begun and the budget for the musical fountain has been completed. I believe that will start very soon as well. I wonder if Vice President Qi Lei will still be in charge. Weren't you impressed by his talents in architecture?"

Xi Xiaye had not eased up at all during the break. She was still keeping up with the South River project, so she was mostly aware about what was going on.

"He's still in charge, but he's also in-charge of Yueying after Qi Kai bought over Yueying. We'll see how it goes. Alright, today is our big day. Put work aside and get this wedding done with me, alright?" He gently touched the golden comb on her hair as he put a jacket over her.

Xi Xiaye then nodded, adjusting his tie. "Mmm, we'll probably be really busy then. Grandfather has started to relay his authority. After the wedding, he wants me to get familiarized with Fuhua's work. With the South River project on hand as well as several other projects that I have, I'm afraid I can't oversee so many things."

"I'll delegate it to the others."

"How about the news about Chenye Movies and Television?"

Xi Xiaye did not forget that before they left City Z for their wedding, there was some negative news about Glory World removing themselves from Yueying and many higher-ups from Yueying joined Chenye Movies and Television. After that, it was overshadowed by Yue Lingsi's scandal, so she was not sure how things turned out.

"It's common for businesses to have competition. They're just trying to make a big fuss out of it. It's no big deal," Mu Yuchen comforted.

Xi Xiaye gave it some thought. She could not hold back her curiosity and asked in the end, "Do you think that Qi Kai being willing to take Yueying in as their subsidiary is illogical? Moreover, I think Yueying has no more potential value as of now." She remembered him mentioning that something interesting was about to unfold.

"I'm just conducting a test, my dear. Don't look down on Yueying. It can become an important trigger. If I'm not mistaken, Yueying might come back with a new face, but its internal structure will have huge changes. We're both amateurs in this field. Qi Kai is trying to walk the path of IP. They're already experienced in this field and our newfound company won't be able to fight them. Actually, some time ago when Father was still in power, he spoke to me before with some related personnel," Mu Yuchen said.

"Mmm? Father looked for you before? How come I had no idea about it?" Xi Xiaye looked at him in surprise.

"It's about work... They don't want Qi Kai to monopolize the market. There will be some important changes in the future. They aren't short-sighted fools and they'd need a new source of power as well. At least, a limit of some sort is needed to regulate them."

She raised her eyebrows and asked, "So, developing Movie City in City B is one of the objectives, isn't it?"

Chapter 473. Wedding Banquet (3)

When he said this, Xi Xiaye's expression darkened. She was about to refute when the man beside her spoke up casually, "Master Qi, there's no need to mess with Xiaye. We've been married for quite a long while now and her taste has improved quite a fair bit. Those who can't break away from lowly delights and aren't genuine wouldn't be so easily entertained. Nevertheless, thank you for attending our wedding banquet, Li Si!"

Mu Yuchen then called for Li Si who understood and immediately served Qi Lei a glass of drink.

Qi Lei smiled faintly and looked amusedly at Mu Yuchen. Then, he leisurely took the glass. "There's no need to be nervous, Master Mu. I'm a very sincere person. I'm personally very honored to be able to attend your wedding banquet with Xiaye. To commemorate this occasion, I've prepared a special gift for Xiaye."

When he finished his sentence, Yang Sheng immediately brought an elegant gift box from behind and opened it up. A beautiful splendor flickered with the dazzling shine of the lights. Upon one's gaze passing that dazzle, you could see a stalk of golden rose with diamonds embedded it lying inside. It looked quite similar to the rose that Mu Yuchen had won from the race. Undoubtedly, it was a gorgeous extravagance which bedazzled the eyes. Xi Xiaye was stunned by this sight.

Qi Lei was obviously very satisfied with Xi Xiaye's reaction. "What do you think? I'm especially giving it to you. Didn't you say you liked golden roses? This is my gift to you. Am I considered a great person now?"

When Qi Lei said this, he looked provocatively at Mu Yuchen who remained tranquil as always. His unfathomable eyes were dense with a gloom that was hard to pick up while his hand that held Xi Xiaye's tightened slightly too. He simply looked at Qi Lei in silence.

Xi Xiaye could obviously feel his unhappiness too. A smile immediately surfaced on her beautiful face and she took the gift quite frankly. "Thank you for this then, Master Qi. My Mr. Mu says that roses like this won't wither. As long as he likes it, so would I. He's always admired your skills in architecture. Once again, we're very happy that you could come, so thank you for your presence and for your thoughtful gift!"

Then, she closed the gift box and handed it to Li Si. She lifted her drink and handed another glass to Mu Yuchen. She raised her glass gracefully at Qi Lei. "Let's toast to you, and I hope that we'll be able to have a fantastic partnership in time to come!"

Xi Xiaye's words could calm the underlying storm. Neither did she humiliate Qi Lei, nor did she put Mu Yuchen in a tight spot.

Even Mu Yuchen looked a little shocked at her. Who would have thought that in such a situation, she could be quite a smooth talker?

Qi Lei smiled to himself. Suddenly, he did not know how to continue. He then chuckled drily, his gaze traveling back and forth between Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye. Then, his expression instantly returned to normal and he raised his glass.

He downed the glass at one go, and then suddenly walked up to Mu Yuchen, stopping by his side. He whispered something into his ear. Although Xi Xiaye could not hear him, she could obviously detect that Mu Yuchen's calm eyes had instantly darkened and his hand that held hers tightened again.

She could feel slight pain as she frowned and quickly looked up at him. At this second, Qi Lei sneered and shot Mu Yuchen a nasty look before setting his glass down on a table and turning around to leave.

Qi Lei had just vanished into the crowd when Su Chen walked up. His sharp eyes were fixated in the direction that Qi Lei had left while he asked with a sharp tone, "Why did he come? He looks like he's up to no good?"

Mu Yuchen set his glass aside, and casually touched the black cufflink on his sleeve. His handsome face curved with a tiny smile. "He came over to give me a word of advice. It looks like he's been having it pretty tough recently."

"Advice?" Su Chen frowned as he looked puzzledly at Mu Yuchen. "What advice?"

The corner of Mu Yuchen's lips curled up even more. He did not answer. Instead, his darkened gaze followed Qi Lei's figure as he moved further away until he could not see him any longer. Finally, he said calmly, "It's nothing."

"This fellow seems quite stubborn. In fact, he always looks like that, making his mother Wang Qin all worried. Wang Qin wants to prop him to be the CEO of Qi Kai, yet he looks quite calm and unhurried. I think that he's quite hard to read. Don't underestimate him despite his reputation as a sloppy heir," Su Chen voiced out his thoughts.

Mu Yuchen calmly retrieved his gaze. "The Qi family is like still waters that run deep. Every one of them is complicated."

"Okay, let's not talk about this for now. After the wedding banquet, we still have some things to discuss. How about this? Zimo and I will go over to your place tomorrow night."

Mu Yuchen nodded. "Mmm."

"You two go have a seat and rest first. You've drunk a lot. I'll go take a look at Grandfather Mu and the rest!" Su Chen assured before he patted Mu Yuchen on the shoulder, and then walked over to Mu Yinan and the rest.

Xi Xiaye handed her water to him as she asked softly, "Are you okay?"

He responded with a faint smile, "I'm fine. Have some food. don't starve yourself."

"Mmm, you eat some too."

Then, she pulled him back to their seats and took the bowl in front of them. She gracefully served him a bowl of soup and even grabbed some dishes for him. Of course, she got herself a bowl too.

When he saw her putting the bowl before him, the curve on his lips widened. He picked his spoon up and elegantly began to eat.

She lowered her head to drink too. Then, she looked up to see him focused on his meal, so she propped her head up on one hand and silently watched him. She brushed away the beautiful confetti from his shoulders.

Perhaps every girl was waiting to have such memorable love, whether it arrived or not.

She silently watched him for a long while, and suddenly all the images of her journey flashed in her mind. Whether it was endurance, perseverance, suffering, or sadness, all of those would become a part of the memories forever buried in her heart.

She had chased Han Yifeng for so many years, knowing that he did not love her. At first, she had thought about working hard to move him, to win his momentary pause, but you could not force someone to love you. Even if you managed to move the world, you would realize in the end that you could only move yourself, and that was all.

Now, this man that sat beside her was never someone she had thought of chasing, yet he had decided to protect her and be by her side as her husband.

Perhaps this was fate and luck when you let things be.

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Chapter 474. Shocked! (1)

The wedding banquet continued on till quite late and Mu Yuchen drank a lot too. He was currently sitting on the sofa with Su Chen and some other good buddies as they chatted. Relaxed beside Xi Xiaye were also Su Nan and Ruan Heng.

"Xiaye, I can't drink liquor, but I'll replace it with tea to wish you and Master Mu many happy returns."

"It was not easy for you to reach this stage. Steady now!"

Su Nan and Ruan Heng's faces brimmed with faint warmth. In the past few days, they saw Mu Yuchen bring nothing but warmth and affection to Xi Xiaye, so they were not worried.

Xi Xiaye pursed her lips as she nodded. "Mmm, you two too. These few days, you've been worn out, so rest well in the next couple of days, especially you, Nan Nan. You seemed to have lost weight in these two days. Ruan Heng, you should be careful too. It's been quite a few months now. In just a few months, we'll be meeting the little bub!"

Xi Xiaye's gaze was gentle as she looked at Su Nan's baby bump. You could tell that she seemed to have admiring envy in her eyes.

Su Nan quickly caught onto her gaze. She could not help but pull her hand to gently lay it on her bump as she smiled to say, "Sometimes, I can kind of feel them moving. If you're envious, how about having one to play with soon?"

When Su Nan said that, Ruan Heng could not help but reprimand her softly, yet his eyes were filled with doting. "Are children meant to be played with?"

Xi Xiaye went along with it and caressed her friend's baby bump. Then, she pulled her hand back and smiled. "Do you think it's so easy to have one? We'll be quite busy at work after the wedding. Earlier when I went to the hospital for a checkup for Mother's eyes, my mother even got the doctor to prescribe something to nurse my health or something. She said that I'm imbalanced in terms of nourishment. Do I look like someone who lacks nourishment?"

"You used to, but not anymore! You look quite good. That goes to show that Master Mu takes care of you well. Watch out and don't become all chubby from the care till you end up looking like me! Then, that would be the end for you!"

As Su Nan said this, she subconsciously touched her lower chin. A few days ago, her double chin seemed to have looked more prominent, but after a few days of being busy, it seemed to be diminishing.

Ruan Heng frowned and looked at Su Nan. "Nan Nan, being healthy is the most important. Who cares if you're chubby or skinny? You're not an unmarried woman anyway. It's just me who's looking at you. I didn't even say anything, but it's you who's being self-loathing!"

This woman had been flipping out on him because of her weight issue recently. Initially, they thought of having a child only after a couple of years into marriage, yet unexpectedly they did not use protection well and struck only after two times. At first, this annoyed Su Nan for a long time.

Now that her weight kept increasing steeply, she could not slow down. In just a few months, she had gained at least ten kilograms of weight, shocking Su Nan herself!"

"You can do some suitably easy exercises. Perhaps it would help you for labor in the future. After you've given birth, then you can think about how to lose weight. For now, it's the little one in you that's the most important!"

Xi Xiaye smiled and shook her head as she slowly got up. "Okay, you two sit around first. I'm going to the washroom."

Su Nan and Ruan Heng nodded.

"Come back soon. We'll wait for you right here." Su Nan still wanted to ask more about Shen Wenna's condition.

Xi Xiaye nodded, then she walked towards the corridor.

The washroom was at the end of the corridor and there was another on the other end.

She realized she had drunk quite a bit as she walked through the long corridor. Her head felt like lead. With a deep breath, she forced herself to stay sober as she continued walking ahead.

The washroom was empty. The swaying and flickering neon lights outside refracted in, making the place seem even more unusually still.

Xi Xiaye walked through the beaded curtains that hung down, going for the sink. After she washed her hands, she then fixed her gown a little before walking into the washroom stall.

...

At this moment, on the sofa at the wedding banquet venue.

"Su Chen seems to be getting an earful again, look!" Zhou Zimo hinted with his eyes to Mu Yuchen beside him as his gaze looked teasing.

Mu Yuchen calmly looked up, following Zhou Zimo's gaze. He saw that the elder from the Su family had brought a very young and beautiful girl to Su Chen who seemed to be saying something. From afar, you could already see that Su Chen did not look very pleased. He wanted to leave, yet the stern, whitehaired Elder Su had already stood behind with clenched fists to block his way.

As Mu Yuchen watched on, a smile flashed on his handsome face and he shook his head. "Grandfather Su is like this. Su Chen has protested for so many years now, but I haven't seen him win a single time."

"Grandfather Su is quite a frank person which is good. Look at my old folks. Now, that's annoying without a word! They would just bring girls home and you'd have to meet them no matter what. It feels they've been unreasonable gangsters their whole life, always strong-arming me! Thankfully, Grandfather Mu is a businessman, so he's not as unreasonable," Zhou Zimo lamented sympathetically.

"Elder Zhou is quite a reasonable person. If you want to relax earlier, it's better if you act quickly. In another few more years, when it's about time, we can even go out together in pairs."

"Those are childhood dreams of us buddies going out together, but look at all these years. It hasn't even been realized until now!"

"I don't mind you two bringing your families along," said Mu Yuchen suddenly with a grin. Then, he slowly stood up.

Because he realized that Xi Xiaye's seat had been empty for quite a while now, he looked around but did not see her anywhere. He suddenly felt uneasy.

...

"Huh? Xiaye's been gone for quite a while? It's been more than 10 minutes!"

On the other end of the room, Su Nan was puzzled as she looked at the time on her phone. She could not help but grumble, "Where's Xiaye?"

Just as Su Nan said that, Mu Yuchen's deep voice was calmly heard.

"Master Mu!"

Su Nan subconsciously turned around and looked over to Mu Yuchen who stopped in front of her.

"She said she was going to the washroom, but she's been gone for quite a while now. She wouldn't have gotten too drunk, would she?"

Su Nan frowned and looked at her phone screen that remained lit. Deep in her gut, she felt like something was not right!

When she explained this to him, Mu Yuchen's handsome face darkened, as did his gaze. "How long has she been gone for?"

"About 10 minutes now. Could something have happened to her? She looked like she drank quite a bit too."

Su Nan started to be anxious now. Full of concern, she turned to Ruan Heng, yet before she could finish, Mu Yuchen had already turned and walked in huge strides toward the washroom.

Chapter 475. Shocked! (2)

Inside the toilet, Xi Xiaye could hear the sound of footsteps outside. She did not find it out of the ordinary, so she tried to open the door after she was done flushing. To her aghast, however, she tried for a while and it still did not budge!

She frowned when she still could not open the door after several more attempts.

Obviously, someone had locked the door from outside!

Xi Xiaye then remembered the footsteps from earlier. It must have been that person!

She started to have doubts as her eyes were turned furious. She knocked on the door and yelled, "Is there anyone out there? Let me out! Anyone there?"

However, no one answered her as she kept slamming on the door. No matter how hard she tried, she could not open the door and no one was answering!

Xi Xiaye's heart sank as she started to feel uneasy. She anxiously wrung her hands and then she noticed she had not brought her handbag in.

The turmoil within Xi Xiaye became worse. She took a deep breath and tried to keep calm as she raised her head and looked around while thinking how to get out. Suddenly, the lights in her sight dimmed and she felt a chill behind her with some hissing nearby!

She started breaking out in a cold sweat. Curling her body up and glancing backward carefully, she then realized there was a colorful spotted snake hovering over the little bin at the side!

It was a venomous snake!

It was staring right at Xi Xiaye as it had its forked tongue flickering out!

Xi Xiaye's whole body strained as she started to tremble!

A snake!

An animal she was extremely afraid of!

Fear emerged in her eyes as her face turned pale. Inhaling a deep breath as she clenched her fists and held onto the door handle, she tried to apply strength on it but the door did not budge at all!

The snake started slithering forward and Xi Xiaye's body shook as she watched it inch closer. She was too afraid to make any noise. Fear consumed her as her palms were full of sweat!

Who had locked the door?

Moreover, where did this snake come from?

Xi Xiaye forced herself to relax. She moved slowly and turned her body around, but the snake in front of her was onto her. No matter where she moved, its eyes stared right at her as it closed in slowly!
Xi Xiaye was getting more and more nervous.
Was someone trying to harm her?
On the other hand, Mu Yuchen rushed towards the washroom. When he arrived at the corridor by the staircase outside, he saw a sign saying that the washroom was out of order at that moment.
He halted mid-step and his eyes darkened as he tried to calm down. Just as he was about to turn around, an urge within him propelled him forward.
He took a deep breath and followed his heart to advance forward.
He quickly pushed the door to the female washroom open and called out to Xi Xiaye, "Xiaye?"
Thud!
He heard the sound of footsteps from inside, but no one replied.
"Xiaye!"
Mu Yuchen looked around and his sharp eyes saw that the door of the first toilet stall was tied up with a rope to the pillar beside it. The patter of footsteps came urgently from there.
"Xiaye!"

Mu Yuchen's heart sank and he rushed over, quickly untying the ropes and opening the door.
"Don't come near here! Be careful!"
Xi Xiaye had heard his voice long ago, but she could not reply because the snake was already right in front of her. She had no idea how to escape from this narrow space!
However, the snake was startled when Mu Yuchen barged in. In reflex, its flexible body vaulted towards Xi Xiaye's shoulder, shocking her. She quickly evaded it. However, the snake moved even more swiftly and was about to reach her shoulder. In the next moment, a large hand pulled her back!
Xi Xiaye could only feel herself in his arms and smell his unique scent as she released all her fear and hugged him tightly!
Bang!
Thomp!
They swiftly backed off.
"Are you okay?" Mu Yuchen looked at her worried after they had retreated to safety.
Xi Xiaye shook her head anxiously. "I'm alright. I don't know where the snake came from. I Oh my god, it followed us out!" As she was about to say something more, she glanced by the door and saw the venomous snake nearby.
Thud!
"Ah Chen, Xiaye, move!"

Before they could react, Su Chen's voice came from behind them. He leaped over and crushed the snake with the mop in his hand. With a lightning-fast motion, the mop landed right on top of the snake's head and he grabbed it as it struggled. Xi Xiaye trembled again when she saw that.

"Don't worry! It's alright!" Mu Yuchen hugged her tightly as he looked at the snake in Su Chen's hand. He glanced over at the ropes on the floor as his eyes turned extremely cold.

"It's venomous! How could this be here?" Su Chen frowned as well as he looked at Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye.

"Master, Missus, are you two alright?" Li Si and the bodyguards in black suits rushed over too.

"Clean up the scene here first!" Su Chen handed the snake to one of the bodyguards who quickly took it from him.

"Li Si, go and get the security camera footages around here. Be quick! And get people to guard each and every entrance. Don't let anyone leave yet!" Mu Yuchen's expression was chilly just like his tone of voice. Even his stare was extremely sharp.

"Yes, Master! Right away!" Upon noticing the seriousness of this matter, Li Si left quickly after a brief reply.

Chapter 476. Shocked! (3)

Thud!

As Li Si vanished out of the door, Zhou Zimo and Su Nan came rushing in.

"Xiaye! Xiaye! How are you feeling? Are you alright?"

Su Nan was freaked out. Before Xi Xiaye could react, she rushed in and grabbed her as she looked around frantically.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath. The fear in her eyes had not totally left yet, but she patted Su Nan's shoulder. "Don't worry, I'm fine, I'm fine!"

She turned around to look at Mu Yuchen and noticed that he was hiding his arm. She squinted at him and quickly grabbed his left arm to roll his sleeve up only to see a bleeding bite mark!

"You were bitten!" Xi Xiaye yelled out of shock as her body shivered! "Go to the hospital now!"

Her heart was beating like a bullet train. She grabbed Mu Yuchen and was about to rush outside.

"It's okay!" Mu Yuchen pulled her back with a frown. "Don't worry!"

"Okay, don't move him. Does anyone have a small knife?" Su Chen spoke up. Immediately, one of the bodyguards handed him a sharp little dagger.

"Don't worry, Xiaye, it'll be alright! Move aside for a bit," Su Chen comforted her as he grabbed Mu Yuchen's bitten arm. He carefully sliced a cross mark on the bite before lowering his head and sucking out the poisonous blood. He only stopped when the blood he spat out became bright red again.

He took the Band-aid one of the bodyguards passed over and stuck it onto Mu Yuchen's arm. Then, he went over to the sink to rinse off the blood in his mouth and wash his hands.

Su Chen wiped his hand with the tissue handed by the bodyguards as he said, "Alright, now we'll head to the hospital. It'll be fine after injecting the antidote. Don't worry."

"Let's head to the hospital now then," Xi Xiaye said decisively.

"I'll head over with you guys. Zimo, stay here and take care of the rest. Let's go." Without waiting for Mu Yuchen's reply, Su Chen dragged him out and Xi Xiaye followed right behind them.

...

A car was already waiting as they arrived at the entrance of the Imperial Sky Hotel. They rushed straight to Hospital T after they got into the car.

The doctor immediately examined Mu Yuchen's wound.

"Master Mu, Master Su, it's alright now. The wound was treated in time, and with the snake captured, it'll be fine after we inject the antidote. Be careful at home and don't let the wound come into contact with water," advised the doctor as he looked at Mu Yuchen elegantly adjusting his sleeve.

He asked curiously, "Master Mu, this poison is quite strong and this snake doesn't usually appear easily. How...?"

Mu Yuchen did not reply to the doctor. Instead, his expression just darkened.

Xi Xiaye frowned slightly as well. He was holding her hand, and Su Chen appeared to be deep in thought.

After a while, Mu Yuchen stood up. He grabbed Xi Xiaye's hand, but his eyes were looking at Su Chen while his tone was calm. "Let's go back. Zimo should be arriving at the Maple Residence soon."

Su Chen nodded and turned to give the doctor a smile before leaving with Mu Yuchen.

It was already midnight when they arrived back at the Maple Residence and Zhou Zimo was waiting in the living room.

Sis Wang and the others had been working until pretty late recently, and today was no exception either.

"I didn't tell them what happened, so they wouldn't worry. All of them have gone back already. So, what happened?" Zhou Zimo asked with a frown as they sat down.

Mu Yuchen looked at his bandaged wound before glancing at Zhou Zimo. "Have you found the security footages?"

Zhou Zimo's expression darkened as he lowered his head. "Li Si went to look for it just now and realized the security cameras are being repaired. Someone must've planned this."

Su Chen's expression darkened as well. Mu Yuchen still seemed calm as if he had already seen this coming.

"Have some tea first. I'll prepare something to eat." Xi Xiaye brewed tea for them and then went back into the kitchen.

"Ah Chen, I think Xiaye was the target! I wonder who the perpetrator is! That snake couldn't have been there on its own unless someone put it there. We'll wait for news from Li Si."

"I think that the possibility is very high. Do you want to ask Xiaye if she...?"

Before Zhou Zimo could finish his sentence, Mu Yuchen raised his hand and stopped him. His expression turned chilly. "It might not be that case. This reminds me of the accident in City B."

Su Chen and Zhou Zimo were both startled by Mu Yuchen's words. They traded glances with each other. "You mean you suspect..."

"It's still unclear right now. I can't make a very good guess, but what happened today is definitely intentional. When I rushed over, there was an 'out of order' sign outside the toilet. It means that someone arranged it in a way to lock Xiaye in there after she went into the washroom and then leave the venomous snake there. The intention was obvious," Mu Yuchen analyzed calmly.

"The doctor investigated the venom in the hospital. It's not lethal. Due to the Imperial Sky Hotel's patrol schedule, they would patrol around the hotel every hour, so they would've surely noticed and questioned it if they saw that the toilet was under repair. Then, they would've found out what happened inside."

"I understand what you mean now. The perpetrator isn't trying to kill. Maybe he or she has the same intention as the previous incident in City B. Is he or she trying to leave us a warning? A threat?" Zhou Zimo understood it almost immediately, but his expression was still grim.

"Things would be much more complicated if that's the case. The enemies are in the dark and we can't fully protect ourselves from them. No wonder Ah Mo has been extra careful than before, and there are more people around you now," Su Chen said with a serious expression.

"Who is making such a deliberate plan against you?" Zhou Zimo asked with a frown.

Mu Yuchen put his hand onto his forehead as he replied with an exhausted tone, "They were sending strong messages here. My opinions are still under speculation, so we'll wait for news from Li Si. I hope things aren't like what I imagined."

The two of them nodded when they noticed how exhausted Mu Yuchen was.

"Alright, let's not overthink it now."

Chapter 477. Shocked! (4)

Inside the kitchen, Xi Xiaye was still preparing some soup and some snacks to sober up.

She lowered her gaze and silently watched the small flame flickering on the stove. Her beautiful face was dense with a hint of worry. When she remembered what had happened earlier, she still had lingering fears.

Who could have done it?

She only remembered back then that she seemed to have heard the very light patter of footsteps. The person had not been wearing high heels, but it should have been a woman because she seemed to have heard the sound of long fingernails scraping against the door.

However, it did not seem right if she thought about it again. Would a woman have been able to get a snake into the washroom?

In fact, was that person targeting her?

How could they have been so sure that she would have gone to the washroom?

Could it have been pure coincidence?

Or perhaps that person had been watching her.

If that was the case, then that would be terrifying!

When she thought about this, Xi Xiaye could not help but shudder. At this moment, a pair of strong arms gently hugged her from behind, pulling her into his safe embrace. His deep and sensitive voice held a hint of consolation. "What are you thinking about? Still afraid?"

She fell silent for a while, then she shook her head, "I'm just puzzled, wondering who could have done it."

"Li Si is already investigating this, we'll see then, don't worry, I'm here," he said as his arms around her waist suddenly tightened a little.

Hearing his words, Xi Xiaye paused. Her mind flashed back to the scene when he had quickly pulled her into the protection of his embrace and held back the snake that launched itself at her. She abruptly felt her heart soften as she quickly turned to him and face him. With one hand, she pulled his bandaged hand closer and stared at it for quite a while. Her eyes could not help but turn misty.

"Does it hurt?" She sighed and slowly looked up, quietly meeting his dark eyes that gazed down at her.

Upon hearing this, he smiled. "It's just a small wound and it doesn't hurt much. If you commend me a little or offer some proper consolation, I'll immediately be fine tomorrow." His extraordinarily handsome face flashed with a demonic smile.

She raised her brows. "How do you want me to commend you then? I don't know how to do praises, but I do know this—"

Then, she tiptoed and gently planted a kiss on his cheek.



## Annoying!

Half an hour later, on the soft and comfortable sofa, Mu Yuchen had already changed out of his tuxedo and slipped into a dark blue sleeping robe as he leisurely brewed some tea while Xi Xiaye kept shooting him glances from the corner of her eye from time to time as if she wanted to say something, yet she kept holding back.

"Why don't you ask me what happened earlier?" She thought he would ask him what had happened. However, unexpectedly, he had not asked a single thing ever since the incident. Instead, he had just ordered Li Si to investigate further into it.

"Why? Do you know who did it?" he asked as he looked at her very calmly.

She shook her head.

"Well, then that's fine. If you recall it, you might scare yourself. Earlier, you broke out in cold sweat all over."

He had a keen eye and he knew that she was afraid too, so he decided to not to mention it instead.

"I was quite scared. I wonder who it was. From what I recall, I haven't offended anyone apart from Xi Xinyi who hates me to the bone... but, Xi Xinyi wasn't invited, was she?"

"Your thought process is simple enough, Missus! Who told you that the person wouldn't have gotten someone else to do these malicious things?" Mu Yuchen objected.

"Do you really think it's her?" Xi Xiaye frowned.

"We don't have any way of guessing who it is right now. Things might not be quite as peaceful in the coming days, so just follow me. Ah Mo will handle Mother's matters over there and rush back soon. When that happens, I'll get him to pick a female bodyguard for you."

Mu Yuchen thought about it for a while, then he added, "To be your special female assistant." "A female bodyguard? Is there a need for that?" "Even if you're going to be in Fuhua after this, Grandpa would make the arrangements for you too. It's not a bad thing to be a little more careful." Xi Xiaye seemed to have noticed that the situation was a little tense. The banquet dispersed and it was close to midnight at this point. At the plaza before the entrance of the Imperial Sky Hotel, there was a black luxury sports car. Qi Lei leisurely lit up a cigarette, taking a drag on it from time to time. His demonically handsome face looked quite surreal amidst the smoke. He calmly looked at the hotel entrance where Li Si and the rest were in covertly inspecting everyone. When they let the last guest off, Yang Sheng, who had been standing on guard beside him, walked through the darkness toward the car. "Master Qi!" Yang Sheng opened the car door and slowly got in. There were anxiety and confusion written on his face. Qi Lei blew the smoke out and did not even look at Yang Sheng as he asked indifferently, "What happened?"

"Master Qi, I think something happened to Miss Xiaye in the washroom. Earlier, I saw Mu Yuchen rush over. In fact, Su Chen and the rest followed closely after him too. After that, I saw them hurry to leave the hotel. Something seems to have happened. By the looks of Li Si's actions, they seem to be looking

for someone!"

Yang Sheng had been quite far away, so he had only heard bits and pieces of the news. When he said this, Qi Lei's brows slowly furrowed too. "Something happened? Is she okay?" "She's fine, Master Qi. I'll seek clarification of the situation from them. Earlier, I did see Xiaye following closely behind Mu Yuchen, so she should be fine." "Let me know when you've found out." "Yes, Master Qi! They've all dispersed now. We... Master Qi, look!" Yang Sheng was about to say something when suddenly a black car slowly rolled out of a parking spot beside them. "The people in that car seemed to have been watching Li Si and the rest for a long while. Earlier, I was watching from a dark corner for a long time. There are two people in the car who've also been watching the hotel entrance for an entire night!" Chapter 478. Gu Lingsha Is Still Alive? (1) When Yang Sheng said this, a light flashed past in Qi Lei's eyes too as he looked contemplatively at the car that slowly drove into the darkness. After a while, he said coldly, "Sit tight!" "Master Qi, do you want to chase them?" Yang Sheng asked as he buckled up. Qi Lei did not answer. He started the car and drove towards the direction of the black car.

The car was driving towards the west of the city. After it drove for quite a distance, Qi Lei felt that something was not right. The car ahead quickly picked up speed and he chased it all the way.

"Master Qi, they seemed to have noticed us! Look, we're back here again!" Yang Sheng suddenly pointed out, staring ahead. "Master Qi, be careful! There's a car rushing this way from behind!"

Right at that moment, an SUV suddenly rushed in from behind them. With a whoosh, it dashed past Qi Lei. Accompanied by a sharp whistle, it then cut the front of Qi Lei. His heart sank as he subconsciously turned the steering wheel halfway and quickly evaded it, yet that car drifted around and blocked his way again. Consequently, Qi Lei's vision was blocked as well. In just the blink of an eye, the car had already vanished.

"Master Qi, they're gone!" Yang Sheng looked at the road ahead. The car had already evaded them, and the traffic port was just ahead. They probably could not find them anymore.

Qi Lei's face sank further. He could only drive to the side and park his car as he stared at the empty road ahead. After a while, he slammed a fist onto the steering wheel. "Did you get a good look at the car plate number?"

Yang Sheng nodded. "I did. I'll go get someone to find out who the car owner is right away."

Then, he quickly took his phone out and made a call. The other person on that end picked up very quickly.

"It's me. Run this car plate number for me right away. The number is XXXXXX. Okay, be quick!" Yang Sheng said and hung up.

"Master Qi, we'll get the results tomorrow. It's very late now. Shall we...?" Yang Sheng probed.

Qi Lei fell silent for a while, then he looked up ahead for a long time before he started the car and continued to drive. He turned around at the traffic port, then drove toward the north of the city.

Yang Sheng could vaguely feel that something was not too right either, so he softly asked, "Master Qi, do you think those people were there to target someone?"

"Go back right away and investigate the incident tonight. Let me know once you've found out about anything." Qi Lei was puzzled and uneasy as he was quite curious about what had happened. He seemed to be interested in Xi Xiaye's matters.

"Alright, Master!"

"I asked you to investigate Xi Xinyi and that old man as well as Yue Hai's matter. How's that going?"

Half a month ago, Qi Lei had asked Yang Sheng to investigate Qi Qiming, Xi Xinyi, and Yue Hai once again. Qi Qiming did not seem like the kind of person to do a bad deal. If it were purely because of Yue Hai that he decided to rescue Yueying, this would mean that Xi Xinyi and Yue Hai were quite important!

In fact, from what Qi Lei could observe, Yueying was not worth much. It was a company that was close to bankruptcy, so what good could it do?

What was the old man trying to do?

Qi Qiming had never liked him. Even though his older brother, Qi Feng, had passed away, he never seemed to have changed his mind about Qi Lei. All these years, he had been indifferent to him. No matter how hard Qi Lei tried, there was no way of making Qi Qiming change his mind about him.

Qi Qiming would never praise him. By name, he was the Second Master of the Qi family, but to Qi Qiming, he was probably no more than a subordinate.

Qi Qiming and Wang Qin had a classic marriage between two rich and powerful families. Both of them had someone else they loved before getting married, yet because of their interests, they tied the knot. After they got married, Qi Qiming and Wang Qin did not have a stable relationship, especially after his elder brother, Qi Feng joined the family. The whole family's conflict thoroughly exploded.

Wang Qin was capable and firm. In fact, she was vicious in her methods. After Qi Feng joined the Qi family, she had never been nice to him. Even though she did not scold and beat him like a stereotypical stepmother, she was still a cut above others and she treated Qi Feng like air.

However, Qi Feng had been smart and sensible since he was young. Talented, he learned everything very quickly, and it would not be an exaggeration to call him a prodigy. In fact, he was handsome and dashing, so everyone liked him. On the other hand, even though Qi Lei was born from a prestigious family, he was naughty and mischievous, thus he was not liked.

However, Qi Lei was used to it. That was just how he was like. He was confident and did as he pleased. He would never pander to anyone.

"Master Qi, the detective agency is still investigating. We should have the results quite soon," Yang Sheng answered.

"How's my mother?"

Qi Lei's relationship with his mother, Wang Qin, was quite tense. Albeit knowing that Wang Qin had his best interests at heart, she was also competitive and ambitious, so she was hell-bent on controlling Qi Kai to hand over to Qi Lei.

"VP Wang went to City B for two days. Director Lee and Glory World's newly developed Movie City seems to be quite interesting. She's gone to discuss business, and at the same time, she planned to take a look."

City B, huh?

When Qi Lei heard this, a coldness flashed in his eyes.

"Right, Master Qi, VP Wang wants you to watch over Miss Xian Er..."

"Make that woman leave. Tell her to get lost if she wants to have a little bit of dignity left! Otherwise, don't blame me for being mean! She's just another pretentious woman. What right does she have to have a piece of me?" Qi Lei sneered with disdain, then he suddenly sped up.

Yang Sheng chose his words carefully, and he finally said, "Master Qi, actually, Miss Xian Er was once good friends with Miss Sha Sha... After Miss Sha Sha passed away, she went abroad and has only returned quite recently."

"Sha Sha's good friend? Isn't that Xian Er from City C or something?" Qi Lei looked puzzledly at Yang Sheng.

"Their company is in City B. This time, VP Wang went with Miss Xian Er, yet Miss Xian Er said that she was going for a social event with some friends, so she was delayed."

Wang Qin had always liked Miss Xian Er, but Qi Lei never paid any attention to her.

When he heard this, Qi Lei's eyes began to shift. Although he looked calm, you could not tell how he felt. Out of the blue, his demonic face flashed with a very ambiguous sneer.

After a while, Qi Lei suddenly asked softly, "Is she still in City Z right now?"

Chapter 479. Gu Lingsha Is Still Alive? (2)

Yang Sheng nodded. "Yes, Master Qi! VP Wang should be back in City Z in two days. She'd need to wait for VP Wang to return anyway."

Qi Lei closed his eyes as his smile grew wider. He did not say anything else and instead stepped on the accelerator and sped up!

Yang Sheng went upstairs to get some documents.

"Master Qi, it's the weekend tomorrow. Do you want to return to the Qi Residence for a visit? CEO Qi invited some friends over, and Yue Hai and some others will be attending."

"I don't care who's going! I'm going to rest this weekend. Don't bother me."

Qi Lei tossed the document folder to Yang Sheng. "Ask VP Wang to sign this as soon as possible. I'll send someone to collect it on Monday. I'll continue to handle the South River project. There's no need to change, so you can go back now."

"Yes, Master Qi!" Yang Sheng then left with the folder.

Qi Lei glanced at the door when he heard it close. He sat down on the sofa beside the table as the faint light in his eyes turned cold slowly.

...

Dawn came. As the light of sunrise crept through the half-opened curtains, Mu Yuchen woke up. His first reaction was to hug the woman beside him, and he was shocked to find her absent!

He quickly sat up in the next moment, the blurriness in the eyes fading away as he became calm as usual. After a while, he got out of bed and grabbed some clothes before heading into the bathroom.

After he washed up, he went downstairs and saw the tiny woman being busy in the living room. He halted his steps and just watched her from above.

Xi Xiaye was sitting on the sofa with a big bouquet of champagne rose before her as well as several nameless purple flowers. She was arranging the flowers at the moment while breakfast was already laid out on the dining table.

She was really focused on arranging the flowers in the vase.

He actually realized she was very fond of flowers. Maybe it was the same for every woman. Having some flowers at home did make the house seem a little livelier.

He just stood there and watched her for a while. She swiftly arranged the flowers and then placed the vase in its corner before starting to clean up. Suddenly, soothing music reached her ears. Xi Xiaye raised her head and noticed that he was squatting beside the coffee table as he flipped through the newspapers that had just been delivered this morning.

She narrowed her eyes before walking towards him. She sat down beside him and took out the first-aid kit. "How come you never make a sound?"
"I'll change the medication on your wound." She opened the kit as she grabbed his arm.
"Hmm? I'm alright. It's just a small wound."
"Here, antiseptic. It'll get better soon. Su Chen seems to be quite experienced. If it weren't for him, you might have needed to be hospitalized." She handled his wound as she spoke.
He laughed. "Of course, all three of us were trained in the wilderness. It was common during our training period. We have to keep calm during these situations. Only then will you come up with a plan."
"I'm very afraid of snakes so" Xi Xiaye was still traumatized by what had happened. It was pretty common for girls to be afraid of creatures like these.
"There's no way there would be snakes in the hotel unless someone brought it in."
"Li Si is already investigating it. We'll probably have the results later"
Before Mu Yuchen could finish his sentence, the doorbell rang. He raised his brows and glanced over at Xi Xiaye before taking the cotton bud away. "It should be Li Si. Go and get the door."
Xi Xiaye stood up and went to the door. As expected, the screen showed Li Si and the others waiting outside, so she then pressed on the button to open the door.

"Good morning, Master, Missus!" he greeted politely as he reached the living room.

Li Si came in swiftly.

"Morning!" Xi Xiaye replied as she packed up the first-aid kit.

"Master!" Li Si went to Mu Yuchen.

"How did the investigation go?" Mu Yuchen adjusted his sleeves while looking at Li Si.

Li Si bowed slightly and handed a document to Mu Yuchen. "I've checked the security camera footages, but the cameras were damaged right before the incident, so we got nothing out of it. I conducted investigations as per your orders but didn't get anything particularly notable as well. However, we did notice something odd when looking through the security camera footages near the entrance."

Mu Yuchen frowned when he heard Li Si. He opened the document and started flipping through it as Li Si continued.

"According to the footages near the entrance, we noticed there were people inside a car parked in the car park right in front of the entrance. They were staring at the hotel entrance the whole night. Afterward, Qi Lei noticed them and followed them. I'm afraid to cause unnecessary attention, so I didn't go along. Master, do you think Qi Lei did it? He seems to have unkind intentions. It might be him," Li Si analyzed.

Mu Yuchen closed his eyes as he listened to Li Si and gave his analysis some thought. Xi Xiaye, who was packing up the first-aid kit, was stunned for a moment as she looked at Li Si in surprise. After being quiet for a while, she said, "Qi Lei, it's probably not him. He's not someone who'd be this wicked towards a woman."

While Qi Lei did have some other intentions, they had been in contact for some time.

Qi Lei did not give her the impression of being someone like that. Although he seemed pretty mysterious and hard to grasp, he was not someone like that. He was probably not someone who would do something like that.

"How are you so sure that he won't play little tricks?" Mu Yuchen frowned and looked at Xi Xiaye as he said coldly, "He was so arrogant in front of me last night and totally forgot that I'm your husband. I'd have cut him if it was somewhere else!"

Mu Yuchen's expression turned bitter as he remembered Qi Lei's attitude last night. His eyes were chilly, and the words that Qi Lei left him with echoed in his ears again.

Chapter 480. Gu Lingsha Is Still Alive? (3)

His tone sounded pretty harsh, so Xi Xiaye instantly knew he was upset. She shrugged. "Don't mind him. Didn't you shut him up afterward? Also, we have projects with Qi Kai now."

Without missing the slight sense of jealousy in the air, Xi Xiaye added with a chuckle, "Moreover, he's not my cup of tea."

Mu Yuchen glanced at her before looking back to Li Si. "Keep an eye on the Qi family. At the same time, do everything you can to find out who was in the car. Also, check through all the hotel's employee's information, especially those who joined recently as well as their whereabouts last night."

Li Si instantly understood what Mu Yuchen's intention was.

He suspected that there was a spy within the hotel employees, or someone pretending to be one of their employees.

After giving it some thought, Li Si agreed that there was a very high possibility of this happening, he then nodded. "Yes, Master! I understand. I'll get it done now!"

He then left after giving that brief reply.

...

It was a weekend, a day to rest. Having been busy for the past few days, Wang Qin arrived back in City Z before afternoon. She felt exhausted after working abroad for several days.

As Wang Qin stepped out of the airport, Yang Sheng went to pick her up.

"VP Wang!" He called out to her as she came closer.

Wang Qin nodded and sat inside the car. "Where's Xiao Lei?"

"Master Qi is at the Grand Waves Villa. He's handling an emergency case and can't take time off, so he sent me to pick you up." Yang Sheng closed the door carefully and went to the driver's seat.

"Excuses! He doesn't even care about his mother anymore. With his personality, he'll never be favored by Qi Qiming! Did he go home last night?"

Wang Qin was outraged when he heard Yang Sheng! She was really frustrated!

She knew Qi Qiming too well. He liked people to get on his good side and he desired to be regarded highly. Always acting all high and mighty, he could not put himself down even for a moment.

Actually, the two of them were really similar in nature. They were extremely stubborn and none of them liked to admit defeat.

"VP Wang, Master Qi attended Glory World's Master Mu's wedding last night. That's why he didn't go back., CEO Qi is meeting some friends at home. I invited Master Qi to go home, but he declined. I think he didn't want to see CEO Qi. Because of what happened with Yueying the other day, Master Qi is a little..."

Wang Qin knew very well what Yang Sheng meant.

She had the same opinion as Qi Lei on Yueying's matter. They did not want to help clean this mess up. However, Qi Qiming insisted on doing so. It seemed odd to both her and Qi Lei that he put in so much effort to help Yueying, and because of this, the father-son pair was very unhappy with each other.

"Did CEO Qi call Xiao Lei to ask him to go back?"

Wang Qin knew that even if it was just a simple meal at home, if Qi Qiming genuinely intended to repair his relationship with Qi Lei, this was a very good excuse. Otherwise, Qi Qiming could have just totally left Qi Lei out.

Having worked for Wang Qin many years, Yang Sheng understood very well what she meant. She was trying to find an excuse for Qi Qiming, but that was not his intention at all!

"VP Wang, CEO Qi did not call Master Qi. He called Yue Hai over instead," Yang Sheng replied carefully.

As expected, Wang Qin's expression turned into a dismal storm! From the rearview window, he could see her anger and she was almost bleeding herself from pinching her palm too hard.

"VP Wang, are you alright?" Yang Sheng called out to her after a while.

His voice calmed her down and she came back to her senses before replying coldly, "I'm fine. Head straight to the Grand Waves Villa area." Wang Qin then took out her tablet and was scrolling through it quietly.

"Yes, VP Wang." Yang Sheng stepped on the pedal and sped up.

Wang Qin opened her inbox. She had not had the time to check her mail in her past few days and many documents from her subordinates were sent right to her inbox.

As usual, she checked her inbox and went through the emails one by one. However, an email titled "Covered Truth – Qi Feng" caught her attention!

She clicked the email and it loaded gradually. It was a very long email with many image attachments!

Wang Qin read through it in detail, but just the first few sentences into it, her face turned pale!

The attached photo was also a shocker!

She very well recognized the woman in the photo.

Gu Lingsha!
It was her!
It must be Gu Lingsha!
A side profile of her face was enough for Wang Qin to recognize her!
Thud——
Wang Qin's hands trembled and her tablet fell onto the floor as her pale expression darkened!
Gu Lingsha!
They could not find her body at the accident scene back then. Qi Feng had disappeared with her as well. Tragically, Mu Lingtian was found dead. If Gu Lingsha was still alive, where was Qi Feng? Was he still alive as well?
These two witches!
They were actually still alive?
Although there were some signs that they might still be alive, she had investigated numerous times before and could not locate them. She tried to track Qi Qiming down in secret and could not get any useful information too. Now, someone had noticed Gu Lingsha was in Los Angeles?
The aura around Wang Qin turned chilly while sweat formed on her palms as she clenched her fists.
The Gu family!

No wonder the Gu family acted indifferently toward Gu Lingsha's death. They must have been aware that Gu Lingsha was still alive.

If the Gu family knew Gu Lingsha was alright, that meant that Qi Qiming knew it as well, and he must have known Qi Feng was alive. He never disputed any news claiming that Qi Feng was dead over the years. Furthermore, he had been holding onto the company that should have been handed over to Qi Lei long ago!

Ample evidence suggested this bastard Qi Qiming had been paving a path for Qi Feng. He had never thought about letting Qi Lei take over Qi Kai!