

Loving 561

Chapter 561. Labor (1)

The car drove slowly towards Glory World Corporation as a light autumn breeze engulfed it.

It was already entering the autumn season, and the clean flowerbeds on both sides of the road had a few blossoming stalks of chrysanthemums. The faint fragrance of chrysanthemums in the air made one feel carefree and relaxed.

The chauffeur in front steadily parked the car by the roadside before the entrance of Glory World Corporation. Xi Xiaye quickly pushed the car door open and was going to get down, yet just as the door was unlocked, the man inside suddenly said, "Bring your coat along."

Then, without waiting for her to react, he put it onto her shoulders since it was still a little cool in the morning.

Xi Xiaye did not reject his gesture either. She just fixed the collar and took her briefcase as she turned to him. "When you're on the back, can you get me some walnut cookies from the Yao family shop? Mmm, bring back a few more boxes too. Make sure you get the ones that are fresh from the oven. Tonight, we'll be going back to the old residence. Grandmother and Mother enjoy those pastries."

"The Yao family shop? The one in along the South River Bridge in Qiaodong?" he asked.

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Mmm, that's the one. Go earlier. Otherwise, they'll be sold out. There are so many people who want them."

He now remembered that the last time, Li Si had lined up for a very long time to buy them. She did like to eat those.

"Mmm, got it. Go up now." He pushed open the car door for her and sent her out. After he watched her figure vanish through the door, he got back into the car.

Mu Yuchen had just gotten into the car when the front passenger door opened. Ah Mo got in swiftly. "Master!"

“Your sis-in-law says she wants to make a trip home to the old residence today. Call Lingshi and tell her to come back. We’ll see about arranging the festival at home.”

Mu Yuchen obviously understood what Xi Xiaye implied. He felt that she was more meticulous about the old residence than he was.

Perhaps, it was because all these years he had been wandering abroad, due to the distance, he did not miss his family much, so he did not seem to feel that strongly about these holidays. Instead, when it came to her, she would pay some mind to every festival.

“Yes, Master!” Ah Mo responded and called Mu Lingshi right away. He explained the situation simply before hanging up.

“Right, Master, I’ve found out about Lu Xinlan’s condition from the hospital. Her heart is failing, and she won’t make it past one or two months. She probably knew about her condition. That was why she rushed back from abroad this time. She just wanted to return home at her ripe, old age,” spoke Ah Mo in a heavy tone.

Mu Yuchen’s expression was extremely calm, so one could not read his emotions. “Do Qi Qiming and Wang Qin know?”

Ah Mo thought about it, then said, “I’ve revealed the news to the media. I’m sure they know by now, but Wang Qin is very rational. She would just be secretly happy at the most. It wouldn’t be easy to force her to make a move.”

Mu Yuchen obviously agreed with Ah Mo. Wang Qin could not be underestimated. As someone who could contend with the despicable and sly fox, Qi Qiming, and even have the upper hand, this woman was considered a legend in the business world. She had the guts and the drive. Even the media sang praises about her. She was on the same level as Zhuang Shurong.

“She doesn’t need to lift a finger. She just needs to rile Qi Qiming up. I do quite admire this woman’s tricks,” Mu Yuchen answered calmly.

Ah Mo nodded and sighed. "Yeah, if she and Qi Qiming join hands to leave peacefully, Qi Kai's future would be beyond measure. It would be normal if they became on par with Glory World. However, she's really going all out for Qi Lei, who, sadly, doesn't care. Just because of Gu Lingsha, all these years she's been protecting Qi Lei well. He was so into Gu Lingsha years ago, yet Wang Qin... I wonder if they have reconciled now. We don't have any grudges with Wang Qin, so if Qi Qiming and the unfathomable Qi Feng want to go against us, we can definitely join hands with her. In fact, I think she would be very glad to!"

Clearly, Ah Mo had been mulling over this for a while before he expressed all this.

However, just as he said this, Mu Yuchen frowned slightly as he contemplated for a while without answering. Ah Mo hesitated momentarily before continuing, "Master, do you not agree?"

Then, Mu Yuchen sighed slightly and pulled his gaze back from outside the window and silently met Ah Mo's eyes. "That's not a bad idea. There aren't eternal enemies, only eternal benefits. It'd definitely be a good thing if we can have Wang Qin on our side, but how can you guarantee that she wouldn't think we have ulterior motives? In fact, Ah Mo, don't forget that there's also the Gu family that still won't show their faces. Only Mr. Lee from City B has had some interactions with them. They've kept a low profile all these years too. Everyone isn't sure what exactly they've been up to. To me, the Gu family has the real trick up their sleeves, so we have to be on guard. Before I can tell what the Gu family and Qi Qiming's motives are, it's best if we don't act blindly."

When Mu Yuchen finished, Ah Mo's expression turned solemn. He then sighed deeply as a few beads of sweat appeared on his forehead. He said apologetically, "Master, I've overlooked!"

"For now, let's ensure that Wang Qin and Qi Lei are behaving steadily. Watch their patterns of moving in and out of the country."

"Yes, Master! Oh, right, Gu Lingsha is in London these few days. There'll still be some time before she returns to the country. I've seen their itinerary, so her next stop should be Singapore. I've been following her tracks, but I didn't find any traces of Qi Feng. I've checked all the registration records at the Los Angeles hospitals from five years ago, but I didn't find any records of them being sent to the hospital."

As Ah Mo said this, he could not help but feel at a loss. All these years, they had been quite thorough, thus he really did not understand how they could not find even a trace of them. Qi Qiming was quite capable to be able to hide a person without any word getting out at all!

Even Wang Qin, who slept beside him, could not get anything from him.

“If he really wants to get Qi Kai, he’ll definitely have to show up. I can still afford to wait. The one living in the dark might not have as much patience as me. Let’s just wait,” Mu Yuchen spoke nonchalantly. Apparently, he was not troubled by this matter as he was calm.

Then, Ah Mo nodded.

“Withdraw those people watching Lu Xinlan, and just watch who’s been entering her ward. Tomorrow, I’ll personally visit her.”

“Master, if we withdraw them, what if...?” Ah Mo was hesitant.

“If we don’t get them to retreat, how is Qi Qiming going to show up? Do I need to teach you what to do?” Mu Yuchen frowned slightly.

Quickly, Ah Mo understood and nodded. “Master, I got it! I’ll arrange that immediately!”

Chapter 562. Labor (2)

Despite the sun being high up in the sky, the surrounding atmosphere was chilly.

Han Yifeng felt that his head weighed a ton as the bitter cold embraced him. He tried to open his eyes and saw a gentle light.

The door to the balcony was open, allowing the cool wind to breeze through as the curtains danced.

This place...

Was it not his old villa?

How did he end up here?

His headache felt worse as he sat up. He glanced around the room and soon noticed Xi Xinyi sitting on the sofa opposite him!

Her baby bump was huge now as her estimated labor date drew near. She had been resting at home lately while Huang Ziyao sent people over to take care of her. Although she visited frequently as well, Han Yifeng rarely dropped by.

First off, he did not want to argue with her. Secondly, he did not want to see her either. That would only reopen his wounds again, and he did not want to get hurt anymore.

Xi Xinyi's eyes were red while she seemed depressed and exhausted. From her dry and lifeless eyes, it was obvious that she had been up for the whole night

Han Yifeng sat up while his usual calmness returned to him as he acted coldly. He glanced at Xi Xinyi without saying anything before going straight to the washroom.

He did not want to ask why was he there. Apart from that, he also did not want to know what happened because he realized he had nothing to say when he faced her.

"You were drunk. Secretary Wang and I carried you back here. You got a high fever late at night. Plus, you've been calling her name all night long." Xi Xinyi's dry and pained voice came from the back.

Han Yifeng took a pause but it did not stop him from moving as he continued towards the washroom.

The door closed followed by the sound of water splashing from inside.

After what felt like an eternity, Han Yifeng came out after he put on a shower robe. He walked past the living room as if he did not see Xi Xinyi, and went into the bedroom to change into a clean outfit.

Xi Xinyi pushed the door and went in. When she saw him tying his necktie in front of the mirror, she went over and was about to help him with it. However, Han Yifeng avoided her and growled at her coldly, "Don't touch me!"

"Yifeng!" Xi Xinyi stared at Han Yifeng blankly as she felt bitter inside. "I never knew that you hated me to this extent, Han Yifeng. I dare say no one is as cruel as you. No one!"

"We've had so many good memories together. Have you forgotten them all? Right on this bed, you told me that you'd love me forever, that you'd support me no matter what I do, and that you'd be deeply in love with me forever! Have you forgotten all of that? Have you! You called her name all night long. You hated her the most. How did you become like this, Yifeng?"

Xi Xinyi was heartbroken. She thought if she put in more effort, things would return to how they were before, and he would change his mind and go back to her side. They had had so many unforgettable memories, so they still had something pleasant to share with each other. Moreover, she was bearing his child, so their relationship could never be broken off and he would eventually come back to her.

However, it seemed that not only was he not coming back, but he was also moving further and further away. He seemed to have gone so far that she almost lost sight of him.

In the past few months, she never saw him more than three times, but he did not care at all. She only saw him during her visit to the Han family when he had gone back to take a look at the sickly Elder Han even though he seemed reluctant to.

Because of her, his relationship with Elder Han, Han Yu, and Huang Ziyao worsened. Huang Ziyao would sometimes rant to her. While she did not specify anyone, Xi Xinyi was not that dumb that she did not realize she was indirectly blaming her.

She was having a hard time as well. She had to take on all of this alone with no one by her side and could only endure it quietly. She thought she would at least be able to rant to him when she saw him just like old times, hopefully, to get a little bit of comfort from him, but the only thing she heard from him was Xi Xiaye's name all night long!

Who was that witch Xi Xiaye?

She was just a lowly insect that almost got destroyed by Xi Xinyi. She was nowhere near her, but she always acted cool and arrogant like her mother. Han Yifeng had hated her back then and even wished for her to disappear before his eyes.

How did the tables turn so suddenly?

Was it karma?

“If I treat a toxic and wicked woman like you nicely forever, I’m afraid that you’ll still trick me and fool me like a stupid toy even after I’ve gone to hell. You really played with me like a doll. Have you been at it so long that you’ve lost your mind? You’re the most ludicrous and disgusting woman I’ve ever seen!” Han Yifeng’s voice was filled with anger and frustration.

“But you’re the one who’s in love with me! We’ve had lots of fun together and you even got me pregnant! If I’m disgusting, aren’t you worse? Within me lies your child! What now? Do you feel ridiculed?”

Xi Xinyi could not take it anymore after hearing the harsh words come from him. She stared at him coldly and put on a bitter smile. “You can try to abandon me all you want, but I’m telling you that it’s impossible! If I’m disgusting, you’re worse! I’m going to give birth to this child and remind you about our past forever! Just like how that witch’s mother Shen Wenna could not take Father away from my mother back then! My mom eventually became Mrs. Xi for over 20 years, and that old witch had to stay alone for two whole decades. Ha, what did she get?”

Chapter 563. Labor (3)

As Xi Xinyi shouted at him, her suppressed anger in the past few months burst out all at once.

“Shut up! You should be glad that Grandfather helped you. Otherwise, I would’ve never agreed to let this child survive. The child will never find happiness having a wicked mother like you. He’ll only become as disgusting as you!” Han Yifeng clenched his necktie tightly as he shot Xi Xinyi a cold stare. His expression was like the sky right before a huge storm. It was dark and frightening.

However, Xi Xinyi was unfazed. She smiled after Han Yifeng expressed his anger. It was a cold, bitter smile.

Han Yifeng never knew that a woman could become like this. The more Xi Xinyi's real self was gradually revealed before him, the stupider he felt. While sleeping on the same bed as her for so many years, he had no idea that beautiful face of hers hid such an ugly personality.

"I'm the real treasure of the Xi family. Xi Xiaye totally lost to me. She thought she was a princess and tried to pity others. She's such an idiot! Who needs her sympathy? Back then, when she was holding hands with Shen Wenna and Father, she told me they are her parents. At that time, hatred welled up inside me, and when she told me you're her fiancé, I tried my best to be better, to be pretty, to be nice. I wanted everyone's attention, so I did all that for the sake of giving a big slap in her face. I wanted her to know what a real princess is like."

Xi Xinyi laughed. "It only proves that she could never stand before me! Everything she had has become mine, even you, Han Yifeng, who was once her fiancé! You've also fallen head over heels for me! You've abandoned her! Who could be even more disgusting than you?"

She looked like a proud hen flapping her wings as she spoke with pride while touching her belly. "Xi Xiaye thought she could trump me by getting together with Mu Yuchen. Unfortunately, I can still come back. Let me tell you, Han Yifeng. The child inside me is a boy, so the elders must be very pleased, especially given how much they are longing for a great-grandchild. As long as I disagree, you can never divorce me. If the Han family tries to bring this to court, I have the Yue family backing me up!"

Han Yifeng's expression turned icy as he went up to her and grabbed her wrist. His grip almost snapped her hand off, making her cry out loud.

"Do you think your current self can compare to her? I never knew that you've become such a twisted person because of jealousy. The Xi family doesn't exist anymore. You and your mother have been chased out of the Xis. I'm just taking pity on the both of you and letting you stay at my place! The West Park belongs to Xi Xiaye now, and she's even the lady boss of Glory World. Who are you to compete with that? Your past glory? Your identity as the scorned daughter? Where does your confidence come from? If you're that capable, why don't you try taking Mu Yuchen away from her too?"

Han Yifeng gave her a mocking laugh. "You didn't even realize what you've done wrong. Xi Xinyi, you're a really disgusting woman, the worst of the worst! How terrifying! How could I have shared the same bed with you all these years?"

As Han Yifeng tightened his grip, Xi Xinyi yelled in pain. "Ah!"

When Mu Yuchen's name was mentioned, Xi Xinyi trembled! How could she have forgotten Mu Yuchen... and the photos he had!?

"Let go of me! It's futile for you to be angry. I have my whole life to spend with you, Han Yifeng. I'll never let you abandon me, and I'll make sure Xi Xiaye doesn't get it easy as well. Ah!"

"Get lost!" Han Yifeng was enraged. He flung Xi Xinyi's hand away and spun around coldly. He did not want to stay near this woman any second longer!

As Han Yifeng just took several steps away, Xi Xinyi rushed up to him. "Stop, Yifeng! Don't go! I don't mean what I said, Yifeng!" She noticed that she had gone out of control and made the situation worse!

She did not understand it herself. She wanted to have a good talk with him and would do anything as long as he was willing to change his mind and be with her again, but every time he mentioned the name "Xi Xiaye", she could not contain the wrath inside her. Her anger would just explode outwards!

Han Yifeng chuckled coldly when he felt her rushing towards him from the back. Deftly, he moved away without even looking and avoided her!

Her touch felt absolutely revolting!

Xi Xinyi was rushing towards him at full speed. While she aimed to grab Han Yifeng's shoulder, as he avoided her, she could not stop and continued to plunge forward. To her horror, her stomach rammed into a coffee table corner!

"Ah!"

"What happened?"

Huang Ziyao had heard some loud noises upstairs and went to take a look. When she came into the room, she saw Han Yifeng standing aside coldly while Xi Xinyi was on the floor moaning in pain as she embraced her belly!

“What happened, Yifeng?”

Xi Xinyi’s face turned pale all of a sudden. Huang Ziyao’s expression changed and she rushed towards her to help her get up, but Xi Xinyi let out another scream again. “Mother... It’s painful... Very painful!”

Huang Ziyao gazed down and saw a smidge of blood on the carpet. Her expression changed to one of terror and then she yelled at Han Yifeng, “This is bad! Yifeng, send her to the hospital now! Hurry!”

Han Yifeng turned around to see that Xi Xinyi’s white dress had turned crimson now. She was moaning painfully as she gave him a weak and distressed look. His expression changed as well. After struggling for a moment, he took a deep breath and calmed himself down before he carried Xi Xinyi and rushed outside.

Chapter 564. Labor (4)

While they sped straight towards Hospital T, Xi Xinyi was in great agony. She grabbed onto Han Yifeng as she cried and shouted.

Huang Ziyao had a complicated expression on her face.

Han Yifeng sat still inside the car while he held onto Xi Xinyi’s shoulders and barely controlled her painful struggles. Her face turned extremely pale as both of her hands clutched Han Yifeng’s clothes desperately and her voice became hoarse.

At that moment, his cold expression softened slightly.

He heard that women would go through an insane amount of pain during this phase, but he never expected it to be this horrible. No matter how much he hated Xi Xinyi, she was bearing his child, who was innocent. Above all, he wanted the child to be delivered safely.

He rested his arms around her and hugged her firmly as he spoke to the chauffeur, “Go faster!”

“Yes, CEO Han!” the chauffeur gave a brief reply before he sped up the car.

They arrived at the hospital half an hour later. Xi Xinyi was in extreme pain and she felt like she was on the verge of dying. Finally, she was wheeled into the operating theatre. The child was probably going to be delivered sooner than expected!

Huang Ziyao and Han Yifeng waited outside the operating room. Yue Lingsi was playing mahjong when she received the news, and she quickly rushed over as well.

Yue Lingsi had transformed into another person in just a few months. She exuded the vibe of a gambling addict. Not only did she start smoking, but her choices of words also became extremely vulgar as well. She started scolding Han Yifeng the moment she saw him. Before pushing her away, he shot her a disgusted stare.

“Go away! I don’t want to argue with you.” Han Yifeng’s attitude was cold and he did not hide the loathing in his voice.

Yue Lingsi had given herself up. She went out every day to play mahjong besides drinking and smoking. He had heard her scolding Shen Wenna and Xi Xiaye several times before with very foul language. She also frequently argued with Xi Xinyi and even took a lot of money from him to gamble in the casino, racking up a substantial amount of debt now. Secretary Wang informed him that debt collectors came to the house to ask for money, leading to Xi Xinyi having a big fight with her about this.

“Don’t you want to argue with me? If something happens to my daughter, I’ll never forgive you!” Yue Lingsi pointed her finger at Han Yifeng accusingly. “I never knew you could be such a heartless person. No matter what she did to those two witches, she did it all for you. Anyone can criticize her but you! She genuinely loves you, and she’s never betrayed you all these years, yet you’re treating her like this while she’s bearing your child!”

“She has never betrayed me? You sound very certain, but even Xi Xinyi herself never made that claim. Why do you act like you know everything when you’re just an outsider? The reason Xi Xinyi is going through all these now is that she has a mother like you!” Han Yifeng finally found somewhere to direct his anger. He aimed it right at Yue Lingsi’s weak spot!

“Alright, stop arguing in the hospital! We’ll wait and see how’s Xinyi doing later!” Huang Ziyao stopped them as she felt rather embarrassed by Yue Lingsi’s attitude.

Han Yifeng was her son. Even she rarely scolded him. Who did she think she was to scold her son like that?

Huang Ziyao glanced at Yue Lingsi and said coldly, "If you still care about your daughter, then stop causing trouble for her. Your reputation is already at its worst. If people know that debt collectors are at the door, what would people think of Yifeng? What would people think of the Han family? We're really unfortunate to be related to both you and your daughter. Can you please stop messing things up?" She was straightforward.

"What do you mean?" Yue Lingsi was not stupid. It was obvious that she was looking down on her.

"You know very well what I mean. Your scandal hasn't died out yet, so stop causing trouble, will you?" Huang Ziyao spoke coldly.

Yue Lingsi's expression darkened as she looked at Huang Ziyao. As she clenched her fist and was about to lash out at her, the door of the operating theatre opened. The doctor and nurses came out with Xi Xinyi.

Huang Ziyao looked at the doctor nervously. "Doctor, has she delivered? Is it a boy or a girl? How's my daughter?"

Yue Lingsi forced her way inside and glanced at the weak-looking Xi Xinyi, feeling sorry for her daughter.

"They are both safe. Congratulations! Although it's a little earlier than expected, the boy is healthy, so don't worry." The doctor smiled warmly at them.

Huang Ziyao and Yue Lingsi were relieved.

A boy!

Great!

The elder must be very happy!

Yue Lingsi was glad. Xi Xinyi would be able to secure her place in the Han family now that she had given birth to a boy. The Han family only had one descendant, so this boy would surely be the main attention of the family from now on. This child might create a chance for Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi to fix their relationship!

Nevertheless, it was great that the child was safely delivered!

Han Yifeng did not show any expression on his face, but his quiet eyes softened slightly, especially when Huang Ziyao held his child close to him.

“Yifeng, take a look at your son. He looks just like you when you were little.” Huang Ziyao was thrilled as she went towards Han Yifeng. “Do you want to hold him?”

Han Yifeng was startled. He lowered his head and looked at the child in Huang Ziyao’s arms. What a tiny thing! His face was all wrinkled and he could hardly see any resemblance. How did she know the child looked like him?

He was afraid to hold the child because he was so small and fragile, so he just looked at him carefully. In truth, he was thrilled to be a father too.

“Alright, both child and mother need some rest. Send the patient back to the room. The nurse will inform you if there’s anything to be cautious about,” the doctor reminded them with a smile.

“Okay!” Huang Ziyao handed the child back to the nurse.

Chapter 565. Little Apple (1)

“Director Xi, this the amended proposal from the Administrative Department. Please have a look.” The secretary handed a document to Xi Xiaye who was reading through another document.

As Xi Xiaye listened, she stopped what she was doing and abruptly looked up. She took the document and flipped through it for a while. Then, she looked up at the secretary. "This needs to be personally reviewed by Chairman Mu. Go down first. When Chairman Mu gets back, I'll let him know."

The secretary nodded. "Right, Director Xi, Manager Xu from the Commerce Department is outside. It seems urgent."

"Let him in."

"Alright," answered the secretary before departing. After a while, Manager Xu came in. He looked like a capable middle-aged man.

"Director Xi!"

"What is it? Weren't you going to go over to Wang Corporation to discuss the new retail product?" Xi Xiaye looked at the man before her in confusion.

"They're asking for 12 percentage points, which is 1.5 percent more than we expected, so we returned to ask for Chairman Mu's opinion."

"Call for an appointment with Mr. Zhang from Rui Feng Corporation. Someone else will do it if he won't. If they cross our bottom line, forget about the discussion. It's not like we're begging Wang Corporation for the retail opportunity," Xi Xiaye said indifferently.

Manager Xu nodded. They were familiar with Director Xi's temper when she discussed matters. However, it was because of that that many people were used to being frank when talking with her. She was quite similar to Chairman Mu in this aspect. It was no wonder they were husband and wife.

After Manager Xu received his orders, he quickly left while Xi Xiaye continued to go through the documents which were market research and some progress reports for the South River project.

She continued to be busy until the afternoon, and Mu Yuchen did not come back for lunch either. When it was noon, he called to say he had a social gathering to attend. After telling him not to drink so much, she then hung up.

It was the Mid-Autumn festival the day after tomorrow, and it was just in time for the holidays. They would begin their off-days tomorrow, and there were many things that needed to be arranged. Xi Xiaye was not idle either. She worked arduously to respond to all the documents that she could take authority of and left the rest to him.

Later in the afternoon, Mu Lingshi came over. Xi Xiaye was about to walk around the New Era Plaza, so it was a pleasant coincidence that they could accompany each other. Ji Zitong and the other two bodyguards followed them closely.

Mu Lingshi chose two outfits for Ah Mo while Xi Xiaye got some for Shen Yue too. The two bodyguards that followed behind them had their hands full of bags.

“Sis-in-law, do you want to buy one or two for my brother? Even though he has enough to wear, if you buy it for him, I’m sure he’ll like it.”

She thought about it before deciding to choose a few shirts and ties for her husband. After that, she went to a nearby café with Mu Lingshi for tea. They had just finished when Mu Yuchen drove over to pick her up.

In front of the restaurant, Mu Lingshi looked amusedly at the way Mu Yuchen was so worried. “Bro, you don’t actually have to come to pick her up yourself. Sis-in-law and I will go back together.”

As he fixed Xi Xiaye’s collar, he caressed her hair gently. “Grandmother just called to urge you and Ah Mo to return quickly. You two go back first. I want to walk around with your sis-in-law for a bit.”

Mu Lingshi shrugged while a faint smile flashed across her face. “I know that you’re just finding me annoying. Okay then, we’ll go back first. It’s not that early anymore. You two should finish shopping soon and get home quickly. Otherwise, Grandmother and the rest are going to nag you again,” she said before leaving with Ah Mo.

Xi Xiaye did not say anything. She just smiled and watched as Mu Lingshi and Ah Mo gradually went away. After a long while, she glanced up at the man beside her. "Look at how their shadows seem to be more and more in harmony. I keep feeling like we're going to be receiving good news soon."

"It'd be great if they can get over that barrier. Let's go. I'll take you around. Otherwise, you'll complain about how I don't go shopping with you." Mu Yuchen promptly averted his gaze and tugged on her hand to walk along the pathway.

After that, Xiaye realized what this man's so-called idea of shopping was. As long as her gaze rested for more than three seconds on a certain item, he would buy it immediately without a second thought. Xi Xiaye dared not continue walking after they covered a third of the mall.

After that, he looked around and pulled her into a nearby jewelry store.

"I have a lot of accessories that I haven't used. Let's not shop anymore." She let him slide a large diamond right onto her finger as she turned to cover her face bashfully.

She did not dare go out with him anymore. A few of the customers beside had begun to take their phones out and were recording them. With the way things were going, it looked like there was going to be an exposè on Weibo soon.

"Didn't you say that the diamond ring is too small? Now that I'm letting you choose, why aren't you appreciating my kindness? Mmm, this one's not bad. Take a look. Are you happy with it? The other one earlier was quite good too. Hmm, these two then, and this one. Pack all of them up, please."

Then, before Xiaye could answer, he pushed all of the diamond rings to the attendant who was so delighted that she almost could not believe her ears. Nonetheless, from the way this husband and wife seemed, they appeared to be a loaded couple, so she dared not be doubtful about Mu Yuchen's words.

On the way as they rushed back to the old Mu residence, Xi Xiaye, who sat shotgun, kept staring at her diamond ring that he helped her put on. She could not help but giggle. "Mr. Mu, this is my first time wearing such an expensive item. Doesn't it look quite nice?"

Then, she waved her hand again.

The man turned to look at her from the driver's seat. Seeing the heartwarming and delighted smile on her face, he felt his heart soften exceptionally.

She was already this contented with just one or two diamond rings. What an easy person to satisfy!

"Your hand is pretty, so you look nice wearing anything. But, Missus, you don't seem to know what's what. The more expensive one is the smaller one," he teased as he was in a rare jovial mood.

Xi Xiaye shrugged. She stared at it for quite a while, then nodded. "Wedding rings are worthier of a second look. I'll give this one to Mother then since our sizes are about the same and she quite likes wearing accessories."

He shot her a look and chuckled softly. "So eager to please your mother-in-law?"

"What do you mean by eager to please my mother-in-law? You're their son, but I've never seen you buy any presents for them. They raised you for nothing. Be careful that your child might treat you the same way!" As she said this, she shot him a scowl.

He laughed out softly when he heard this. Then, he stretched his arms and held her around the shoulders before letting her lean on his shoulder. "Aren't I giving you a chance to perform then? When she sees what a useless son I am, she'll think about how caring you are. This is the strategy. Do you understand?"

Chapter 566. Little Apple (2)

When he said this, Xi Xiaye immediately rolled her eyes. Her expression was filled with disdain.

Xiaye squinted and stared at the side profile of his handsome face as she spoke with a frown, "You really talk shop all the time, Mr. Mu. I notice that no matter where and when, you never forget to exhibit your innate nature as an unscrupulous businessman. How did I fancy someone like you? You aren't sincere at all. Your thought process is so dangerous."

"What a heartless woman! I sacrificed myself to prop up your image of a gentle and filial wife, yet I've never heard you say a word of gratitude to me." Mu Yuchen glared at her unhappily.

He was telling the truth. Ever since he married her, he had been slowly caring more about the Mu family too. He constantly brought things home, such as Zhuang Shurong's accessories and nutritional supplements, and some healthy products for Wang Hui, but these were all done in Xi Xiaye's name. After all, women have always been more meticulous about these things.

The little woman simply had a low EQ, but she was quite filial which made him satisfied.

Actually, previously, he had been quite worried that she would have trouble interacting with his mother, Zhuang Shurong, so he did tell her that if it did not work out, they should just communicate less. Unexpectedly, Zhuang Shurong was actually quite happy with her. In this period of time that she was pregnant, she would always be worried and brew soup to bring over before she went over to the court.

Zhuang Shurong was a firm person who conducted herself stiffly and solemnly. Even though she was his mother, they were not very close.

"Hey, Mr. Mu, I keep feeling like you don't quite like to speak at home, especially with your parents. You're always so courteous. Why is that?" she could not help but ask as she reached out to hold his wrist and gaze quietly at him.

"I don't know what I can talk about to them since we have different fields of work, and my parents' work is of a sensitive nature. Since I was young, they have been busy with work. They always left early and returned late. When they did return, I was mostly already asleep. After that, I was sent away to study, so we communicated even less. As a result, it's hard not to be distant, but I know they're very caring about me." As Mu Yuchen said this, his dark eyes became faintly distant with memory.

She then sighed softly, and suddenly caressed her belly. She thought about it before responding softly, "Then, next time, we must raise our own child. We can't let them be distant from us."

"I have no comments about that. The key to raising an obedient child is to bear those torments."

"Don't I have you too? Do you think it's easy to be a father?" She suddenly shot him an odd look, stunning him. For some reason, he suddenly had a bad feeling that his future days might not be that laidback.

When they returned to the Mu residence, the sky had darkened. Dinner was already ready, so the whole family sat together harmoniously and happily enjoyed a sumptuous dinner.

Unfortunately, Xi Xiaye's stomach was still reacting quite badly. She could only muster a few bites of food before she rushed to the toilet with a hand over her mouth while Mu Yuchen followed after her as always. Wang Hui and Zhuang Shurong could not help but shake their heads and smile.

Xi Xiaye had been foul-tempered recently too. She felt so miserable from the torment and could not help but whine to Mr. Mu, or just be mad at nothing. Sometimes, she would find Mr. Mu annoying, just like how he was being right now.

After an intense round of vomiting, she washed her face and took the towel he handed her to wipe her face. "Move aside. You're blocking me!"

Mr. Mu moved half a step and stood behind her. He asked in concern, "Tomorrow, we'll go see if the doctor has any way of making things better. It can't go on like this."

She dry heaved again, and then complained unhappily, "It's all because of you."

Mu Yuchen did not say anything. He just frowned and stared at her belly. When this little thing came out, just watch how he settled it!

"What's with that look of yours? Are you treating my child with disdain?"

"How could I? You're giving birth to our child. I'll definitely like him or her," he quickly explained.

"I feel miserable, Mr. Mu..." Another round of bile rose in her throat, and she went through the torment again, looking at him pitifully.

"I'm sorry. It's all my fault that you are becoming more and more delicate." He took out a small packet of biscuits from his pocket and opened it for her.

She sighed and took it. Curiously, she did not know when he began to keep such things in his pocket.

As he watched her nibble on the biscuit, he swiftly took her hands together as he took a towel from the side and wrung it dry before wiping her face for her. "Okay, no more dinner. I'll cook some shredded chicken porridge for you. We'll rest here tonight. Don't feel so sick anymore. Go sit on the sofa."

She nodded, sighed, and then let him guide her out.

The couple could not finish the meal. After he helped Xi Xiaye to sit on the sofa in the living room, Mu Yuchen went straight to the kitchen and started to work. Zhuang Shurong was worried, so she set aside her chopsticks and went to the kitchen too.

"Don't worry. It'll be fine after her health has stabilized. Is it really quite bad right now? You look like you've lost weight." Zhuang Shurong looked at her own son get busy at the chopping board, and could not help but laugh gently.

"Aren't her reactions a little overboard? Mother, were you like this too?" Mu Yuchen rarely asked Zhuang Shurong such a personal question, but he turned to look at her.

Zhuang Shurong broke a small piece of ginger apart and washed it as she said, "Mmm, when I had you, I tormented your father like this too, but your father wasn't as considerate as you are right now. Xiaye's gone through a lot these past few years. Given the way her parents are, since you've married her, you'll have to treat her better. Your grandparents have a good eye. She's really suitable for you."

"Father said that too," Mu Yuchen replied calmly, and then continued to work with his head down.

"Your father feels the same. That's why he said the same thing. A marriage that can return to tranquility after wearing things out is a marriage that's the most suitable for you. The two of you are still young. Look at your father and I. Aren't we still wearing each other out? Nonetheless, your father is really good to me. You must know that a woman doesn't want much. As long as her husband trusts her, dotes on her, and treats her well, she'll stick with you loyally for a lifetime."

When Zhuang Shurong said this, her tone was faintly gentle. "I feel lucky that personality-wise, you've taken on your father and I. You are a rational and responsible man, and you aren't like those children from rich families that act poorly while Xiaye is the same. I'm very pleased with her."

Chapter 567. Little Apple (2)

When he heard Zhuang Shurong, Mu Yuchen felt his heart turn to mush. He said softly, "Thanks, Mother."

Mu Yuchen understood Zhuang Shurong very well. Even though she had said she would not interfere with his marriage, that did not mean she would be truly satisfied with the woman he ended up with.

Zhuang Shurong was sharp and straightforward in the way she viewed things. Mu Yuchen admitted that he inherited this part of her while Mu Tangchuan's refined personality was more reserved and carried depth unlike Zhuang Shurong's pride in her abilities and stern manner. Many people did not really dare approach her, especially at work.

However, such a personality would get the shorter end of the stick too. It was all thanks to Mu Tangchuan who personally settled several problems for her.

In Wang Hui's words, Zhuang Shurong and Mu Tangchuan's personalities complemented each other while he and Xiaye seemed to be more similar and merged in harmony.

Every relationship would have its own suitable ways of growing in order for it to last long. He did not want to ask for too much, so he only hoped that it could continue to progress steadily like this.

"For the Mid-Autumn Festival, you and Xiaye can return to the Shen residence. Your grandparents have agreed since it's just Elder Shen alone at home, and he'll feel lonely. We can feel Xiaye's attentiveness toward us, but you've got to be more thoughtful about her too. As for work, I think she must be quite bored at home, especially right now. It's better for her to tag along with you, but she mustn't be too worn out either, meaning that you should just give her some things to do."

As Mu Yuchen listened, he stopped what he was doing and answered, "Mmm."

...

When the porridge was done, Xi Xiaye had already gone upstairs. Mu Yuchen held the bowl of porridge and entered the room. She was done showering and was sitting on the rattan chair on the balcony, talking on the phone with Shen Wenna.

Xi Xiaye bent her legs while curling up on the rattan chair as she asked Shen Wenna softly, "Mother, how are you feeling right now? Do your eyes feel uncomfortable? When did the doctor say the stitches can be removed?"

On the other end, Shen Wenna was sitting on a bench in the park, bathing in the first glimmer of dawn. Her shoulder was still wrapped in Xi Mushan's coat, and there was a cute poodle quietly laying on her lap. She wore a Qinghua porcelain cheongsam and carried the charm of an Eastern woman.

Even if her eyes could not see, it did not seem to affect her charm. That was Shen Wenna.

"I don't feel uncomfortable. In fact, I'm great. In a few more days, the doctor says it'll be removed when my condition stabilizes, so it wouldn't do me good to irritate it."

A gentle and loving smile appeared on Shen Wenna's face as she paused and then asked, "What about you? It's been three months, hasn't it? Does it feel very tormenting? Having some folic acid tablets might help. Also, watch your health. My bones are a little weak. I'm worried that you're like me. It might be more difficult during labor."

"Don't worry, Mother. Right now, I've been taking tonics according to the opinions of a nutritionist, so the child is quite healthy. Grandpa is doing good too. Just stay there at ease and recover. How's Father? Aren't you with him?" Xi Xiaye tried to probe.

Shen Wenna paused on the other end. Her tone did not sound out of place as she responded, "He said he was going to get me a cup of warm milk tea. The weather's been amazing. He's been making me wake up at 7 a.m. almost every day to walk around. Oh, right, Ah Chen told someone to bring me a little poodle earlier. Your father and I have discussed its name, and we're calling it Little Apple. The little guy is quite cute. It's very small, only as large as a teacup."

As Shen Wenna spoke, she touched Little Apple on her lap while it stuck its tongue out and licked her hand. She smiled even wider, and she could not help but say, "Little Apple is quite adorable. I'll just help you raise it as your pet, so it'll call you 'Mother' later on. The little guy listens to your father teach it how

to call out 'Grandpa' and 'Grandma', so it's used to it now. Your father spoils it terribly. It's about to be spoiled silly. Every time he returns, he calls out, 'Little Apple, Grandpa is back', and then it runs to the door."

Xi Xiaye was confused by Shen Wenna's words.

Little poodle?

When did Mu Yuchen send it to Shen Wenna?

Why did she not know about this at all?

Nonetheless, she did catch some keywords from Shen Wenna's speech—

Your father, Grandpa, Grandma...

Why did she feel like it sounded like it was copying something?

After that, Shen Wenna spoke for a little while more before she hung up reluctantly. The shredded chicken porridge that Mu Yuchen silently set down on the table beside was still piping hot. Xi Xiaye felt hungry now, so she picked the bowl up and ate it in a contented mood. Thankfully, her stomach was not reacting badly as it had earlier.

After she finished the porridge, Mu Yuchen was done with his shower too. He walked over in a sleeping robe and brought a glass of water.

Xi Xiaye took the water he handed and drank two gulps before she asked in puzzlement, "When did you get someone to bring Mother a little poodle? I didn't even know."

"Mother told you?" Mu Yuchen raised his brows and looked at her.

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Mmm, she just told me. She and Father have given it a name, Little Apple. It sounds like they adore it. They even made it 'call' them 'Grandpa' and 'Grandma'. From the way Mother sounded when she mentioned Father, she did not sound as unhappy as before. Why do I feel like they...?"

Mu Yuchen glanced at her mysteriously as he chuckled. "Initially, I was worried that the two of them wouldn't speak much even if they spent the whole day together, so this awkward situation needed a breakthrough. That's why I chose to send over a poodle. On one hand, it's like they have a new friend, and if things go well, it could become like a child to them. You know, with a child mediating between them, some situations are easier to break through. There might be some accidental effects too."

"You..."

Xi Xiaye was shocked!

This man was too smart!

Earlier, Shen Wenna's tone had clearly implied she was treating Little Apple like a daughter and doting on her. She did not sound as annoyed with Xi Mushan too. All in all, they sounded like a normal couple now!

Xi Xiaye set her glass of water aside and could not help but get up. She put her arms around Mu Yuchen's shoulders and excitedly hugged him before tipping her toes to kiss his slightly cold lips.

"All businessmen are evil. Mr. Mu, I admire you so much! You're extremely wise and clever! How did you come up with such a good idea? I'm so happy! So happy!"

Xiaye was now kissing and hugging Mu Yuchen all over. Her passion was emblazoned like fire across her beautiful face that had a dazzling smile. He rarely saw her this happy!

Chapter 568. Was This Even Her Daughter? (1)

Master Mu's confidence skyrocketed when his woman gave him such high praises. His expression softened as he lowered his head and embraced the warmth from her.

Afterward, she noticed that she was getting a little too passionate, so she grabbed his arm awkwardly as her face blushed. "Sorry... I'm just too happy, so..."

Mu Yuchen chuckled when he saw her reaction, and he patted her head. "It's good to be happy. You can always express yourself freely in front of me. It's not a bad thing to show everything on your face."

"Only naive little girls would do that. I'm a strong, modern lady."

He ran his fingers through her hair while a faint light flashed in her eyes as she looked at him.

"A strong, modern lady? A strong, modern lady is decisive and powerful. She needs nothing but just her aura to send shock into others. No words are necessary. Are you sure you're someone like that?"

He teased her, but his tone was gentle.

However, Xi Xiaye was not really pleased about it. With a frown, she refuted him, "No matter what, I'm a director at Glory World."

"That's thanks to the effort you put in. I promoted you because you've done your work spectacularly despite still being pretty new in terms of experience. I never expected that person to be you. That's why sometimes I think that fate is really amazing..."

Who would have known he would meet her?

"I've never heard you praise me before."

"You have to be brave to face yourself. While you're achieving amazing results now, you need to learn how to settle down. We have a long road ahead in life. I'll need you to watch my back while I fight on the frontline. Don't be satisfied with just a small achievement."

"I'm not proud... You're always like this..."

His gaze nearly pierced through her, and she lowered her head out of guilt, but she still pinched his waist and threw him a glare. "You're always so harsh with the criticisms!"

Mu Yuchen was speechless. He endured the pain coming from his waist and said, "Being harsh on you is the same as being harsh on myself. Who do you think I'm doing this for, you ungrateful brat?"

"Brat?" She raised her eyebrows before throwing a punch towards him. "You're the brat! I'm a mature lady. I'm a mother..."

Mu Yuchen moved aside and caught her punch. He carefully stopped her as he chortled happily.

Xi Xiaye slept soundly through the night. It was afternoon when she woke up the next day. When she went downstairs after she washing up, she saw Wang Hui squatting by the balcony, handling her plants.

It was autumn now, and the flowers in the garden were blooming nicely. A lovely scent wafted over from the balcony.

"Grandmother..." Xi Xiaye called out to her gently.

Her sudden voice halted Wang Hui's movement. The elderly woman turned around and smiled kindly. "You're awake! Are you hungry? Ask Aunt Wang to make you something to eat. At first, I wanted to wake you up to have breakfast with us, but Ah Chen said you've not been feeling well lately and told us to let you keep sleeping."

"I'm not that hungry yet. Are you doing all this alone?" Xi Xiaye glanced around the living room and did not see Mu Yinan and the others. Was it not the holidays already?

"Your parents have something to attend to and will only be back at night. Ah Chen went fishing with Grandfather, but they should be back soon. Let's head back in now. Don't catch a cold under this weather. You youngsters are even weaker than us old folks nowadays."

Wang Hui put the scissors down as she smiled. She dragged Xi Xiaye back inside while she glanced at her belly. "It's not easy being pregnant. I'm worried that you're not used to it. I thought about getting you to

stay here, or I'll stay over at Maple Residence, but at the same time, I'm worried that I'll be bothering the both of you. I'll only go over when you're around 8 months pregnant."

"Don't worry, Grandmother, these reactions are normal. The doctor said it'll get better soon. By the way, where're Lingshi and Ah Mo?" Xi Xiaye remembered that they had stayed over last night as well.

"They went to work early in the morning. Lingshi said the club is going to be busy during the holidays, so Ah Mo went to help her as well. I wonder when they became so close to each other!"

While Wang Hui seemed like she was complaining, she had a grin on her face. Xi Xiaye chuckled. "Grandmother, do you feel that something might be happening between them soon?"

"I hope so. All of them just make me worry so much."

"They are doing well lately, so don't worry, Grandmother."

She remembered Wang Hui summoning Mu Lingshi to the study room last night. It was obvious what they talked about.

"Well, Lingshi and Ah Mo are kind of special. Although they are listed as your parents' children, they know what's happening, so... Sigh, there's no point mentioning it now." Wang Hui frowned, obviously regretting bringing up the past.

"I'm sure they'll remember how nice you treated them, Grandmother. Some time ago, Ah Shi told me that she didn't want you and Grandfather to worry about her. Mu Yuchen let Ah Mo stay in City Z as well. Ah, they'll work it out on their own. I think they are a fateful pair."

"A fateful pair? That's an optimistic view, but I do think Lingshi has been happier lately."

Suddenly, someone came in through the door, and the man's deep voice reached their ears. "What fateful pair?"

Chapter 569. Was This Even Her Daughter? (2)

The sudden voice startled the two of them who looked over at the entrance and saw Mu Yuchen walking in.

“Where’s your grandfather?” Wang Hui asked when she did not see Mu Yinan anywhere.

“He’s playing Chinese chess with Grandfather Liang. I’ve passed the fish to the servants.” Mu Yuchen walked towards them as he glanced over at Xi Xiaye.

“Great, they can prepare it later. I have to deliver your grandfather’s medicine to him. I forgot to remind him to take his medicine this morning. He even said himself he had a stomachache yesterday which he has forgotten all about.”

Wang Hui took out a little medicine bottle and grabbed a glass of water before she went out. Mu Yinan had a poor stomach, and Wang Hui was always concerned.

“What do you want to eat?” After Wang Hui left, Mu Yuchen went over and grabbed a glass of water for her.

She took the glass of water from him and then said quietly, “Grandmother told me you went fishing with Grandfather. Let’s have sweet and sour fish. It’ll help with my appetite... Mr. Mu, I kind of feel like eating instant noodles.”

“We can have the sweet and sour fish, but not the latter.” He rejected her without any hesitation as he took his coat off.

“Just one tiny bowl!” She made a meek hand gesture as she took his coat and left it onto the sofa.

“Not even a taste of it. We’re having several days of holidays. Is there anywhere you want to go?” He put his arm over her shoulder as they sat down.

“I want to take a stroll on the moon.” She rolled her eyes at him.

He smiled. "Naughty, aren't you?! That stuff is unhealthy. Junk food is bad for the body. By the way, I have something to tell you." He looked at Xi Xiaye in the eye squarely.

"What is it?" she asked as she raised her eyebrows and stared at him.

Mu Yuchen pushed the glass of water on the table further to the center as he lowered his eyes and said, "I've just received news. Xi Xinyi had an accident last night and delivered prematurely. The Han family is happy that she gave birth to a boy. They're probably having a grand full moon celebration. Based on Xi Xinyi's recent performance, I guess the Han family will accept her as their daughter-in-law."

Xi Xiaye was stunned but nodded after a while and spoke in a calm tone, "That's lucky for her... I remember they didn't have a banquet when they got married. I suppose this full moon celebration will act as their wedding banquet as well, wouldn't it?"

Han Yifeng...

The more he tried to escape, the more his fate worsened. It was practically impossible for him to end her relationship with Xi Xinyi at this point. Not only was their marriage holding them together, but there was also their child.

Xi Xiaye suddenly found the whole situation ludicrous.

Who would have expected a pair of loving couple to end up like this? Judging by Han Yifeng's attitude, he probably would not try to repair his relationship with Xi Xinyi anymore. Sustaining a marriage like this would only make both parties suffer.

Xi Xiaye sighed and suddenly raised her head to look at him. "Say, we won't be like them in the future, will we?"

He smiled and patted her shoulder. "Your man isn't as noble and virtuous as someone. Though I don't like this phrase, I suppose it can be applied here. If one day, you actually become like Xi Xinyi, the first thing I'd do would be to review myself. I must've not done enough to satisfy you. However, I'm sure the chances of it happening to us is zero. Otherwise, I'll just do naughty things with you."

Xi Xiaye's heart softened when she realized what he was trying to say. She then pushed him away.
"Alright, go and cook now. I'm hungry!"

...

At the same time, in a ward in Hospital T.

The news of Xi Xinyi's delivery was spread throughout the city already. Almost everyone within the industry knew that she had given birth to a son for Han Yifeng of the Han Corporation.

Xi Xinyi's name was rarely seen in the entertainment industry ever since her scandal was exposed. However, news about her never really died out due to the collaboration between Yueying and Qi Kai. In addition to that, the Han family had always been popular, so the mass media would not miss any opportunities.

Many people sent flowers and gifts the day after she gave birth. Even her subordinates came to visit her. Finally, the situation inside the room calmed down after the doctor warned them to be quiet.

Xi Xinyi was lucky to have given birth to a boy for the Han family. With that, even Elder Han acknowledged her.

Although they were a registered couple, they never had a wedding ceremony together. After that, it was also delayed because they were busy, so she was delighted that she might be able to have one.

She had said it before. There was no way Han Yifeng could leave her so easily.

However, Han Yifeng never showed up anymore ever since the day she gave birth. Yue Lingsi informed her that he visited the child several times, but he had never once stepped into her room. His wanting to avoid her was as clear as day.

Yue Lingsi was really dissatisfied about it. She was also unhappy with Han Yifeng and Huang Ziyao's attitude outside the operating room the day before, so she then decided to tell Xi Xinyi about it.

“Xinyi, now that your child is born, I believe we’re still fortunate that you’ve given birth to a boy. The Han family’s attitude changed instantly. Elder Han now knows it’s impossible to kick you out now. Otherwise, the public will definitely condemn them. Now that Yueying is doing well, your grandfather and uncle aren’t angry at me anymore, so things can go back to how it used to be.”

Yue Lingsi beamed happily and grabbed Xi Xinyi’s hand intimately, but Xi Xinyi glanced at her coldly and retracted her hand.

Yue Lingsi’s expression froze as she looked at Xi Xinyi for a while before saying, “Xinyi, things are getting better now. We can still... The Han family’s attitude was horrible before. Yesterday, Huang Ziyao was really rude to me outside the operating room, and Han Yifeng spoke to me with a terrible attitude!”

Chapter 570. Was This Even Her Daughter? (3)

The scenes from yesterday replayed in her mind, making the rage inside her resurface.

Before the Xi family went on their downfall, the Han family tried so hard to get on Yue Lingsi’s good side, but now they were straight-up bullying her!

Even her son-in-law, Han Yifeng, was rude towards her. No matter what, she was still his mother-in-law after all!

Moreover, there was also Huang Ziyao’s dissatisfied tone of voice!

“If it weren’t for your uncle’s help, the Han Corporation product launch wouldn’t have gone so smoothly. Their attitude now is really frustrating!” Yue Lingsi’s tone was sharp, and a cold light gathered around her eyes as well.

However, Xi Xinyi shot her a disgusted glance. “Mother, it’s enough! You’re gambling all day, every day. What happened to your elegant self-image? Can you stop causing more trouble for me? The debt collectors are on our tail now. If Grandfather finds out, he’ll lash out at me again! I don’t hope that you can help me, but can you stop holding me back?” Xi Xinyi could not help but complain. She averted her gaze away and refused to look at Yue Lingsi’s face.

Yue Lingsi’s eyes widened after she heard what came out of Xi Xinyi’s mouth. She could not believe what she just heard and thought her ears malfunctioned.

Given Xinyi's tone and those words...

Was she despising her own mother?

"Xinyi, what did you just say? I'm holding you back? What do you mean by that? Are you saying that I'm holding you back right now?" asked Yue Lingsi as she stared at Xi Xinyi.

Xi Xinyi took a deep breath and gave her an impatient glance. "Mother, don't you have any idea what's going on right now? Your reputation is at its worst right now. Why can't you be like Shen Wenna? At least, she could still keep father's heart after so many years, yet you're acting like a savage now! Shen Wenna is always so elegant and knows all the methods there is to keep a man's heart. Ugh, why can't you be more like her? Don't you know how badly you've lost already?"

Xi Xinyi thought about the hardships she had gone through, yet there were a lot of things that still did not go her way. She had nowhere to express her anger, so she lashed it all out on Yue Lingsi.

Without giving it much thought, her careless words pierced through Yue Lingsi's heart like arrows, causing her excruciating pain inside!

Shen Wenna and Xi Mushan were a taboo topic for her. There was no way she could stand it!

Her red eyes stared at Xi Xinyi as her voice trembled slightly. "What did you say? What? Who do you think I've worked hard for? I'm your mother! What's so good about Shen Wenna? That old witch! She said she didn't care. Lies! Her daughter is also another little witch! Xi Xiaye defeated you as well! You've really disappointed me, Xinyi! Just which aspect of Shen Wenna can measure up to me?"

"Based on the fact that she could stay virtuous for twenty over years and never caused any trouble for Xi Xiaye, what about you? If it weren't for your scandal, Grandfather wouldn't have gotten angry and Father wouldn't have divorced you. Grandmother wouldn't turn out this way too, and the Xi family would've still existed. You've ruined everything! It's all because of you!" Xi Xinyi just exploded at her.

"Shut up! Don't compare me to that old witch, Shen Wenna! Just who does she think she is!? How dare she steal my man away!? I showed interest in your father first. I thought of her as my best friend, yet

she betrayed me! I simply imitated her act afterward! Your father was unwilling to even touch me for the past twenty years, so why should I keep myself virtuous for him? He doesn't like me, does he? There are a lot of people who like me! People who are much better and younger!"

Yue Lingsi had a dark and maniacal vibe around her. Nonetheless, Xi Xinyi put on a fierce expression to face her.

"You're crazy! You've ruined everything. Not only are you not going to repent, but you even gave up on yourself. If you're so capable, why don't you steal Father back again?"

"Shen Wenna is now only a useless, blind person. That's her karma! I'm not the one who ruined everything. It's you! If you didn't play those tricks and have so much negative news exposed, things would've been peaceful for us! You've really disappointed me, Xinyi!"

Yue Lingsi took a deep breath as she tried to calm down.

Xi Xinyi then replied, "You're still trying to avoid responsibility now. Things wouldn't have ended up this way if your scandal didn't exist. If you still think you're above Shen Wenna, think again! Don't embarrass yourself—"

Pa!

Before Xi Xinyi could finish her sentence, there was a loud slap and she felt a fiery hot pain on her left cheek!

A clear red palm mark appeared on her little face!

"Whose daughter are you? You're my daughter, but you're helping that witch, Shen Wenna, to humiliate your mother! Have you forgotten that you could never have become the princess of the Xi family if it weren't for me? Do you think you could've gotten married into the Han family? How dare you talk to me like this? Are you really my daughter?" Yue Lingsi held her palm as she looked at Xi Xinyi.

Xi Xinyi stared at her in rage. "I'm just telling the truth. Just admit that you're no better than Shen Wenna! It's because of you that I've become so unfortunate!"

"You... Are you trying to kill me?" Yue Lingsi's vision darkened. She quickly gripped onto the bed frame to stand properly as she almost collapsed. She could not believe this person in front of her was actually her daughter.

Was this even her daughter?

Xi Xinyi's face was icy cold as she wiped off the speck of blood at the corner of her mouth before averting her gaze away.

Yue Lingsi felt like her heart was being stabbed with a sharp knife. The pain almost knocked her out!