

Loving 501

Chapter 501. Affection (3)

Mu Yuchen's eyes darkened as he looked at Xi Xiaye quietly after she spoke up.

Xi Xiaye held the glass in her hands tightly and sighed. "Some time ago, Ah Shi looked for Caitlyn. They didn't mention it, but I know you guys have been struggling with it, so I convinced Caitlyn and her manager Sis Li who worked under Sis Lan before."

He glanced at the paper and asked, "You went to meet them this afternoon?"

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Mm-hmm, I went to see them and to find out more. I suppose it'll help us in the search."

She reorganized her thoughts before looking back at him again. "Do you still remember that I asked you if you knew a man with the surname Wen?"

He looked downward quietly and nodded.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath as her tone started to become heavy. "I heard from Sis Li that Sis Lan and Auntie were very good friends. After Auntie passed away, she'd come back to visit her grave during the Qixi festival [1] every year, so I think their relationship must be special. At least, I think Sis Lan knows something about Auntie that we don't.

"Sis Lan didn't get married. They said she had a boyfriend before and everyone called him Mr. Wen. He seemed to be a son from a prestigious family back then, but they didn't get married afterward and no one knows why. As for this Mr. Wen... I think that there's something odd about him. Remember yesterday you asked me what was wrong and why you couldn't get through to my phone?"

"You told me it was because Lingshi talked about Auntie." He glanced at her with a sharp gaze. "But I know that isn't all."

She rolled her eyes at him. "You and your all-seeing eyes. I can never hide anything from you. You always see through me easily."

He smiled quietly. He could never tell her that he had already grasped what kind of personality she had, and already knew all about what she was thinking.

“Actually, I was followed when I left Ah Shi’s house. I wanted to shake them off quickly. However, when I entered the tunnel, they had cars block me from the front,” she stated calmly.

However, the expression of the man beside her shadowed. His calmness from before vanished and his features were taken over by a darkness within him as he stared at her. “What did you say?”

Xi Xiaye blinked and then looked downward. She glanced at his clenched fists and quickly grabbed his hands. “Don’t worry. They didn’t harm me. I wouldn’t be sitting here talking to you if they did.”

“Explain!” he demanded coldly.

Xi Xiaye nodded and then continued, “They only stopped me and wanted to give us some advice. The person inside the car called himself ‘Mr. Wen’. He was wearing a cap and sunglasses, and I couldn’t get anything out of his voice either. He also talked about settling some business with you. I can sense that he has grudges against you.

“Do you think this Mr. Wen is the same Mr. Wen mentioned by Sis Li? They were both mysterious and difficult to grasp. I guess they might be related in some way. While these coincidences feel unreal, I think we’ll be able to make a huge breakthrough by reaching Sis Lan!”

Her eyes flashed with various emotions, including doubt, worry, and a mix of other things.

Mu Yuchen just listened quietly without replying even after a while she was done talking.

After some time, he looked at her with his sharp eyes as he glanced all over her. He asked in a concerned tone, “Did they do anything to you?”

Xi Xiaye shook her head. "Not really. They just stopped me and asked me to pass you the message. I thought he might be working for Qi Qiming. The accident in City B and the wedding dinner might be their work, and his so-called advice might be just to invoke a sense of fear in us."

He let out a sigh of relief. It seemed like there was a need to get her a personal female bodyguard as soon as possible. Ah Mo did say that the person was ready.

He did not reply on that matter, so Xi Xiaye then looked at him in puzzlement. "Don't you have anything to say?"

He leaned back against the sofa. "I know about Sis Lan whom you mentioned. When my parents investigated, they looked for her as well, but didn't manage to get much out of her. From what you've said, she seems to be pretty important. We can try looking for her again."

"Can you take a look into Mr. Wen as well? I think this person is mysterious and very dangerous. He mainly acts in the dark, and I heard that he holds a huge grudge against you. Have you been offending a lot of people all these years?"

"Your Mr. Mu is just an ordinary businessman who fights for profit. Of course, there'll be a lot of conflicts involved, but don't worry. I'll get people to look into this. Where did they stop you?"

"The second tunnel after leaving the city, but they didn't do anything to me. Don't worry."

Xi Xiaye put the glass on the table and then looked at his conflicting face as she asked quietly, "Do you really not know Mr. Wen? I think he'll leave an impression even if you've just met him once. He had this kind of aura around him and he should be someone of high societal position as well. Hence, I feel that he should be the Mr. Wen that Sis Li mentioned. If we find Sis Lan, we can probably find out more about him very soon."

"Mmm, I really don't know any Mr. Wen, but if it's like you said, we'll be able to find out about him after a quick check."

"Great, I heard Sis Lan will be returning during the Qixi festival. Let's head over then."

She kept the piece of paper.

“The Qixi festival, huh?” Mu Yuchen mumbled to himself.

Xi Xiaye nodded doubtfully. “Mmm, the Qixi festival. What’s wrong? You don’t look that great...”

Chapter 502. I Am Ji Zitong (1)

Mu Yuchen lifted a hand and gently held his head. He relaxed for a while before saying softly, “Mmm, Aunty passed away on this day.”

When he said this, Xi Xiaye was stunned and she turned to look at him. His gaze remained still as water, yet he did not say anything for a long while.

“I’m surprised that someone would remember that day. Grandfather and Grandmother probably don’t remember anymore since they forced themselves to forget.”

He leaned against the sofa, his eyes a little dazed as if he was recalling something. His expression was calm and distant too. “I remember that it was a very lively Qixi festival that year. After a long period of recovery, Aunty’s depression seemed to be improving. Even if it was a day of festivities, my grandmother wanted to go out for a walk with her, and at the same time, get some new clothes for her. They brought Lingtian along too. He was very young then, barely five years old. It was so long ago...”

When he reached this part, he seemed to struggle with recollecting the memories. After all, it had been such a long time ago.

“Just as they were on the way to Jing Wang Mall in the north of the city, when Grandmother wasn’t paying attention, she jumped from the rooftop of the ninth floor, and then she was gone. Now, that mall has been rebuilt, and it continues to flourish, seeming even livelier than before.”

“Father says that actually, Aunty was someone who was afraid of being alone. She had chosen the liveliest street in the north of the city to end her life. Perhaps that was fast. Lingtian was very much like her. Sometimes, you’d find that it was hard for him to blend in with everyone else. The reason grandfather had found Ah Mo was actually because of him. Lingtian, Lingshi, Lingmo... He named them like that. To others, the three of them are extremely close siblings, and all of them are children of Father and Mother.”

“Grandfather and Grandmother really put in a lot of thought,” Xi Xiaye lamented and sighed. “That way, they wouldn’t feel too desolate. I believe that all of your childhoods were quite happy.”

“The Mu family favors females over males. It’s not that they don’t care about the boys, but because they wanted to train them to be independent, so they would be more demanding of them. Grandfather, Father, and I are classic examples. Back then Aunty was very cherished in the family. Father and Mother doted on her too. They always treated her like a child that would never grow up.

“So, when that happened to Aunty, they blamed themselves. They felt like they should take part of the blame for causing the tragedy.”

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye knew what he meant. She suddenly felt like this story had happened to her family too. Was her mother, Shen Wenna, not a living example of it?

However, Shen Wenna was slightly luckier. At least, Xi Mushan truly loved her. Even if they could not get together all these years and their feelings had simmered down, it never seemed to have died out. As long as the winds of spring were blowing, those tame flames would reignite again.

Yet, for Mu Zixi...

She had loved so innocently, then...

Love was a type of scary poison. It could cause someone to lose themselves in it, to fall, and to be destroyed, yet it could also make someone rise up and above, prevailing over everything.

She dared not comment on anything about Mu Zixi. She only knew that Mu Zixi still protected that man till she died, so she must have really loved that man. Nonetheless, it was also because of that that her love seemed even starker against the man’s neglect and indifference.

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The blistering hot June passed. In a flash, midsummer had quietly slipped through their fingers. Soon, it was a cool July. The hot and stuffy weather from before had started to turn cool from a few jubilant showers. It was getting closer to the Qixi festival, and such cool and refreshing weather was much more comfortable for everyone.

For quite a long time, Xi Xiaye had been busy with the South River project. Of course, she had also begun to follow Shen Yue and familiarize herself with the property business. Mu Yuchen was busy with work too. In their hectic lifestyle, the husband and wife would leave home early and return late.

In consideration of Xi Xiaye's safety, Mu Yuchen almost never left her side. Otherwise, he would make sure she had a bodyguard everywhere she went. That way, they could also avoid unnecessary breaches in safety.

Xi Mushan and Shen Wenna were still abroad. Xi Xiaye heard that Shen Wenna seemed to be recovering well. When she called her a few days ago, she told Xi Xiaye that she could vaguely see a blank whiteness unlike before when she could only see a vast darkness. When she heard this, Xi Xiaye was very excited because this meant that Shen Wenna's eyes seemed to be slowly recovering. Soon, she could probably see again.

Xi Mushan never left Shen Wenna. He personally took great care of her. From the daily conversations, she could vaguely hear Xi Mushan's increasingly lighthearted tone. Xi Xiaye thought to herself, one day, Shen Wenna would be moved by Xi Mushan and return to his side.

Shen Yue seemed to be smiling more recently. Apart from being thrilled and hopeful for Shen Wenna's recovery, it was also because Xi Xiaye could often be by his side.

Xi Xiaye was quite capable, so she picked things up quickly. With Lan Zilang and everyone else's help, her induction into the business had been comparatively easy. In fact, with Mu Yuchen's expertise, Xi Xiaye did not find it hard to cope with everything.

By the time the purple magnolias by her window had withered, Xi Xiaye met Ji Zitong, a girl who was cold as ice besides being reserved and incisive that one dared not look straight at her. She was the female bodyguard that Mu Yuchen had specially chosen for Xi Xiaye.

She had served in the army before and her family owned a martial arts center. She was well-versed in Yongchun and Muay Thai. Being deftly skilled, she could even exchange hands with Ah Mo for quite a few rounds without being defeated. Apart from that, she was also a cadet that Mu Yuchen and the rest had watched over while they all served in the army. Mu Yuchen only found out about this when Ah Mo brought Ji Zitong over.

As he sat at his desk and flipped open the information that Ah Mo handed him, Mu Yuchen muttered softly, "Ji Zitong?"

After a while, he looked up at the quiet girl before his desk.

Her long hair was casually tied into a neat bun. She wore a pair of canvas shoes and a fading gray tracksuit. With a fair and graceful face, her twinkling eyes were filled with a sharp and cold light. Despite not being a beauty or anything, at least, she had the good looks of a pretty daughter from a humble family.

Ji Zitong's sharp eyes quickly flitted to Ah Mo, Li Si, and several other bodyguards as she said calmly,

"Hello, Chairman Mu. I'm Ji Zitong. Everyone can call me Zitong."

With a nod, Mu Yuchen briefly browsed through the information at hand, then he abruptly closed the folder.

Chapter 503. I Am Ji Zitong (2)

"I vaguely remember you, Ji Zitong. You came in top three for that year's devil-like training camp. You're quite capable." Mu Yuchen made a simple comment.

He, Su Chen, and Zhou Zimo had retired from service after they finished that training. It had already been five or six years since then. Back then, Ji Zitong seemed to have been recommended with the new recruits despite only being 18 or 19 years old then. Now, a few years had passed, and she was already over 20 years old now. She had shed her juvenile features from back then, so she now looked much sharper and steadier.

"Instructor Mu, you've got a good memory," Ji Zitong coldly answered.

With a smile, Mu Yuchen set aside the document in his hand and looked her from the side. “Ah Mo has already told me about you. You’re skilled and have high awareness too. Your counter-reconnaissance skills are strong too. Well, I’m very happy with everything. I’m sure Ah Mo has already told you roughly the tasks you need to do.”

“I will do my best to ensure Missus is protected!” Ji Zitong responded in a firm tone.

Mu Yuchen nodded with satisfaction. “Not bad. Your job is to protect her, and be her personal assistant.”

“Okay, you’ve met everyone now. All of you, work with each other,” Mu Yuchen concluded. Then, he called Xi Xiaye’s office for her to come up.

Over ten minutes passed before Xi Xiaye arrived. She pushed the door open and saw the people standing in the office. She was even momentarily stunned, especially when she saw Ji Zitong. Her eyes were filled with doubt as she examined her, then squinted at Mu Yuchen.

“Xiaye, come. This is Ji Zitong. She’ll be your personal assistant from now on,” Mu Yuchen introduced calmly.

“Hello, Director Xi. I’m Ji Zitong. You can just call me Zitong.” Ji Zitong bowed indifferently.

Xi Xiaye then remembered that Mu Yuchen did say he was going to get her a female bodyguard, especially after he found out she was blocked at the tunnel. She had already rejected him once, but unexpectedly, he just got someone to come right away.

She thought about it and knew that it was a crucial period right now, so she just acknowledged, “Hello, I’m Xi Xiaye. You can call me Xiaye.”

“Okay, now that you’ve met each other, from today onwards, you must carry out your duties well. Ah Mo, bring her down to settle in first. All of you can leave too.” As Mu Yuchen gave his last orders for the session, he reached out to pull Xi Xiaye in.

Ah Mo nodded and brought Ji Zitong out.

Xi Xiaye placed the documents in her hand in a corner of his table and asked puzzledly, "Do you know Ji Zitong?"

"I was her instructor when I was still serving in the army, but she should be even closer to Su Chen. Back then, Su Chen made her do drills after drills. She's quite skilled, so I sort of remember her. She hasn't changed much. She's just become more mature and steadier than she was."

"It's been so many years now, but you can still remember how she looked like? Did you notice her from back then?"

When Mu Yuchen told her all this, Xiaye immediately felt afflicted. Her beautiful eyes darkened and glared at him. Even though her tone was casual as always, she could not hide the jealousy that colored it.

Upon hearing this, Mu Yuchen instantly chuckled. He circled her waist with his arm helplessly and smiled. "What do you have there in your head? I only found out when Ah Mo brought her over. She's not my type. Do I look like the kind of person who would make a principled error?"

"Who knows!?" Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes at him.

He was at his wit's end as he spread open his hands. "Well, if you're not happy then we can change to another one."

She then smiled and shook her head. "Forget it. I was just messing with you."

"I know you are. However, Su Chen does quite like this type. Elder Su has been troubled by Su Chen's matters recently. If you do have some thoughts, you could put your skills to use. Aren't Ah Mo and Lingshi doing alright now? Su Chen's turning 33 soon, yet he doesn't even have anyone," Mu Yuchen admitted. He was starting to worry about his buddy's happiness.

“How do you know he has no one? In fact, with Su Chen’s status, he doesn’t seem like someone without a girlfriend.”

“I know well enough whether he has anyone or not. Apart from having a crush on our art teacher back in school, he really hasn’t fancied any other women. He’s as clean as a sheet! Sadly, you don’t have any single friends. Otherwise, with such a good resource, wouldn’t it go to waste?” Mu Yuchen glanced at Xi Xiaye, lamenting about what a pity it was.

When Xi Xiaye heard this, she immediately widened her eyes and looked in disbelief at Mu Yuchen as she cried out, “Really? He is Deputy Chief Mr. Su, Deputy Chief of the Traffic Control Bureau, yet he has never dated anyone or had a girlfriend. Who’d believe you?”

“What is so unbelievable about that? Wasn’t I like that before I met you? His elder’s hardcore, a classic old revolutionary. He has very high expectations of Su Chen too. We were in the army for so long. Naturally, we didn’t have time to care about these things. When he returned after leaving the army, he furthered his studies abroad for over a year. After that, he was sent back until now. Zimo says that because he missed the art teacher he had a crush on back then. He even checked on her, but she got married a long time ago and by then, her child could already run around. When this fellow found out, he even got himself drunk, denying that he would ever like anyone else.”

When Mu Yuchen recalled this, he could not help but guffaw out loud.

“Was your art teacher very pretty?” asked Xi Xiaye as she blinked her twinkling eyes with curiosity.

Mu Yuchen nodded. “Very pretty! She was a very gentle woman and she had dimples when she smiled. Su Chen liked her like that. When she smiled, Su Chen would be entranced. Come to think of it, it was a little embarrassing.

“But he should have turned over a new leaf by now. That was just a brief interlude in your innocent youth. All things considered, he seems to be a rather pure and simple person.”

He smiled when he recalled the interesting stories of their youth and felt nostalgic.

“Okay, let’s not talk about these. Right, we finally have news about Sis Lan that you mentioned. She’ll be rushing back to City Z the day after tomorrow. She’s flying in from Italy.”

“The day after tomorrow?”

As Xi Xiaye listened, she paused. Then, she remembered that it was the Qixi festival in a few more days.

“Mmm, she’ll be landing in City Z on a flight in the afternoon the day after tomorrow,” answered Mu Yuchen softly. His eyes were faintly filled with stillness.

“Mmm, I got it. I’ll go over to take a look then.”

“Okay, she has her guard up high. Years ago, Father and Mother did personally meet her, yet they did not find out about anything.”

Chapter 504. I Am Ji Zitong (3)

“Perhaps she wasn’t willing to bring up the past again. Her best friend did leave suddenly. This is a sorrowful thing for anyone. I hope that this time, I’ll be able to meet her and find out something from her.”

Xi Xiaye stayed silent for a while. Then, she put a hand on his shoulder. With a deep breath, she consoled, “So, we’ll just do our best. Lingshi has been looking for this answer too. I believe that everything will become clear to us very soon.”

“You’re quite optimistic. It’s something that has been silent for 20 to 30 years now. Do you think that it could all be explained so quickly? If it truly could, then it wouldn’t have waited until now when the matter is still foggy. However, with this attitude of yours, it’s worth encouraging no matter what. We’ll see how this goes. You should be happy with this Ji Zitong since Ah Mo praises her highly too. From now on, whenever I’m not by your side, she must follow you closely.”

Mu Yuchen lifted a hand to cover her hand on his shoulder as he said this.

Xi Xiaye nodded. “Mmm, I got it. Don’t worry. It’s fine. Those people aren’t stupid either. They wouldn’t hurt someone in broad daylight, but I’ll be more careful.”

"It's best to be more vigilant. You'll never know with these things. Without anyone guarding by your side, I have to worry," Mu Yuchen said sensitively.

"I got it. Okay, I'm going back down now. Take a look at these documents and sign them if they're okay. I have to send them to the Commerce Department tomorrow. Bye!"

She smiled and planted a kiss on his face, pointing at the documents she brought over. Before Mu Yuchen could respond, she already turned to leave, taking her cold fragrance with her. When he snapped back to his senses, she had already vanished out the door.

As he watched her little figure disappear, a faint curve flashed on his lips.

When she returned to her office, Ah Mo was already waiting inside with Ji Zitong.

"Feel free to have a seat!" Xi Xiaye's beautiful face widened with a casual smile as she pointed at the sofa on the side and skillfully boiled some water for tea. "Let's sit and talk."

"Thank you, Director Xi!"

"Missus, there's no need to be all courteous."

Ah Mo and Ji Zitong exchanged a smile before they sat down too.

"I don't have many rules here, so the two of you don't need to be all courteous with me," Xi Xiaye chided calmly while she swiftly pulled the drawer on the side open to take the tea leaves inside out. "Is Pu Er okay? Your brother's been drinking this recently. I took this from him."

Then, she subconsciously looked at the two of them.

Ever since Xi Xiaye entered through the door, Ji Zitong's sharp eyes had been observing her. She noticed that she was not egoistic. Instead, she was rather elegant and casual, thus her tensed heart then eased off a little.

"Anything's fine. Thank you, Director Xi," Ji Zitong answered humbly.

"Missus, you two enjoy your tea. Zitong, explain your situation to Missus. I have to go out for a bit. Later, I'll arrange your office and a place to stay," explained Ah Mo with a smile before leaving.

"It might get a little exhausting after this. I'm usually quite busy, but don't worry. I'll do my best to give you time to rest."

Xi Xiaye casually poured some tea for Ji Zitong, and naturally examined the girl again. She had quite a positive impression of her. Although she sensed that she was a person of few words and appeared quite cold, when she did speak, she seemed rather humble.

Ji Zitong straightened up as she said, "It's fine. I can be on standby for 24 hours."

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye grinned instead. "I'm not that demanding. Don't worry. I heard that you previously served in the army, didn't you?"

Ji Zitong nodded gently as she lifted her teacup up and took a sip before she continued, "Yes, I was in the army for a few years. I did counter-reconnaissance."

"Army, counter-reconnaissance... You're quite good."

As Xi Xiaye listened, she seemed to be rueful. She sipped her tea. "Actually, I used to be in the military academy too. Once, I yearned for a life in the army too."

"The military academy? Director Xi, are you a servicewoman too?"

When Ji Zitong heard this, her eyes lit up as she silently looked at Xi Xiaye's little face with a hint of shock.

Xi Xiaye lowered her gaze. Then, she laughed a little bitterly and shook her head. "No, I can't be considered a servicewoman because I had to leave after less than a year."

When Xi Xiaye said this, the light in Ji Zitong's eyes dimmed. She could vaguely feel the disappointment in Xi Xiaye's tone, but she did not want to say anything about it. After some thought, she decided to keep quiet in the end.

Moments passed before Xi Xiaye finally relaxed and smiled up at Ji Zitong. "Ah Mo says you're quite skilled."

"My father loves martial arts, and I've been learning some from him since I was young, so I've got some foundation. He owns a martial arts center. When I was free, I would swap pointers with the other students. Perhaps I'm not skilled in anything else, but I sure can put up a fight," Ji Zitong answered softly.

Xi Xiaye nodded. She turned her body slightly as she examined Ji Zitong from the side. She could not help but laugh gently. "Actually, if we're talking about putting up a fight, I'm no stranger to it at all."

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The two of them chatted for quite a while, and Xi Xiaye got to know Ji Zitong. Frankly, she quite liked this Ji Zitong. Even though she had few words, looking at her reminded her of her past self. She was not sure why but she seemed to be able to sympathize with the kind of loneliness that she could sense from her.

When Ah Mo came back for her, Xi Xiaye slowly stood up and said, "Okay, go and arrange things with Ah Mo first. Rest for two days. Just come straight to the company on Monday morning."

"Alright, thank you!" Ji Zitong nodded gently. Then, she turned to follow Ah Mo and left.

In the afternoon, Xi Xiaye went to discuss some project matters with some partners. She was busy until late at night. When she reached home, Mu Yuchen had already prepared a spread full of delightful food.

However, Xi Xiaye did not seem to have an appetite in recent days, so she only had a few mouthfuls before she played around with the rice in her bowl. When she saw that the man across her was almost done eating, she muttered, "Mr. Mu, I don't want to wash the dishes tonight..."

"Finish the food in your bowl, then I'll allow you not to wash them. You've been quite busy these past few days, yet your fighting strength has weakened. Are you bored with the dishes?"

Without a word, he added more food into her bowl again.

"No, it was the day before yesterday when I went for inspection with them and got caught in the cold wind. Even though I did take some medicine when I got back, I seem to have gotten a cold."

Shes pregnant!!

After that, Mu Yuchen ordered Xi Xiaye to go upstairs, shower and rest. He did not forget to get her to take her medication either.

Even so, Xi Xiaye still suffered from a high fever in the middle of the night. Mu Yuchen was sound asleep then. Suddenly, he could feel her tossing in his embrace while breathing heavily. Her temperature was terrifying too, so he quickly took a better look and saw that she was covered in a sheen of cold sweat.

He quickly got her to consume some medication and looked after her the entire night. Finally, when dawn arrived, her fever finally broke.

When they woke up the next morning, Mu Yuchen did not go to work. He got Li Si to send the necessary documents straight to the Maple Residence. He worked at home to keep an eye on her. Unexpectedly, Su Chen called to ask Mu Yuchen out for drinks that night. Mu Yuchen just told him he was at home, and Su Chen drove right over, bringing along some game meat too.

At this moment, in the Maple Residence living room, Mu Yuchen was sitting still and upright before the sofa. His eyes were fixated on his laptop screen as his fingers swiftly tapped against the keyboard while Su Chen was silently sipping his tea on the side.

“I remember that you should be quite busy, Chief Su. How do you have time to come over today?”

Usually, the buddies were all rather busy, so even if they wanted to gather, they would have to wait for weeknights or rare weekends.

“Can’t I just come over to see you?” Su Chen shot him a glance, then continued sipping his tea.

Mu Yuchen stared at him cynically for quite a while, then smiled. “Did the Elder issue his rigid command to you?”

Upon hearing this, Su Chen sighed helplessly. “I’ve been thinking it over properly over these past few days. Actually, I understand what the older generation is thinking. My sister specially came home last night to nag me.”

“Everyone at home’s like that, speaking of which, you’re much more relaxed than Zimo. There are pros of being in politics, and there are cons of being in business, so you are basically stable now. I’m sure they had the same thoughts of me having a stable career before settling down and starting a family.”

Mu Yuchen entered the last row of data and saved it before shutting his laptop down and turning to smile faintly at Su Chen.

“Wow! You would say such things too? Years ago, you were one of those who swore they’d only get married when they were done fooling around!”

Su Chen glared at him sulkily. He set his cup aside frustratedly and then leaned back against the sofa.

“I’m already done messing around. It’s you who’s not done,” He casually poured himself a cup of tea as he chuckled. “Ah Mo and Lingshi will have some good news soon. Earlier, Lingshi even mentioned you.”

“Lingshi?”

Su Chen was surprised as he raised his brows while mixed emotions passed through his eyes. “Of course, it’s good that she can get over this barrier. Initially, she was quite worried that you wouldn’t be able to let go either. They’re already gone, so there’s no need for any guilt or self-blame. Instead, you should continue to live your life since life is short and will pass by in the blink of an eye. It was as if I just packed my bags to go to school yesterday, and today I woke up 30 years later. So, buddy, life is but an instant.”

Mu Yuchen’s tone was light as the wind, yet his eyes were extremely still as he silently looked at Su Chen.

“You really do have quite a lot of feelings about this. Since you know that life is short, why have I never seen you spend more time on yourself? Pfft, you and Zimo are the same.”

Su Chen disapproved of his lecture. He lifted his long leg and kicked Mu Yuchen’s shin. “Hey, punk, when did you learn how to lecture others now? I’ve called Zimo for cross-country running this weekend. Want to come along?”

“You two go ahead. I can’t leave for the next two days. Xiaye’s having a cold and a fever. She hasn’t even woke up yet.”

“Hearing you speak like that, I suddenly feel quite lonely. Anyway, is Xiaye okay?” Su Chen looked pensively at Mu Yuchen who was being a little peculiar to him.

The man pretended not to hear him.

Su Chen thought about it and still couldn’t hold back from asking in the end, “Ah Mo came looking for me before this. It seems like that a certain someone is coming to City Z. Don’t you have anything to say? Aren’t you worried?”

Mu Yuchen shot him an unpredictable look. “I thought you wouldn’t ask. This is the real reason you came over, isn’t it?”

“Why shouldn’t I ask? You’re right! Zimo’s worried too. He told me to come over and ask you about it too.” Su Chen did not hide it any longer and was honest instead.

Mu Yuchen smiled as he played around with the cup in hand. “Why should I be worried? I just want to know the truth from years ago. Other people’s life or death has nothing to do with me.”

“Okay, I won’t refute you on that. What about that Mr. Wen? Ah Mo has told me already. I’ve privately investigated it, and there isn’t anyone with the surname Wen among the whole of City Z’s prestigious community, so I suspect that that isn’t his real identity. I can’t be sure if it might be someone from another city.”

Su Chen suddenly straightened up solemnly. “But since Sis Lan is a plausible lead, we could also try tracking him with some clues. These things have been set aside for too long, so digging for evidence is extremely hard. In fact, the entertainment industry was a mess back then. The company that represented Aunty Zixi years ago has closed down, and most of the people back then can’t be located either.

“Sis Lan will be back in another two days. We must find a way to find out some things from her. I’ve investigated her relationship with Aunty. I realized that she and my aunt are more than friends. Some say that Aunty’s peak popularity back then could be attributed partially to her too.”

Su Chen hesitated before he said, “I know about that. Her title as a gold manager wasn’t casually christened by the people from the industry. This woman has guts and tricks up her sleeves. In fact, she’s really driven. After that incident with Aunty Zixi, she stayed in Qi Kai for a while too. Then, I heard that she had a fallout with Qi Qiming, so she left Qi Kai.”

“Right, Qi Kai seems to be quite turbulent recently. Have you heard? Qi Qiming and Wang Qin’s conflict has been worsening. The Han Corporation managed to get 3% of shares from two of Qi Kai’s shareholders. They probably want to hold Xi Xiaye down or get a share of the action. Because of this, as well as Qi Qiming spending a great amount of money on them, Yue Hai and the rest are making use of every inch. Wang Qin’s days seem to be getting a little harder to get by. They are already an old married couple, so there’s no need for this! Even though we know that the couple hasn’t been doing that well all these years, despite fighting over these things, wouldn’t it all be Qi Lei’s in the end? In my opinion, wouldn’t all the trouble be solved if they just let Qi Lei assume the top position?” Su Chen was bewildered as he sighed.

“Would all the trouble really be solved if Qi Lei assumed the position?” Mu Yuchen muttered. He thought about it and smiled coldly. “The question is: can Qi Lei really assume the position?”

Chapter 505. Pay A Visit (1)

After that, Mu Yuchen ordered Xi Xiaye to go upstairs, shower and rest. He did not forget to get her to take her medication either.

Even so, Xi Xiaye still suffered from a high fever in the middle of the night. Mu Yuchen was sound asleep then. Suddenly, he could feel her tossing in his embrace while breathing heavily. Her temperature was terrifying too, so he quickly took a better look and saw that she was covered in a sheen of cold sweat.

He quickly got her to consume some medication and looked after her the entire night. Finally, when dawn arrived, her fever finally broke.

When they woke up the next morning, Mu Yuchen did not go to work. He got Li Si to send the necessary documents straight to the Maple Residence. He worked at home to keep an eye on her. Unexpectedly, Su Chen called to ask Mu Yuchen out for drinks that night. Mu Yuchen just told him he was at home, and Su Chen drove right over, bringing along some game meat too.

At this moment, in the Maple Residence living room, Mu Yuchen was sitting still and upright before the sofa. His eyes were fixated on his laptop screen as his fingers swiftly tapped against the keyboard while Su Chen was silently sipping his tea on the side.

“I remember that you should be quite busy, Chief Su. How do you have time to come over today?”

Usually, the buddies were all rather busy, so even if they wanted to gather, they would have to wait for weeknights or rare weekends.

“Can’t I just come over to see you?” Su Chen shot him a glance, then continued sipping his tea.

Mu Yuchen stared at him cynically for quite a while, then smiled. “Did the Elder issue his rigid command to you?”

Upon hearing this, Su Chen sighed helplessly. "I've been thinking it over properly over these past few days. Actually, I understand what the older generation is thinking. My sister specially came home last night to nag me."

"Everyone at home's like that, speaking of which, you're much more relaxed than Zimo. There are pros of being in politics, and there are cons of being in business, so you are basically stable now. I'm sure they had the same thoughts of me having a stable career before settling down and starting a family."

Mu Yuchen entered the last row of data and saved it before shutting his laptop down and turning to smile faintly at Su Chen.

"Wow! You would say such things too? Years ago, you were one of those who swore they'd only get married when they were done fooling around!"

Su Chen glared at him sulkily. He set his cup aside frustratedly and then leaned back against the sofa.

"I'm already done messing around. It's you who's not done," He casually poured himself a cup of tea as he chuckled. "Ah Mo and Lingshi will have some good news soon. Earlier, Lingshi even mentioned you."

"Lingshi?"

Su Chen was surprised as he raised his brows while mixed emotions passed through his eyes. "Of course, it's good that she can get over this barrier. Initially, she was quite worried that you wouldn't be able to let go either. They're already gone, so there's no need for any guilt or self-blame. Instead, you should continue to live your life since life is short and will pass by in the blink of an eye. It was as if I just packed my bags to go to school yesterday, and today I woke up 30 years later. So, buddy, life is but an instant."

Mu Yuchen's tone was light as the wind, yet his eyes were extremely still as he silently looked at Su Chen.

"You really do have quite a lot of feelings about this. Since you know that life is short, why have I never seen you spend more time on yourself? Pfft, you and Zimo are the same."

Su Chen disapproved of his lecture. He lifted his long leg and kicked Mu Yuchen's shin. "Hey, punk, when did you learn how to lecture others now? I've called Zimo for cross-country running this weekend. Want to come along?"

"You two go ahead. I can't leave for the next two days. Xiaye's having a cold and a fever. She hasn't even woke up yet."

"Hearing you speak like that, I suddenly feel quite lonely. Anyway, is Xiaye okay?" Su Chen looked pensively at Mu Yuchen who was being a little peculiar to him.

The man pretended not to hear him.

Su Chen thought about it and still couldn't hold back from asking in the end, "Ah Mo came looking for me before this. It seems like that a certain someone is coming to City Z. Don't you have anything to say? Aren't you worried?"

Mu Yuchen shot him an unpredictable look. "I thought you wouldn't ask. This is the real reason you came over, isn't it?"

"Why shouldn't I ask? You're right! Zimo's worried too. He told me to come over and ask you about it too." Su Chen did not hide it any longer and was honest instead.

Mu Yuchen smiled as he played around with the cup in hand. "Why should I be worried? I just want to know the truth from years ago. Other people's life or death has nothing to do with me."

"Okay, I won't refute you on that. What about that Mr. Wen? Ah Mo has told me already. I've privately investigated it, and there isn't anyone with the surname Wen among the whole of City Z's prestigious community, so I suspect that that isn't his real identity. I can't be sure if it might be someone from another city."

Su Chen suddenly straightened up solemnly. "But since Sis Lan is a plausible lead, we could also try tracking him with some clues. These things have been set aside for too long, so digging for evidence is extremely hard. In fact, the entertainment industry was a mess back then. The company that

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"Would all the trouble really be solved if Qi Lei assumed the position?" Mu Yuchen muttered. He thought about it and smiled coldly. "The question is: can Qi Lei really assume the position?"

Chapter 506. Pay A Visit (2)

When he heard this, Su Chen could not help but massage the space between his brows, "That's true. Qi Qiming is too unpredictable. No one can guess what he's trying to do."

Then, he sat up and took a cigarette box from the table. He pulled one out and handed it to Mu Yuchen while he lit one up for himself too. With his eyebrows knotted, he puffed before he continued to sigh, "Actually, I think that Qi Lei isn't as simple as he seems. What do you think?"

Su Chen looked up at Mu Yuchen's indifferent expression, an oddly cold light flickering in his eyes.

Mu Yuchen set the cigarette in his hand aside, and then casually stood up before he walked over to the alcohol cabinet and poured them two glasses of whiskey.

“He’s just watching from the sides while they fight among themselves. Everything is the work of Qi Qiming and Wang Qin. Despite Qi Feng retreating behind the scenes and let Qi Qiming control the entire chess game, say if he wanted to take over Qi Kai, he’d have to make a move. Otherwise, how could he convince the masses? Qi Lei’s different. If Qi Lei wanted to take over Qi Kai, others would just find it rightful, but when it comes to Qi Feng...”

“Mmm, I agree. No matter what Qi Feng does, as long as Qi Lei’s around, he’s still just an illegitimate child, so if he wants to take over Qi Kai, he’d have to put in more work because Wang Qin would never support him and would just give up on her son! Sigh, I’m just sad that I don’t have a mother to fight for me!” Su Chen shrugged helplessly as he accepted the drink Mu Yuchen handed, and gulped it all down.

...

Mu Yuchen and Su Chen prepared lunch. When it was almost served, Mu Yuchen went upstairs unhurriedly.

At the bedroom door, before he walked in, he could vaguely hear coughing from inside, so he quickly pushed the door open and saw that she was walking out from the bathroom with her messy and soft hair. She looked extremely pale and frail from the illness while her spirits were low.

She walked to the bedside and sat down limply, not having an ounce of energy to move.

She had really suffered. Her fever only broke in the morning, and now her throat hurt really badly. She also had a bad headache, and could not breathe properly. This cold was really torturing.

“Have some water and take your medicine.”

A low tone of concern suddenly brushed past her ears. She opened her dazed eyes and saw that a cup of water was extended to her. When she shifted her gaze up a little, she saw the pills that lay in his broad hand.

She was defeated as she looked up weakly at him. When she saw the love and concern in his eyes, she could not help but speak in her weak, raspy voice, "I feel miserable. Cough... My throat hurts so much and my whole body aches. I feel so weak. Cough..."

Her voice sounded extremely hoarse. Before she could finish her sentences, she could not help but start coughing again.

"I told you to work out and toughen up more, but you were lazy. Rest well for the next few days. I'll let Grandpa know. Come have your medicine first." He handed her the medication.

She then took it from him, frowned and swallowed the pills.

He lowered his head and planted a kiss on her forehead. Then, he reached out with his long fingers and swiftly arranged her slightly messy hair for her. "Su Chen's here. He brought some game meat, but I don't think you'll be able to taste them. I've prepared some plain porridge for you. Do you feel very sick? I'll bring you to the hospital for a check-up after the meal."

"Oh, I don't want to go to the hospital... I'll just sleep again and I'll feel better when I wake up," she responded in her raspy voice. Then, she drank a few more gulps of water before she put the cup back. She whined helplessly in distress, "I feel so miserable... This illness felt like it came so suddenly..."

He sighed helplessly and set the cup on the table. Gazing down at her, after a while, he reached out to touch her forehead again and only eased back a little when everything felt alright again. "Okay, later on, I'll give you a back massage. Perhaps you'll feel more relaxed. Go downstairs and have some food first."

When she heard, she suddenly stared at him in shock. "Do you know how to?"

He just looked back at her casually. "Mmm, when we were in the army back then, we had a lot of training. Sometimes, Su Chen, Zhou Zimo, and I would take turns with each other. It feels quite good."

She then nodded and propped herself limply as she tried to get up in a daze.

He reached out to hold her by the waist. "Be careful."

Then, he was about to bend over and carry her up when she stopped him with one hand clutching onto the side of clothes. "I'll just walk. I'm not that

weak..."

When the two of them went downstairs, Su Chen had already prepared the cutlery. Seeing Xi Xiaye's sickly condition, he immediately frowned and asked in concern, "Are you okay? You don't look that great."

Xi Xiaye nodded gratefully and smiled wryly. "I'm fine. It's just a little cold and fever. I'll feel better in a few days."

"If you really can't, it's better to get checked at the hospital."

Xi Xiaye nodded. When she remembered her man telling her about Su Chen's stories, she could not help but take a second glimpse at him. She felt that apart from his imposing and sharp manner, seeing him help to serve the dishes really made him look like a kind, domestic man.

She silently looked at Su Chen be busy for a while before she turned. Her twinkling eyes looked up to the man beside her while he looked back thoughtfully at her. With one hand holding her frail shoulders, he said in a low voice by her ear, "He's only slightly inferior to your man."

Xi Xiaye could not help but laugh gently. "Are you praising him or yourself?"

"I'm just telling the truth." He suddenly smiled and walked over with his arms around her shoulder, pulling a chair out chivalrously.

"I'd be a fool to believe you!" Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes at him.

As she was about to sit down, Su Chen's voice was suddenly heard. "Oh, right, Xiaye, someone sent a registered letter over earlier. It was yours, but I signed the acknowledgment receipt for you. I put it on the coffee table."

A registered letter?

Xi Xiaye was momentarily stunned. She thought about it for a while before walking to the living room. Indeed, there was a letter on the coffee table.

She was puzzled and hesitated for a moment before picking the letter up to open.

There was nothing written on the letter except just a simple sentence:

Meet at the old place in three days at 4 p.m.

It was someone with whom Xi Xiaye was very familiar — Detective Zhang who had disappeared for a long time without any news of him at all!

Previously, Xi Xiaye had asked him to also investigate the Qi family. Unexpectedly, she did not hear from him for a rather long time after that. Now that she finally received this letter, it more or less took her by shock.

Chapter 507. Ambush (1)

It took a while for her to calm down. When she came back to her senses, she kept the letter as the man's voice reached her.

“Who wrote to you?”

Xi Xiaye tore the letter into pieces and tossed the pieces into the bin. As she turned around and saw his concerned expression, she replied quietly, “I asked someone to investigate Qi Kai, and there's probably some information. I'll talk to you about this again tonight.”

She walked over while Mu Yuchen nodded. Then, they sat down and had their meal.

Both Su Chen and Mu Yuchen left after lunch. Su Chen had something to pass to the latter. Xi Xiaye stayed at home since she was still sleepy after taking the medicine, so she went back to sleep. However,

her phone started ringing when she was sound asleep. After a while, Xi Xiaye woke up and grabbed her phone, pressing the button with her eyes wincing from the bright screen.

“Hello?”

“Director Xi, it’s me, Xiao Yu!”

An urgent tone of voice came over from the other side. Before Xi Xiaye could reply, Xiao Yu went on, “Director Xi, something bad has happened! Someone’s making a fuss here, and Manager Chen is injured.”

The one on the phone was Mu Lingshi’s assistant, Xiao Yu!

Xi Xiaye sat up suddenly. Her movements were so sudden that it caused her a headache which only went away after a while. “What did you say? Who’s making a fuss? How’s the manager?”

“Manager Chen is injured badly. Things are getting out of hand here. They have quite a solid background and they’ve cornered Manager Chen. I can’t reach Manager Mu and Manager Wang is on leave, so...”

“Don’t panic. Send your manager to the hospital. I’ll head over now.”

Xi Xiaye got out of bed and quickly changed before she grabbed the car keys and left swiftly.

She only realized that the sky had turned dark and the street lamps were lit up when she got out. The gentle sunset rays covered the horizon, creating a magnificent pairing with the colorful lights on the streets.

However, Xi Xiaye was not in the mood to enjoy the sights. It took her around half an hour to reach the club.

Xiao Yu came up to her as she arrived.

“What’s the situation? Give me the details!” Xi Xiaye walked inside as she spoke.

“Director Xi, the customer is being terribly demanding. They booked a room, and then suddenly wanted to change to the one beside them, but that room was already booked by someone else. Our waiters negotiated with them, and not only were they rude, but they also slapped the waitress and even gave her a hard time. Manager Chen was patrolling and saw what happened. They had an argument and the person pushed Manager Chen, so he fell on the corner of a table and sustained a bad injury on the arm,” Xiao Yu replied.

“Who are they? Where are the security guards in the club? Aren’t they doing anything?” Xi Xiaye frowned.

“Manager Chen said not to make a big fuss out of it and try to resolve this calmly, but they were really difficult. They injured some of our people! Manager Chen is really angry,” Xiao Yu said quietly.

Xi Xiaye’s brows stayed knotted as she sped up.

She was surprised when she arrived at the room. The perpetrators were Huang Shanshan, Wang Ziluo, Sun Mei and the others. However, what surprised Xi Xiaye even more was that Han Yifeng was there as well!

He was drinking at the corner alone, seeming lost in a cloud of depression.

Huang Shanshan?

Ever since she had revealed Xi Xinyi’s true colors the last time, she had not really appeared anymore, but now she seemed very close to Wang Ziluo. It made one wonder how she was doing with Xi Xinyi now.

Wang Ziluo, Sun Mei, and several others acted pretty arrogantly.

Since the accidents at Su Nan’s wedding the last time, her impressions of them had worsened and she never thought about keeping in touch with them. She never thought she would meet them again, yet now...

“Don’t you come here to work for money? Acting innocent now? It’s your honor that I’m paying you to have a drink with me. Pfft, acting like a saint while being a witch? Shameless!”

“Right, I can’t stand women who act all innocent, learning all the seductive ways at such a young age!”

“Don’t get angry, Bro Jun, it’s not worth being upset over a little witch like her! Look at her face! It’d be interesting to see how it’s like after someone leaves a scratch or two on it!”

They surrounded a waitress with tears all over her face as they gave her a hard time while cornering Manager Chen on the side.

The pretty waitress was crying and Huang Shanshan was slapping the waitress’s face as she acted all high and mighty.

“Director Xi, that waitress is a senior at university. Manager Chen pitied her, so she was allowed to work here part-time,” Xiao Yu gave a brief introduction.

Xi Xiaye frowned. “Anyone who works here should be carefully selected and trained. How can we simply recruit anyone? What kind of place do you think this is? Especially waitresses, shouldn’t you guys train her to be more independent?”

Ever since the incident last time, Xi Xiaye had set strict standards on waitresses in order to prevent the same issue. This girl seemed pretty fearful as her body was shaking from Huang Shanshan giving her a mere stare.

“Yes Director Xi!”

Before Xiao Yu could finish her reply, Xi Xiaye interrupted with a yell, “Stop it right there!”

“Xiao Yu, get Manager Chen downstairs and handle the wound. You go down as well,” Xi Xiaye gave her order.

“Yes, Director Xi!”

Xi Xiaye’s sudden appearance silenced the room as everyone looked over at her in surprise.

“It’s you!”

“Xi Xiaye!”

Huang Shanshan’s expression changed.

After Xiao Yu and the others left, Xi Xiaye glanced over at the messy scene. “I’ve heard about what happened. If you guys are here for entertainment, you’re very welcome to do so, but if you’re here to cause trouble, please leave.”

Chapter 509. Ambush (3)

“Ridiculous? Can anyone be more ridiculous than you?”

Han Yifeng’s eyes turned cold instantly when he looked at her. “How can you always assume that people can just forgive all the faults you’ve committed before? Do you still think you’re innocent?”

Xi Xinyi shuddered slightly under Han Yifeng’s sharp gaze, but she still faced him obstinately.

“You’re such a cruel person! I’ve never seen such a selfish and wicked woman like you before in my life! I feel disgusted when I see you!” Han Yifeng’s tone was chilly, and his words stung Xi Xinyi’s ears like iced needles.

However, he would never understand that the harsher his words were towards Xi Xinyi, the stronger her hatred for Xi Xiaye would grow.

If it were not for Xi Xiaye, her reputation would not have suffered, and things would not be like this now!

Yue Lingsi could not pull herself together. She tried to numb herself through drinking and playing mahjong. While Xi Mushan was having fun with that old witch Shen Wenna abroad, Xi Xinyi had been under a lot of pressure to get Yueying running. She tried her best to save her marriage, yet she did not receive even an ounce of comfort or understanding from Han Yifeng!

Xi Xinyi started to blame her fate. They were both daughters of the Xi family. How could the difference between be this huge? How could she marry into a prestigious family, find a man like Mu Yuchen, and even have an elegant and beautiful mother? Their father, Xi Mushan, favored her more as well. Reflecting on herself, Han Yifeng was cruel to her and Yue Lingsi was now a failure!

“Disgusting? Why didn’t you think I was disgusting when you told me to go out with you back then? It’s useless now even if you find yourself totally in love with Xi Xiaye. She’s Mu Yuchen’s woman now. She’s got nothing to do with you! You’ll never get her whether it’s in the past or the future. You can only return to my side! You’re mine!”

“You’re mad! Don’t forget what you promised Grandfather!” Han Yifeng’s expression turned icy.

However, Xi Xinyi just barked a cold laugh. “Han Yifeng, as long as I have the baby, you can never cut ties with me. I’ve always gotten everything I wanted whether it is Yueying or a man! You can say that I’m mad. Indeed, I am mad! You made me this way, but you can never find another woman who would love you as much as I do! I fell to such a state for you. What excuse do you have to abandon me?”

“You...” Han Yifeng glared at her, unable to say anything back.

...

On the other end, Xi Xiaye was on the way back to the Maple Residence.

She barely managed to stay awake. Her headache was getting worse by the second, and her vision was starting to get blurry.

The straight road in front of her split into several paths and the dim street lamps were not helping.

She had no idea how long she had been driving until she felt her body getting weak. In the end, she had to park the car on the side as she rested her head on the steering wheel. After a while, she took out her phone, found Mu Yuchen's number and called him.

It did not get through.

She called several times and it all got her the same results.

Thud!

Her hand trembled and she dropped her phone as she felt the world around her spin. She became dizzy. After a long while, she barely managed to open the door. However, she tumbled out of the car the moment she opened the door.

...

When Qi Lei's car drove past, Yang Sheng suddenly mentioned as he turned around and looked at the car they had just passed, "Master Qi, that person seems like Ms. Xiaye! That's Chairman Mu's car!"

"What did you say?" Qi Lei slowed down the car and looked at Yang Sheng.

"I said the woman who just fell out of the car looks like Ms. Xi Xiaye, and that is indeed Chairman Mu's car. I remember the car plate numbers of Chairman Mu's cars!" Yang Sheng seemed surprised. "Could Ms. Xiaye be...?"

Before he could finish his sentence, Qi Lei turned the car around, speeding in the opposite direction and heading back to the car they just passed.

As expected, he saw Xi Xiaye slumped on the ground as he went nearer.

"Xiaye!"

Qi Lei stopped the car quickly and rushed out as fast as possible. He lifted her up, and her boiling body temperature startled him!

Her breathing was uneven and she was frowning out of discomfort. Qi Lei started mumbling angrily, "How is Mu Yuchen taking good care of you? How is he a good man?!"

"Master Qi!" Yang Sheng came after him. "What's the situation? What happened?"

"She has a fever!"

"Then, let's go to the hospital now."

Qi Lei glanced around and then looked down at Xi Xiaye in his arms. "Let's head back home first. There's bad traffic now. I have some medicine at home."

"Yes, Master Qi!"

Yang Sheng went to take Xi Xiaye's car keys out and locked the car after a brief reply. He then got back into the car and started the engine.

...

The night was getting late.

Inside a luxurious private villa, Mu Yuchen made several calls by the staircase. Xi Xiaye was still not picking up. He called back to the Maple Residence as well, feeling uneasy.

"Chairman Mu, CEO Zhang was looking for you. Why are you here? About the contract..."

“Tell CEO Zhang I have to leave now. I’ll apologize to him one day.” He left a brief message before walking towards the exit.

“Ah Chen!” When Su Chen came out, he only caught a glimpse of his back.

“Chief Su, Chairman Mu... He...” That man looked at Su Chen in doubt.

Su Chen pinched the space between his eyebrows and shook his head helplessly as he put on a bitter smile. “His wife is sick and he’s been worried throughout the night. Oh well, no big deal! It’s just one huge business deal. How generous of him!”

“Then...”

“Don’t worry. Tell CEO Zhang I asked Chairman Mu to do something for me. I’ll drink with him tonight!”

Chapter 509. Ambush (3)

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Qi Lei stopped the car quickly and rushed out as fast as possible. He lifted her up, and her boiling body temperature startled him!

Her breathing was uneven and she was frowning out of discomfort. Qi Lei started mumbling angrily, "How is Mu Yuchen taking good care of you? How is he a good man?!"

"Master Qi!" Yang Sheng came after him. "What's the situation? What happened?"

"She has a fever!"

"Then, let's go to the hospital now."

Qi Lei glanced around and then looked down at Xi Xiaye in his arms. "Let's head back home first. There's bad traffic now. I have some medicine at home."

"Yes, Master Qi!"

Yang Sheng went to take Xi Xiaye's car keys out and locked the car after a brief reply. He then got back into the car and started the engine.

...

The night was getting late.

Inside a luxurious private villa, Mu Yuchen made several calls by the staircase. Xi Xiaye was still not picking up. He called back to the Maple Residence as well, feeling uneasy.

"Chairman Mu, CEO Zhang was looking for you. Why are you here? About the contract..."

"Tell CEO Zhang I have to leave now. I'll apologize to him one day." He left a brief message before walking towards the exit.

“Ah Chen!” When Su Chen came out, he only caught a glimpse of his back.

“Chief Su, Chairman Mu... He...” That man looked at Su Chen in doubt.

Su Chen pinched the space between his eyebrows and shook his head helplessly as he put on a bitter smile. “His wife is sick and he’s been worried throughout the night. Oh well, no big deal! It’s just one huge business deal. How generous of him!”

“Then...”

“Don’t worry. Tell CEO Zhang I asked Chairman Mu to do something for me. I’ll drink with him tonight!”

Chapter 510. Ambush (4)

At night, in the Grand Lake Villa area.

Qi Lei lay Xi Xiaye on a bed before searching around frantically for medicine. He prepared a damp towel as well.

Yang Sheng came over with some alcohol as he glanced at the unconscious Xi Xiaye. He said worriedly, “Master Qi, if her fever doesn’t go down, apply some of this alcohol on her palms and feet. My daughter used to have fever frequently. My mother did this and it was pretty effective.”

“Why are you still talking? Hand it over quickly!”

Qi Lei shot him an impatient glance. He then turned over to Xi Xiaye and put his hand on her forehead. His eyes were filled with frustration and had a slight tint of concern.

Xi Xiaye’s forehead was covered in sweat. Her body felt warm sometimes and cold other times. She was definitely not resting well as the frown was still pasted on her face. Running out of ideas, Qi Lei used Yang Sheng’s method.

“Go down and cook something. Hurry!” Qi Lei urged after taking the alcohol from Yang Sheng.

“Yes, I’ll go now!” Yang Sheng sensed that Qi Lei was in a bad mood now. He did not want to trigger any land mines, so he quickly left.

Qi Lei took a deep breath when he heard the door close. His gaze was focused on Xi Xiaye’s pale face as he brushed the hair on her face aside while being deep in thought. He saw that she was suffering considerably. “I’m just trying to repay you this time. I don’t owe you anything anymore!”

He then started applying some alcohol on her palms and feet.

At around 10 p.m., Qi Lei sent Yang Sheng back after he prepared some porridge. Xi Xiaye’s body temperature dropped slightly. Qi Lei himself was covered in sweat too. When he came out of the shower with just a night robe on him, he noticed that Xi Xiaye was sleeping more peacefully now. He put his hand on her forehead again. Upon noticing that her fever was starting to go away, he felt relieved.

He pulled up the blanket a little before switching the lights off. He only left a dim table lamp on, but just as he was about to leave, she grabbed his hand as she called out with her fragile voice, “Mr... Mu... I feel miserable...”

Her voice was weak, but loud enough for Qi Lei to hear. He knew very well which Mr. Mu she was talking about. Stunned for a moment, he turned around and saw her lips still mumbling. After a while, he smiled and was about to pull her hand away. However, she grabbed tighter and tighter onto him as if her life depended on it.

“Mu Yuchen...”

Qi Lei froze and just let her grab onto him. After a few seconds, he looked at her under the dim light. She still had an uneasy expression as she kept mumbling the same few words.

Qi Lei took a deep breath as he put on a bitter smile. “Mr. Mu? Mu Yuchen? What’s so great about him? What makes you miss him this much?”

Of course, Xi Xiaye could not hear him, but when she felt someone touching her forehead, she grabbed onto the hand.

...

The night was getting late. When the man did not find the familiar figure after he returned to the Maple Residence, he almost went mad. He made several calls and found out that she was last seen at the Imperial Sky Entertainment Club, so he rushed over. Ah Mo and the others almost flipped the whole City Z upside down looking for her as well.

“Don’t be too worried first, Brother. Maybe she went somewhere. We can ask her friends.”

By the staircase in the Imperial Sky Entertainment Club, Mu Lingshi felt guilty. She was cleaning up the garage with Ah Mo. There was bad reception inside, so she missed her call. Furthermore, she did not expect anything like that to happen.

Mu Yuchen felt a headache as well as a depressed tug deep inside him. His worries were written all over his face. “She had a fever last night up until the morning. Don’t call her for such tiny matters. The people I’ve hired shouldn’t be garbage. If she’s needed to handle such simple tasks, why should they be here? Fire them!” he growled coldly before leaving.

“Brother!” Mu Lingshi sighed helplessly as she looked at Mu Yuchen stepping into the darkness outside.

“Master, we’re looking at the road security camera footages. Don’t worry. We’ll find her soon enough.”

Ah Mo was worried as well, especially since he knew that things had not exactly been peaceful lately. Perhaps something had happened again!

He had goosebumps just thinking of the incident at City B and the other incident during the wedding dinner. If this time...

Mu Yuchen sat inside the car. He kept quiet for a while as he leaned against the seat and slowly closed his eyes. “Take that curved route. It’s near the Maple Residence and she always uses it.”

“Yes, Master! Don’t worry. We’ll go right away!” Ah Mo gave the chauffeur a signal. He started the car and did not say anything.

After driving for a distance, Ah Mo’s phone rang. It was the Traffic Management Bureau. His expression darkened after the short conversation. He turned towards the quiet Mu Yuchen, struggling to talk.

“Master, they found Missus’s car on the curved route...”

“Where’s she?” Mu Yuchen opened his eyes instantly, throwing a sharp gaze at Ah Mo.

“There’s no one in the car. The car is locked!” Ah Mo replied carefully.

Mu Yuchen trembled slightly. “Head over right now. Get them to find her as soon as possible!”

“Yes!”

The chauffeur sped up.

They soon arrived at the said location. Then, they saw the car parked aside from afar.

Mu Yuchen got out of the car quickly. When he went near the car, of course, it was locked. He got people to break into the car forcefully and then found Xi Xiaye’s phone lying inside. It showed a ton of missed calls from him and Ah Mo. He quickly searched her call log, then he saw several missed calls to him...

As well as the calls to Mu Lingshi and Ah Mo...

His hands trembled and his eyes darkened.