

Loving 541

Chapter 541. Clean And Pure Mr. Mu? (1)

It was not a grand dinner out of concern for Xi Xiaye. Her meals were prioritized to be healthy, so of course, dishes like honey steak would not be making its appearance for a while.

Xi Xiaye overreacted a little. In Mu Yuchen's words, she was in a delicate phase right now. The dishes were served on the table and he prepared a bowl of soup for her. However, she frowned when she saw the dishes.

"Why are we eating the same thing again?"

He handed her a spoon. "These are healthy meals that you'll have to eat for a while. I'll cook your favorite food again after two months, alright? Be good now and drink up."

"I'm not that weak, alright? I'm tired of drinking all these tonics every day."

Grouchily, Xi Xiaye felt that her body was holding up fine. After all, she traveled frequently for work back then, and he would occasionally drag her out for horse-riding. All the while, she felt fine.

"You still have to take it even if you're tired of it. Besides, it's just a few months, but you're already starting to get irritated about this and you still want to have two kids?"

Mu Yuchen noticed that she was not putting on weight. When they went for a checkup, her weight had gone down instead, and she seemed even skinnier than before. It was probably due to the recent stressful incidents.

He was practically working on the South River project alone. Aside from arranging some documents in the office to help her kill time, he was giving her much more time to rest.

Of course, he did not want her to go back to the Mu Residence or stay at the Maple Residence alone, so they went to work together. Truth be told, he could only feel assured when she was within his line of sight.

Xi Xiaye still did not feel like drinking it, but his provoking worked as she picked up the spoon quietly and started drinking.

She was suddenly reminded of the project. "How's the South River project going? I visited the south of the city with Grandpa a few days ago. We passed by the South River Bridge and went to take a look. They were constructing the foundation, so I'm sure it'll progress quickly soon."

"Vice President Zhang will follow up on it. You just have to keep an eye on the market research data. The progress is still within the satisfactory threshold. Don't just keep thinking about work. How are you feeling today?"

He did not like to talk about work in front of her. Firstly, he did not want her to worry. Secondly, they should be enjoying their time together right now, and he did not want work to come between them.

Xi Xiaye swiftly finished the soup. As she cleaned her mouth with a tissue, he poured her another bowl again. Her face twisted from the bitter taste and she looked at him with a pair of pitiful doe eyes. Nonetheless, he acted as if he did not see her and handed her the spoon again. The determination in his eyes left no room for negotiation.

She glared at him for a moment but he did not soften up at all, so she grabbed the spoon again and picked up the chopsticks.

However, things did not go as smoothly this time. Just as she was about to start eating, she felt an urge to vomit. Unfortunately, she could not make it into the washroom quickly enough. To her horror, the stuff that just entered her stomach gushed back upward. She turned her head back as she grabbed onto the man beside her, and then...

She barfed into his hands.

Xi Xiaye was stunned when his pair of big hands became her vomit dump, but she was feeling too terrible to give it much thought.

After she was finally done, her vomit filled up his large hands. Even she felt disgusted by it, but he seemed unfazed. Wait, was he not a clean freak?

“Ugh, so dirty...”

She moved her body aside and avoided him as she wiped her mouth.

Mu Yuchen glanced at her without saying anything. Then, he went to the washroom to clean himself up. Xi Xiaye had already started eating when he came back.

After dinner and a shower, two of them watched TV together on the sofa.

Ever since Xi Xiaye got pregnant, Mu Yuchen rarely worked excessively in the study room anymore. Instead, he would spend most of the nights accompanying her just like right now.

Xi Xiaye was in his arms as she gave his fingernails a trim, and he flipped through some documents to be used in the upcoming Monday meeting.

“I have something to tell you.” Her soft voice broke the silence.

“Mmm? Speak.” He averted his gaze away from the document.

“When I visited Grandfather’s grave today, I met Han Yifeng,” she spoke without stopping whatever she was doing.

He was astonished for a bit, but then returned to normal moments later. “What did he say?”

“What else? I feel like he’s really having it rough. He was talking weird too. He said that he’s willing to exchange the last 10 or 20 years of his life to start over. I think he’s tired of Xi Xinyi’s matter. He looked much more worn out than before.”

She sighed. “He’s not like the old him anymore.”

“So, you’re heartbroken?” He stopped what he was doing and looked at her.

She raised her eyebrows as her eyes smiled at him. She put the nail clipper down and touched his face lovingly. Then, she wrapped her arms around his shoulder and smiled. “I always like it when you’re jealous. Today, several new assistants in the Administration Department said that you’re very handsome. Oh, didn’t Li Si mention getting you a new secretary? They were all trying to get close to you with other intentions, so I moved them all to the Marketing Department out of anger. Hmph, I won’t even let them see your face!”

“Someone’s abusing her powers now, isn’t she?”

He grinned at her. Actually, he did hear about it. He felt that she was really concerned about the people he came into contact with recently. Of course, he knew what she meant.

He grabbed her tightly as love filled up his dark eyes while he looked deep into her eyes. Her tender smile softened his heart. After a while, his document disappeared from his hand. He grabbed her waist with one hand while the other hand explored underneath her clothes...

Chapter 542. Clean And Pure Mr. Mu? (2)

Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes at him. “You’re the one abusing powers! Stay put or you’ll suffer later.”

Master Mu glanced at her, feeling the anguish right now as he thought about the amount of time he had to wait.

He was pretty calm before he met her, but after they started having sex...

“You seemed pretty insensitive before I married you, and you were always cold towards everyone. Look at you now. You’re not the clean and pure Mr. Mu anymore.”

She pinched his handsome face and smiled as she stopped his hand that was moving towards her breasts.

“Clean and pure? Is that used to describe men?”

He took a deep breath and could barely suppress himself. "You haven't told me exactly what that man said to you!"

"Nothing much, just those words that I told you just now. I don't really understand him either. I just think that too much has been happening lately and many people have changed," Xi Xiaye lamented.

"Did he finally realize you're a treasure and wants to go back to the past in exchange for his time alive? Does he want to start over? You'll be engaged to me at childhood if we start over. What's his role in this?" He was unimpressed.

Xi Xiaye gave him a kiss when she noticed him scowling. "Okay, let's not talk about him now. I was just surprised to see him visit my grandfather's grave. I'd usually feel terrible when I see him and think of the past, but I've gotten over it now."

"You cared about him a whole lot before."

He was still a bit afflicted, but at the same time, he was also glad that she talked about this with him. She rarely shared her feelings with him, but it seemed like he had become her best friend now.

"If you became my fiancé much earlier, I'd have been sure to care for you a thousand times more than him." Xi Xiaye quickly tried to prove her loyalty!

He chuckled and hugged her tightly as she hugged him back as well.

"Mu Yuchen..."

"Hmm?"

"I have a question for you."

"Ask away."

“Am I... really your first love?”

“Why are you asking such nonsense again?”

“I just want to know. Just answer my question. Hurry!”

“Mmm... It’s you...”

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The hot summer finally cooled down a little, especially after the Qixi Festival. The temperature in City Z started dropping as autumn was coming.

She was still following Mu Yuchen to work every day. As her pregnancy entered its third month, her health was not doing so well and she experienced big physical reactions. Furthermore, she was getting skinnier. Her chin became really pointed now, worrying Mu Yuchen. He always tried to find ways for her to eat more, and almost never left her side.

Despite that, Xi Xiaye still appeared pretty well.

At the end of the month, Xi Xiaye took some time to visit Su Nan.

Su Nan’s baby bump had gotten so huge that it now posed as an obstacle to her walking. Her estimated delivery date was at the end of the following month.

Su Nan’s nausea was not as bad as Xi Xiaye’s. Ruan Heng had been taking good care of her during her pregnancy, so she ate and slept well. She even put on some weight and looked great.

“Xiaye, how did you become so skinny? Doesn’t Master Mu always treat you like a princess? How are you not putting on weight? You have to eat more in order to give birth to my future daughter-in-law!”

Su Nan was worried as she glanced at Xi Xiaye's barely noticeable baby bump. She was especially anxious when she saw her tapered chin.

Xi Xiaye chuckled. "How do you know that your child must be a son and that mine will be a daughter? Mu Yuchen does want a daughter though."

"It has to be a son. Otherwise, how would he marry your daughter? Master Mu is being considerate, alright? Girls are closer to their mothers! But Ruan Heng is hoping for a daughter as well. He's worried that a boy might be too naughty to take care of, but look at my belly. If it's a girl, she's going to be a big, fat girl!" Su Nan glanced at Xi Xiaye and ranted.

"Do you really need to talk about your child like that? Both Ruan Heng and you are good-looking. I'm sure your child will be either a handsome boy or a pretty girl. You just have to rest well. Mu Yuchen has been restricting me from going out, but I just came to visit you today since I've got some free time. I'm relieved that you're doing well."

Su Nan could not walk very well, and she had refrained from going out too much in the past few months, staying at home obediently. With Xi Xiaye being busy, they had not seen each other for quite some time. Because Xi Xiaye missed her, she went over.

"You have to take care of yourself too. By the way, guess who I met when I went to the hospital for a checkup several days ago?" Su Nan remembered something and looked at Xi Xiaye.

"Who?" Xi Xiaye threw her a doubtful glance.

"I met Xi Xinyi. Her baby bump has become really huge too. Huang Ziyao went with her for a checkup, and she seems to be doing well! I wonder what the Han family is thinking. They're still shielding her, even Han Yifeng. Sigh, she's been living pretty well lately, and Yueying is doing well with Qi Kai supporting it and several huge stars having signed contracts with Yueying. I also heard that Yueying's new movie will be airing this spring. It's pretty popular and many people expect high numbers at the box office. I don't get it. How is she so lucky!?"

Su Nan was getting irritated.

Xi Xinyi, huh?

It had been a long time since she last heard about her. She had been behaving ever since Yueying's crisis.

Of course, Xi Xiaye would not know that Xi Xinyi was being blackmailed and was scared terribly by that. At such a critical moment, she could only behave and mind her own business!

If she tried to do something funny, Mu Yuchen would expose her photos. She simply could not risk it!

Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered that Xi Xinyi's expected delivery date was quite soon too!

Su Nan and her had conceived at almost the same time. She saw her appearing on TV for the movie promotion which meant that she was really working hard although her baby bump had gotten so big!

Chapter 543. Turn Up Uninvited (1)

When she returned from Su Nan's place, it was already close to evening. Xi Xiaye wanted to ask Su Nan out for dinner, but Ruan Heng got home late from work. Since it was not that convenient, she decided against it after some thought.

When the car was near the Grand Waves Villa, Xi Xiaye made Ji Zitong stop the car.

"You can go back first. I want to buy some things from the supermarket. Later, I'll walk home. I'll just treat it like a relaxing stroll."

Xi Xiaye had been doing this frequently recently. It was a way for her to work out. Once she reached the entrance of the Grand Waves Villa area, she would get down from the car and walk home. If Mu Yuchen was around, he would walk home with her too.

"Okay, Director Xi, I'll leave first then," answered Ji Zitong after she looked ahead and saw that it was Grand Waves Villa area.

Xi Xiaye nodded gently. "Okay, bye." She got down from the car and walked to the supermarket in front.

Mu Yuchen had called earlier to say that he would be leaving work slightly earlier today. Since she was quite free, she thought about cooking dinner as a reward for him for taking such good care of her.

This supermarket was the neighborhood anchor grocery stop. At this time, there were quite a lot of people doing their groceries.

Xi Xiaye pushed a trolley and soon loaded many things into it. She was quite satisfied with her haul. Su Nan had reminded her that if she felt like vomiting, she could eat something sour or have some grain biscuits, so Xi Xiaye decided to get both.

Mainly, she wanted to get a huge pile of books, some prenatal education discs or books, and some collections of poem and prose.

The doctor said that at about four months, she could begin prenatal education. As a mother for the first time, she naturally did not know about these things. Earlier, she chatted with Su Nan for quite a while to share references.

Standing at the tall shelf, Xi Xiaye set aside her trolley that was filled with things and concentrated on the shelf full of books before her. She wanted to look for a few more character-building poems and prose collections so that Mu Yuchen read them to the little one in her.

After looking for quite a while, she finally found a modern poetry collection. She casually browsed through it.

" Sliding across the vast sky and downhill, I am the dimmed shooting star, riding the cool breeze of the night rain, rushing on this journey of a gamble. A life that throws the dice is like a raindrop, stirring up a night of dense fog atop this lake... "

A clear and alluring voice was gently heard, sounding quite familiar. Qi Lei subconsciously turned to look towards the voice, and Xi Xiaye's elegant figure greeted his sight!

An unexpected current of thrill traveled through his veins at this sight!

He actually bumped into her here! It had been a while since they met.

Ever since the scandal and after Mu Yuchen hosted that dinner, he had not seen Xi Xiaye, but now that he had bumped into her, she seemed to have become even thinner than before. Mu Yuchen was terrible! How could he be so bad at fattening his own woman up? Could the fellow have asked his woman to watch her figure, and pursue the overrated skinny kind of beauty?

Master Qi meanly despised Mu Yuchen on the inside for a while.

Mu Yuchen was not as considerate as he was. He did not have his gift of the gab, he was not as confident and amusing as he was, and he definitely did not have his gentleness and understanding. Why did Xi Xiaye not like him? Even if she was Mu Yuchen's wife now, at least when she saw him, could she not consider him? At least, her eyes should light up a little, and then fill with admiration as she looked at him!

Forget about admiration! When that woman looked at him, apart from the disdain from before, there was just indifference and never any admiration. Obviously, this made Qi Lei feel quite defeated.

Just as he was hesitating about whether to greet her, Xi Xiaye already tossed the book into her trolley and was walking towards the cashier.

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The cashier smiled as she asked Xi Xiaye, "Miss, it's \$598 in total. Would you like to pay by cash or card?"

"Card, please." Xi Xiaye handed her card over.

After she paid, she then realized that she had bought two bagfuls of items. In fact, they were very heavy. It was all those books!

She was mulling over whether to walk home with two big bags. Would she die of exhaustion?

After pondering for a while, she decided to bring the things aside first, and then get Mu Yuchen to fetch her.

Just as her fingers reached out for the bags, a pair of strong arms flashed before her and picked up them up.

In surprise, Xi Xiaye looked up subconsciously and Qi Lei's handsome face greeted her sight.

"You!" Xi Xiaye widened her eyes in shock. She was clearly stunned.

"Surprised? Have you been wanting to see me?" Qi Lei looked amusedly at Xi Xiaye as he teased.

She immediately rolled her eyes, attempting to take the bags back. "You are relentless. How is it I bump into you everywhere!?"

Qi Lei avoided her hand and scowled at her words. "Woman, is this how you treat someone who saved your life? Relentless? I live nearby too, alright? It's best not to be a good person at this time of the year, especially if one meets a heartless woman like you!"

"Yes, you're relentless!" Xi Xiaye glared at him.

"This relentless person here saved your life. They say a favor in the form of a drop of water should be returned with a surging spring. Is this how you're going to act?"

"Mu Yuchen and I treated you to that meal already, at which you didn't go easy at all! You ate tens of thousands of dollars! Don't think I didn't know you did that on purpose!" Xi Xiaye was fired up as she raised her voice. She had only found out about it the next day. Clearly, he had done it on purpose, seizing the opportunity to butcher Mu Yuchen!

"You two are really such a stingy couple. It's not like Mu Yuchen's short on money, and it was only one meal. It looks like the two of you weren't sincere at all! I really regret saving you, and you even made yourselves look good!" Qi Lei pretended to be hurt.

“If he wasn’t sincere, why would he include a luxury car? Qi Lei, why do I find that you have more potential to be a profiteer than Mu Yuchen? Do you think he has more money than sense, letting you butcher as you wish?” Xi Xiaye looked at him coldly while her tone was unfriendly.

“It was him who wanted to buy me off, so why wouldn’t I accept it? I’m not a fool. Do you think that you can buy me off with a little favor? Hmm? Did you buy so many ingredients? Do the two of you cook for yourself? Let’s go. No one’s cooking at my place today, so I’ll leech off you two tonight. It’s my way of allowing you to continue to properly thank me for saving you,” Qi Lei teased as he looked at the girl who was red from anger. Suddenly, he felt incredibly smug! Without waiting for Xi Xiaye’s response, he lifted the bags and walked out.

Chapter 544. Turn Up Uninvited (2)

Seeing Qi Lei’s tall and lean figure walk over, Xi Xiaye could not hold herself back from angrily clenching her fists.

How could there possibly be someone as shameless as him?

She did not even answer him, yet he planned to just follow her uninvited!

“I’ve already repaid you when I should. Qi Lei, don’t cross the line!” Xi Xiaye quickly chased after him.

Qi Lei pretended he did not hear her. Instead, he casually shrugged with the bags in his hand. He stopped and shot her a side look for a moment, then continued walking ahead.

“It’s just one dinner. Do you have to be so unhappy? I’m visiting your home. Am I so unwelcomed?”

The two of them walked one in front of the other along the clean cement path. Abruptly, Qi Lei slowed down his steps and turned to look at the woman following him gloomily behind. He could not help but laugh out loud in a teasing manner.

When she heard his guffaw, Xi Xiaye immediately rolled her eyes at him. She complained, “Do people visit the way you do? This is called turning up uninvited. Also, you’re coming empty-handed. Is this how you visit people’s homes? You don’t even know what courtesy is!”

Qi Lei immediately laughed out even louder. The gloom that hid between his brows vanished as he glanced over with a gentle gaze. "I was wondering why you were this against me going over. So, you're just worried you'll be taken advantage of, huh? Look, I'm not visiting empty-handed. These two big bags are filled with stuff."

"I bought those stuff!" Xi Xiaye felt that this man could really make her die of fury and irritation

"Well, then me helping you bring these things back is considered helpful too. It's not right for you to speak to an honest, handsome, and good person like that. Don't roll your eyes. You aren't that pretty to begin with, and with that expression, even the slightest ounce of elegance you have is destroyed."

He kept making fun of her. Seeing her all riled up, he suddenly felt especially smug. All his anger about that old fellow Qi Qiming was now all gone. It seemed like tormenting her and Mu Yuchen was quite fun too.

Xi Xiaye could barely catch her breath. This man was quite mean!

She had to complain to Mu Yuchen when she got back so that he can put this lecher in his place!

She inhaled deeply and pushed down the anger that surged in her chest. Trying her hardest to make herself calm down, she then cooled down.

"I've never seen someone as shameless as you. Your shamelessness is really an art that you've refined to perfection!" she said coldly.

Upon hearing that, he turned and shot her a look with that demonic gaze of his. Instead of being angry, he just smiled. "Thanks for the compliment. If I had any shame, would you be treating me to dinner? I'm handsome and shameless. I'm invincible! This is the truth. Instead of being angry, why don't you tell me about how the egoistic Mu Yuchen courted you?"

Xi Xiaye barely caught her breath at his straightforward question!

Her incorruptible Mr. Mu would not be as shameless as this fellow!

“You and he are on completely different levels. Don’t compare yourself to him. It was I who courted him, alright?” Xiaye spoke in a rage. However, she seemed to be telling the truth. Even though it was him who suggested the marriage, she really did initiate it and clung onto him, but there had not really been any courting between her and Mu Yuchen, had there?

There was no proposal. They just went to get the certificate. It felt like everything happened so naturally, and after that when the conditions were right, things just flowed naturally.

After Xi Xiaye finished, Qi Lei instantly stopped walking. He widened his eyes and stared in disbelief at her, instigating goosebumps all over her. She shrunk and just walked around him, taking the chance to shoot him narrowed eyes.

“Are you for real? You don’t look like the type! You don’t look like someone who’d make the first move!” Qi Lei doubted her.

“Don’t talk as if you understand women really well. Making the first move isn’t embarrassing. Don’t underestimate me. If I can even take Mu Yuchen down, you’d better not provoke me. Otherwise, I have my ways of getting you in trouble,” Xi Xiaye could not help but urge him.

Qi Lei was so unfathomable to her. She did not know what he thought and she could not keep him away, so she had to give him a strong warning.

Qi Lei did not take her anger to heart. Instead, he said gently, “Are you that unreasonable? The other day, we said we were friends. Why are you all hostile now? I told you I’m really a good person. I won’t hurt you.”

“My trust in you is negative. I know that the grudges between you and Mu Yuchen are over a woman, aren’t they?”

When Xi Xiaye said this, Qi Lei’s suddenly fell silent. He looked at the side of Xi Xiaye’s beautiful face with an unfathomable gaze. After he thought about it, he then continued, “Yes, it’s because of a woman, but do you know about her relationship with Mu Yuchen?”

“They were betrothed to each other at a young age, weren’t they? I don’t care about what kind of past he’s had. I’m his Missus Mu. He dotes on me, is very kind to me, and he will continue to be good to me. That’s enough for me.”

As she spoke, she suddenly stopped, turned around and her cold gaze fell onto his face.

“You’re quite open-minded. Are you that confident that he’ll always love you dearly? Whether he loves you or not is uncertain. What if I told you that he and Shasha had an unforgettable past?”

The corner of Qi Lei’s lips curved up slightly as he smiled faintly at her.

Xi Xiaye smiled back at him without a word with an indifferent gaze.

Qi Lei chuckled helplessly. He pondered for a while, then said calmly, “Perhaps if you met Shasha, you wouldn’t think that way.”

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When they returned to Maple Residence, the sky had darkened. The radiance of the setting sun engulfed the entire place in a golden tenderness. From afar, it looked quite surreal. The evening breeze blew gently, carrying the faint fragrance of flowers. It was probably coming from the sea of flowers blooming in the backyard.

Mu Yuchen had already returned from work. When Xi Xiaye entered the house, he was obviously busy in the kitchen as always while Sis Wang was tending to the plants on the balcony.

When Mu Yuchen walked out of the kitchen and saw Qi Lei carrying the things behind her, he was quite surprised. Then, he took a glimpse at the unhappy little woman, and he could immediately guess what had happened.

Qi Lei set aside the bags on the table and turned to look at Mu Yuchen. Qi Lei's eyes gaze held a vague demonic aura. As he met Mu Yuchen's gaze that was as still as water, he smiled after a while. "Long time no see, Master Mu. I'm here to leech on your dinner. You wouldn't mind, would you?"

After Qi Lei said this, Xi Xiaye immediately turned to look at the two of them while uneasiness colored her gaze.

Chapter 545. Turn Up Uninvited (3)

Qi Lei smiled quite naturally, yet from what Xi Xiaye could observe, she felt like he had a dagger hidden in his smiles and clearly had ill intentions. In fact, he wanted to drive a wedge between her and Mu Yuchen, so he was evidently not a genuine person!

When Qi Lei finished, the man did not respond immediately. Xi Xiaye turned to look at Mu Yuchen, then she realized that he was quite calm. His eyes were filled with depth as always, so you could not tell what he felt at the moment. He just casually sized Qi Lei up.

Moments after, a calm smile flashed across Mu Yuchen's handsome face as he nodded. "It would be my honor, and thanks for your help." Then, he subconsciously looked at the things on the table.

"You're welcome!" Qi Lei shrugged, shooting a look at the glaring Xi Xiaye.

"Since you're here, have a seat. I'm preparing dinner," Mu Yuchen spoke very humbly.

Qi Lei nodded and made a gesture that indicated for him to do as he wished. He did not think of himself as an outsider at all, rendering Xi Xiaye speechless!

This fellow was just a pain in the butt! How much guts did he need to hone the invincible shameless skill he had today!?

Then, Mu Yuchen ordered, "Sis Wang, bring Master Qi over for a seat or to take a walk around."

"Okay, Master!"

Sis Wang quickly went up and brought Qi Lei to sit at the sofa in the living room before skillfully brewing some tea. Mu Yuchen turned around and returned to the kitchen. Meanwhile, Xi Xiaye stood where she was for quite a while, unsure of what to do.

She thought about it, then sighed and turned to follow him into the kitchen.

Once she entered the kitchen, she could see the man's busy figure. She turned to close the door and quietly walked over, stopping behind him.

He seemed not to have realized that she had come in. He continued to be busy and skillfully worked the seasoning while a stew was bubbling on the stove by the side. The kitchen was filled with the faint aroma from the food.

Xiaye watched him work for quite a while. She then slowly lowered her gaze and could not help but kick the dustbin on the side which clanged, yet the man in front of her continued to work. He did not even turn to look at her.

Seeing him like this, Xiaye instantly felt wronged. She thought about it and wanted to reach up to fix his shirt. He was wearing a loose, black casual shirt.

Mu Yuchen ignored her and did not say anything.

After a while, she was stunned and let go of her hand that held his shirt as she asked softly, "Are you angry?"

He did not say anything. There was not a squeak.

Soon, Xi Xiaye felt upset. Her eyes welled up with tears, and her throat tightened.

Why did she feel like after she got pregnant, she was becoming more and more emotional? She was no longer herself!

She sighed as she angrily turned around and was about to leave the kitchen. When she was about to turn away, the man abruptly spun around, his tall figure blocking her way.

“How did you know I was angry?”

He looked down at her with those eyes that were as deep as the sea. She could not fathom his calm expression.

When Xi Xiaye heard that, she silently looked up at him and said sadly, “You didn’t say anything to me earlier. You didn’t look at me either, what else could it be if you weren’t angry at me?”

Upon hearing this, he could not help but laugh!

Should he be glad that she was observant, or dote on her sad and extremely vulnerable fragile heart, or should she be frustrated that she would rather let Qi Lei send her back than call him to pick her up?

“Your eyes are getting sharper. You could immediately tell I was unhappy, but why doesn’t it seem like you’ve become more self-aware though?”

When he said this, Xi Xiaye immediately knew that it was that fellow in the living room that had ruined things. She immediately expressed frustratedly and sadly, “It was him who was relentless about coming over. I couldn’t tie him to the supermarket. Letting him do some free labor isn’t a bad thing. You wouldn’t have to come running over again.”

Before she could finish, he suddenly asked, “Did you think about getting me to fetch you?”

Xi Xiaye was startled, then she nodded. “There were too many things, and I told Zitong to go back first. Initially, I wanted to take a nice stroll home.”

Then, his expression started to look much better.

Seeing that he had relaxed, she was relieved and could not help but rant, "I didn't invite him home because he was too annoying and he's really shameless. When I criticize him, he takes it as a compliment. The last time, he took huge advantage of us. He's quite quick-witted and is obviously not an honest person, yet he keeps calling himself a good person. He even said I wasn't pretty or elegant!"

"He's short-sighted. If not, then he's just jealous but he won't say it. His eyesight hasn't completely developed, so why do you care what he thinks? My woman has obviously got to be pretty and elegant!"

He chuckled, grinning as pleased as punch. Like a witch, he was charming her socks off.

Xi Xiaye looked on and was immediately startled. She could not help but hug him around the shoulders on tiptoe, and then kiss his lips. She was about to pull away when his long arms circled her.

She subconsciously took two steps back. Her back leaned against the cold refrigerator while she was trapped in his embrace. Without any objections, she quickly enjoyed a few minutes of sweetness.

His kisses had always been tender yet dominating. She never could resist him. His unique fragrance closed in, and she immediately turned dizzy as his hands familiarly palmed her belly gently. It was almost three months now, and they seemed to be able to feel some movement. The exploration of their lips continued to recklessly rub against each other fervently. After that, she could only reach out to hug him tightly.

Although his senses were running wild, he finally let go of her, panting slightly. "You're behaving. Wait till you give birth to the little one. I'll take back everything you owe me sooner or later!"

She trembled gently as her twinkling eyes stayed misty and her beautiful face blushed. After a while, she sighed and turned away shyly. "You're becoming more and more indecent!"

Upon hearing this, he just smiled calmly and caressed her belly. "If I were to be decent, how would we have gotten this little one?" His tone was extremely calm, spoken like a true lecher.

She could not help but shoot him a look. "You're no longer that elegant and pure Mr. Mu. You used to be a sacred Prince Charming to me, but now..."

“What about now?” He looked at her amusedly.

“You’re a vulgar man!”

When she said that, he immediately laughed softly. “Missus, you sound like you’re starting to understand me more.”

Chapter 546. Free Meal

It was a feast that night. Mu Yuchen prepared the meal for Xi Xiaye anyway, so he made all of her favorite dishes.

She had been pretty tired lately and had even lost weight, so Mu Yuchen was quite worried about her. As a result, he decided to make her a lavish dinner.

Qi Lei was stunned to see a table full of delicious dishes. He gaped at Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye in surprise. He could not believe these were made by him, Master Mu!

Who exactly was Mu Yuchen?

The person controlling Glory World, the Master of the Mu family, always looked so elegant and distant. Now, he found out that the man could actually cook so well!

Qi Lei gave Mu Yuchen a long stare. Both of them came from prestigious families. He was all too familiar with a carefree life since his mother, Wang Qin, never let him cook because she thought he would just mess up the kitchen.

Qi Lei then remembered that there were indeed some differences between them. He had joined the army with Su Chen and Zhou Zimo before. They were all very low-profile and rarely showed themselves in public. It was very rare to see them appearing at banquets or social events.

Zhou Zimo would still show up from time to time, but Mu Yuchen and Su Chen would never appear. Usually, Vice President Liu Lingyu or Zhang Lan would attend important events in his place.

While Qi Lei was the Vice President of Qi Kai, he did not really have any power. Of course, he would be the one attending these events, which was why he knew this very well.

“Mu Yuchen, you really surprise me. No wonder...”

Looking at the feast before him, Qi Lei’s eyes wavered. His gaze seemed like he was looking into something distant; one would wonder what he was thinking about.

Mu Yuchen prepared a glass of juice for Xi Xiaye. Then, he grabbed a bottle of whiskey and glanced at Qi Lei. “Is whiskey fine?”

Qi Lei came back to his senses when he heard Mu Yuchen’s voice, and he nodded.

Mu Yuchen then poured a glass for himself and Qi Lei.

“Welcome to Maple Residence.” Mu Yuchen raised his glass and prepared for a toast.

“My pleasure!” Qi Lei raised his glass as well.

Watching both of them, Xi Xiaye was reminded of them meeting during the tender event. Things had almost gone haywire then, yet now the two of them seemed to be friendly with each other. There was no smell of gunpowder in the air.

“Are you surprised about my sudden visit today?” Qi Lei took a sip of his whiskey, seeming pretty serious today instead of his casual self.

Mu Yuchen smiled as he put his glass down and made a gesture for Qi Lei to start eating. He then grabbed Xi Xiaye’s bowl and served her some soup.

Mu Yuchen was calm. He replied as he put the bowl of soup in front of Xi Xiaye, “Would you believe me if I said that you knew you were going to have to look for me sooner or later?”

Qi Lei nodded and laughed. "Of course, of course! That's just the way you work. I'm sure you'll just ignore me and stay away if I don't come up and talk to you face-to-face."

Mu Yuchen lowered his eyes and gave him a smile. "You seem to know me very well." He then raised his glass and emptied it.

Xi Xiaye finally caught on. Qi Lei was here to meet Mu Yuchen all along. It was no wonder he kept asking if Mu Yuchen would be around when they were on their way here. She thought he was being inconsiderate and wanted to be a huge third wheel between them!

"Not exactly, but I've thought a lot ever since we had dinner the last time. I think we can forgo some of our past grudges now. I have something to talk to you about." Qi Lei was clear about his intentions.

Mu Yuchen told him before that Gu Lingsha might be coming back and that he tried to get some information out of Wang Qin, but Wang Qin disliked Gu Lingsha a lot. His scandal with Xi Xiaye had just passed, so he did not want to cause a big fuss now. If he tried to investigate Qi Qiming now, the latter might notice and it would backfire on him.

After giving it some thought, the fastest way to acquire accurate information would be from Mu Yuchen. He knew that he had been investigating for five years, so he should know almost everything.

"We'll talk later. Let's enjoy dinner for now," Mu Yuchen said calmly without looking at Qi Lei. He picked the chopsticks up and put some food on Xi Xiaye's plate. He never liked to discuss business over meals.

Qi Lei understood his intent, and his eyes darkened as he went deep in thought.

The two of them went quiet but the atmosphere was getting a little tense. Xi Xiaye glanced at both of them before saying, "Master Qi, have a taste of Mr. Mu's cooking. Then, you'll understand what standard he's at."

Qi Lei raised his eyebrows. He then remembered this woman held onto grudges easily. He put on a sly smile and glanced over at the pair of couple opposite him. "Thank you for having me. I'll enjoy myself."

He then picked up his chopsticks and started eating.

After just a taste, he gave Mu Yuchen a surprised look again. He then went on feasting.

Xi Xiaye smiled and glanced at Mu Yuchen. Two of them looked at each other in the eyes and smiled.

After the meal, Xi Xiaye witnessed Qi Lei's true talent. This guy was really good at eating!

While he ate very elegantly, he ate way too much. Xi Xiaye also noticed that the way he looked at her Mr. Mu was odd, so she grabbed his hand unconsciously. If any other people saw this, they might have thought Qi Lei was into Mr. Mu.

Xi Xiaye did not eat much and Mu Yuchen did not have a big appetite as well. Instead, most of the food went into Qi Lei's stomach. In the end, only some soup was left.

Xi Xiaye would never understand why Qi Lei was eating that much. Was he was feeling happy hence the huge appetite?

Knowing that Mu Yuchen was serving him, he decided to come over for more meals in the future. Free food was awesome!

How childish!

Chapter 547. Liked? (1)

After dinner, Mu Yuchen called Qi Lei upstairs while Sis Wang did the dishes.

The night was clear but there was no moon tonight. Only stars filled up the night sky. Although they seemed dim, it was peaceful and calm to look at them.

By the staircase out in the yard, Qi Lei lit up a cigarette casually. He handed his pack of cigarettes to Mu Yuchen who was leaning against the railing. Mu Yuchen nodded slightly but declined his offer.

He was not really a smoker and would just smoke one or two when he felt irritated. However, he stopped ever since Xi Xiaye got pregnant. She never liked him smoking anyway as she mentioned she was uncomfortable with the smell.

Qi Lei gave him a stare before keeping the pack back into his pocket. His gaze was not as cold as before, and he seemed much calmer right now.

He could not really imagine that such a legendary and near perfect man like Mu Yuchen would act like that at home. His imagination was very far off the mark.

The night breeze was cold, and the smoke from the cigarette was barely visible.

Qi Lei turned and looked at Mu Yuchen under the dim light. His expression was calm as he looked into a distance. He grinned a little but his eyes held a complex gaze.

Qi Lei flicked his cigarette and finally broke the silence between them. "I never would've imagined that this was how the great Mu Yuchen behaved at home."

Mu Yuchen glanced back at him without saying anything.

"Are you interested to know what my impression of you is?" Qi Lei chuckled.

"Nope, you won't think of me as a good person anyway." Mu Yuchen gave a straightforward reply as a faint light flashed in his eyes. "Moreover, your opinion of me is worth nothing to me, so it doesn't matter."

Qi Lei's expression changed. After a while, he said, "As expected of the realistic and cunning businessman! I remember Lingtian told me before that you're a cold, cruel, and distant person. It seems like he was telling the truth. All these years, do you think that you're innocent?"

"Innocent?" Mu Yuchen mumbled before laughing coldly, "Why would I think that I'm innocent? I've always admitted to what I've done. I don't regret anything. If there's a chance to rewind time, I would

probably still make the same decision. You know I'd never agree sacrificing someone for the benefit of others."

"But your selfish intent killed Lingtian and dragged both Qi Feng and Shasha into it! You're responsible for the lives of several people. Don't you regret it? Don't forget that you're Lingtian's brother, and you've always been the brother he respected!" Qi Lei was getting worked up as his eyes slowly turned red.

"I've already told you that the car crash was just an accident. I have nothing to say if you guys insist on blaming this on me. Can you really just let someone who betrayed you in public run free?" Mu Yuchen glared at Qi Lei coldly while his tone turned sarcastic. "If you can't do that, don't mention this in front of me again. I know you like Gu Lingsha, but you didn't do anything and allowed Qi Feng to do whatever he wanted. You're a coward! Don't you feel ridiculous judging me on whether I'm innocent or guilty?"

Qi Lei's expression darkened after hearing his sharp words. His hand movements froze as he gave Mu Yuchen a cold stare.

"I gave them a chance and they didn't want it. I wanted to let them be together, yet they still tried to set me up. I let them go for the sake of Lingtian."

"Don't speak as if you're a saint. Can you promise that you agreed to marry Shasha without the intention to torment them? It's all the elders' intentions. Did you really have to do that to her?" Qi Lei could not keep calm anymore when Gu Lingsha was brought up in their conversation.

Mu Yuchen smiled. "What if I told you that Gu Lingsha said she was willing to marry me on her own accord? Would you believe me?"

"Impossible! She's in love with Qi Feng. No one can pull them apart. I know this more than anyone else. Why do you think I didn't fight for it then?" Qi Lei squinted at Mu Yuchen as he refuted.

"Feelings can cloud your decision. Hmph, you're as naive as Lingtian, but well, I guess being naive is a form of happiness too..."

Mu Yuchen put on a feeble smile. He raised his hand and tossed something to Qi Lei who grabbed it. It was a hard disk, and he gave Mu Yuchen a doubtful glance.

Mu Yuchen explained in a cold tone, "These are the information we have on Gu Lingsha from the past few years. We still can't locate Qi Feng, so stop bothering Xiaye in the future and don't tell her about any of this. Can you promise me that?"

"If you're innocent, why are you so worried about Xiaye knowing?" Qi Lei clenched his fists as he gave Mu Yuchen a mocking stare.

"I don't want these past traumas to affect my current life. Furthermore, she's bearing my child now and I don't want her to get involved. You'd better not make a big fuss out of this. Gu Lingsha is on a world tour giving speeches at the moment, and City Z is in her schedule as well. She'll be back here very soon. If you have any grudges, please talk to her. She knows best what happened."

Mu Yuchen's expression was cold, he sounded impatient as well.

Xi Xiaye was pregnant?

Qi Lei was stunned by this new information. Moments later, he looked at Mu Yuchen and said, "You... Didn't you agree to marry Shasha because you liked her? I remember Lingtian said..."

"Liked?" Before Qi Lei could finish his sentence, Mu Yuchen interrupted him as he smiled and looked into his eyes. "I've no idea what that word meant in the past 30 years of my life. What do you think?"

Qi Lei saw his smile, and he felt a shiver travel down his spine. "What about now?"

Chapter 548. Liked? (2)

Mu Yuchen just stared at Qi Lei quietly for a while before he turned back and returned into the villa quietly.

"I'm going to be 32 soon. I'm starting to understand things better after a year." He left that sentence in the air as he swiftly went into the villa.

Qi Lei was stunned for a moment as he looked at the empty entrance. He was deep in thought until the cigarette burned his finger. He lowered his head and looked at the hard disk, then he looked at the empty staircase. After some time, he put on a smile and left.

...

Xi Xiaye finished showering when he got back to the room. She was drying her hair on the living room sofa when a large hand suddenly grabbed the towel from her. He sat down beside her and continued what she was doing moments before.

Caught off-guard, she turned and looked at the man beside her.

She noticed that he had been appearing and vanishing suddenly. He would just pop out from somewhere without a sound.

“Has he gone back?” She gladly accepted the plate of fruits he brought her, casually picking a grape and popping it into her mouth.

“Mmm,” he replied. His hand movements were gentle as he twirled her hair. “Cut your hair shorter tomorrow. Don’t you think it’s difficult to manage it? It’ll be much harder for you to go out in a few months.”

“I don’t want to. If it gets difficult, I’ll get you to wash it for me,” she said straightforwardly, her eyes shining like diamonds. “Otherwise it feels too easy for you. You’re responsible for the child too.”

He stared at her and chuckled. “You’re getting over your head now. Aren’t you the most precious one? You’re Grandmother’s utmost concern at the moment. Take this grape for example. She delivered it by air for you, and they totally forgot about the existence of their grandson. Moreover, I’m helping you out now, so how’s this easy for me?”

“Mr. Mu, I realized that your self-awareness has weakened. The little person in my stomach is your future successor, the hope of the country, and you’re feeling aggrieved while serving me? I don’t remember you having this many opinions before I got pregnant. Men sure change easily!” She smiled as she teased him.

He gave up trying to argue with her and just dried her hair quietly.

She pursed her lips when he did not give a reply. Then, she grabbed a sour plum and tried to feed him.

He frowned and moved away. "I don't want it. You eat it yourself."

"This isn't sour! It's not as sour as the one yesterday. I'm not lying to you this time!"

He disliked sour stuff and did not have a sweet tooth as well. He preferred lighter food, much like his indifferent personality. However, Xi Xiaye knew that he could be pretty two-faced at times.

"You're crying wolf, huh? You're getting naughtier now. You've always been a rule-abiding person," he spoke with a helpless tone although he was smiling.

"You put up an act most of the time too, didn't you? How dare you say that to me!? By the way, what did you say to Qi Lei?"

She ate the sour plum as she gave him a glance.

"It's matters of the past. There's no point talking about it." He seemed disinterested.

Xi Xiaye could guess what happened. After some hesitation, she decided to not press on this topic anymore. She suddenly put the plate of fruits down and grabbed his waist. "Mr. Mu, did you realize that you've become skinnier as well?"

"Exactly, do you think I really had it easy? This little thing is tormenting, it'll take some time before we can finally relax for a little," he pointed at her belly, "It should be around the size of a fist now?"

"Somewhat, I guess. By the way, I just called my parents. Mother will be able to remove the bandages after the last treatment in a few days. I really hope she can see again."

Xi Xiaye suddenly thought of Xi Mushan and Shen Wenna, and she sighed. "I wonder how things are going between them. Mother can be quite prideful and cold no matter what. Father... He..."

"I'm slightly more inclined towards Father's side. I hope that Mother can accept him again. Do you think she can start over with him if she recovers this time?" She looked at Mu Yuchen anxiously.

"They are responsible for their relationship. We're only bystanders. They had an unforgettable past, so it's impossible to erase that. Moreover, there's you linking them together."

Mu Yuchen had no idea how to comfort her. She had become more sensitive after she got pregnant, and started worrying a lot more too.

"Mmm, I always thought that my parents were really cold to me. Now that I really think about it, my father loves me. It's just that he cares about my mother more, so he didn't want to see me because I'd remind him of her. Sometimes, I really don't understand their feelings. They care about each other, but why do they need to try so hard to be together?"

Xi Xiaye sighed as she looked at Mu Yuchen who was still drying her hair. "We won't be like them, will we?"

He stopped what he was doing and scowled. "Can your brain think of something else? We'll stay like this until we grow old."

Until they grew old?

Xi Xiaye shrugged. "Oh right, is there any news from Sis Lan's side?"

After she came back from Sis Lan's place, Xi Xiaye thought about visiting again, but she was aware the man was keeping an eye on Sis Lan. She thought it might be bad to make a move right now.

As for Mu Lingshi and Ah Mo, they were busy investigating the people Mu Yuchen pointed out, which was a lot of work.

Mu Yuchen's expression darkened when he heard Xi Xiaye's question. "She always stays at home and rarely goes out though she did meet Qi Qiming once."

"She should be pretty close to Qi Qiming. Didn't she work in Qi Kai for a period of time before?" Xi Xiaye asked as she knotted her brows.

Chapter 549. Shocked!

"They're considered old acquaintances, but according to our investigation, Sis Lan isn't doing too well health-wise," Mu Yuchen spoke nonchalantly as he continued what he was doing.

She was not doing too well health-wise?

Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment. Suddenly, she remembered the first time she met Sis Lan. At that time, she looked quite frail and her face seemed pale with illness. Xi Xiaye thought that it had been because she was just under the weather then. Could she have been ridden with an even more severe illness?

"She seems to have been frequenting hospitals abroad these past few years," Mu Yuchen thoughtfully added on.

"No wonder she didn't look that great. Okay, let's set these things aside first. Check on how Ah Mo and Ah Shi are doing. Since that person's hiding, I'm sure we have a lot more to do. I'll dry my own hair while you go bathe. I've prepared the water for you."

Then, she stopped Mu Yuchen's hand and took the towel...

...

That night, after talking about Sis Lan with Mu Yuchen, she did not think much about it. She thought that she probably would not be contacting Sis Lan much anymore. After all, she sounded like she did not plan to stay in City Z much longer according to the last time they spoke.

However, she did not expect to hear about news about her one autumn day at Hospital T.

It was a sunny day that morning. Xi Xiaye went for a checkup with Ji Zitong accompanying her.

It was early in the morning, so many people were there to see the doctor. Thankfully, they had made an appointment in advance with Dr. Huang, so they could see him as soon as they arrived.

Dr. Huang was very professional as he gently did the checkup for her. Then, she beamed and told her, "Missus Mu, your fetus is still very healthy, so don't worry, but you have to watch your health. You must keep up with your nutrition. The reaction is a little drastic, but you can have some folic acid. Also, if want to look more beautiful, you can begin to moderately slather on some olive oil. That way, the marks won't be too obvious later. We don't need medication to stabilize the fetus anymore. Just take care of yourself and rest well. When suitable, walk around."

Upon hearing that, Xi Xiaye nodded gratefully. "Mmm, I will. Thank you, Dr. Huang."

She had just only found out she was pregnant when Wang Hui and Zhuang Shurong had already filled her up with a lot of knowledge about pregnancies, especially the latter. She had already prepared everything about preventing pregnancy marks with olive oil.

Xi Xiaye heard that when she was pregnant with Mu Yuchen, it had not been worry-free either and was about the same as how she was right now, so she was experienced with such a situation. There was also Su Nan who would call her every two or three days. She was even more worried about her than her own child. Sometimes, she forgot that she was pregnant herself. In fact, she was going into labor very soon.

Along the long path, Ji Zitong who followed behind her suddenly asked softly, "Director Xi, are we going to Fuhua now or straight to Glory World?"

Xi Xiaye slowed down her steps. She turned to look at her and fell silent for a moment. Then, she said, "Let's go straight to Glory World. Isn't there a quarterly planning meeting? Some of the Planning Department documents are still with me. You go get the car first. I'll wait for you downstairs."

Ji Zitong nodded and responded before walking ahead quickly, "Okay."

Xi Xiaye was not in a rush. She took her handphone out and was about to call Shen Yue to tell him that she was not going over today.

However, just as she slid her phone out and was about to make the call, there was the sound of rushed footsteps in front and a slightly familiar voice. She looked up reflexively and saw Sis Li walking towards her unexpectedly!

It was Caitlin's manager, Sis Li!

Back then, it was her whom she had looked for to ask about Sis Lan.

Now, she seemed quite anxious and panicked as she asked the doctor before her, "Doctor, how's Sis Lan doing? What's wrong with her? Is it serious? Is she okay?"

She rattled off a few questions at a go. Meanwhile, the doctor's expression looked solemn too. He was about to answer her when Sis Li saw Xi Xiaye.

"Director Xi! Why are you here too?"

"Sis Li?"

Xi Xiaye looked puzzledly at Sis Li, then at the doctor beside her. She politely nodded to greet the doctor, and then seeing Sis Li's anxious expression, she continued, "Did something happen?"

"It's Sis Lan! This morning, I received news that Sis Lan was in a critical condition and was sent to the hospital, so I rushed over to visit her. I don't know how she is right now. This is worrying me to death."

Sis Li's brows furrowed into a tight knot.

Sis Lan was sent to the hospital at midnight?

Her conversation with Mu Yuchen from a few days ago suddenly came to her mind. Xi Xiaye had a bad feeling as she glanced at the doctor beside Sis Li. At this moment, the doctor spoke up, "Which of the two of you know the patient's family?"

When the doctor said that, Sis Li immediately answered, "Sis Lan is alone. I'm her best friend. If there's anything, you can let me know."

The doctor examined her for a bit, then sighed solemnly. "She doesn't have much time left. You have to be ready."

"What happened? What do you mean not much time left?"

The moment the doctor said that, Sis Li was stunned. She could not help but shudder and gape at the doctor in a daze.

Xi Xiaye frowned slightly as well while she frowned at the doctor.

"Her heart is deteriorating. Even though she has been receiving the treatment on time, this sudden complication has worsened her condition. You seem like you don't know she's been having this illness, do you?"

"What... What do you mean?"

Sis Li widened her eyes as she looked in disbelief at the doctor. "Are you saying...?"

"It's the heart failure that you people always talk about. She's actually been treating it abroad for quite a few years now. It's only recently that she's been transferred back. She's been waiting for a suitable heart, so she couldn't do the transplant surgery yet. Her condition is not ideal. If this continues, she won't be able to make it past one or two months, so you have to be mentally prepared."

The doctor's words were like a thunderbolt that exploded in Xi Xiaye's heart, rendering her dumbstruck.

No wonder! No wonder she looked so pale and quite dispirited. It turned out...

Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered that she had said that was her last time visiting Mu Zi or something. Perhaps she knew that she would not be living for much longer!

“No way! This is impossible... She’s always been quite healthy and wasn’t sick with anything. How did she get heart failure? This is impossible! Doctor, did you get it wrong?”

Sis Li was stunned to the point that she was disoriented.

Chapter 550. Visit

Xi Xiaye’s hands that fell by her side subconsciously tightened as her expression became complicated. She asked the doctor with a frown, “Is there no other way? It’s just been one or two months... How could this be?”

“I think she knows that she’s not been doing too well either. She’s probably returned to enjoy her so-called last years.”

The doctor sighed. “Her condition is severe. It hasn’t been easy to make it all these years. Since you’re her friends, be with her more. See if she has any unfulfilled wishes. Her ward is right in front. Come with me.”

As the doctor spoke, they walked ahead.

Sis Li’s expression was very solemn. She exchanged a worried look with Xi Xiaye, and when she saw her consoling gaze, she followed the doctor.

They walked quite a distance with the doctor before reaching a ward. They were just about to enter when they saw a nurse walk out holding a tray in her hands.

“Dr. Zhang...” the doctor called out.

“How is it? How’s the patient’s condition?”

“We’ve just given her acupuncture treatment. The patient’s not awake yet.”

The doctor nodded. “You can go first.”

Then, the nurse slowly retreated. Sis Li impatiently barged in to see a weak Sis Lan on the sickbed. The beeping of the machine was the only sound breaking the silence in the ward.

When Sis Li walked to the bedside, her eyes had already welled up in tears. “When will she be awake?”

Xi Xiaye stared at Sis Lan who looked lifeless on the sickbed before she turned to look at the doctor who advised, “Her condition isn’t stable. She should be awake soon according to her condition. However, these next two days is still a critical period, so don’t stay too long and don’t disrupt her rest.”

...

Hearing this, Xi Xiaye could not help but sigh. Who would have thought that a person who was doing just alright a few days ago would be like this right now? All these years, she had been receiving treatment abroad. That must have been the reason she quit the entertainment industry.

From the way Sis Li and Caitlin spoke, they must hold her in very high regard.

And now...

Nevertheless, why was she not willing to explain all those things clearly?

The doctor left after explaining a few more things. Xi Xiaye stood by the sickbed for quite a while, watching Sis Li quietly cry. She could only reach out to pat her shoulders. Just as she was about to console her, they suddenly heard a light cough. She subconsciously looked up and saw that Sis Lan was trying to open her eyes through the fatigue.

When Sis Li saw Sis Lan wake up, she felt relieved and quickly attended to her. "Sis Lan, how are you feeling? Are you uncomfortable anywhere?"

In a daze, Sis Lan opened her misty eyes which gradually returned to clarity after a while. She looked around, and when she saw Xi Xiaye, she was clearly surprised. Her pale and bloodless face was momentarily stunned.

"I'm fine. Why are you here?"

The two of them were quite close. To a certain extent, Sis Li had been mentored by Sis Lan, and she was considered her student.

"I received a call. Sis Lan, you... Why are you hiding this from everyone? Why didn't you tell us? We thought that you..."

"What's the point of telling you lot? It would just to add to everyone's worry. You don't have to worry anymore. I don't think I'll be able to recover with my condition anymore."

Sis Lan's tone and gaze were calm. Her nonchalant expression seemed to be one that has experienced the hypocrisy of the world and seen through life and death. She sounded incredibly sad to Sis Li.

Sis Lan watched her quietly without a sound. She watched Xi Xiaye silently, thought about it, and decided to ask, "Missus Mu, why are you here?"

Upon hearing this, Xi Xiaye's beautiful face flashed with a faint smile. She said softly, "I came over for a checkup. Unexpectedly, I bumped into Sis Li and found out you were hospitalized, so I came over to take a look. You'll get better."

"Thank you." A wry smile appeared on Sis Lan's pale face. "By the looks of it, there isn't any way anymore. Perhaps this is fate. This is my fate."

"Sis Lan, don't be dismayed. The doctor will find a way to save you," Sis Li consoled.

Sis Lan shook her head, not seeming too sad. Perhaps she was indifferent to things now given her state. "It's fine, I know myself. Otherwise, I wouldn't rush back. Upon my return this time, I'm afraid I wouldn't have any more chances of leaving. There's nothing bad about that, after going round and round, I still end up back here. I don't have much time left..."

"Sis Lan," Sis Li called out anxiously as she quickly grabbed her frail hand. "No, Sis Lan, as long as you get treatment, you'll get better. I..."

...

Xi Xiaye did not know how to console her, so she did not say much. When she left the hospital, she felt quite depressed.

Yet, just as Xi Xiaye learned about Sis Lan's condition, Mu Yuchen received news too.

In his spacious and cozy office, Mu Yuchen was standing at the shelf and flipping through a book. Ah Mo stood before his desk and reported, "Ah Bo sent a message saying that it's heart failure. She probably doesn't have much time left. She's been staying at home because she's been feeling unwell."

"Has anyone visited her recently?" Mu Yuchen stood there, his gaze never leaving the page.

"Qi Qiming's secretary did go looking for her once, but after that, there wasn't much contact," Ah Mo answered.

"Does Qi Qiming know about her illness?" Mu Yuchen flipped the page and continued to ask.

Ah Mo fell silent for a moment. He thought about it, then answered, "I think he doesn't know. Qi Qiming has rarely been in contact with Sis Lan all these years since there's nothing for them to keep in touch about. I find the recent sudden contact quite odd too. However, the two of them did work quite closely back then. I think they do more or less keep in touch. Perhaps, Qi Qiming also knows something about Aunty's matters. Don't forget that he was quite popular in the circle back then too."

Upon hearing this, Mu Yuchen nodded in agreement, a sneer curled on his lips while the light in his eyes became quite unfathomable. "I am quite looking forward to seeing if Mr. Wen has any connections to Qi Qiming."

"Master, why would you say that?" Ah Mo was puzzled now.

Mu Yuchen sneered. His tone was quite nonchalant. "Lu Xinlan and Qi Qiming didn't just work together. She and Qi Qiming had a past."