Loving 591

Chapter 591. The End of Yue Lingsi (5)

The sound of timid begging was heard. Yue Lingsi dared not be cocky, and she looked terrified at the man before her.

She knew the methods of these people since she had seen for herself the way a debtor who could not pay back was beaten until they were severely handicapped. She still had lingering fears at the thought of such bloody thirsty methods. In fact, most of these people were criminals. When they worked in the underground gambling dens, they were all vicious and merciless.

As a result, Yue Lingsi was quite afraid at the moment too. She definitely dared not provoke them lightly.

However, just as Yue Lingsi said that, the man laughed coldly. "Give you a few more days? The boss has given you enough. If it were not certain people, you wouldn't have been able to stand after the brothers' second visit to you! It's best if you behave. Quickly pay up. Otherwise, don't blame us for being vicious!"

"Boss... but I've been a little tied up with things recently. Can you ask your boss to just give me a few more days? Three days! Just three more days!" Yue Lingsi gasped and suppressed the fear in her heart as she extended her fingers and pleaded softly.

"Hmph! You only have two choices today: either you return the money or leave your pair of legs behind. Choose yourself. You have five seconds to decide!"

They were still gangsters who definitely would not be ambiguous with these things. Yue Lingsi could not help but shudder at the man's cold words. The fear in her heart spiked sharply. She quickly went up and begged, "Please, boss! I beg of you to tell your boss. Three days! In three days, 'ill definitely bring the money to you and settle this debt! Please just extend it by a few more days for me, please! Please!"

"Enough, I already told you. You only have two options today. You either leave your legs behind or pay us back! After three days, you'll ask for three more days. Do you think we're fools? One!"

That man glared at Yue Lingsi as he started to count threateningly.

"Two!

"Three!"

Yue Lingsi's whole body tensed as it shuddered. Fear made her tremble all over as she rushed up and held that man's wrist. "Please! Please, just a few days more! I'll definitely get all the money ready! Please!"

"Get lost! Four!' That man pushed Yue Lingsi away with a hand and continued counting.

"No! No, please! Just a few days more! Please!"

Yue Lingsi turned pale from fright as she went up to him half-rolling and half-crawling. She held onto the man's pants and cried, "Please! Next time, I'll definitely pay you back! Please!"

"Five!"

The man was indifferent to Yue Lingsi's tears and terror. He mercilessly finished counting till five. When Yue Lingsi still would not yield, he nodded to his two subordinates on the side and said, "Cripple her legs!"

"No! No! No, please! I'll call my daughter and son-in-law right away! She has money! She has money! She'll definitely get someone to send money over right away!"

Yue Lingsi was scared witless. She quickly sat up and took out her phone. First, she found Han Yifeng's number and quickly called it, yet the dial tone indicated that his phone was switched off as always!

She breathed in sharply, and then quickly found Xi Xinyi's number which she called swiftly.

After a while, the call was answered.

Right now, Xi Xinyi had given birth and moved back to the Han residence. Yes, she had moved back to Han residence!

On the day of the Mid-Autumn Festival, she had moved into the Han residence following Huang Ziyao's arrangements.

At that moment, she was sleeping in a daze. Earlier, she was already annoyed by the child's ruckus. She had finally coaxed the baby to sleep and was so tired that she could barely keep her eyes open.

She glanced at the phone screen, but eventually picked up the call. Now, when she received Yue Lingsi's call, she was in an extremely bad temper and she growled in an attacking tone, "Why are you calling me so late at night?"

The other day at the hospital, she had slapped her twice in front of Han Yifeng, and even said those things. Han Yifeng had probably heard most of it.

She could not do anything good and had made things worse instead!

When Yue Lingsi heard Xi Xinyi's voice, her panicked heart finally eased slightly. She did not notice Xi Xinyi's unhappy and annoyed tone as she choked on her sobs. "Xinyi, I was wrong. Quickly come and save me. I owe a gambling den \$10 million. They came looking for me today. If I don't give them money, they will cripple my legs! Xinyi, I'm really scared. Can you help me pay the \$10 million?" Yue Lingsi could barely finish her sentences clearly.

On the other end when Xi Xinyi heard this, a sneer of disdain flashed across her face. "You've already used this same way to take millions from me. Do you think I'm a bank? \$10 million! Where am I suppose to get that money? Don't you know how to change your methods? I don't have money!"

When Yue Lingsi heard her rejection, she turned pale with fright as she quickly explained, "No! Xinyi! Xinyi! Come save me quickly. I beg you! If you don't give them the money, they'll definitely cripple me, Xinyi!"

"Then, let them cripple you first!" Xi Xinyi heartlessly said before she hung up and turned off her phone! She would not believe Yue Lingsi's nonsense! Plus, she had finally made her way back to the Han family. If there were any more negative news, the Han family would definitely judge her again, especially the Elder, so she could not let Yue Lingsi pull her down again. If anything, it should only happen after her position as the young lady of the Han family was established firmly!

Yue Lingsi looked stunned at her phone screen that dimmed. Her face was filled with horror and disbelief, yet before she could react, the man had already sneered in disdain.

"Looks like you won't be able to pay up, huh?"

As he said this, he signaled to the other two people, and both of them swiftly held her down. Yue Lingsi struggled hard and screamed in panic, "No! No! You can't touch me! You can't touch me! I'm the mayor's wife. You can't touch me! Or I'll show you what you'll get!"

When that man heard that, a coldness flashed across his face as he ordered, "You're still so reluctant before death! What an unruly woman! Don't hesitate. Get to it!"

"Got it!"

What came after were shrieks as if a pig was being slaughtered. The sound of someone crying out in pain rented the air.

"Help! You thugs! I want to kill you! Ah! Ah! My legs!"

"You still have time to curse us, huh? Slap her mouth a few times too!" The vicious voice commanded, and then the sound of fists and kicks came!

The intense ear-piercing, blood-curdling screech ripped through the night!

Chapter 592. Hatred (1)

After the lesson, Yue Lingsi fainted. She also wet herself from the fright.

The coppery stink of blood vaguely floated in the air. The thugs pulled her up onto the car by the collar and then left.

"Bro Meng, who would've thought that a woman of this conduct would be the Mayor's wife? This has been eye-opening! Mayor Xi was really unlucky to have married a woman like this. Forget about being cheated on, just with her personality alone, she's disgusting!"

"Hmph, drive quickly! She stinks!"

"Where are we bringing her?"

"Simply find a place where she can be easily recognized and toss her there!"

"How about the entrance of that Yueying Culture Media Company. Even if no one's at work, there will be cleaners! Hurry!"

Then, the car drove straight to the city area.

It was already very late at night. At dawn, City Z was slow and quieting down from the bustle. When the car drove past the entrance of Yueying through a small path, Yue Lingsi, who was still unconscious, was tossed right out.

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The next morning, when Xi Xinyi was still sound asleep, there was suddenly an intense knocking from outside!

"Missus, something's happened! Missus! Quickly go down and take a look! Missus! Madam's looking for you urgently downstairs!"

The servant's rushed voice was heard, rousing Xi Xinyi up from her sleepy daze. When she heard the servant's panicked voice, she quickly asked, "What happened?"

The servant said anxiously, "Missus, it seems like something's happened to your mother, Madam Yue! Madam is downstairs! Even the TV is showing it!"

When Xi Xinyi heard, her expression instantly changed. She could feel that something was off, so she then quickly got up and washed up as quickly as possible before rushing downstairs!

As she reached downstairs, the living room was already filled with the Han family. Elder Han, Han Yu, and Huang Ziyao were sitting quietly, all their eyes fixed onto the TV screen. Their expressions were all gloomy!

Xi Xinyi trembled with fear at this sight. She took a deep breath before walking over.

"Good morning, Grandfather, Father, Mother!" she greeted with a gentle voice.

When she spoke up, the few people turned to look at her. Elder Han looked furious while Han Yu looked helpless and disappointed. Huang Ziyao could not help but sigh.

"It's early in the morning and everyone doesn't look great. Did something happen?" Xi Xinyi asked softly.

Then, Elder Han scoffed coldly and got up in fury as he tossed a newspaper to her.

"Look for yourself! Why do you people keep doing this?! Forget about having peaceful days! Xi Jiyang's not such an unprincipled person. How did he let Xi Mushan marry someone like this?! This is misfortune to the home! Misfortune to the home!"

He sighed and then turned to leave the living room abruptly to go out for some air.

Xi Xinyi quickly picked up the newspaper that Elder Han tossed over. She was still puzzled as she watched the Elder's figure slowly vanish out the door. With a sigh, she peered down to slowly open up the newspaper, and what she saw was—

Yue Lingsi!

She was a sorry figure in a mess. Her whole body and face were bruised while her white autumn outfit was dirty, and there were clearly soiled marks on her pants.

"Mother? How did she...?" Xi Xinyi looked in disbelief at the newspaper article. Her beautiful eyes flew wide open.

She looked down again, and it was all a summary of Yue Lingsi's scandals. It even mentioned her, Xi Xinyi and Han Yifeng's matters.

Before she could finish, the phone rang and she swiftly picked it up.

"Hello? Madam? It's me, Xiao Wang!"

"Secretary Wang?" Xi Xinyi could immediately tell it was Secretary Wang from his voice!

"Miss Xinyi?"

On the other end, Secretary Wang was a little surprised and then he paused before continuing, "I just checked with the hospital through a call. Madam Yue was sent to Hospital T. Both her hamstrings were severed and one of her arms are hurt too. The situation might not be too promising. I'm at the hospital now. Miss Xinyi, it's best if you come over to visit."

"What did you say? Severed hamstrings?"

When Secretary Wang said this, Xi Xinyi was stunned. She suddenly remembered that Yue Lingsi called her late at night, sounding quite anxious then, but she was extremely sleepy at the time and she thought that maybe she was making up excuses to ask her for money again, so she...

Could Yue Lingsi have been threatened by the debtors then?

Xi Xinyi gasped, instantly turning pale. When Huang Ziyao saw her reaction, she suddenly felt bad for her, so she frowned. "You've just given birth and haven't fully recovered yet. Sit down."

"Mother..."

Xi Xinyi looked uneasily at the newspapers, feeling useless. She slowly sat down on the sofa as Huang Ziyao told her to. Then, Huang Ziyao reached out to take the phone. "Secretary Wang, what did the doctor say?"

"He's still checking her out. They only said that the condition might not be too promising. She might be paralyzed and have to use the wheelchair for the rest of her life."

"Have you investigated what happened? Who would be so vicious and just sever her hamstrings? Aren't they worried about the police?" Huang Ziyao frowned and asked as she turned to look at Han Yu.

Secretary Wang sighed and said softly, "Madam, based on the situation, these are probably the methods of those from the underground gambling dens, but when Madam Yue just woke up, she didn't say who. I've already gotten someone to inform the Yue family. We'll see what they think."

Huang Ziyao then nodded. "Okay then. I'll go over to visit soon."

"Okay, Madam!"

Then, she hung up. Huang Ziyao turned to look at Xi Xinyi. Her tone was heavy and slightly irritated. "I already told you to watch over your mother. Now, she's caused trouble again. Does she think her reputation hasn't been ruined enough? She's really daring! She even went to borrow money from the underground gambling dens. Is she crazy? She's brought herself to where she is today. I'd like to see where she ends up!"

Xi Xinyi was anxious from Huang Ziyao's reprimanding. She seemed panicked and at a loss. "Mother! I'm sorry! I really didn't know that my mother would turn out like this. I've already warned her many times! But... I can't. I have to go see her!"

"Okay, you've just given birth, so it's not suitable for you to move around. Your body's weak too. Let me go see her!" Huang Ziyao sighed, feeling frustrated as she slowly got up.

Chapter 593. Hatred (2)

Xi Xiaye heard about Yue Lingsi through the newspapers as well.

At the dining table, she was used to flipping through the newspapers. When she saw the feature and reports on Yue Lingsi, she was stunned for quite a while. She quickly looked up at the man who was elegantly eating across her before she pursed her lips slightly and stared at him for quite a while.

Mu Yuchen could feel her gaze from across, so he subconsciously looked up and met her questioning eyes. With a chuckle, he asked, "What is it? Why are you looking at me like that? There aren't any flowers on my face."

She raised her brows, and then waved the newspaper in her hand as she asked, "Did you do this?"

"What? What did I do?" He smiled calmly as he reached out to take the newspaper from her. He opened it up and looked at it indifferently before quietly setting it aside.

When he did not answer, she repeated softly again, "I'm asking you a question!"

"Do I look like such a despicable person?" He smiled casually, yet his gaze seemed a little odd, and unfathomable. She could not read him.

She rolled her eyes and responded calmly, "I do think you look like the cat that ate canary!"

When he heard her accusation, he instantly chuckled and casually continued softly, "I didn't know that I had such a bad image in Missus's eyes, but since you think so, I might as well tell you that someone as despicable and shameless as me thinks that this little lesson is too easy on her."

"So, you admit that you're despicable and shameless?" Xiaye then grinned and took the porridge he served her. "As long as you don't get into trouble. The Yue family aren't easy people to deal with."

"Are you worried about me?" He did not seem worried. He raised his brows and his lips curled up, turning into a perfect curve.

Xi Xiaye shot him a look and did not answer. She nudged the food before her towards him as she said, "I've seen the information on your desk. After the holidays, you should quickly go over for a look. It's not good to delay the project matters. The sooner you settle them, the sooner you can get back."

Last night, before they could finish discussing, they had fallen asleep. This morning, she remembered. It was no wonder that he had been working hard to complete the work over here. On New York's end, they were collaborating on a project with Zhou Zimo's company and were going to start soon, so Zhou Zimo and he might need to make a trip over soon.

He thought about it, then suddenly announced, "This time, I'll bring you along."

Xi Xinyi gently shook her head and said calmly, "I can't. In my state, how can I go with you? Besides, I have to watch over Fuhua here too. I can usually help to manage some urgent matters at the company too, so you can go yourself."

"No rush. In time, when you're more stabilized."

Obviously, he was worried about leaving her here alone. Besides, for this trip this time, it might be one or two months before he returned. They had never parted this long since they got married, and he was not confident about getting through this.

"I'm fine. You don't have to worry about me either. I'll just have Zitong by my side always. Wasn't that what you had thought of previously?"

"Such a heartless woman! I've thought about arranging for everything. Can't you just properly express a tiny bit of reluctance to part?" Mu Yuchen smirked and reached out to wipe some morsel at the corner of her lips. "I wanted to wait till you're more stabilized before bringing you over with me. That way, I'll be more assured too. Last night, Zimo was getting impatient, so I'll let him go over first."

Xi Xiaye could not help but roll her eyes at him. "I'm not some clingy woman. I'm not that delicate. I won't follow you everywhere. Other people might think that I'm one of those unreasonably jealous

wives. In fact, there's Grandpa, Grandmother, and the rest here, so don't worry, but when you go over, you've got to find a time to visit Father and Mother in Los Angeles. I wanted to find time to go too, but with this little thing, it's just not very convenient." Then, she caressed her baby bump helplessly.

"Not a jealous wife? All those quite good looking female secretaries that Li Si chose earlier were all vetoed out by you. Aren't you a jealous wife?" He smiled amusedly at her.

"Do you really want those secretaries? Men and women working together makes work lighter. Do you want me to find you two after the break? And someone with good looks? CEO Zhang's daughter seems to have graduated from Management. I think that if she becomes your secretary, she would be extremely willing too. That way, I wouldn't be counted as some jealous wife, would I? Aren't I a good enough wife?"

Her clear gaze was fixated on him, yet it was filled with an evident warning.

"How could that be? Only with Missus does my work get lighter. To us, 'jealous wife' is a positive term. A positive one! This means that I'm excellent, and, Missus, you're worried about me, which is a good thing!"

He loved that she watched over him, so he eased her thoughts.

"How shameless!"

She glared at him in annoyance. "Straighten out some things at the office before going over after the break. I think it wouldn't be too short of a time. Meanwhile, I'll look over matters here. As for the South River project, you've pretty much completed everything. VP Zhang told me about the project progress a few days ago too. I'll invite Qi Kai and some of the people-in-charge from the other collaborating companies to go over for a look. Let them make a simple early-stage assessment, and then figure out the upcoming work."

"You handle this aspect of work quite well. I'm not worried, I just..." Mu Yuchen frowned and looked subconsciously at her baby bump.

"It's fine, I'll be doing my scheduled check-ups, Ah Mo will be staying behind, won't he?" Xi Xiaye asked.

Mu Yuchen nodded. "Of course, he'll be. I'm only bringing Li Si over. The Movie City matters have gotten on track, so it's enough for VP Liu to follow up."

"Mmm, okay then. He and Lingshi finally made it to this stage. It's not a bad thing to give them more time." When she said this, she suddenly remembered about Sis Lan, so she could not help but say, "If only Sis Lan would reveal something. Yesterday, Mother asked me too, but I didn't know how to answer her."

"Don't worry about this. It's fine if she won't tell us anything since I have my own plans. Okay, quickly finish your porridge. I'm bringing you out later."

"Where are we going? Right, you haven't told me about what this Yue Lingsi thing is all about?"

"What about it?"

"You..."

Chapter 594. Hatred (3)

Inside a certain room in Hospital T.

Xi Xinyi followed Huang Ziyao to rush over. While Yue Lingsi's wounds had been treated, she was on the bed and moaning in agony. She looked pale and frail. Her twisted expression showed she was enduring lots of pain and was practically in a daze when she saw Huang Ziyao and Xi Xinyi by her bed. She did not say anything and just silently closed her eyes.

Huang Ziyao exchanged a look with Xi Xinyi before she went up and said, "Lingsi, what happened? How did you end up like this?"

Yue Lingsi did not answer. She could barely manage the pain on her legs, and now she...

"Lingsi, Secretary Wang has told us about the overall situation. Don't be too down. Now that things are like this, just recover at ease. Once you've recovered, we can talk again."

Huang Ziyao did not know how to console her. Earlier, she was still furious, but now, seeing how Yue Lingsi was, she pitied her. Regardless, she still should not have looked for trouble with the underground debtors since she should know how vicious those people can be.

She even went to a loan shark, clearly wanting to die. Those people should never be provoked at all cost. Was Yue Lingsi really not afraid of anything?

Huang Ziyao now studied Yue Lingsi with a complicated expression. She did not know whether to reprimand or pity her. Recently, she had been in the limelight repeatedly, even affecting the Han Corporation.

Without saying a word, Yue Lingsi kept her eyes closed. There was nothing that could make her more disillusioned now.

She could read how Yue Lingsi felt, so Huang Ziyao sighed. "Recover well. The police will catch those people, so don't feel discouraged. I'll go find Han Yifeng to see how things are."

Then, Huang Ziyao left the ward, but before she did, she cautioned Xi Xinyi, "Xinyi, be careful of your health. Falling ill won't do you good."

With Huang Ziyao's departure, the ward became quiet very quickly. Only Yue Lingsi and Xi Xinyi, the mother and daughter duo, were left.

"Mother..."

She looked at Yue Lingsi on the sickbed for a long time before calling out softly as she actually felt bad. She did not think that last night's call was real. She thought...

"Get out," Yue Lingsi finally uttered those two words cruelly, her voice filled with alienation.

"Mother, I didn't know that yesterday, you... but no matter what, you shouldn't have provoked those people. You don't know that Grandfather was so angry today. You were once the Yue family heiress, the

elegant Mayor's wife. How could you fall to this state today? Do you think that just because you're like this, Father would care? Mother, let's stop dreaming! Father's abandoned us! We may perhaps always be a burden to him. His entire heart is devoted to Shen Wenna and Xi Xiaye. Why can't you just understand that?"

Xi Xinyi looked heartbroken and disappointedly at the pale Yue Lingsi.

"I told you to get out!" Yue Lingsi's voice became colder, and her shut eyes never opened.

Now, there was nothing that could make her more bitterly disappointed. The intense pain from all over her body at the moment reminded her that she, Yue Lingsi, had become a handicap while her daughter came to her, not to care about how she was, but to say these things to her in an interrogating and disappointed tone.

She had worked hard for more than 20 years just to raise this ungrateful daughter. What was more heartbreaking than this?

The only person she could rely on no longer existed. She had lived half her life to see through these people's humanity. Even if it were her own daughter, it was just the same.

The hypocrisy of the world was as such. She could not find a pair of eyes that would truly be worried for her or cry for her.

Now that she thought about it, Xi Xiaye was right. She lived quite a pathetic life.

"Mother, enough! It's already at this point, and you're still like this. It's all because of yourself that you're here today. You should now be less forgetful! Do you think that I don't know you went looking for Grandmother for that inheritance? When can you think things through before doing them? How many times have I told you to be more moderate? The way you're giving up on yourself right now will only make Father hate you. When can you learn to be like Shen Wenna? That way, at least, I could still respect you!"

When Xi Xinyi saw her like this, she was exasperated.

Still, when she said that, she had undoubtedly hit Yue Lingsi below the belt. Yue Lingsi immediately opened her eyes that were filled with anger as she glared coldly at Xi Xinyi. "Xi Xinyi, how did I give birth to such an ungrateful daughter like you? As horrible as I may be, I'm still the mother that gave birth to you and raised you! What right do you have to be making such a big fuss? Have I treated you poorly all these years? You're even pretending and lying to your mother. No wonder Han Yifeng hates you! With your terrible attitude, aren't you worried that the lightning would strike you?"

Her angry voice rose an octave higher. Yue Lingsi wanted to prop herself up, but just as she moved, a piercing pain traveled through her whole body. Even so, it did not make her as miserable as the heavy pain gathering in her chest.

"Struck by lightning? You've done many things that aren't worth the heavens watching over you either. The reason I am where I am today is mainly because of you! If it weren't because of your uselessness, that you couldn't even retain Father's affection, you overestimated yourself by provoking Shen Wenna. You even shamelessly kept a gigolo. All of this today wouldn't have happened! Shen Wenna is shrewd. Do you think they're like you, that they're a fool beyond redemption? I, Xi Xinyi, am really unlucky to have a mother like you!"

As Yue Lingsi's wound was pried open, her expression changed. She was furious and she began to shoot her mouth.

"Me useless? Me? You unfilial child! As useless as I may be, I still gave birth to you! Great, since you can speak to your mother like this, you really are an ungrateful child! I, Yue Lingsi, have raised a cretin like you! Get out! I don't want to see you!"

"Did I hit you where it hurts? Hmph, sometimes I really think that this is better. At least, you won't go out and cause trouble. Grandfather and the rest don't even want to talk about you anymore. Can't you reflect on yourself?"

"Reflect on what? You're my daughter, but you can just watch me become like this with indifference. Xi Xinyi, you're really heartless!"

Chapter 595. Hatred (4)

A smile curved across Xi Xinyi's face, seeming a little dismal.

"Indifferent? How many times have I told you not to provoke those people, to behave, to learn how to be like Shen Wenna? Even if you couldn't get anything, you could at least toughen up, but instead? What did you do? You gave up on yourself, you drank and gambled, you ruined yourself. Do you want to pull me down too?"

Xi Xinyi's sourness and unhappiness that filled her heart were released like a dam at this point.

"The Xi family is in shambles, and Grandma is like that. Yueying is on the verge of going bankrupt. What have you done? It's because of me, running around while being pregnant, putting in so much effort before I can continue to keep it going, working hard for so long and persisting step by step, that I finally managed to be where I am today. Not only did you not help me, but you also kept dragging me down, and now you're even scolding me like you're all that. Don't you think that it's quite hilarious? I persisted on painstaking, and all for who? Did you think I was really just going it for myself? Every month, you take hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars. Don't those count?"

The feeling of being wronged and bitterness suppressed in her heart had nowhere else to go. Xi Xinyi was about to crazy with all this pressure. If it were not for the fact that she kept telling herself that she could not lose to Xi Xiaye, she might not have been able to persist.

If Xi Xiaye could persevere, she definitely could as well!

Xi Xinyi more or less understood Xi Xiaye's situation recently. She knew that she must be somewhat capable to have made it to her current position from being a low-level staff in Glory World, but no matter what, she would not lose to her.

After going through those painful lessons, Xi Xinyi realized that if she really wanted to take Xi Xiaye that slut down, just these little tricks would not work. Since she had Mu Yuchen for support, she definitely would not be easy to take down. Because that was the case, she could only come up with other ways. In order to properly defeat her, she had to first defeat Mu Yuchen. Of course, he would not be someone she could handle. The grudges between him and Qi Kai were enough to take him down. When that happened, she was sure that he would not be able to protect Xi Xiaye. Only then could she step over her and satisfy her hatred for her.

Nonetheless, right now, all she could do was endure this!

She did not mind becoming that person's gun as long as she Xi Xinyi benefitted as well, and if she could take Xi Xiaye down, she did not mind.

"Why you! Not only did you not help me out, but apart from causing trouble for me all day, you also make me worry about you endlessly. What else do you do? You ruined yourself, but you blame me instead. Shouldn't you self-reflect? I pay for your food and clothes and even give you money to spend. Every day, I say good things about you to Grandfather. Aren't these enough? What right do you have to reprimand me? Why do I have such a useless mother? In the end, I'd much rather my mother was Shen Wenna. Do you understand?"

Xi Xinyi's questioning tone became extremely sharp. Her beautiful eyes were filled with a fiery fury as she fixed her glare on Yue Lingsi.

Yue Lingsi then sneered and said, "Is that so? To you, only the useful ones are your kin. Are you actually comparing me to Shen Wenna? If it weren't for her, your father wouldn't abandon his wife and daughter to go to that vixen, yet you're fighting me over her, Xi Xinyi! Has your conscience left you? Get out! Get out now! I don't have a daughter like you! Get lost!" Yue Lingsi roared.

In that instant, hot tears welled up in her eyes. She shut her eyes, feeling hopeless. Her unhurt hand gripped the blanket tightly as a piercing pain flooded all over her body while the pain in the chest came by the waves.

Was this her own daughter?

Why did she not recognize her at all?

Xi Xinyi snickered coldly as she looked at Yue Lingsi apathetically. "Just stay in the hospital and recover. I'll get someone to pay the fees. If you still won't behave, I don't mind sending you over to the same sanitarium as Grandmother!"

"You... you unfilial daughter! Get lost! Get lost now!" Yue Lingsi picked the glass on the side up and threw it at her in a rage!

Bam!

The glass shattered on the ground although it did not hit Xi Xinyi who glanced at the shattered glass on the ground as she said in disdain, "Your skills of making an unreasonable scene has improved. Back then, you hit Father like this too. A man who would be willing to get close to a man like you would probably be blind! Wake up! Stop dreaming of being an heiress or the Mayor's wife! You're now in so dire straits that you can only rely on me to take care of you, yet here you are cursing me like I'm worthless. Hmph!" She then exited through the door.

Almost instantly, the sound of shrieks and weeping from Yue Lingsi breaking down came from the ward!

How did it turn out like this?

They were not like this before. How did they end up where they were today?

It had been so many years. Did she do something wrong?

She had been wholeheartedly doing everything for the Xi family, wholeheartedly loving Xi Mushan and their daughter Xi Xinyi, but in the end, what did she get?

How did she end up in this tragic state?

That Shen Wenna was blind, yet she had won all of Xi Mushan!

Pffft!

The fire of fury consumed her heart, and Yue Lingsi felt that the pain in her chest suddenly became piercing. A bloody taste rose from her throat, and she could not help but cough profusely. In her state, she had to push the coppery taste that filled her mouth down.

When Xi Xinyi walked out of the ward, Huang Ziyao was waiting at the corridor not too far away. She was talking to a doctor in a white coat.

Xi Xinyi dragged her weak body and walked over.

Without caring about anything else, Xi Xinyi asked, "Doctor, how's my mother?"

The doctor turned to look at Xi Xinyi and sighed. "It doesn't look great. Both her hamstrings were severed. Usually, she might be able to recover through surgery, but her situation is a little unique. The people who did it clearly did not want to let her walk again, so... In fact, there are many traces of her getting beaten up all over her body. Who would be this cruel? We'll further review her treatment according to her condition. If there are any good plans, we'll inform you then. We must keep the patient in a good mental state and urge her to cooperate with recovery. For now, we're preventing her from muscular dystrophy. Otherwise, we won't be able to help her recover even if we find a way when the time comes."

When Xi Xinyi heard the explanation, her expression sank. After a while, she nodded graciously. "Okay, thank you, doctor."

Chapter 596. Biological Father? (1)

When she saw the doctor's figure vanish at the end of the corridor, Huang Ziyao turned and lamented as she looked at Xi Xinyi, "Your mother really underestimated those guys this time. Even we wouldn't provoke them. Earlier, a few press office editors suffered a lesson from them too. One got their arm broken, and it appeared in the news. I heard that it was because they offended them. I remember that your mother was very against loan shark dealings previously as well. Now, how did she...?"

Huang Ziyao could not hide the worry and disappointment she felt. Ever since they were associated with this mother and daughter pair, there was nothing that could spare them from worry. These troublesome matters came one after another, and now she really regretted having ties with them. Back then, if she had also agreed with the old man's decision and forced Yifeng to get engaged with Xiaye, would everything not have been much simpler and more peaceful now?

In fact, it seemed like recently Yifeng was treating Xi Xiaye rather...

Huang Ziyao could not help but worry. Ever since Xi Xinyi gave birth to the child, she had never seen Han Yifeng. He had only banked in a sum of money into her account and told her to find someone to take care of them.

Huang Ziyao knew that Xi Xinyi had hurt him.

"Mother, I'm sorry. My mother was terribly impacted by my father and Shen Wenna. Otherwise, she wouldn't have ended up like this."

Xi Xinyi sighed, appearing defeated as she said this. Her eyes were filled with disappointment and heartache towards Yue Lingsi. Huang Ziyao felt bad seeing this, so she only reached out to pat her on the shoulder. "Sigh, I know your mother too. All these years, she's been loyal to your father, but no matter what, she shouldn't have done all those things that ruined reputations. With these things today, these extreme feelings would only hound her to death. She won't be able to get her happiness either. Men are like that. If their hearts aren't with you, no matter what you do, they'll just turn a blind eye."

Xi Xinyi subconsciously trembled all over as she looked at Huang Ziyao in shock. She could faintly understand what Huang Ziyao was implying.

"Forget about trying to move a man who had always had another woman in his heart. Your mother is too silly. Look, now she's only tired out herself. Back then, your father and Shen Wenna's relationship was there for everyone to see. To be fair, from an outsider's point of view, your mother was the third wheel that stepped between them. If your mother didn't choose your father back then, perhaps she would be a very happy person right now... Oh, it's too bad!"

Huang Ziyao seemed to rue as she sighed deeply and then continued, "Okay, you haven't fully recovered. Let's quickly get back. I'm going to make a trip to the office to see Yifeng. Xinyi, I think you're a smart woman. After going through so many things, you should have already thought for yourself. You must heed the warning from your mother's experience, alright?"

Xi Xinyi's expression paled while she staggered and then looked uneasily at Huang Ziyao. "Mother... You... What do you mean?"

"I don't mean anything. I just hope that the two of you won't be like your parents in the future. When that happens, if you really can't then... At least, you have given birth to the eldest grandchild for the Han family. I'll still be on your side, but I wish that your problems won't launch the family into turmoil."

After Huang Ziyao clarified herself, she did not glance at Xi Xinyi's pale expression anymore as she turned to leave.

Listening to Huang Ziyao's footsteps walking further away, Xi Xinyi's weak body then went limp and she propped herself up by the cold wall on the side. She was in a daze for a while before she scoffed. "I won't let you people step over me, not even Han Yifeng! One day, Han Yifeng will beg me to take him back!"

Xi Xinyi clenched her hands in tight fists as her eyes were filled with anger and determination. She stared at Huang Ziyao's figure that moved further away. Then, a sneer curved up from the corner of her lips.

...

The setting sun was dazzling whilst the air was filled with a faint fragrance of magnolias. On the cemented path towards University A's teacher dormitories, you could faintly see a layer of fallen fragments of stamens that had covered the ground. A few fallen leaves danced in the wind with the blue sky as their backdrop, and signs of autumn peeked out.

The husband and wife interlocked their fingers and walked underneath a tall tree. They did not say much all the way, but after walking for quite a distance, Xi Xiaye then looked up at the rather lush tree above their heads and spoke softly, "City Z's autumns aren't the same anymore. I remember more than ten years ago, around this time, the ground should be filled with fallen leaves already. Su Nan and I would always bike through the school grounds, and we would steal some blossoming magnolias from the flowerbed. The old man that watched over it couldn't hear well, so Su Nan and I could get away with it easily. After that, many people did the same, so they started to keep a ferocious dog. After that, Mother's vase no longer had free flowers as decoration."

He fell silent for a while, then turned to look at her. His eyes were filled with an amused and questioning look. "You were quite naughty back then. Why were you like an obedient child at home?"

She reached out to brush the fallen stamen on his shoulders away and answered rather calmly, "Since I don't go home often, I would always be at a disadvantage because of Xi Xinyi. I let her be happy, so I don't have to really go against her since that is a war that can never end. I didn't want to do anything wrong and let her attack me. Sometimes, I didn't understand why Mother didn't take me away back then, and leave me with the Xi family instead."

When Xi Xiaye mentioned this, Mu Yuchen thought about it, and moments later he smiled calmly. "Perhaps it's because she didn't want you to lose fatherly love. She could guarantee complete maternal love for you, but she couldn't guarantee a father. On top of that, she probably didn't expect that all Father had endured and suffered these years made it harder for him to face you." He suddenly stopped and held her tightly as he looked down at her. "Xiaye, you have to believe me. Father and Mother are very much in love, and they love you too. Everyone has different ways of expressing it. Don't go chasing after the depths of their care. Just know that in this world, there's no rule about who should inherently be good to you. Thus, you should protect yourself even better before you think about others. I hope you can be more selfish. Leave being generous and righteous to your Mr. Mu."

Chapter 597. Biological Father? (2)

Her heart almost melted when she heard his words, instantly transforming into soft, fluffy cotton candy.

She gazed into his eyes. "I know. People who are grateful will always feel that happiness is simple. I do think that I'm pretty selfish. For example, I don't want you to have a female secretary."

He grinned without saying anything, then let go of her hand and put his arm over her shoulders. His warmth reached her.

They came here to get Shen Wenna her stuff, so they took a detour and looked around. It was a rarely earned relaxing time for them. Coincidentally, Su Nan was nearby University A to visit her parents, so Xi Xiaye brought Mu Yuchen over to their place.

Xi Xiaye was very familiar with Su Nan's parents. Just like Shen Wenna, they thought of Xi Xiaye like their daughter as well, and they welcomed Mu Yuchen's first visit warmly. Together with Ruan Heng, they were all talking happily.

After dinner, Su Nan stayed over, when she sent Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye off, she dragged Xi Xiaye aside.

"Xiaye, my mother said Master Mu is really sweet. You've trained him well!" Su Nan lowered her voice while glancing over at Mu Yuchen.

Xi Xiaye smiled and shook her head. "I don't train him. It's his own doing. You, on the other hand, trained Ruan Heng very well. He would never defy whatever you say."

"You have no idea. If you didn't get married to Master Mu, I planned to find a man from the list I have and train him to become your loyal husband. Too bad you got together with Master Mu and my plan was ruined. I thought marrying someone like Master Mu would give you a hard time since he's from a prestigious family after all, but now it seems like my worries were unnecessary!"

"You should stop worrying about me. You're going to give birth soon. Take care of yourself."

"Don't worry! I'll be released from my suffering very soon, but you'll have a long way to go. Ruan Heng's mother promised me that she'll help to take care of my kid, so I'll start going back to work again after my body recovers. I don't want to become a housewife. A woman shouldn't give up on her career. By the way, Ruan Heng was promoted to Project Manager last month. To avoid him from cheating on me at work, I made him put his wedding ring on."

"Weren't you insisting on hiding your marriage status a while ago?" Xi Xiaye threw Su Nan a peculiar glance.

"Come on! With the huge wedding and all, how could I still hide it? Okay, take care of yourself now. Oh right, this is for you. I've been very bored lately and knitted a scarf for you. It's my own design!"

Su Nan then handed a bag to Xi Xiaye. "Hurry back now. The weather has been turning cold recently. Get your husband to buy you more clothes. I rarely get the chance to go shopping now."

•••

Su Nan was as straightforward as ever. She only let Xi Xiaye go after a long-winded speech.

Mu Yuchen noticed that the woman beside him was smiling while he drove. He could not help but be curious. "What are you laughing at?"

His voice dragged her back to her senses. She smirked at him. "Nothing much. I'm just thinking that Su Nan is really amazing. She said she's going to train Ruan Heng into her loyal husband. I can imagine that Ruan Heng must be having a hard time right now, but well, as long as they are happy. Now that I think about it, are you interested in knowing about the history of Ruan Heng and Su Nan's relationship?"

"Mmm?" He patted her head while waiting for her reply.

"Ruan Heng was quite a mischievous boy back then, but he had excellent grades. Su Nan and he were always looking at each other for trouble. Some time later, Su Nan couldn't stand him anymore, so she dragged him somewhere for a fight. Su Nan was the final victor, so Ruan Heng became Su Nan's follower ever since then. They then got closer to each other after that. Ruan Heng is totally obedient to Su Nan, but Su Nan is very smart. She always puts on an obedient little woman's persona when they are outside. She's a very flexible person when it comes to that."

"Your friend is very free and at ease. If you're somewhat like her, you wouldn't have to suffer so much."

"Everyone has their own way of living. I feel amazing right now as long as you don't bully me. If you continue, I'll divorce you!" She raised her eyebrows and grinned.

"I wouldn't. My value will drop if you divorce me, and you'll regret it as well because you'll never be able to find a husband as good as me," he declared confidently as he slowed down the car before leaving a kiss on her forehead. "I won't give you the chance to do so."

Xi Xiaye laughed. "I thought you'd say I don't have the right to do so."

"No right? I'm giving you every right there is to be."

"Really?"

"Mmm."

•••

It was nearly 10 p.m, when they arrived back at Maple Residence. When they drove inside, Xi Xiaye saw Ah Mo's car parked near the entrance.

"It's Ah Mo! What's he doing here so late?" Xi Xiaye threw doubtful glances at the car in front.

Mu Yuchen honked without replying to her before he swiftly parked the car right behind Ah Mo's car.

When their car stopped, someone came up to them.

"Master!" Ah Mo approached them before Xi Xiaye got down. "Missus!"

"What are you doing here so late? Have you had dinner?" Xi Xiaye nodded to Ah Mo as she asked.

"I've had dinner. I'm here for some urgent matter. I didn't expect both you and Master not to be at home."

"We went to have dinner at my friend's house. Let's talk inside. It's pretty cold out here." Xi Xiaye grabbed her bag while trying to find her keycard. She looked over at Mu Yuchen who was still in the car.

Ah Mo nodded and looked at Mu Yuchen as well.

"Let's head in. I have something to talk to you about as well. Is Lingshi at the Mu residence?"

Mu Yuchen locked the car and followed Xi Xiaye with Ah Mo right behind them.

"She had to look after the club today. She'll only be back at the villa after midnight, but she gave me the stuff to bring over. Don't worry."

Chapter 598. Biological Father? (3)

Mu Yuchen and Ah Mo went upstairs right after they entered Maple Residence. Sis Wang started brewing tea after they went upstairs.

"Let me take this. You can go and rest for now."

When Sis Wang was about to head upstairs with the tea, Xi Xiaye stopped her.

"Missus..."

"It's alright. You don't have to wait anymore after 10 p.m. You have an early day tomorrow." Xi Xiaye smiled as she took the tray from Sis Wang and went upstairs before she could even give a reply.

Inside the study room, Mu Yuchen glanced at the pen inside the box before he handed it to Ah Mo. "Such an exquisite gift would surely leave a record. Find out where it's from. I heard from Father that Aunty doesn't like studying. She was quite against cultural classes for a period of time. If she had a choice, she probably wouldn't have wanted Lingtian to become an academic."

"Do you mean that this might not be a gift from Aunty to Lingtian, but could be...?" Ah Mo's eyes brightened as he said.

"Grandmother mentioned that Aunty treasured this pen a lot, and so did Lingtian. I don't want to make assumptions though. When can we get the DNA test results?" Mu Yuchen looked at Ah Mo.

"We've just received the sample and sent it for testing. In order to maintain secrecy, we might need to wait a few days." Ah Mo then started thinking again. "Master, I think Mr. Wen might not be Lingshi's biological father. After all, Qi Qiming is infamous for having multiple mistresses. Didn't Grandmother say that Aunty hated people like him? If it were really Qi Qiming, why did he abandon Lingtian and Lingshi? Qi Feng is his illegitimate son, but he still welcomed him warmly. Moreover, Qi Feng is very powerful within the family, and he holds an even greater influence than the legitimate son, Qi Lei, so I think there's no reason for him to do so," he voiced out his opinion.

He had thought about it a lot but never mentioned these secrets to Lingshi at all because he was worried that she might act rashly. Most importantly, he did not want her to feel sad.

"We can't struggle against fate. There's too much that we can't control. How can we know for sure?" Mu Yuchen felt it was relatable. He took a pause before he continued, "Aunty is a straightforward person. She's very decisive in her actions."

"If that's the case, Qi Qiming has been together with way too many women. There are Lu Xinlan, who is still currently in the hospital, the woman that gave birth to Qi Feng, as well as his wife Wang Qin. Who knows how many other mistresses he has in secret? How could Aunty...?"

Ah Mo could not accept it. He hesitated for a moment before letting out a sigh. "Master, if that's true, then... how could Grandfather, Grandmother, and Lingshi accept this? Knowing it might worry them more..." He frowned, feeling extremely worried.

However, Mu Yuchen still looked calm. He smiled as he glanced at Ah Mo. "This isn't like you, Ah Mo."

Startled, doubts surfaced on Ah Mo's face as he blushed a little.

Ah Mo did not know what to say, so he called out to him, "Master..."

"There are things that we can't escape. We cannot change the facts that have already happened. If that's the truth, unfortunately, we'll still have to accept it. If it's not, then we're lucky."

Mu Yuchen straightened his back and grabbed a book from the bookshelf. He took a yellowed photo out from inside, handing it to Ah Mo. "Find out the identity of the other two men in this photo. If all else fails, cover Aunty's face and publish this photo in the newspaper. We'll reward anyone that knows anything about them!"

Ah Mo took a look at the photo, and he recognized Mu Zi and Sis Lan, but he had no idea who the men behind them were.

"This is a great move. If this comes out in the newspaper, we might even reveal the relationship between Qi Qiming and Lu Xinlan. I doubt they can just sit still!" Ah Mo seemed impressed by his strategy.

"I'm heading to New York with Zimo the day after tomorrow. Please take care of your sister-in-law here. Let her decide on any major company decisions." Mu Yuchen closed the book and placed it back.

"Master, how long will you be there this time?"

"It'll take a while. It'll probably be winter when I return. I'm just worried about your sister-in-law. Please have Ji Zitong on standby all day during this period of time. Get several other people as well. I'm only bringing Li Si over and Ah Bo is already over there." "Noted, Master." Ah Mo was not worried since Zhou Zimo's people were capable.

"Tell me the results after you receive the DNA report. Don't let anyone know about it. Complete the investigation with haste," Mu Yuchen reminded.

Ah Mo smiled and looked at him. "Are you in a rush because you found out something? I'm sure your visit this time is not only about the project with Master Mo, is it?"

He had worked by Mu Yuchen's side for many years after all, so he could read his mind from time to time.

"There's some news about Qi Feng over there. I'm going to take a look."

"In New York?"

Mu Yuchen nodded. "In New York indeed."

"There is a possibility that he's in New York. Gu Lingsha stayed there for quite a long period of time during her stay there. According to her plan, she should be back in City B in a few days' time. When they return to City Z, then we..."

"Don't let Xiaye come into contact with her. She must be plotting something. I'll meet them personally. As for the question of whether Qi Qiming is Lingshi's biological father, we'll find out after we get our hands on the DNA report. Besides, I think Mr. Wen has more to hide. Qi Qiming shouldn't be the mysterious man we saw at Aunty's grave since that person was taller. Nonetheless, you don't have to worry about it now. We'll wait for the report before making any further decision."

Chapter 599. Biological Father? (4)

There was a sudden knock on the door, making the two of them turn around as Xi Xiaye came in with a tray.

"Sis Wang brewed some Pu Er tea. I also heated some snacks up for supper." Her tone was gentle as she came in before the two men could answer.

"It's okay, Missus. I just had dinner with Lingshi before coming over." Ah Mo went up and took the tray from her before leaving it on the coffee table nearby. Mu Yuchen went to take her arm as well.

"Have some tea then. What are you guys talking about? You don't look happy." Xi Xiaye noticed the depressing aura on Ah Mo's face.

Ah Mo looked at Mu Yuchen without saying anything. Their discussion was coming to an end, so he stood up and prepared to leave. "It's getting late. Master and Missus, you should get some rest soon. I'll be heading back now."

Mu Yuchen nodded while Ah Mo left the room quietly and gave the couple some space.

It was pretty cold on autumn nights, especially at midnight. The moon in the sky shone its silver rays on the ground as the whole place seemed quiet.

Ah Mo drove straight to Imperial Sky Entertainment Club after leaving Maple Residence. Things were still pretty lively at City Z even though it was midnight already, and the club was crowded. There was even a little traffic jam on the way there.

It was 1a.m. when Ah Mo reached the club. He parked at the temporary parking outside the club before walking in.

Everyone knew him, so a lot of people greeted him on his way inside.

"Hi, Bro Mo!"

"Manager Ah Mo!"

Ah Mo nodded without any expression. He went straight to Mu Lingshi's office. As he passed the corridor, he saw Mu Lingshi busy giving instructions to the club personnel. There was a huge crowd in the club with many people on the dance floor writhing along with the dancers on stage.

"Manager Mu, Manager Ah Mo is here," said the DJ as he glanced at the corridor.

Mu Lingshi turned over and could barely see Ah Mo by the corridor. After a moment, she turned back and continued talking to the DJ and several others, "Follow the plan we talked about just now. It's the peak period now, but the number of people I've arranged to be on the floor should be enough. Just stay alert at all times and inform me if anything urgent happens. I'll head back first."

"Noted, Manager Mu. Don't worry!" they replied.

Mu Lingsi nodded and waved her hand as a signal for them to go back to work. She took her earphones off and walked towards the corridor as Ah Mo quickly followed her.

Mu Lingshi and Ah Mo went into her office one after another.

Thud!

Mu Lingshi turned around and wanted to close the door when she unexpectedly bumped into Ah Mo's solid chest. She definitely felt the pain on her forehead as she covered it with her hand. Ah Mo closed the door with one hand while he held her with the other. "Are you alright?"

She took a deep breath. "I'm fine. Have you pass the stuff to Brother?"

Nodding, Ah Mo took the large sunglasses off her face when he noticed she was still frowning. He kept them into his pocket while he rubbed her forehead apologetically. "I'm sorry. Is it painful?"

"Try slamming your head into a wall and tell me if it's painful or not."

Mu Lingshi stared at him moments later, seeming like she wanted to say something. Ah Mo looked back at her with his clear eyes, unlike his usual humble self.

Mu Lingshi frequently teased him for being a stiff old man, but when he was cheerful, he gave off vibes of sunshine and rainbows, and was extremely charming.

A faint light flashed past Mu Lingshi's eyes. Before Ah Mo could react, she closed in and kissed his lips gently...

Ah Mo was stunned for a moment. Then, he wrapped his arms around her and soon took the initiative. He grabbed her wrist. Suddenly, the two of them exchanged positions.

When Ah Mo's hand reached her collar, she suddenly stopped him. Her eyes gave him an insurmountable amount of pressure. "I saw what you had in the document folder. Do you have anything to tell me about it?"

"Lingshi..."

Ah Mo took a deep breath as he suppressed his beastly instincts inside his blood. His eyes went back to normal again as he let go of her. Then, he tidied her clothes while he spoke, "You don't have to know about it now. We don't have a conclusion yet."

"I know Brother has been investigating on his own. That man was among the group of people we shortlisted too. Brother even went to see Lu Xinlan, but she declined to see me. Both Brother and Sisterin-law are working on this without letting our grandparents know. However, since I'm very much involved, shouldn't I know about it?"

Mu Lingshi's gaze never moved away from Ah Mo's face.

"We'll tell you after we get the results. Meanwhile, don't think too much about it. Master just told me that we can't make a conclusion yet. We plan to tell you after we're certain."

Ah Mo was getting anxious. Apart from worrying that the information might be leaked, he could not bear to see her heartbroken.

He did not expect Mu Lingshi to know the password to his safe box, so...

"Results? I've thought about it a lot. Everything could be explained if that person is Qi Qiming. Lingtian must've known about it, and that's why he helped Qi Feng to run away with Gu Lingsha. He even betrayed Brother for it. Qi Qiming then hated Brother for what happened, and he's been plotting revenge against Brother. Am I right?"

Mu Lingshi's expression turned cold while her eyes were still fixed on Ah Mo.

Ah Mo did not say anything. He just looked back into her eyes without moving an inch.

She suddenly barked a half-hearted laugh. All of a sudden, her voice became hoarse as she sobbed.

Chapter 600. Reluctance (1)

"That's not true..." Her voice trembled as her face suddenly turned pale. She quietly covered her face with both her hands as her whole body started quivering as well.

"It's impossible. I cannot be Qi Qiming's daughter... I'm not..."

She started sobbing. Her throat felt stuck and she seemed to be suffocating as her consciousness was fading.

Ah Mo's expression changed. He hugged her and comforted her, "There's no proof right now. Don't make any rash conclusions. Even Master isn't sure about this, so we shouldn't scare ourselves right now."

"Rash conclusions? Right now, it all shows that it's most likely Qi Qiming, doesn't it? No wonder you stopped me from continuing when we reached this point. Did you already know? Is it really Qi Qiming? Tell me!"

Mu Lingshi took a deep breath after she let all her emotions inside her out. She stared at Ah Mo coldly. With the scar on her face seeming extremely clear right now, she looked ferocious.

"I've delivered both yours and Qi Qiming's DNA samples for a test, so we'll find out in a few days." Ah Mo held her shoulders as he explained, "Before we get the results, our guesses mean nothing. We didn't want to let you know because we didn't want you to worry. Calm down, Lingshi."

"Calm down?" Mu Lingshi snorted. "I can't stay calm! Would you be able to stay calm if you were in my position? How is it any different than betraying my own family? He's the cause of all the tragedy. Is he even worthy of becoming my father? If it really is him, I'd never forgive him!"

She suppressed her remaining rage and ran out of the room.

Ah Mo's expression darkened. It took him a moment before he chased after her.

...

The next morning, Mu Yuchen woke up early as usual. Xi Xiaye had become even more of a sleepyhead. Her morning sickness symptoms were pretty bad earlier on and only became better recently. Although he had been managing her diet, she hardly gained any weight. While the little chap inside her womb was growing quickly, she did not seem that much different from before. Her chin was still pretty sharp and her features were bony.

He put his hand on her baby bump as his eyes calmed down. He studied her for a while and then smiled. "You have to be a good little baby, you hear that? Otherwise, your father will punish you!"

He felt a living presence inside her and he smiled before leaving the bed a while later. He then carefully set the blanket over her.

When he washed up and went downstairs, Sis Wang and the servants were already preparing breakfast.

"Morning, Master!" Sis Wang and the servants greeted him.

Mu Yuchen responded, "Morning, you guys can take a day off today. Let me make breakfast." He elegantly unbuttoned and rolled his sleeves up.

Sis Wang beamed. "Master, are you going to make breakfast for Missus again? Well, I suppose Missus prefers the food you make. She hasn't been having a great appetite lately. Elder Madam prepared some tonics for her. However, Master, I'd like to learn something from you since you'll be leaving for some time and I'm worried that Missus isn't going to be used to it."

Mu Yuchen smiled as he nodded humbly. "Sure, after I leave, please report Missus's condition to me every day. Unless she gives explicit permission, don't let anyone come in, and don't let anyone go upstairs. Understood?"

Sis Wang nodded. "Noted, Master, don't worry."

Sis Wang still called Mu Yuchen "Master" as usual after she started staying in Maple Residence since it felt more familiar.

"By the way, Master, Elder Madam told me to prepare two empty rooms. Is she going to stay over?"

"Don't bother about it for now. Your job is to take care of Missus. Let her be alone. If she starts having difficulty going out after a few months, I'll make arrangements then."

Both Xi Xiaye and he liked to the quiet environment, so it was easy for him to imagine how Wang Hui would definitely tire her out. The reason he moved out was that he preferred a peaceful environment too.

"Yes, Master."

"The weather will get colder as autumn comes. Remind her to put on more clothes when she's heading out, and please accompany her when she's going out on weekends. As for Ji Zitong, give her a call every time she heads out, alright?" Mu Yuchen's worrisome reminders went on.

He probably did not notice his behavior right now. He never would have worried about such trivial matters before.

Sis Wang laughed in amusement. "Master, you've said it plenty of times already. We know. Don't worry and leave Missus to us. We won't disappoint you and we'll take good care of her."

He nodded before getting to breakfast.

It was a fusion of a Chinese and Western-style breakfast. As soon as the hand-pulled chicken porridge was done, his phone started ringing and he picked it up. It was an unexpected call from Qi Lei.

"Do you have time today? Let's meet up. I have something to discuss."

At the Grand Lake Villa Area, Qi Lei had just woken up. He was by his balcony, drinking some coffee as he looked at the morning view. Some cheerful music was drifting from the room as well.

Mu Yuchen was not surprised to hear Qi Lei's voice. In fact, it seemed like he expected it. "Anytime before lunch. You can decide on the place."

Qi Lei raised his eyebrows and smiled. "Can I go to your place for a meal again?"

"We're not cooking today," Mu Yuchen replied calmly. It took one to wonder what he was feeling at the moment.

"I just thought that you're pretty generous, but you're rejecting me now? Never mind. We'll meet on the 27th floor of the Galaxy Tower. It's my turf and we can have some privacy there. I'll be waiting for you."