Loving 611

Chapter 611. Death (3)

Deng Wenwen struggled hard. Finally, she opened her eyes and looked at her for a long while. Her frail hand then trembled as it reached for Xi Xiaye by her side, and her breathing became a little urgent. She did not even have the energy to say a word as she was still panting heavily.

When Xi Xiaye saw that hand reaching for her, she fell silent for a while before she finally sighed and reached out to gently hold her curved fist. That stubborn air of keeping her at arm's length could be felt through the palms. Xi Xiaye could also still feel her hand gently trembling in her slightly warm palms.

Deng Wenwen breathed in a rush several times as she looked at Xi Xiaye with much effort. There were some waterdrops on the corner of her mouth as she spoke with much difficulty, "Thank you... Thank you for coming... I'm... I'm... sorry..."

As she stammered this, dull tears started to fall from her misty eyes. She looked quite pitiful and helpless as she was probably enduring extreme pain. Her disoriented gaze teared up. When she saw that, it only made Xi Xiaye feel sorrowful and slightly bad.

She did not know how to answer her right now.

Deng Wenwen was the main reason for everything that happened today!

If it were not for her, Xi Mushan and Shen Wenna would not have been separated. Yue Lingsi and Xi Xinyi would not be there too, and their family would not be broken up. Perhaps their family would still be living harmoniously.

However, because of her selfish desires, everything changed.

Xi Mushan and Shen Wenna, who were clearly so in love with each other, were forced to separate while she was frequently bullied by Xi Xinyi, and now...

An indifferent sneer flashed across Xi Xiaye's lips as her tone was quite nonchalant. "If you saw this day coming, would you have acted differently? Were all those things really that important? What's so bad about happily living some ordinary life? Did you have to be so greedy?"

When she heard this, Deng Wenwen seemed to cry even harder. She stammered and it was hard to hear her, but Xi Xiaye could hear the words of regret while her frail hand trembled harder and harder.

"I let you down... I let your mother down! I've done many horrid things in my life... and my life isn't ending well. This is my karma... Can you... Can you forgive me?"

Deng Wenwen was already so weak that she could not say much, and even Xi Xiaye could hear that her voice was very low, but she could still hear her clearly. She did not feel much sympathy. Right now, she was filled with more sorrow than anything else.

What was there to forgive or not?

She had long been disillusioned. After that knife, her heart had turned as cold as metal.

Her lips curved up as she smiled apathetically and sighed softly. When she looked up, she unexpectedly saw Xi Xinyi looking disgusted across the bed. She thought about it and finally shook her head. "I don't know. Even if I say that I forgive you, my heart might not be willing to. The happiness of the first half of life, mine, my father's, my mother's... They've all been ruined by you. If you were me, could you forgive yourself?"

Deng Wenwen trembled even harder now. She panted with much difficulty and could barely catch her breath.

"I... I know... but... but I can only say sorry... This is my karma. I... I... can only wish you all happiness... Please help me say sorry to your parents... I'm sorry..."

Her voice turned softer as it slowly faded. Her eyes lost focus, and they slowly closed. Her trembling body turned limp, yet in that instant, the hand that Xi Xiaye held gently suddenly gripped onto Xi Xiaye's tightly. Xi Xiaye could vaguely feel something being stuffed into her palm.

It felt like a key...

Deng Wenwen finally inhaled her last breath. When Xi Xinyi saw that, her expression changed. Her emotions started to shift and she quickly ran to the door to shout, "Doctor!"

Upon hearing the shouts, the doctors rushed in quickly, and Xi Xiaye quietly retreated to the side.

The doctors quickly checked on Deng Wenwen. In the end, they shook their heads and straightened up to announce heavily, "The elder is gone. Our condolences."

When she heard this, Xi Xinyi frowned. Her expression contained a mix of emotions while she could not describe how she felt. After a while, she lay on Deng Wenwen's bedside and started to weep while holding her cold hand.

Xi Xiaye fell silent too. An upset feeling rose in her chest as she felt dazed and suddenly felt weak. Ji Zitong swiftly came up to hold her, her beautiful eyes filled with worry and concern.

"Director Xi, my condolences!" Ji Zitong softly said.

Xi Xiaye sighed, and then slowly shut her eyes. She nodded gently and eased for a bit before opening her eyes as she looked at Deng Wenwen who had just passed. What entered her heart was unexpectedly a faint brush of grief.

Did this mean that all the past grudges were written off now?

Xi Xiaye could not help but laugh at herself pathetically. Gloominess gathered in her chest. In that instant, she hesitated and thought about it, and then looked at the person who had passed and said quietly, "Live more easily in the next life, no matter what, I do hope you will be able to enter paradise."

She then looked away, taking her sunglasses out from her pocket and putting it on before turning to leave.

When she left the room, Xi Xiaye suddenly said softly with an indescribable sorrow in her tone, "Zitong, help me inform Manager Ah Mo to help me make the arrangements for the funeral."

Following her, Ji Zitong silently nodded. "Yes, Director Xi!"

The sun was shining outside. Xi Xiaye stood underneath the sunlight for a while. when she saw the car that came from the front. She was about to get in when Xi Xinyi's voice suddenly came from behind.

"Xi Xiaye! I want to have a chat with you!"

When she heard that voice, Xi Xiaye stopped and turned to look.

Xi Xinyi was standing right behind her with a servant holding an umbrella for her. She did not look at sorry as before. Instead, she looked like a vile character who had gotten what she wanted.

Xi Xiaye examined her indifferently. She was quite surprised that Xi Xinyi had been rather well-behaved recently. Apart from being busy with the newly released film and filming the new show, she would sometimes attend charity banquets in the past few months, maintaining a lower profile than before.

However, she did not think there was anything to discuss with her since they only went back and forth on the same topics. Because she was annoyed with them now, she did not answer her. Instead, she turned and continued to walk ahead as the bodyguards respectfully opened the car door for her.

Chapter 612. Joy and Sorrow, Affairs of Life! (1)

"Missus, this way!"

Mu Yuchen had specially ordered for these bodyguards. They would not let Xi Xiaye be in contact with such dangerous people.

So, once they saw Xi Xinyi appear, one of the bodyguards had already gone up to protect her while Ji Zitong stayed to wait for Ah Mo to come and settle Deng Wenwen's funeral matters.

This was initially Xi Mushan's responsibility, but now that he was not there, she had to do it for him.

Xi Xiaye knew that Xi Mushan hated Deng Wenwen to the bone as well. In regard to Deng Wenwen's matters, he had only told the rehabilitation center to inform him of her situation once in a while. However, now that Deng Wenwen had passed away, he should still be asleep according to the time difference, so she considered only telling him after.

"Xi Xiaye! I have something to say to you!"

When she saw that Xi Xiaye ignored her, Xi Xinyi quickly went up to her, wanting to pull her, but the bodyguards swiftly stopped her beside Xi Xiaye. They cruelly separated them, not allowing Xi Xinyi to get closer.

"I've got nothing to say to you. You can now go back and decide if you want to order a few more wreaths for Deng Wenwen. After all, she has been good to the two of you. Shouldn't you do your filial duty?" Xi Xiaye's cold voice was filled with plain mockery.

"You don't have to worry about that. It'd be much better than your ungratefulness! Wasn't it you who pushed everyone to where we are today? If you didn't let Mu Yuchen take action, Yueying would've still been fine. The Xi family would've just been fine too! You're a truly sly, despicable, shameless, nasty person! You're just pretending to be all nonchalant! Xi Xiaye, you really do have some tricks up your sleeves! I, Xi Xinyi, am not as scheming as you! On top of that, my mother's schemes can't compare to your mother, Shen Wenna's!" Xi Xinyi patted her arm firmly as she spoke through gritted teeth. Her red little face was colored in a fit of anger and she looked a little sinister.

"You ruined the Xi family! If grandfather were still around, do you think he'd have forgiven you? As horrible as I may be, I would not take the Xi family down. Because of you two, Father even gave his promotion for a high official position up. He gave everything up, and the two of you still had the heart to take the Xi family out. You didn't even consider Father's feelings at all! I was bullied by you. I've underestimated you and I lost. I admit that! So, you can say whatever you want since everyone thinks you're so innocent. They all think you're the victim! What about me? Who has ever thought about me?"

Indignantly, she could not tamp the anger in her heart down.

Xi Xiaye smiled apathetically as she turned around to shoot Xi Xinyi a half-hearted sympathetic look. "Xi Xinyi, before you decided to take me out, tell me. Have I ever hurt you?"

Her merciless twinkling eyes met Xi Xinyi's furious gaze whilst her cold gaze hid a sliver of sharpness. She stared at Xi Xinyi without blinking.

Xi Xinyi was stunned by this question, yet her back remained straight as a ramrod! She could not lose to this woman in such an imposing manner!

"Can't answer that, can you?" Xi Xiaye snorted as she slowly averted her gaze. "I've never owed you anything, yet you just put all your unhappiness onto me and keep coming for me, setting me up while I continued to tolerate you time and time again. Have you ever let me off? Why is it that you can do things by hook or by crook, and I can't? Why is it that I have to just watch you not having qualms with taking over Yueying and having the Xi family while I can't? Do you think I'm a fool? The Xi family is truly over and done with scum like you lot!"

"Nonsense! It was you who destroyed the Xi family. You even chased everyone out!"

"But don't you forget that West Park was given to me by grandfather before he passed away! He was worried about leaving the Xi family in your hands. Was he not?"

Xi Xiaye's words cut like a knife straight into Xi Xinyi's heart, and she turned pale in an instant.

"I've never gone against you. When we were younger, I treated you like a playmate. When you entered the Xi family, you stole all the things I liked but did I say anything? Did I bully, hit, or scold you? I just wanted some peace, and grow up sooner so that I could leave home, but as for you, since we were young, you wouldn't let go of everything I liked. Whether they were toys or people, you've always had such perverse thoughts. You should've taken meds and cured yourself. Didn't you make Han Yifeng hate you by yourself?"

"Shut up! Shut up! Do you know where he is? Did you go looking for him again! Tell me! Did you go seducing him again?" Xi Xinyi clenched her fists as her low voice softly cursed.

Xi Xiaye ignored her. She was like a madwoman, biting and snapping everywhere.

However, by the looks of it, did Han Yifeng not like Xi Xinyi anymore?

Xinyi and I have an unforgettable love!

The scene of Han Yifeng saying this with a flood of infatuation flashed in her mind again. She could not help but sneer.

His pledge of undying love was only worth that much. Who could guarantee eternity?

The past could not be changed while the future could only be hoped for. All we could be sure of was the present.

She did not stay and just got into the car as the bodyguards quickly closed the door. Xi Xinyi wanted to chase after them, yet the bodyguards pulled her away. When Xi Xiaye's car had slowly driven away, they let go of Xi Xinyi, and then they got into another car and followed after them.

The car was still driving ahead while Xi Xiaye sat behind in exhaustion. She closed her heavy eyes while alternate scenes kept flashing in her mind. There were images ranging from Deng Wenwen scolding her, and in the end, it evolved to become the image of Deng Wenwen begging for her forgiveness in the ward earlier.

She was not sure how long had passed before she pushed those alternating images aside. She slowly opened her eyes and opened her palm to look.

Indeed, a delicate key lay quietly in her palm.

It was the one that Deng Wenwen had stuffed into her palm at her last breath.

Actually, she did not quite understand what Deng Wenwen meant. Was this to make up for something? Was it a flash of realization on her deathbed? Or something else?

Xi Xiaye did not have to guess. It should be that so-called inheritance which was what Yue Lingsi was looking for. With the message on the key, it should be fairly easy to locate the safe.

However, she was not interested in those things. The card that Mu Yuchen had given her was probably enough for her to live tens of lifetimes.

Suddenly, she really missed him. She could not express her sorrow either. After she thought about it, she then took her phone out as she put the key away. Without further thought, she called his number.

Chapter 613. Joy and Sorrow, Affairs of Life! (2)

As she expected, he was still awake. It should be past midnight over there by now.

"What's wrong? Aren't you going to say anything?" The warmth of his voice softened her heart, making the negative feelings inside her subside a little. She started speaking after she calmed down, "Deng Wenwen passed away."

Xi Xiaye could not hide the grief in her tone.

Mu Yuchen went quiet. He immediately stopped what he was doing and straightened his back. Then, he stood up from his chair moments later to walk towards the large window and looked outside into the sea of stars. He let out a sigh before asking, "Feeling sad?"

Actually, he just received a call from the hospital informing him that Deng Wenwen had passed away. He was thinking about giving her a call, but she called him instead.

Xi Xiaye did not answer his question. "Just now, when she was still conscious, she asked me for forgiveness."

"What did you say?" Mu Yuchen asked quietly.

He instantly figured out Xi Xiaye's answer when she did not give a reply, so he then comforted her, "Okay, what's gone is gone. She's been struggling for a very long time, so this should be a relief for her. I'll ask Ah Mo to handle her funeral. You don't have to worry about this. I'll talk to Father about this as well."

"I just realized that it actually hurts to see her go. I thought I'd feel happier... With so many things that happened in the past, I doubt she saw this coming."

"What's there to be sad about? It's good to feel something over it. Experiencing the loss of someone teaches us about our inability to control life and death. We still need to move on and keep living. Let the deceased rest in peace. You should move on as well," he comforted her gently.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and nodded. "After struggling for all her life, she ended up like that. Karma does indeed do its work."

"Nope, it's fate, but your fate lies in your own hands. You decide what kind of life you live. What happened to her today was all caused by her own choices. We might feel sad for her, but more importantly, we could learn something."

"Mmm, I get it. Let's have a simple funeral. Let her rest in peace. I could feel her regret and insight during her final moments, but I couldn't verbally forgive her as I remembered all the unfortunate events and faults in the past. Now that I think about it, she's already dead. What else can I do with those feelings?"

She let out a long sigh before rubbing the space between her eyebrows.

"Alright, don't be too sad about it. I'll tell Ah Mo to handle the funeral. You don't have to go to the office in the next two days. Just stay at home and rest."

"It's alright. I'll be fine after a good night's sleep. You don't have to worry about me. Hey, aren't you going to sleep soon?" She suddenly felt much better as she listened to his voice.

"Your Mr. Mu fights on the front line. I'm earning money for our baby's milk formula. How are you feeling? Did our child torture you again?"

She smiled a little listening to him. "Father's been secretly keeping money enough to feed him several lives over already."

"I don't have any secret stash. It's all with you, isn't it? Answer my question, Xiaye."

She laughed. All the cards inside the drawer were mostly hers now. He rarely used them as she used them more often.

"I'm alright. It's just that the nausea is a bit strong at times. The baby is probably used to your presence, so it started making a fuss after you left."

"How dare he? I'm going to punish him!"

"It hasn't really started now, but the doctor says I'll be able to feel it in my fifth month of pregnancy. I'm not sure if it's true. I don't really feel anything when I touch my bump at night."

The two of them started talking about the little thing inside her, and they could not stop...

Although Mu Yuchen called Xi Mushan to inform him of Deng Wenwen's death, Xi Mushan had already received a call from the rehabilitation center about it. Xi Xiaye gave it some consideration before giving Xi Mushan a call. By the time she did, it was at the end of a long day.

Xi Mushan was standing by the staircase outside the front yard, listening to the call as he watched Shen Wenna sitting on the swing.

Shen Wenna had gone through several surgeries and was still under recovery, so she still had bandages over her eyes as she still went to the hospital every week for her check-up. The doctor said her progress was going well and she should be able to remove the bandages by next month. If nothing went wrong, she could go home after a week of observation post-bandage removal.

It was all thanks to Xi Mushan's care for her.

Shen Wenna had already gotten used to Xi Mushan's shameless attitude. No matter how mercilessly she treated him, Xi Mushan acted as if he did not notice it and would follow her everywhere. Because of her daughter and son-in-law were not there, there was no one else to take care of her except Xi Mushan, thus she had to rely on him for many things.

She gradually got used to it and let him do whatever he wanted.

"Father, she apologized to me during her final moments. She also wanted me to apologize to both of you, and she wished for our happiness." Xi Xiaye's voice reached him.

Xi Mushan's expression looked cold as he frowned without showing much emotion on the surface. He remained quiet for a long time.

"You don't have to worry about the funeral, Mu Yuchen had Ah Mo to take care of it, I hope for her to leave in peace, you just have to take care of mother over there, I'll send her off."

Xi Xiaye did not want Xi Mushan to come back personally. There was no point for him to do so since she had already passed away. His return now would only cause more trouble.

Xi Mushan was still quiet. In the end, he nodded and said, "Thank you, Xiaye. These... should've been my responsibilities, but you've taken care of them for me."

Xi Xiaye smiled as she leaned back in the chair. "I'll do anything as long as Mother and you can be on good terms."

Chapter 614. Compromise (1)

Xi Mushan smiled sheepishly when he heard Xi Xiaye. He felt a little embarrassed for his daughter to see him this way.

"Mu Yuchen and I hope that you and Mother can be together again, but we can't really do much. It all boils down to you in order to change Mother's mind. She has never forgotten about you." Xi Xiaye remembered what Shen Wenna told her before, so she could not help but chuckle a little.

When Xi Mushan heard Xi Xiaye's chuckle, he seemed to be affected, and the gloominess in him faded quite a bit too. He could not help but probe, "Did she tell you that her heart still belongs to me?"

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Mmm, Father, I'm sure you know what happened to Mu Yuchen and I. After we got registered, Mother told me Mu Yuchen is great and she wants me to treat him dearly, and then she

suddenly mentioned you. She said you have this aura around you, that you're knowledgeable and handsome. You're the image of her ideal husband."

"She really said that?" Xi Mushan's expression softened as he looked at Shen Wenna sitting on the swing. His eyes turned soft.

"Mmm! The current you must've been more mature. Basically, you've withstood the trial of time, so you have to keep it up, Father." Xi Xiaye was not sure what she should say for encouragement, thus that was what she came up with.

Xi Mushan nodded and smiled delightedly. "I got it. I'll try my best. She's right here with me. Do you want to talk to her?"

"It's alright. I'll call her next time. I have an incoming call and I've got to go."

...

As their conversation ended, Xi Mushan kept his phone away and then walked towards Shen Wenna.

"Who called you?" Shen Wenna's hearing had become extremely sharp after she lost her sight. She caught a sentence or two from their conversation just now.

Xi Mushan put a windbreaker over Shen Wenna's shoulders before he sat down beside her and spoke, "It's Xiaye. Deng Wenwen passed away."

Shen Wenna was stunned for a moment. Then, she lowered her head without saying anything.

"Xiaye said she wanted her to tell us that she's sorry and that she wished us happiness," Xi Mushan continued. Shen Wenna was not showing any emotion on her face as she just nodded quietly. "Are you going back?"

Shen Wenna's feelings about Deng Wenwen were numb. The main cause of most tragedies was her, but what could she do now?

Maybe the best way was to let all the past conflicts be buried with her.

Xi Mushan looked at her and asked, "Do you want me to go back?"

Shen Wenna raised her head, her hand moving slightly. "You can go back if you want to." She had some indescribable feelings in her heart.

Their time together here was pleasant. Although she would throw tantrums and give him trouble at times, he never got angry with her at all. He was just like back when they were still together, wholeheartedly accepting and tolerating her.

She was touched, but at the same time, she was also struggling about what to do. After some consideration, she decided to let nature take its course.

She was just wondering if things would become chaotic again once they got back. There was still Yue Lingsi and her daughter, Xi Xinyi, back in City Z after all.

"How I wish I should've been wary of Yue Lingsi back then! Maybe all of these wouldn't have happened. I thought about a lot of things lately. Everyone holds responsibility for it. I was too careless to let her stay with us. I thought Deng Wenwen brought her in because of her relationship with the Yue family. Moreover, I've always known that she loved you. Her feelings towards you were probably greater than mine." Shen Wenna smiled, her tone seeming calm.

"Actually, we befriended each other because of you. She knew you were close to me. That's why she became friends with me. She always asked me about you, your interests, and your habits, hence I knew she was in love with you a long time ago. She became really desperate as she could not get you. It's been thirty years. I'm surprised by her determination and courage. I might be impressed if she had not pulled all the dirty tricks. I have to admit that she did sacrifice a whole lot more than I did."

"Even so, I cannot accept her. I shouldn't just accept her because she made more sacrifices! Wenna, we've known each other for over forty years. You should know how I feel. I love you and only you. It's

my fault in the past, so you don't have to defend her. You have all the right to blame it on me. I don't mind that you blame me, but please, don't say any of those hurtful words anymore. I've lost everything. I don't want to lose you too."

Xi Mushan suddenly extended his arms out and grabbed Shen Wenna's pair of hands.

Shen Wenna did not struggle. She just sat there quietly and let him hold her hands. "You were married to her, and you even have a daughter..." she whispered as she felt a slight pain in her chest.

"That was a mistake. I've never mistreated her daughter or her. She fulfilled her wish to marry into the Xi family. That's her own choice. It doesn't matter how much she sacrificed. It's none of my business. When we signed our names on the papers, I told her that I'd never fall in love with her! I only have this much feelings to give, and I've given them all to you. I can't forget about you. I was always worried... We were a married couple once, and we have a daughter too. I gave everything up and now beg you to give me a chance, Wenna. I'm really afraid that you'll say no."

"I've never been an evil person. Why is it so difficult to fulfill my happiness?"

Xi Mushan was having a heartache and felt like he was slowly losing his strength. All these helpless emotions drowned him. What else could he do?

He took a deep breath and let go of Shen Wenna's hands.

"My feelings for you have never changed. If you're unwilling to give me another chance, I'll leave after your recovery and will never bother you ever again."

He did not care for anything else but her happiness.

Chapter 615. Compromise (2)

When he finished, Shen Wenna felt a heaviness in her chest. Suddenly, she felt a pang of sadness, yet she did not say anything.

Xi Mushan looked down at the two fallen leaves by her feet with a bleak and lonely expression. The air around him felt so sorrowful that she could feel it. She lifted a hand to fix the windbreaker as she

contemplated for a moment, then slowly said, "I'm not forcing you to leave either. Some things take time to straighten out, but even if we try hard, some things cannot go back to how it was."

"Then, we'll start now. What's so bad about that? If you're still willing, I don't mind courting you again, just like how I did back then. Push away all the unhappiness. The children are all grown up now, so we can start a new life too."

When he heard Shen Wenna, a flicker of hope appeared in Shen Wenna's eyes as he fixed her eyes on her.

After a long silence, Shen Wenna still did not answer him. She just calmly looked up and called for her little poodle that was playing not too far away. "Little Apple, come here! While the weather's good, let Grandfather clean you up. You stink now!"

Upon hearing Shen Wenna's voice, the pampered and playful Little Apple eagerly scampered over and rushed to Shen Wenna's feet before climbing onto Shen Wenna's lap. She carefully petted it then turned to say to Xi Mushan, "Give Little Apple a bath. Last night, he smelled when he climbed into my blanket. I think he must have gotten something on him."

As Xi Mushan looked down at Little Apple that lay on Shen Wenna's lap and enjoyed her petting with its eyes narrowed, he could not help but feel a little jealous.

Xi Mushan could not even compare to this pet on her lap!

"Then, let him sleep with me tonight. Your sight is an inconvenience. This little thing's claws are quite sharp. It'd be bad if you're hurt."

Sighing to himself, he wondered when he could be treated like Little Apple.

Earlier, to his relief, Shen Wenna did not clearly reject him. If she really said "okay", then he...

Deng Wenwen's funeral was simple, especially since Xi Xiaye did not inform anyone either. She was buried in the West Hill Cemetery according to Ah Mo's arrangements.

The day of her burial was a gloomy day. Mu Lingshi and Ah Mo went over, and as expected, Xi Xinyi and the Han family were nowhere to be seen. They said that it was the Han family's little master, who was Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi's son's full moon banquet soon. Therefore, they could not be in contact with such ominous things.

When Xi Xiaye heard that, she smiled dismally and felt sad for Deng Wenwen.

This was the granddaughter that Deng Wenwen had been protecting before! The Han family that she had prioritized!

At such a time, you could truly see through these people's natures and their hypocrisy. Deng Wenwen was just one of the tragedies among the many out there.

At the bottom of West Hill Cemetery, Xi Xiaye slowly got down from the car and Ji Zitong quickly shielded her with an umbrella as Sis Wang walked over to help her put on a pure white corsage.

Xi Xiaye looked down at the corsage on her chest that was as white as snow, feeling a little gloomy. She did not want to feel sad any further, so she picked up her pace and walked up.

When she reached Deng Wenwen's tombstone, Deng Wenwen was already buried and at rest. Ah Mo and the other eight black-suited bodyguards waited on the side. All of them had solemn expressions. When they saw Xi Xiaye walk over, they lowered their heads in sync to observe a moment of silence.

Xi Xiaye put a bouquet of white daisies before Deng Wenwen's tombstone as she quietly watched the picture on the tombstone for a long while.

"Sis-in-law." Mu Lingshi walked over a little worriedly, gazing at Xi Xiaye in concern.

Xi Xiaye regained her senses. She looked at her and said calmly, "I'm fine. Give me the joss stick."

Sis Wang immediately lit the joss stick and handed it to Xi Xiaye who accepted it and bowed three times before handing it to Sis Wang to stick it in.

"The Han family and Xi Xinyi don't seem to be coming. It's quite sad for Madam Deng." Mu Lingshi could not help but sigh.

Xi Xiaye smiled bitterly. She had long seen through their true colors, so she was not surprised. If they could abandon Deng Wenwen, what else could they look forward to now? Xi Xinyi could not wait to cast this side of the family away, especially since Yue Lingsi was also crippled now.

When she saw the sadness in Xi Xiaye's smile, Mu Lingshi sighed to herself and said softly, "Sis-in-law, if you're done paying your respects, then let's go home. It's a little chilly here. Brother is very worried about you."

"You all go down and wait for me. I want to be myself for a while. Just get Ah Mo to stay back. There are still some things I need to settle," Xi Xiaye said softly.

When Mu Lingshi heard her request, she subconsciously turned to Ah Mo beside her. When Ah Mo gave her a reassuring gaze, she then nodded to Xi Xiaye. "Okay then, Sis-in-law, don't be too down. While one passes as the light goes out, pray that she'll enter paradise sooner."

Xi Xiaye acknowledged her comforting words. Then, Mu Lingshi then went down with the row of people. Ji Zitong did not leave, still holding up the large black umbrella for Xi Xiaye.

Ah Mo did not know how to console her either. He thought about it then said, "My condolences, Missus. Master says to not be too sad. This is all just a moment for everyone's release. With Madam Deng's passing, some grudges can also go with her. This is a good thing. For Madam Deng, this would be the best place to return to."

Xi Xiaye smiled calmly and nodded. "Don't worry. I know. Actually, from the moment she said sorry, perhaps everyone should have felt a little relieved. I just hope that she'll do well over there."

As Xi Xiaye said this, she suddenly reached into her pocket and whipped a key out. She handed it to Ah Mo.

"This is the key to her safe deposit box. There are some things inside... Just donate it all in her name to a charity organization or orphanage." Xi Xiaye just casually tossed the key as Ah Mo caught it by reflex.

"Missus, this is what Madam Deng left for..." Ah Mo looked hesitantly at Xi Xiaye, not immediately taking it.

"We don't need these things. Just consider it as gaining karma for her. In this lifetime... Let's hope she lives in an ordinary family in the next lifetime. Perhaps she'll be happier."

Ah Mo's gaze dimmed. After that, he nodded. He wanted to say something when he suddenly heard some footsteps from behind him. So did Xi Xiaye, and the few of them turned to look at the source of the sound.

Unexpectedly, it was Qi Lei!

With his handsome face and his slightly demonic charm from his tall figure, he held a bouquet of white daisies in his hand as he walked towards them in huge strides.

Chapter 616. Baby Boy or Baby Girl? (1)

When he saw Qi Lei's figure, Ah Mo's expression shifted. Vigilance flashed in Ji Zitong's eyes as she looked at Ah Mo.

The two of them exchanged a look, and then their eyes were fixed on Qi Lei who walked over in huge strides.

Qi Lei did not seem to notice their gazes. He stopped casually beside Xi Xiaye.

"I thought that the person handling her funeral would be Xi Xinyi, but it turned out to be you."

Qi Lei set the flowers down before Deng Wenwen's tombstone. He straightened up as he spoke with a smile curved on his lips, "I heard that the Han family has been busy organizing a banquet recently. With this unexpected development, they have to pick a new date."

Xi Xiaye did not respond and just laughed mockingly.

"She's plotted and struggled all her life, but this is how it ends. It's quite a tragic way to end her life. Nonetheless, I do have to thank her. If it weren't for her, I wouldn't have known you. If I agreed to her request then, how do you think things would turn out now?" Qi Lei spoke plainly. His expression did not change and his tone was devoid of any emotion.

"I wouldn't know what would happen either, but I do know that I'm not a fool who'll be manipulated."

At this moment, Xi Xiaye sighed to herself too. If it were not for her, she would not have gotten married to Mu Yuchen. Whatever it was, this was all just fate and chance.

After that, she added, "Thank you for coming."

Qi Lei smiled as he shrugged. "How rare of you to thank me."

He thought about it. The scene of his conversation with Mu Yuchen on the rooftop flashed in his mind again. The curve on his lips widened and he looked amusedly at her elegant face. His gaze made Xi Xiaye frown slightly.

"Did you tell Mu Yuchen that I was a good person?"

His mocking voice was teasing. When he looked around and did not see Mu Yuchen, he asked curiously, "Where's he? Didn't he come with you?"

Xi Xiaye glanced at him indifferently. "If you were a good person, then there would be no bad people on this Earth!"

Qi lei laughed out loud before he replied nonchalantly, "You're a woman who doesn't say what she thinks! Even Mu Yuchen gave me a positive assessment!"

Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes at him. She took the flowers against her chest, and then put it on the tombstone. Just as she was about to turn and leave, Qi Lei reached out to stop her. When Ji Zitong saw his attempt, she immediately went up and blocked him.

"Okay, okay, is it that bad telling the truth?" Qi Lei took a step back and said helplessly, "The 15th of next month is my mother's 55th birthday. The Qi family will be organizing a banquet. I hope that you two can come over and support them. You will help me with this, won't you?"

The internal state of Qi Kai Corporation was in turmoil. The sly fox Qi Qiming had done many things secretly whenever Wang Qin relaxed these past few years, so many people were now on his side, while the strength on Wang Qin's side had weakened quite a bit. Since he had decided to fight for certain things, now would be the time to take action.

Glory World and Qi Kai were in a partnership. In fact, Qi Lei was in charge of this project. On the surface, they looked like partners, but Mu Yuchen's tricks ran deeper. He would not take it easy on the surface. Nevertheless, in the dark, if that was so, why would he not just give Mu Yuchen some face? After all, Mu Yuchen himself had acknowledged that they could be collaborators!

Was he preparing for a rainy day?

Qi Lei was not a fool and would take advantage whenever he could!

The key right now was how to make his way into the higher management of Qi Kai. Even though he held the position as the Deputy CEO, Qi Qiming did not assign him any huge project responsibilities. Even in the South River project, he was just there as a designation. He did not know when Qi Qiming would remove him from it.

That was why he had been thinking of finding a new way out, and that was the collaboration between Fuhua Real Estate and Glory World. That would be an excellent chance for him. Of course, this chance must be personally invited by the CEO of Fuhua and supported by Mu Yuchen of Glory World before he could rise.

Qi Qiming did not even take him into account since he was busy fighting with Wang Qin. They both wanted their own people to get this project. If he wanted to emerge as a new force to be reckoned with, he could only accept Mu Yuchen's suggestion.

Wang Qin's birthday banquet?

Xi Xiaye frowned in surprise. She could not help but feel puzzled. If she remembered correctly, word around the circle was that Wang Qin never liked such occasions, so why would she suddenly organize a birthday banquet this time?

She chose her words carefully, and then suppressed her puzzlement before responding, "He's abroad and might only be back in a month or two."

"Abroad?"

Qi Lei frowned at Xi Xiaye. Moments later, he said, "No worries. You can come over too. Don't worry. I'll watch over you. Just help me out. I'll send the invitation out in a few days."

Xi Xiaye wanted to reject him, but when she thought about the working relationship of their two companies, she answered, "I'll do my best to make the arrangements."

"Thanks!"

With Qi Lei's word, Xi Xiaye walked ahead and Ji Zitong quickly followed after her.

While Ah Mo used his sharp and deep gaze to examine Qi Lei, the latter very calmly swung his arms and let Ah Mo size him up.

After a while, Ah Mo looked away and then followed her without a word.

Deng Wenwen's passing felt like a small episode as it did not cause too much of a storm. The Han family and Xi Xinyi were busy preparing for the banquet. Meanwhile, on Xi Xiaye's end, Deng Wenwen's passing made her upset. Only after three days, a piece of good news brought her out of her gloomy haze.

On this day, Xi Xiaye was at the hospital for a check-up. When she thought about how Su Nan was waiting for delivery there, she went looking for her. Unexpectedly, she was told that Su Nan had undergone labor that morning, and before the sun had even risen, she was wheeled into the delivery room.

She was about to give birth!

This news flashed in Xi Xiaye's mind. She was overjoyed and quickly found the operating theatre with Ji Zitong.

As she stepped out of the elevator, she could see Ruan Heng's family from afar and Mother Su waiting outside the operation room!

They all looked rather worried. Ruan Heng was pacing back and forth uneasily whilst his eyes never left the tightly shut doors to the operating theatre.

When he saw Xi Xiaye, Ruan Heng was naturally shocked.

"Xiaye, why are you here?"

"Coincidentally, I came over today for a check-up. I wanted to visit Nannan, but the doctor unexpectedly told me that Nannan's about to deliver today, so I rushed over to have a look. How's she right now?"

Chapter 617. Baby Boy or Baby Girl? (2)

Xi Xiaye greeted Ruan Heng's parents with a nod as she walked towards Su Nan's mother.

"It's slightly earlier than expected, but thanks to the doctor's reminder, we're quite prepared. She's already been inside for several hours, but there's no news at all!" Ruan Heng was worried.

"Trust the doctors. Nannan has been taking care of herself, and she'll have a smooth delivery."

Su Nan's mother looked at Ruan Heng peculiarly. All the new fathers acted similarly. Su Nan's father was like that back then too.

Xi Xiaye smiled. Suddenly, there was a sound coming from the operating theatre, They looked over as the doors swung open. The doctor and the nurses wheeled Su Nan out with one of the nurses holding a baby.

Ruan Heng rushed towards the bed as he asked, "Doctor, how's my wife?"

"Congratulations! Both your wife and your daughter are safe! Your wife is very weak now and she needs rest, so let's send her to the ward first."

Everyone was relieved although Ruan Heng was heartbroken to see Su Nan lying on the bed in exhaustion. He held her hands. "Thank you, Nannan. Rest well now. I'll be staying with you!"

Xi Xiaye's smile grew wider. She let the couple have some time together as she went nearer to the nurse to take a look at the baby instead.

The baby still could not open her eyes yet while she was still clenching her fists. Indeed, she was a cute little thing.

Life was truly amazing. A little baby like this would turn into a beauty in the future!

Xi Xiaye smiled and poked the baby's cheek carefully. The light inside her heart was getting stronger.

It would be her turn in a few months' time.

Soon after they got into the ward, Ruan Heng let his father, who had been worrying the whole morning, go home first. Su Nan woke up moments later. She looked at the people around and her first reaction was to look for her child. Ruan Heng quickly gestured to his mother carry the baby over.

While the child was born earlier than expected, she was pretty healthy as a whole.

"Xiaye, why are you here as well?" Su Nan played with her daughter for a while as she looked at Xi Xiaye joyfully.

"Xiaye was here way before this," Ruan Heng told her.

"I'm glad that both of you are safe. The child is adorable. Have you thought of a name for her?" Xi Xiaye closed in cheerfully. Su Nan looked much gentler than before now that she had become a mother and had adopted her maternal instincts. It was a surprising sight to see.

Su Nan raised her eyebrows and looked at Ruan Heng. "I've never really thought about a name. Can we name her something flashy?"

Ruan Heng gave it some thought. "I can't think of anything now. Give it a few days and let me think properly!"

"Never mind. I'll come up with one on my own." Su Nan glanced at her daughter before raising her head. She looked over Xi Xiaye who was framed by the warm sun outside the window. An idea flashed through her mind. "I got it! We'll call her Ruan Chenxi, bright and hopeful, meaning a brand new hope. How does that sound?"

They repeated the name several times and found it pleasant, thus their daughter was christened Ruan Chenxi. Her nickname would be Xiao Xi.

Xi Xiaye sent Mu Yuchen a text message by the corridor to share the good news with him and she unexpectedly received a phone call from him.

When she returned to the room, the child was gone with the nurse. Both the parents to Ruan Heng and Su Nan had gone back as well while Ruan Heng went to get some food for Su Nan.

"Xiaye, come here!"

Su Nan pointed to a seat beside her, signalling Xi Xiaye to sit down, Xi Xiaye nodded and went over.

Su Nan grabbed Xi Xiaye's hand. "I heard about what happened to Deng Wenwen. Don't feel too sad since it's all in the past now. Maybe things will calm down with her absence. You handled her funeral, didn't you? Where's Xi Xinyi? She benefitted so much from Deng Wenwen, but she didn't even try to do anything for her?"

Su Nan felt unjust for Xi Xiaye. She had been ostracized by Deng Wenwen, yet she was the one that had helped to arrange her funeral.

Xi Xiaye patted Su Nan's hand. "It's alright. Mu Yuchen asked Ah Mo to handle the funeral. I didn't really do anything apart from attending it. It's my father's responsibility, so we can't avoid it. With him around, I don't really need to worry much."

That man was observant and detail-oriented. Most of the time, he was well-prepared in advance way before she even needed to ask him for it. Xi Xiaye only realized yesterday that he had been keeping an eye on the rehabilitation center. She should be the one taking care of things here with Xi Mushan not around at that moment. Still, when Deng Wenwen passed away, he already knew about it before she called him and he had also given orders to handle her funeral immediately right after.

Su Nan nodded. "True enough. It seems like I don't need to worry about you then! Xiaye, without Master Mu around, you have to take care of yourself. You look like you've lost weight recently. I'll ask my mother to make you some soup every day. Your office isn't that far away from here anyway."

"It's fine, Nannan. My mother-in-law and grandmother-in-law are working on that. I've been consuming a lot of tonics too. For some reason, I'm just not gaining weight although the little thing inside is getting bigger." Xi Xiaye smiled.

"Your baby must be very strong. It sucked all the nutrients away from you. You might be giving birth to a strong genius baby! The possibility is very high with genes from Master Mu. Oh, you have to give birth to a boy, so that my daughter can marry him!" Su Nan teased.

"A boy? He always said it's going to be a girl. Hmm, it feels like he doesn't really like boys."

"I bet he's just worried that the child will get more attention than him. The same genders repel each other. Haven't you heard of that before?"

Su Nan assumed she was an expert about man, she immediately voiced out her opinion.

Xi Xiaye was at a loss for words. Moments later, she raised her eyebrows. "What kind of comment is that? The same-gender-repels thing can't be used on father and son, can it? He's not that kind of person, so why would he think about that?"

"You have to listen to me! You'll find out soon enough after you give birth to your son! I'm pretty sure that's going to happen!" Su Nan sounded confident.

Chapter 618. Han Family's Invitation

Xi Xiaye stayed with Su Nan until noon before leaving the hospital. Right after that, she went straight to the office.

She received a call from her assistant, Xiao Mei, the moment she arrived at the company, informing her that Wang Hui had come over. Xi Xiaye was surprised and she quickly made her way into Mu Yuchen's office. Of course, there was a resting room where she would usually spend her time at noon.

"Grandmother, what brings you here?"

Xi Xiaye saw Wang Hui sitting on the sofa from afar. Sis Wang was beside her, holding a food container. They were probably here to deliver lunch to her.

Wang Hui quickly went up to her when she heard Xi Xiaye's voice. "I'm just here to check on you. I heard from Sis Wang that your appetite hasn't been great. Your mother and I thought about it and made you some soup."

"I'm alright, Grandmother. You guys don't have to worry about me. Sis Wang is doing an amazing job taking care of me. Come on, let's head inside." Xi Xiaye then took out the key card. She swiped it and entered the password before opening the door.

They went inside, and Sis Wang prepared the food on the table before leaving the room.

"Let's eat. I'll have some with you."

Zhuang Shurong and Wang Hui visited her frequently, and they would bring her food or some kind of snacks. Xi Xiaye knew very well they were aware of her poor appetite and were trying to do something.

Xi Xiaye drank a bowl of soup quickly and asked, "What soup is this? This tastes delicious."

"Your mother made it for you, but I didn't ask her about it. She's pretty busy at work and didn't really spend much time taking care of you. While she never says it out loud, everyone knows that she cares. Do you think she's very strict?"

Wang Hui smiled at Xi Xiaye. She was pretty fond of her daughter-in-law, Zhuang Shurong. However, due to her career, she always looked serious and emanated a stern aura around her. Deep down, she was a very kind lady, but Wang Hui was worried that Xi Xiaye might not be used to her.

Xi Xiaye smiled as well as she got herself another bowl of soup. "Not really. I think Mother is really kind. She's even nicer to me than to Mu Yuchen. I noticed she's pretty easygoing. However, I do feel that..."

"Ah Chen's relationship with his parents is kind of cold?" Wang Hui interrupted Xi Xiaye before she could finish her sentence.

Xi Xiaye nodded sheepishly. "Yeah, I asked him before. He said they just don't spend much time together."

"That's true. Ah Chen has been very independent from an early age. He went to boarding school at a very young age. I'm sure you know about his best friends. The Sus, the Zhous, and the Mus were in the same military area back then. We moved away separately afterward, and all of us kept in contact. All of us unified together and decided to let them attend military school," Wang Hui said.

"Ah Chen's personality is similar to his parents'. I've been thinking of talking to you about this. He really listens to you, so I hope you can help smoothen their relationship. Think of it as a request of mine."

Xi Xiaye smiled. "Well, he respects Father and Mother a lot. He just doesn't know how to express himself well, but maybe it'll get better if we go home more frequently."

"Things are getting better ever since he married you. Back in the days, Ah Chen never liked to come home and he rarely spoke, but he's made a lot of changes now. Alright, you should quickly eat. How's the taste?"

"It's tasty. You should have some too," Xi Xiaye replied. She felt a warmth inside her heart as she poured Wang Hui a bowl of soup as well.

"Has Ah Chen been calling you every day? What a bad time to be busy now. It'll probably be difficult for you to move around when he gets back."

"It's alright, Grandmother. I know a lot of pregnant ladies who still worked when they were 9 months pregnant. I'm not a precious little lady..."

"That's them. What do you mean by not precious? You're the most precious lady in the Mu family now! Don't go easy on Ah Chen. Get him to do whatever you want to. Having him serve his wife is training as well. Women are meant to give them face on the outside, so they should be treated like a queen at home. Your grandfather never dared to bully me, and your father is very gentle as well."

Wang Hui was teaching Xi Xiaye some skills to tame her husband, but Xi Xiaye looked at her in surprise. "Grandmother, Mu Yuchen told me about Grandfather and you as well as Father and Mother. Actually, I'm really envious of their relationship. They are very polite to each other."

"Sure, they look polite, but it's another story when they are behind closed doors. They are very much comparable to you youngsters. Didn't you notice that your father would bring your mother everywhere he goes? You need to think of a way to make Ah Chen want to bring you everywhere he goes." Wang Hui squinted at Xi Xiaye. She then remembered her mother-in-law had advised her that as well when she first married into the Mu family.

Xi Xiaye's heart softened as she chuckled a little. When she was about to say something, there was a knock on the door, so the two of them looked over.

"Director Xi!" Xiao Mei came in and quickly greeted her when she saw Wang Hui, "Hello, Elder Madam!"

Wang Hui nodded without saying anything.

Xi Xiaye wiped her mouth with a tissue before asking Xiao Mei, "What's the matter?"

Xiao Mei looked at them hesitantly before she opened her folder and handed her a red invitation card. "Secretary Wang from the Han Corporation just delivered an invitation card. They invited Chairman Mu and you to attend the young master Han's full moon celebration. Here..."

"Full moon celebration?" Xi Xiaye was stunned for a moment. With a slight frown, she opened it and noticed the date was in three days.

No one from the Han family attended Deng Wenwen's funeral since they were busy planning for this full moon celebration. Obviously, they took Deng Wenwen lightly.

Xi Xiaye put on a cold smile before closing the invitation card.

Wang Hui did not say anything and just stared at Xi Xiaye intently.

Chapter 619. DNA Report (1)

Xi Xiaye left the invitation card aside as she gave it some consideration. Moments later, she looked at Xiao Mei and said, "Send them a gift on behalf of Chairman Mu and I."

She did not plan to go at all, but since the invitation mentioned Mu Yuchen, that was her conclusion after careful consideration.

Xiao Mei nodded. "Noted, Director Xi."

As she was about to leave, Xi Xiaye suddenly said, "Wait."

Xiao Mei stopped and turned around. "Is there anything else?"

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath before she continued, "Prepare another gift as well. Deliver it on behalf of my father."

Xiao Mei was stunned for a moment, but she quickly nodded immediately. "Okay!" Then, she left swiftly.

Wang Hui smiled and gave her an impressed expression. "You're really nice to your father. If others were in your shoes, I'm sure they'd hate your father, but I'm glad that you're able to be so lenient. At least, this tells me you're a kind person."

Wang Hui took a deep breath. "Even family relationships should be carefully considered. Know your limits and give up on those that you can't keep as long as you maintain kind intentions."

Xi Xiaye nodded. When she saw the hesitation in Wang Hui's eyes, she was instantly reminded of Mu Yuchen and Mu Lingtian.

She did not know what to answer. After remaining silent for a while, she then replied, "I understand, Grandmother. There are some things in life that are hard to give up, even more so when it's the people that have given me life. My parents are in love with each other, and they've wasted two decades without each other by their sides. If my forgiveness can give them a chance to be together again, why shouldn't I? Mu Yuchen always told me that my EQ is pretty low and that I'm bad at judging people. He said I don't really have to overthink things. If things are better after I've done something, then the decision is right."

Wang Hui smiled at her. "That's it! Ah Chen is probably like his father. He'll lecture you from time to time."

Xi Xiaye returned a smile and continued eating.

The weather became colder. She felt a chill when she woke up the next morning. Several yellowish leaves fell by the roadside as a strong wind had blown through.

City Z was not as cold as the north. Even if it were winter, the trees there would still be mostly green.

Ah Mo was not in the mood to look at the autumn scenery so early in the morning. He walked past the corridor and arrived at a quiet corner in Hospital T.

There was a person wearing a white robe there.

The doctor had been waiting for Ah Mo's arrival, and he greeted warmly even before Ah Mo came close, "Good morning, Mr. Mo!"

Ah Mo nodded humbly as he gave a quiet reply, "Morning, Chief Wang! Have you been waiting?"

Chief Wang smiled. "I've just arrived. It must be tough for you to be here this early in the morning! I've just finished an operation and I'm going abroad later. That's why I called you here."

He then handed a document to Ah Mo.

"Are the results out?" Ah Mo's heart trembled slightly when he saw the document handed over to him. Suddenly, he felt a little afraid to grab it as if he was afraid of the test results.

"Yes, they came out yesterday. I verified it myself. No one will know about this."

Chief Wang did not notice Ah Mo's odd reaction because his eyes were focused on the document.

Ah Mo hesitated for a moment before reaching out for it.

"The results are unexpected. I wonder..." Chief Wang said out of curiosity, but when he saw Ah Mo's slightly threatening eyes, he did not continue his question and just smiled slightly.

Ah Mo did not open it instantly. Instead, he looked at Chief Wang. "The secrecy of this matter has to be ensured. You'll forget about this after I leave. Don't ask anything you shouldn't, and don't try to find out what it is either. Do you understand?"

Chief Wang nodded. "Yes, I know. Don't worry. I'll be heading back now. Give me a call if you have any questions."

"Thank you, Chief Wang!" "It's just a small matter. I still owe you." Chief Wang smiled before leaving. Ah Mo left quickly and got into the car. "Let's go." Sitting in the front passenger seat, Ah Mo opened the folder and took the test results out. Then, he started reading it. When he saw the results, his strained expression softened a little. Soon, it turned into a doubtful look, and then he seemed serious. How could it be? Ah Mo's expression darkened. It felt impossible. He looked at the results several times before putting it back. He took his phone out and called Mu Yuchen who was now on the other side of the globe. At the same time, on the balcony of a presidential suite in a hotel in New York. Mu Yuchen was resting on a rattan chair while Zhou Zimo was lying down beside him. There was a small coffee table between them, and a pot of freshly brewed tea with two teacups.

Zhou Zimo was aware of what had happened to Shen Wenna. Back then, when Mu Yuchen got married, he had seen her before. She carried a similar aura to Xi Xiaye, but there were also some differences between them.

Zhou Zimo closed the document in his hand as he looked at the sun. He stretched his back and sipped some tea before turning towards Mu Yuchen. "We're heading to Los Angeles in a few days. Aren't your

in-laws are there? How're Teacher Shen's eyes?"

"The operation is complete. She'll need some time for observation after removing the bandages. I'll go take a look at them this time around."

"You're pretty nice to them."

"It's part of my responsibility." Mu Yuchen's phone started vibrating as he spoke, and he slowly picked it up.

Chapter 620. DNA Report (2)

"It's me." In a low voice, Ah Mo's hand that held onto the document folder subconsciously tightened.

Ah Mo took a deep breath, and then said softly, "Master, the DNA results are out."

When he heard the report, a light flashed in Mu Yuchen's eyes. He lifted a hand to prop his head up as he asked calmly, "What do they say?"

Mu Yuchen did not reveal any emotions and his expression remained calm.

"It's a little complicated. Perhaps, it was as you had guessed. The DNA test proves that Qi Qiming and Lingshi aren't father and daughter, but..." Ah Mo paused, frowning even deeper.

"Master, if it's not him, then all our clues from before... I'm afraid they were all wrong, so all our guesses are disproved, and..."

"Send the results to me." Mu Yuchen did not say anything further and just hung up.

Zhou Zimo could vaguely guess something had happened just sitting beside him. He asked in concern, "What's up? Have you found out? Is it really Qi Qiming?"

Mu Yuchen's calm, handsome expression started to shift. "I feel thankful, yet I have a headache. Her biological father is confirmed not to be Qi Qiming."

"It's not? Who could it be then?"

When Zhou Zimo heard this, he was shocked as well. Actually, he had pretty much set his mind on the person being Qi Qiming because if he was, then it could explain all of the things that had happened!

"Didn't we already confirm that Mr. Wen is Qi Qiming?" Zhou Zimo looked at Mu Yuchen in puzzlement.

Mu Yuchen sighed. He took his tea and dragged a sip. Quickly, he returned to his steady calmness. "Later, Ah Mo will send the report to me. If it's not him, then that'd be right. If he was, I'd be at a loss instead."

"What do you mean by that?" Zhou Zimo had been Mu Yuchen's buddy for 30 years, so he could quickly catch onto what Mu Yuchen was trying to imply.

"I seem to have gotten a clue. If it is as I've guessed, then I can only say that this lake is deep, and that Qi Qiming is just a chess piece."

Mu Yuchen's handsome face flashed with a thoughtful smile. The faint light in his eyes was bright and wise. "That person probably wouldn't have thought that I'd suspect Qi Qiming so quickly and check for Qi Qiming and Lingshi's DNA. Well, at least, he wouldn't suspect it before Lu Xinlan's death."

When he heard this, Zhou Zimo could roughly grasp what he meant. "You're saying that the person intentionally set a huge trap up to bring your attention to Qi Qiming, letting you know that this Qi Qiming is Mr. Wen. However, they didn't think that you'd investigate Lingshi and Qi Qiming's relationship at the same time. This person must know a lot about your past with the Qi family. In fact, they must have some kind of grudge with Qi Qiming and want to use you to..."

"If this hypothesis stands, then the Mr. Wen that Xiaye met back then in the tunnel was probably not Qi Qiming himself. Instead, it was that person, or someone that person had sent. The incident at the banquet... This person probably didn't expect that there'd be variables, and that variable was..."

"Was Lu Xinlan! He definitely didn't expect that Lu Xinlan would return now. Coincidentally, you found out about Lu Xinlan and Aunt Zixi's relationship. You investigated Aunt Zixi's matters through her, and

then implicated Qi Qiming, obviously exposing Mr. Wen." Zhou Zimo's brows had furrowed into a knot, and then he chuckled gleefully at someone else's misfortune. "This person was too smart for his own good. He wanted to use Qi Qiming, yet unexpectedly it implicated the previous incidents and exposed himself instead."

"Yes, if everything happened too smoothly. It would be suspicious. Initially, we both had different starting points. He just wanted to use the incident from five years ago to kick a fuss," Mu Yuchen said thoughtfully.

"But this is just a guess. If we are wrong, then Qi Qiming is still the most probable suspect."

"No. Right now, I can basically be sure that the entire thing is being manipulated by one person. You know my intuition has always been quite spot-on," Mu Yuchen said calmly.

"Well, if it's as you had guessed, who would that person be? Could it be Qi Feng? I knew that he was probably not dead. In fact, Gu Lingsha has returned to City B. Qi Feng has probably long returned to City Z and is in hiding. He's in the dark while we're out in the light. Does he want to fool us?"

Zhou Zimo was extremely puzzled as he found the whole thing unimaginable. He thought about it and said, "That can't be right. Qi Qiming wants to let Qi Feng inherit Qi Kai. Qi Feng had no reason to trap his old man either, did he? Besides, that Qi Qiming isn't a fool. He would've noticed if Qi Feng was using him. There shouldn't be any bad blood between him and Qi Qiming. For him, Qi Qiming is fighting to the death with his wife. Even his other biological son was neglected, wouldn't this be too outrageous?"

The more he pondered over it, the more Zhou Zimo found it confusing while Mu Yuchen's eyes began to turn rather unfathomable.

"Perhaps it is always the seemingly unbelievable things that are the truth. Okay, let's not talk about these things anymore. Just pretend you didn't hear everything I said today. I've always been the one moving the chess pieces, and not being the chess piece. Now, I'd like to try this chess piece in hiding. See if I can win by a surprise move."

Mu Yuchen did not continue and returned to his usual calmness as he lowered his head to drink his tea.

"Whoever tries to get into a battle of the wits and bravery with you will only meet misfortune! I'll just wait for a good show then. I heard you've taken down Qi Lei, haven't you?"

Zhou Zimo did not continue asking and gaped at him in amusement instead. "Qi Lei's an arrogant and stubborn one. If you can get him on our side, then whether it's Qi Qiming or Qi Feng, he'll be a good chess piece for us. Of course, there are no chess pieces on our end, only buddies and friends. He's actually a pretty decent guy and is someone worth befriending."

Mu Yuchen looked up at him from his cup and said, "It looks like you regard him quite highly too."

Zhou Zimo raised his brows with a smile. "I did have some dealings with him before. He looks like a player from the outside, but underneath, he's actually quite the character. Only you probably know that he's loyal to Gu Lingsha. All these years, he never seemed to have changed. You actually dared to collaborate with such a dangerous person! Shouldn't I be admiring your bravery and guts? Aren't you worried that taking this risk would instead...?"

"I believe him, but I believe my own judgment even more!" Mu Yuchen's tone was firm and resounding, leaving no room for doubt.