

Loving 71

Chapter 71. Meeting Parents (2)

The next morning, Xi Xiaye had woken up snuggled in a bundle of warmth. She noticed the night before that when she was falling asleep, she was engulfed with a source of warmth from the back. Out of habit, she ruffled her hair and turned over slightly to see that the man still had his eyes closed and was sleeping very peacefully.

She took a deep breath, rubbed the sleep out of her eyes, and after a while, she gently moved his hands that held her by the waist away. Then, she carefully got down from the bed.

For the past two days, he had been sleeping late and waking up early, so he was pretty worn out. Xi Xiaye took a look at the time by the bedside and realized that it was 6.30 a.m. on the dot, so she did not wake him up.

After she washed up, she walked downstairs to make breakfast.

When it came to breakfast, Xi Xiaye's culinary skills were so-so. She did not know how to make that much. All those Western breakfasts or whatnot were too complicated and she had no idea how to prepare all those.

She only knew how to cook porridge and fry some eggs or cook some simple salted vegetables.

When she was done preparing breakfast, it was past 7 a.m. By the time she returned to the bedroom and wanted to wake Mu Yuchen up, the man had already made the bed and was about to go downstairs. He saw Xiaye fidgeting in front of the wardrobe, so he reached out to pick a light beige spring outfit out for her.

"This one."

"This one? Is it suitable?"

Xi Xiaye took it and tried to see how it looked on her. She noticed that he had dressed as usual that day in a silver-grey casual suit.

Mu Yuchen took a look at her gaunt body and nodded gently.

“Actually, I quite like this color too. This is it then.” Xi Xiaye was quite straightforward as she picked the clothes up and walked towards the bathroom.

A while after that, she changed and walked downstairs. Mu Yuchen was already sitting relaxed by the dining table, reading the newspapers as he ate his breakfast.

Xi Xiaye, who was having her porridge, suddenly looked up at him and asked softly, “Have you prepared everything?”

“Ah Mo has already prepared them yesterday and put them in the car. Anyway, they don’t care about those things, so you don’t have to be nervous. The ones that should be nervous are them. Plus, with me around, what are you so worried about?” Mu Yuchen did not even look up as he said plainly.

“Who says I’m nervous? I’m not. If there’s anything that’s inappropriate, you’ll be the embarrassed one,” Xi Xiaye replied a little sulkily.

Mu Yuchen looked up at her, the smile on his face a little freaky. “If you really think so, then that means that your self-consciousness is rather high.”

Xi Xiaye shot him a side look. She was too lazy to argue with him.

After breakfast, the husband and wife duo left the house. Xiaye drove his Porsche.

Initially, Mu Yuchen had already sat in the driver’s seat, but she had pushed him to sit in the front passenger seat instead. He complied since he knew that even though this woman looked gentle and indifferent, she was actually quite ambitious and unwilling to admit defeat.

The car sped out of the Grand Waves Villa area and drove on the highway that led straight to the airport.

In the car, Mu Yuchen leaned back comfortably while listening to the music as his well-manicured nails tapped on his knees to the beat. He seemed to be in a pretty jovial mood.

“When’s the company going on a break this year? The New Year this year seems to have been pushed back later than the ones in the past. It’s best to decide when the break is earlier. After all, the employees need to make their travel arrangements,” Xi Xiaye suddenly piped up.

“Next week, we’ll have work for another week. The Publicity Department has already made the announcements. After the New Year, we’ll be doing some staff restructuring. Do prepare your department for it,” Mu Yuchen reminded plainly.

“Restructuring? Didn’t we just do that?” Xi Xiaye gave him a questioning look.

“The company has had quite a few projects after the New Year and I’ve already brought people back from France to assign to those projects. Naturally, some people need to be redeployed.”

“Mmm, got it. I’ll just wait for the arrangements from the human resources department.”

...

When the car ambled into the carpark, the time was 8.30 a.m. on the dot.

They got down from the car, then the husband and wife walked towards the arrival gate.

On that cold morning, many people had come to greet others at the airport.

However, both of them had taken the special lane for VIPs. They had just taken a few steps when Zhuang Shurong called Mu Yuchen, saying that she had already landed and was making her way out.

Xi Xiaye did not say anything along the way. She just followed Mu Yuchen.

They walked for about 10 meters when they could vaguely hear the urgent and resounding pad of footsteps on the walkway. Xi Xiaye subconsciously looked up and saw that ahead, there were a few figures walking very quickly towards them.

At a closer look, she could see clearly the people who were directly across them.

The leading person was a middle-aged woman in a black power suit. Her elegant and exquisite face vaguely held hints of a strict vigor and between her brows a firm heroic spirit was revealed. Her every move revealed an indescribable calm and dignity while her gaze was very incisive and threatening.

She was very breathtaking with an extraordinary grace. You could tell that when she was younger, she must have been a beauty. In fact, her looks seemed to be quite similar to the man beside Xi Xiaye who could almost immediately figure out the identity of this middle-aged woman.

Behind her, she was followed by some younger men and women. Their mannerisms showed that they were her subordinates.

When she saw the woman marching towards him resolutely, Mu Yuchen stopped mid-step and held Xi Xiaye's hand.

"This case has to be done in order. There's no way of me accommodating from my end. Let him understand the situation from Bureau Chief Zhao. Just reply him like that. If he's got any problems, ask him to speak to me personally," commanded the woman. Then, she closed the document before handing it to the man beside her. "Okay, all of you go home first. We'll discuss anything else tomorrow."

"Okay, Chief Zhuang!"

The few people behind her responded respectfully, then they very quickly held back their steps to let Zhuang Shurong go first.

Chapter 72. Meeting Parents (3)

"Have you been waiting for long?"

Zhuang Shurong took huge strides towards Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye. When her sharp eyes saw the two of them, she seemed to have eased a little from earlier. She took a look at Mu Yuchen, then her gaze stopped on Xi Xiaye who was beside Mu Yuchen.

Xi Xiaye was startled. Mu Yuchen could feel that her hand that he held in his was trembling slightly. He turned to look at her then to Zhuang Shurong and said softly, "We've just arrived too. Xiaye, this is Mother."

Xi Xiaye then bent over slightly to bow. She said softly, "Mother, nice to meet you. I'm Xi Xiaye."

Zhuang Shurong's keen eyes sized Xi Xiaye up twice as her expression remained calm. After quite a while, something flashed in her eyes. She then asked, "Xi Xiaye? You're Shen Wenna's daughter, aren't you?"

Xi Xiaye nodded. Previously, Wang Hui had mentioned that her mother seemed to have had met Mu Yuchen's father before, so she did not find this odd.

"Mmm, you do look quite like her," Zhuang Shurong commented in a tone that seemed to carry hints of lament. She looked at Xi Xiaye for quite a while again before she continued, "Okay, let's go home first. You take this."

Something red flashed before Xi Xiaye's eyes and a huge red packet appeared before her. She was stunned and almost did not react. It was Mu Yuchen who gently squeezed her cold hand before she snapped back to her senses.

"Thank you, Mother!" Xi Xiaye accepted it.

While Zhuang Shurong just nodded, and then walked ahead.

She inhaled a little before carefully turning to look at Mu Yuchen. She noticed that he seemed to look at her in a way like he was ready to watch her embarrass herself. Shooting him a mean look, she then flung his hand away.

“Right, Ah Chen, your father —”

Precisely at this moment, Zhuang Shurong who was walking ahead suddenly turned around, frightening Xi Xiaye. Her mind caught up with the scenario and she quickly grabbed Mu Yuchen’s huge hand—

Hopefully, Zhuang Shurong did not see anything!

To her chagrin, Zhuang Shurong’s intelligent eyes had quickly swept over Xi Xiaye. At that instant, Xi Xiaye had also lowered her head guiltily.

After that, Zhuang Shurong did not continue. She just looked up and fixed her eyes on Mu Yuchen for quite a while before she finally turned back around and walked ahead.

At that moment, Xi Xiaye felt a slight sense of relief. However, she could not help but feel upset.

“Enough, it’s best if you just expose your true self, so as to avoid frightening them in the future when you suddenly bare your fangs and brandish your claws! I’m guessing that your attack abilities aren’t too weak either! You don’t need to pretend to be such an obedient little wife. Mother’s a smart person. She can see through you with one look.” Mu Yuchen’s teasing voice suddenly appeared by her ear.

“Isn’t it all a result of your provocation? You clearly look like you’re waiting for me to be a laughing stock,” Xi Xiaye complained.

Mu Yuchen chuckled to himself, “I’m just observing your ability to adapt. My family’s temperament is all a little weird, so you have to adapt. As long as it’s not a matter of principle, it should be quite easy for you to get along with them.”

“Hey, Mu Yuchen, you and your mother...”

“Again, when it comes to the communication barriers, speaking less is best. Understand?” Mu Yuchen said casually, coping with the ever-shifting events by sticking to a fundamental principle. That was always his best trick.

Xi Xiaye suddenly looked at him with interest. She lowered her voice and said softly, "Were you very afraid of your parents when you were younger and were always controlled?"

Seeing Zhuang Shurong's imposing manner, she seemed like a strict disciplinarian from senior high school, the very kind that was hard to talk to.

"Father and Mother are very open-minded people. You'll slowly notice that later. There's no need to be too worried."

Xi Xiaye nodded, then she dragged Mu Yuchen to catch up with Zhuang Shurong's pace.

On the way back to the Mu residence, Mu Yuchen took the driver's seat while Xi Xiaye sat in the back with Zhuang Shurong.

"Has your mother been well recently? I haven't been in touch with her for quite some years now."

It was silent for quite a while. Then, Zhuang Shurong spoke up to break the silence first. She turned to look at Xi Xiaye.

"Pretty good. These few years, she's been all around writing up her academic reports, so she's just a little busy," answered Xi Xiaye.

"Mmm, a few years ago when I went to University A to speak, I went to her lab. This matter of you two getting married is very sudden. Is your mother still not aware of it?" Zhuang Shurong suddenly thought of this. She frowned as she looked Xi Xiaye, her beautiful eyes flashing. Her gaze fell onto Mu Yuchen who was driving up front.

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye was instantly stunned. She subconsciously looked up at Mu Yuchen in front too.

"Initially, we were planning to go and meet them over the weekend, then inform you guys, but Grandmother came over to Maple Residence in the middle of the night, so we had to change our plans."

“Marriage is such a huge matter. You two should’ve discussed it with the family first, Chen Er,” Zhuang Shurong chided as she frowned.

Chapter 73. Mu Residence

The atmosphere in the car turned heavy. Even Xi Xiaye had no idea how to reply.

“I’m the one getting married and I’m afraid that she might change her mind. Whether we discuss it or not, the end result will be the same.” Mu Yuchen’s calm voice came from the front after a brief moment.

Zhuang Shurong pinched the space between her eyebrows. “Chen, even if you’re not considerate about your parents and grandparents, I feel that you need to respect her family.”

“Mother, my grandpa and mother are pretty open-minded and I’m sure they won’t make things difficult for us. It’s I who...”

Xi Xiaye tried to defend Mu Yuchen, but he interrupted before she could finish her sentence, “That’s enough. We’re already married and that isn’t something we should be thinking of right now.”

Mu Yuchen was a person that placed a heavy focus on the future. He rarely thought about useless matters like looking into whose fault it was that caused past failures.

“Whatever. I can’t intervene your matters anyway, so do as you wish.” Zhuang Shurong seemed to have a headache when she looked at Mu Yuchen. She took a deep breath and leaned back in her seat as she closed her eyes to rest, seeming rather exhausted.

Things did not seem pleasant and Xi Xiaye could tell that Mu Yuchen’s relationship with his parents seemed odd.

It was the distance caused by being too modest with each other.

She looked at Mu Yuchen who was driving and found it uncomfortable when she saw a tint of coldness on his face.

She forced herself not to put too much thought into it. She turned over to Zhuang Shurong who had fallen asleep in exhaustion. For some reason, she saw a shadow of her mother Shen Wenna within her.

In her impression, her mother, Shen Wenna, was a lady that seemed strong and cold on the outside, but deep inside she was...

Zhuang Shurong pulled on her outfit unconsciously. Xi Xiaye silently bent over and pulled a thin blanket out from the drawer in front. She lay it open and covered Zhuang Shurong.

The sudden warmth made Zhuang Shurong open her eyes out of cautiousness.

Xi Xiaye was stunned and she froze, not saying anything and just pointing at the thin blanket. She then looked downwards and continued reading the fashion magazine on her lap.

Zhuang Shurong glanced at Xi Xiaye, her waist-length hair covering her pretty little face like a black waterfall. She seemed like a quiet and gentle girl.

In the end, she did not say anything and continued resting with her eyes closed.

The car traveled swiftly on the broad roads, going straight towards the mansion area in the north. Soon, they arrived before a grand mansion.

"We're here. Get down," Mu Yuchen parked the car and told Xi Xiaye in the back before stepping out of the car.

Zhuang Shurong woke up and disembarked quickly as well.

Mu Yuchen was already beside her when Xi Xiaye just came out of the car. He put a hand into his pocket and slung the other over Xi Xiaye's gaunt shoulder.

Xi Xiaye was stunned by the sudden weight over her shoulder. She glanced at the large hand and then stared at him, just letting him be when his expression seemed indifferent.

The Mu residence was a manor villa. However, it seemed to be quite old with a classic fusion of royal design from China and Europe. The light-colored fence was full of vines and one could see the beautiful house just by standing outside of the fence.

The entrance door was already open. Several servants by the door came and greeted them as they stepped out of the car.

“Madam! Master, Missus, welcome home!”

“Are they back?” Wang Hui’s familiar voice mixed with the servants’ passionate greeting. Before Xi Xiaye could react, his figure emerged from the house and behind him was the ex-chairman of Glory World Corporation, Mu Yinan. He seemed to be in a positive state. The man beside him was the one she had seen at the club the other day who looked very much like Mu Yuchen and seemed elegant. He was Mu Yuchen’s father, Mu Tangchuan.

The three of them stood by the entrance and looked at each other. They then turned to the couple with a smile on their faces.

Zhuang Shurong went to Mu Tangchuan’s side as he glanced at the housekeeper Uncle Fu who quickly went over and took the heavy briefcase from Zhuang Shurong.

“This is Grandfather whom you already know, and you’ve seen Grandmother before as well.” Mu Yuchen’s deep voice reminded Xi Xiaye to greet them.

Xi Xiaye’s face blushed as she bowed slightly and called out, “Hello, Grandfather and Grandmother!”

“Great! You finally brought her back. Look at how obedient this girl is! They look just like us back then, don’t they?” Wang Hui said cheerfully.

Mu Yinan smiled at Xi Xiaye kindly. He was no stranger to her. This young and beautiful girl was always a high performer and he recognized her abilities. He was fond of her personality as well and had longed for her to become his granddaughter-in-law for quite some time.

Now that he saw both of them standing next to each other, he really felt that they were fated to be together and he was very pleased about it. He then commented on his wife's statement, "Given how you look back then you weren't even half of what our granddaughter-in-law looks like. With your two pigtaileds and the way you were unsophisticated with such a scary personality, how can you still claim that you were on the same level as her?"

Mu Yinan seemed to lack the strictness he used to have in the office, shocking Xi Xiaye a little.

Wang Hui was almost triggered, but she endured it as Xi Xiaye was right there. She threw Mu Yinan a warning glare, then she smiled as she handed a red packet to Xi Xiaye. "I forgot about it the last time, so I'm making sure I give it to you this time. You both have to live together happily from now onwards, alright?"

She held Xi Xiaye's hands gently, making the young girl feel bashful. Xi Xiaye looked at Mu Yuchen and saw him casually raising his brows, so she turned back and nodded. "Thank you, Grandmother. We will."

Chapter 74. The Man Is A Top Student (1)

"You've seen Father the last time, and this is Mother here. Say hi to them!"

"Father, Mother..."

"Xiaye? That's a nice name. Did your Mother give you that name?" Mu Tangchuan's gentle voice reached her as she greeted them. There was a kind smile in his eye. He looked at Zhuang Shurong beside him and she nodded back to him.

"Mmm, Mother said she hoped for me to be like the clear night sky during the summer, so she gave me this name," Xi Xiaye replied.

Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong looked each other, then he smiled. "It sure sounds like your mother who'd say that."

"Alright, it's cold out here. Let's get inside. We're preparing lunch and it'll be ready soon. Your grandfather and I are cooking today. Lucky you!" Wang Hui nagged with a smile when she noticed the frigid wind breezing from outside.

The old couple had a lot of free time to spend after their retirement. They always stayed in the kitchen to hone their culinary skills, argue with each other from time to time, garden in the backyard, or just find someone to play a game of chess with.

With their practice day after day, their cooking soon reached another level and they were experts at it now.

The group walked into the residence.

Worried that Xi Xiaye might be bored, Wang Hui had Zhuang Shurong bring her upstairs after having a cup of tea in the living room. On the other hand, Mu Tangchuan summoned Mu Yuchen to the study room.

Mu Yuchen's room was the first room on the right across the big living room on the second floor.

A fragrant scent assaulted their nostrils as Zhuang Shurong opened the door. Xi Xiaye glanced inside and noticed that the style was similar to Maple Residence. It was a small room and the design was pretty much the same.

"Chen never liked people in his room, so we never changed the room style. It should be more celebrative, but I guess you youngsters don't really care."

Zhuang Shurong indicated for Xi Xiaye to go in and continued, "Take a look inside for yourself. You'll be staying here whenever you come back in the future. They've prepared clothing for you and some daily necessities inside the wardrobe. Just tell the servants if there's anything else you need. You're married into the Mu family and we're all with you, so you don't have to be too modest."

Zhuang Shurong's tone softened and she suddenly turned her head to the silent Xi Xiaye. "Since Chen picked you himself, we don't have anything to say. We just hope that the both of you live together happily. As his wife, you have to be concerned and take care of him. We never usually gave him a lot of attention and he's..."

Zhuang Shurong suddenly stopped talking. Then, she took a glance at Xi Xiaye before leaving.

Xi Xiaye looked at Zhuang Shurong as she walked away, staying silent and giving it some thought before entering the room.

She could feel his presence as she stepped into the room. The glass doors leading to the balcony were unlocked and the cold wind blew into the room. There was also an unknown fragrance in the air.

She went back to the living room. Opening the semi-opened door on the right, she found a large study room. Three tall bookshelves were filled with books. However, it was unlike the ones at Maple Residence that needed a staircase to reach the top shelf. Nevertheless, the number of books still shocked Xi Xiaye.

She walked into it and looked around, noticing that one of the bookshelves was similar to the one at Maple Residence. The books were arranged by categories. The difference lay in the fact that there were some military-related books there, which was completely absent from Maple Residence.

She took one of those books out and sat by a table and started flipping through the book.

After several glances, she noticed that writing would appear sporadically in the book to scrawl some notes. It was a similar habit she had.

It was one of the books among the Er Yuehe Collection.

She was not particularly interested in history. When she was in school, she fared absolutely terribly in her art and literature subjects. Shen Wenna was thinking of turning her into an elegant and knowledgeable lady, so she might be able to take after her career path and become a university lecturer.

However, Xi Xiaye was influenced by her grandpa Shen Yue and decided to go into a military business academy. Unfortunately, not long after she went in...

Afterward, she went overseas and specialized in business management. Then, she joined Glory World Corporation after she returned up until now...

She smiled helplessly before putting the book back. Just as she was about to look for another book, she noticed a hidden drawer among the bookshelves containing numerous award certificates and trophies.

In her surprise, she quickly went over and took a closer look at a few of them. All of them were evidence of the excellent achievements of that man.

There was a first-class scholarship award, a national top student award, and all kinds of awards from competitions besides many other certificates in English, which she could not really tell what they were for.

He sure was a top student alright!

Xi Xiaye was feeling more and more astounded as she saw stacks of these certificates and awards. She was nearly drowned by her own sense of inferiority as she had always been bad at studies. The only certificate she had ever received before was a certificate of excellence in a club, and that certificate was meant to encourage!

“What’s with your expression smiling and frowning at the same time? Just what’s so interesting about these things that your eyes are glued to them?”

The man himself suddenly appeared behind Xi Xiaye, his voice making Xi Xiaye jump and she dropped the red-covered certificate on the floor.

She turned around in shock and became angry when she saw Mu Yuchen standing behind her. “You walk without any sound at all! You’ve scared me countless times!”

Mu Yuchen raised his eyebrows as he looked at her. He picked the certificate on the ground up and walked past her. Then, he sat down on a chair nearby. “Are you guilty of something? Why are you so jumpy?”

“You’re the one who walks like a ghost scaring people everywhere.” Xi Xiaye glared at him and grabbed the certificate back from him. She opened it and said, “I didn’t expect you to get this award too. Were

you the one my class teacher mentioned broke the record of the Creative Competition? I hear no one has yet to surpass that result!”

“Really? I’m several batches before you. If that’s true, then the younger generation needs to buck up.” Mu Yuchen was not being humble at all as he looked at her with interest.

“There are specializations in academics. I’m strong in other areas. I didn’t know you back then anyway. How excellent you were doesn’t affect me at all.” Xi Xiaye could not help but talk back to him.

Chapter 75. The Man Is A Top Student (2)

Mu Yuchen laughed when he heard her. He suddenly grabbed onto her shoulder and dragged her nearer to him.

Xi Xiaye was stunned and could not react. By the time she could, she was already in front of him and the certificate was taken from her hands. His voice was mixed with a tint of gentleness. “Mmm, it’s all in the past. Had I been just several years younger, we might’ve known each other back then.”

“That might not be the case. After all, I never mingle with top students,” Xi Xiaye gave it some thought before replying seriously.

He raised his eyebrows in shock. “Why? I’m a top student. Shouldn’t you feel proud instead? What’s with your expression?”

“Because I don’t think they belong to the same world as me,” Xi Xiaye replied honestly.

Mu Yuchen was speechless for a moment. He patted her little head and said, “Don’t overthink. Back then, my good friends and comrades were all like you. They were bad at their studies and had bad grades. Every parent-teacher meeting, their names would surely be mentioned like Su Chen, Zhou Zimo...”

“Su Chen? Zhou Zimo?”

Xi Xiaye dragged his big hand away from her head. She gaped at Mu Yuchen in surprise with a sparkle in her eyes as she asked, “Are you talking about the Vice Chief of the Traffic Control Bureau, Su Chen? The

young and handsome looking Master Su of City Z? And Zhou Zimo... He's the top gun in the technology field, isn't he? Mister Zhou?"

"You've heard of them before?" Mu Yuchen spoke in a quiet voice as he stared at Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye nodded. "Of course, they are popular icons in City Z! Many colleagues always talk about them. Even I heard they're your close friends. They're quite notable public figures. Some time ago, I saw Mister Zhou at a charity dinner and I think he's pretty nice."

"They'll surely be overjoyed if they knew you had such good impressions of them. I'll introduce you to them one day. By then, you'll find out what kind of people they really are."

"Did they go to school with you too?" Xi Xiaye asked curiously.

"Mmm, we're childhood friends. We've always been in the same class from kindergarten to high school. After graduating from high school, we all went to the same military school. They can be pretty rowdy at times, but if you can't handle it, then just ignore them when the time comes."

Mu Yuchen understood both Su Chen and Zhou Zimo well. If they found out that he got married, they would surely be shocked, so he decided to not reveal it at the moment. He would find the right time to tell them.

Xi Xiaye nodded after giving it some thought. "Right, are you going back to the office in the afternoon? Are we staying here tonight?"

"We're going back to Maple Residence at night. We'll leave after lunch. I'll only go back to the office tomorrow. Imperial Sky Entertainment City is already opened for a trial run, so I'll go over and take a look," Mu Yuchen replied indifferently.

"Imperial Sky Entertainment City? The project I was in charge of? I think all the phases are done, and the slots for merchants are filled up as well. Imperial Sky Jewellery City is opening during the New Year as well... Hmm, can I join you too?"

She was not very focused on this project because she had not taken care of the New Era Plaza. After she was done with the big issues, she had delegated the rest of the tasks to others.

“Are you ok in your condition?” Mu Yuchen glanced at her.

She quickly stood firmly to indicate that she was fine.

Mu Yuchen smiled. “Do as you wish then.”

A servant knocked on the door. “Master, Missus, lunch is ready. Elder Madam asked you both to come down!”

They both went downstairs together.

The lunch seemed extravagant. All the dishes did not look very different from a hotel banquet. It was apparent that both Mu Yinan and Wang Hui spent every last ounce of their cooking skills.

Xi Xiaye was starting to feel nervous when she saw the grand spread before her.

“Come and have a seat. It’s your first time here and I know you’re not very fond of strange things, but you’ll get used to it after some time. Chen’s always busy working, so you don’t have to mind him. It’s our own company after all, so it’s alright to leave early from work or take a break sometimes. Come back and visit us,” Mu Yinan said gently.

Xi Xiaye had no idea that the serious-looking old chairman was such an easygoing person, very much similar to his grandpa who was always kind and gentle.

She nodded. “I got it. I will, Grandfather.”

“That’s right, listen to your grandfather. There’s no point for a girl to work so hard. It’s the man’s job to earn money and support the family. You just need to learn how to enjoy. The Mu family doesn’t need

the ladies to work hard outside. If you're free, come here and play some mahjong with me or help me with my plants. Isn't that right, Grandfather?" Wang Hui said with a big smile on her face.

"Mmm, I agree with your grandmother on this. Chuan, Rong, what do you guys think?"

Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong looked at each other, then he said gently, "Let the kids make their own decisions. We won't know what the youngsters might be thinking."

"Also, Chen, you have to give your marriage ceremony with Xiaye serious consideration. Find a time as soon as possible and visit the Shen Residence. We need to talk about it. We don't mind your sudden marriage, but we have to fulfill the basic courtesies. These are the thoughts of your grandparents, your father, and mine altogether."

It was Zhuang Shurong who had spoken up.

Marriage ceremony...

Xi Xiaye was stunned. She tilted her head and glanced at Mu Yuchen, who was using a handkerchief the servant had handed to him to wipe his hands. There was a short pause before he replied, "I'll visit them this coming Saturday. Don't worry about the marriage ceremony for now. I'll discuss with Xiaye and decide on the specifics later."

"Mmm, get on it. Alright, the dishes are getting cold. Let's eat," Mu Yinan said.

The whole family grabbed their wine glasses and gently clinked against each other's glasses before drinking.

"Granddaughter-in-law, I made this for you. Give it a try! It's really fresh!"

"Eat more, your grandfather made this. He said it's nearly as fantastic a standard as a hotel dish, and he's not embarrassed at all!"

Wang Hui kept spooning food for Xi Xiaye. In just a moment, a tiny mountain had appeared on her bowl.

Xi Xiaye was bad at handling them. As she looked at the pile of food before her and wondered how to deal with it, the man beside her took her bowl and pushed half of the food into his bowl.

“Eat.”

He then continued on with his meal elegantly...

Chapter 76. Brief Encounter (1)

Some time after lunch, Ah Mo and Li Si arrived before the young couple got to finish their cup of tea on the sofa.

Ah Mo was a handsome, young man. He had stayed by Mu Yuchen’s side for many years as his bodyguard and driver with pretty impressive skills. He had grown up in the Mu family because he was an orphan back then and Mu Yinan had picked him up from the orphanage and raised him under Mu Tangchuan. Mu Yinan even arranged for him to stay in his own place when he grew up and moved out.

Mu Yuchen treated Ah Mo like his brother and even the servants from Mu Residence called him Master Ah Mo.

“Master Ah Mo, Elder Madam asked you to take these into the car first.”

The housekeeper led the servants to transfer a bunch of gifts into the car. The gifts were meant for the Shen family and there were also some for Xi Xiaye.

Ah Mo opened the trunk and put the gifts inside. Soon, the whole trunk was filled up.

“It’s done. Are the Master and Missus here?” Ah Mo asked the housekeeper as he was done putting the stuff into the trunk. He then heard voices from the front.

“Xiaye, Chen, come and visit when you have the time. I know you youngsters would like to spend time with each other since you’ve just gotten married. I don’t expect you two to move back here. I just hope

that you guys can visit us more. After all, we're not that far away from Maple Residence, so you guys can even drop by for dinner after work before going home."

Wang Hui seemed to miss them already and she always felt a little lonely after retiring. Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong were busy and usually not home. Sometimes, they would also work outstation and have even lesser time to spend with the elders. Mu Yuchen had been abroad only until recently, and he had just taken over Glory World, making him very busy. Most of the time, he was quiet at home anyway.

Their only hope now was Xi Xiaye, to whom the elders were not strangers anymore, especially Mu Yinan. Mu Yinan also happened to know that Xi Xiaye was talented at Chinese chess and knew a thing or two about tea as well, so it would be great if she could visit them often.

Xi Xiaye halted her steps at the entrance. She glanced to the side at Mu Yinan and the bunch that had ushered them out. She felt immensely grateful that they had really genuinely accepted her. An unexplainable warmth swelled within her.

She nodded lightly and said in a soft tone, "We will. It's pretty cold outside. Grandfather, Grandmother, Father, Mother, please go back in."

Mu Yinan nodded with a smile as Mu Tangchuan said kindly, "Come back whenever you have the time. Chen is busy. Just let him be."

"Be good. Don't forget about what I said before," Zhuang Shurong reminded.

Xi Xiaye nodded with a smile. As she wanted to bid them farewell, the man beside her pulled her impatiently into the car.

"Drive," he told Ah Mo as he just sat down and the latter quickly started the car.

The car traveled swiftly on the street with the couple at the back staying silent. As usual, Mu Yuchen turned on his laptop and was looking at some company documents. Beside him, Xi Xiaye was flipping through a magazine.

“Mu Yuchen?” After a while, Xi Xiaye’s voice broke the peaceful silence within the car.

“Mmm?” Mu Yuchen replied without looking away from the laptop, his fingers still typing away on the keyboard.

“I feel that Grandfather, Grandmother, and your parents are all pretty nice...” Xi Xiaye paused before saying. She tilted her head and looked at him with envy in her eyes.

“They’re your family as well. If you don’t dislike them, you can go back anytime to visit.”

“Do you rarely go back to the Mu Residence?”

She suddenly felt that he was slightly similar to her. Although she missed Shen Yue and the others dearly, she rarely went back to the Shen Residence especially earlier when her relationship with Shen Wenna was severely strained. At that time, she would feel pressured every time she went back. Preferring to live a more carefree life, she avoided them.

“I was abroad for the past several years and rarely came back. Right now, I’m busy too. If you have the time, go and visit them more. Take it as helping me do my part too. As for work, you can stop if you want to and do as you wish.”

“You’re their son and grandson. Why should I do your part for you? I’m just their granddaughter-in-law. There’s a big difference!” Xi Xiaye looked at him in disagreement.

Mu Yuchen stared at her and said, “Xi Xiaye, I really think you have some problems. You do get it that you’re their granddaughter-in-law, don’t you? Your actions count as my actions. Otherwise, what do you think I married you for?”

Xi Xiaye’s expression darkened as she glared at him and asked in a cold voice, “So, you’re saying that you’re treating me like a cheap maid to take care of these things for you?”

Mu Yuchen raised his eyebrows and looked at her infuriated face quietly, not replying.

On the other hand, she thought that Mu Yuchen was the kind of man who gave silence as an affirmative answer. She glared at him for a moment and then turned her head away angrily. Looking outside the window, she ignored him.

Mu Yuchen was surprised. After he gave it some thought, he noticed her breathing getting shallower and her shoulder shivering slightly, so he leaned over and looked at her face. He then asked, "Are you angry?"

Xi Xiaye ignored him.

"Xi Xiaye?"

Still no answer.

"Missus?" Mu Yuchen called out to her again, but he soon laughed when he saw her little red face. "Shouldn't you be happy that I'm giving you full authority of my internal affairs? You're the granddaughter-in-law of the Mu family, Mu Yuchen's wife, and the landlady of Maple Residence. How could you be a cheap maid? If you're still angry, when I visit the Shen family, you can call for a sky-high betrothal gift. You'd surely be happy then."

"Who cares about your gifts? Why don't I give you some betrothal gifts and you do my part for me towards my mother and grandpa?" Xi Xiaye retorted tersely.

Mu Yuchen laughed and continued to tease her, "Then, how much do you think I'm worth?"

"A cent!" Xi Xiaye declared with a huge smirk on her face.

Chapter 77. Brief Encounter (2)

Nevertheless, Xi Xiaye was not able to see the man's glum expression as she expected. On the contrary, Mu Yuchen's smile was ever so charming.

"That's too cheap. I decided not to sell." He laughed.

“Sell it! I’m a nice person. You won’t lose out if you follow me.”

“That should be my line, shouldn’t it? When did you steal it from me?”

“I didn’t!”

...

The married couple kept on talking until the car arrived at Imperial Sky Entertainment City.

Imperial Sky Entertainment City was actually a large area consisting of various services available to consumers. It was separated into middle and high consumption areas. Located at the north of City Z, it was becoming one of the largest high-class areas in the city.

There were several projects under Imperial Sky Entertainment City such as Imperial Sky Jewellery City, Imperial Sky Club, and others. It was a huge project under Glory World Corporation in recent years and Xi Xiaye was in charge of the business planning. She was responsible for recruitment planning and handling the vendors that joined them.

The two of them went towards Clothing City as they stepped down from the car.

Mu Yuchen always acted low-profile. Most of the time, he was only with one assistant who was Ah Mo. Currently accompanied by a beautiful girl like Xi Xiaye beside him, in addition to his extraordinary facial features, almost a hundred percent of people turned their heads to look at them.

They walked past the plaza in the open, then they saw a wide and clean path before them, on a signboard in front it clearly indicated “Imperial Sky Fashion Clothing City”.

It was the end of the year, so many people were shopping for new clothes. With Imperial Sky Entertainment City opened for a trial business run, there were already many customers. Just standing at the plaza, they could see a large crowd in front of the mall which seemed very lively.

“Things seem quite happening. Let’s walk around too.”

Xi Xiaye seemed pleased, probably because she was happy and proud as an employee under Glory World Corporation when she saw how positive the customers’ reactions were to the trial run.

Mu Yuchen stayed silent when he saw her joyous expression. He nodded and put a hand into his pocket as he casually followed her.

Behind them, Ah Mo and Li Si had no idea whether they should follow them. After giving it some thought, they kept a 10-meter distance behind them and followed the couple carefully.

“This is the high-end shopping area. All the vendors are well-known international brands. I’ve researched before and these brands are adored by young girls who pursue fashion trends. In our ongoing plans, there’ll be a fashion show next April organized by these vendors. The scale will be comparable to international fashion shows. If you have some time, come and take a look then.”

Xi Xiaye explained her work to Mu Yuchen as they walked along.

“I heard that you’re the one in charge of recruiting vendors,” Mu Yuchen glanced at the row of shops and remarked.

Xi Xiaye nodded and replied, “Actually, this should be handled by Director Chu from the Commerce Department, but he was suddenly summoned to shift away somewhere else. I’ve worked with him frequently and we both worked under Vice President Liu, so I’m familiar with his work, which is why I took it on.”

“The results are better than expected. You did great,” Mu Yuchen left a simple comment.

Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows. She turned around and looked at him with a smile on her face. “Then, Chairman Mu, since I did my job so spectacularly, shouldn’t you be rewarding me with something? Back then, the old chairman would reward us materialistically. It was a very direct encouragement to us employees.”

Mu Yuchen raised his eyebrows too when he heard her. After a short pause, he chuckled. "I took out so much extra profit to reward you all every season, but you're still not satisfied? You really hate to lose out, don't you?!"

"Only idiots would lose out. Do I look so stupid to you?" Xi Xiaye walked backward several steps as she spoke.

Mu Yuchen shook his head helplessly. The smile with that perfect curve was still apparent on his face as he took a black card with some gold engraving on it out and handed it to her. "Here's the card I told you about yesterday. Get anything you like with this."

"Didn't you just give me a credit card?"

Xi Xiaye stared at the rectangular thing in his hand but did not take it. She just stared at him in surprise.

"This is a moving pass under Glory World Entertainment. Are you sure you don't want it?"

Mu Yuchen looked at her questioningly and acted as if he was going to take it back when Xi Xiaye quickly grabbed it.

Only idiots would not want it!

She would never reject it. This was fantastic stuff! With this, she could enjoy the best offer on these branded clothes and even go to hotels or clubs under Glory World Corporation for free.

She was not merely trying to get free perks, but it would make her work easier. It was as if the ancient emperor had just given his subordinate the authority to carry out important missions.

Mu Yuchen smiled when he saw her slide the card into her bag like a piece of treasure. They then continued forward.

She walked in front with him right behind her. Probably because of his aura, people opened up a path wherever they went and gaped at them in awe.

After a long stroll, Xi Xiaye noticed the people around them throwing them weird glances. Then, she turned around and looked at the man behind her.

She realized the man constantly wore a gentle smile on his face and followed behind her like a gentleman. He was like a loyal knight in fairytales, protecting his princess.

“What’s wrong?” He halted his steps when she stopped.

Xi Xuaye looked downwards and did some thinking. After that, she looked around and said, “I think that we should... go back out...”

Mu Yuchen held her hand and dragged her to his side before she could finish her sentence. “Let’s go.”

He then pulled her forward.

Xi Xiaye subconsciously tried to struggle from his grasp. When she looked up at him, she saw two familiar figures from the reflection of the store windows from the corner of her eye.

Chapter 78. Brief Encounter (3)

It was Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi!

She was very familiar with how Han Yifeng looked. With just the lateral view of his face, she could accurately recognize him.

The girl beside him, who wore a pair of sunglasses and dressed in a light blue spring outfit with an elegant light cotton scarf, was no doubt Xi Xinyi.

They seemed to be picking out wedding dresses. Xi Xinyi looked on delightedly at the wedding dresses on the mannequins through the store windows. She picked up the hem of a gown with one hand, her bright and animated face brimming with a sweet smile.

While Han Yifeng beside her looked on dotingly, his eyes were filled with a tenderness that Xi Xiaye had never seen before as he watched Xi Xinyi choose her wedding dress.

She could not help but admit that seeing them standing there by the display window, she did feel that they were a solid match. The smiles that were splashed across their faces made her inevitably feel upset again.

Although the distance between them was just a thin and transparent display window, they still seemed like they were so very far away from her.

She had never dared to wish for anything she did not work hard to earn because she cared and desired it, so she would never mind how much effort she had to put in. As long as she could fight for it with hard work, she was willing to give it her all.

However, no matter how hard she tried, she still could not move Han Yifeng or force him to fall in love with her even if she had been quietly fighting for it, giving it her all as the identity of his fiancée...

Yes, a relationship could never be one-sided.

She sighed with disappointment, gently closed her eyes, and then opened them. Trying hard to push the bitterness in her chest down, she turned her head away and did not want to think about it or look at them anymore.

Mu Yuchen who was pulling her up front had acutely noticed that her mood had experienced a sudden change. The hand that he held had suddenly become cold, so he then turned to look at her just in time to see the way her eyes dimmed and how she turned her head away.

His eyes shifted and he quickly noticed the couple that was smiling happily at the display window. Instantly, he frowned as he thought about it. Then, he suddenly reached out to hold Xi Xiaye across her shoulders, pulling her into his embrace. His perceptive and low voice slowly brushed past Xi Xiaye's ears. "Enough! With the way you're behaving right now, aren't you worried that my heart won't be at ease?!"

The sudden sturdy warmth startled Xi Xiaye. After quite a while, she came to her senses. With his long arms domineeringly pulling her into his embrace, he looked down at her with reproach and disagreement. Of course, there were vague hints of pity too...

The sound of that soft reprimand sounded very tender and sensitive. On the contrary, it did not seem like he was chiding her.

Xi Xiaye inhaled sharply, feeling a little upset. However, upon hearing the way he spoke so sensitively, she suddenly became weak and her raspy voice sounded a little gloomy when she answered, "I don't care whether you're at ease or not. The point is I'm not at ease right now."

Mu Yuchen looked at how her twinkling eyes had dimmed. After he gave it some thought, he said, "You should be happy. If that didn't happen, how could you've met someone as excellent as me? I, Mu Yuchen, am way better than Han Yifeng! You've thrown a sesame seed away and picked up a watermelon! It's a good thing you can't even pray for even if you burnt incense for eight life cycles."

Xi Xiaye was initially quite upset, but hearing him say all of this...

She really could not help but roll her eyes at this man whose confidence was off the charts. "Even if he was just a sesame seed, are you really a watermelon?"

"Am I not? Even among City Z's most eligible bachelor ranks, he seems to be all the way at the back. Even though I'm also off the ranks now, before him there was still Su Chen and Zhou Zimo, pushing him down until he couldn't move at all."

The man shot Han Yifeng a look of disdain through the display window, his nonchalant gaze as icy as the wind.

Xi Xiaye could not help but look at him with amusement as she smiled. "Mu Yuchen, just the way you look right now, my mind can only think of a term."

"What's it?" Mu Yuchen asked as he held her and walked unhurriedly forward.

“You’re eating vinegar [1]!” Xi Xiaye answered mischievously.

“Vinegar? What brand?” He asked.

“Then, you tell me first. Earlier, you said you were a watermelon. What brand of watermelon are you? Hey, Mu Yuchen, are you really better than him?”

“Mmm.”

“Can you prove that?”

“Milady, you’ll have to slowly see it for yourself.”

...

“Yifeng, what are you looking at?”

Inside the bridal house, in the midst of admiring the gowns on display, Xi Xinyi saw that Han Yifeng was frowning as he looked out the display window, so she could not help but ask and look up at the same time, following Han Yifeng’s gaze.

What greeted her eyes was —

The instant that Mu Yuchen lightly embraced Xi Xiaye and was turning to walk away!

“It’s Sister!”

Xi Xiaye widened her eyes. Her face that hid underneath the sunglasses had instantly turned rigid before she subconsciously took off her sunglasses. Her gaze showed a mix of emotions as she watched Han Yifeng who was frozen in a daze.

Quite a while after that, she suddenly pulled at Han Yifeng and bit her plump, scarlet lips. She could not help but say with concern, "Yifeng, was it Sister? It's definitely her, isn't it? She... Who's that walking with her? Did you take a good look?"

When he noticed that Xi Xinyi was pulling at his sleeves, Han Yifeng snapped back to reality. His cold face seemed to have turned weird.

He was very sure that when Xi Xiaye turned, she had seen him, but her gaze had turned distant and apathetic...

As if, like she said, from that day onwards, they would pretend to be strangers who had never met before.

This feeling...

Did not seem to be as comforting as he had imagined it would be!

He did not get a good look of the man who had embraced her as they walked away. However, seeing that man's figure, it had unexpectedly stifled him for some reason...

"Yifeng!" Beside him, Xi Xinyi could not help but call out for him again.

Now, Han Yifeng shook his head as he looked at Xinyi and asked softly, "No, I just noticed when they were about to leave. Didn't Grandmother say that she'll arrange something for her?"

He knew that he owed Xi Xiaye, so he wanted to compensate her. He knew that her grandmother, Deng Wenwen had planned to find her a suitable partner. In his heart, he had also been wishing for the matchmaking to work out—

At least, that way it could perhaps reduce the guilt he felt for her.

“But there’s no way that that was Qi Lei! No, I must go over to take a look. I’m really worried about her. The last time when I sent her the invitation, I just knew that she’d be very upset, Yifeng, I...” Xi Xinyi spoke as she suddenly choked on her emotions. She could not help but cover her face and run out in the direction that Xi Xiaye had just left!

Chapter 79. Apathetic (1)

When Xi Xinyi caught up, Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye had already walked out of the exit, so all she could catch were the two departing figures from behind.

“Xinyi!”

Han Yifeng caught up too. However, Xi Xinyi had already put on her sunglasses and was running towards the exit ahead, her anxious look worrying Han Yifeng.

Because Xi Xinyi had recently signed on to be Glory World Corporation’s jewelry spokesperson, Imperial Sky Jewellery City that she was under was in Imperial Sky Entertainment City.

Xi Xinyi initially wanted to go over for a spin, but she did not expect that some of the wedding dresses that Imperial Sky had brought in would be that beautiful, so she had just dragged him along to take a look. Unexpectedly, they bumped into Xi Xiaye there and even saw her seeming very intimate with a man they did not recognize.

Xi Xinyi kept chasing and searching. Finally, she saw Xi Xiaye standing by the car on the side of the open plaza and she quickly rushed up...

Xi Xiaye closed the document in her hands and looked at Li Si as she nodded. “Mmm, it’s this one. Thanks for your trouble.”

It was some data related to Imperial Sky Entertainment City that her assistant, Xiao Mei, had sent over at the last minute. It had all the data that she had spent days and nights and hard work arranging.

“Director Xi... No, it’s Missus... You’re too courteous!” Li Si was still trying to adapt to the change in address.

Xi Xiaye smiled before she waved. "Assistant Li, whether it's at the company or at work, just address me as you used to.

To be honest, she was not too used to being addressed as Missus too. She kept feeling like she had aged just with people calling her that.

"Okay, Director Xi!" Li Si smiled candidly, as he looked towards the car. "Director Xi, you'd better get into the car, it's quite cold out. The weather looks pretty gloomy too. It's probably the rain rushing to come before the New Year."

When Xi Xiaye heard this, she looked up towards the sky. Indeed, she noticed that there seemed to be hints of the haze. The weather in the past few days had been pretty kind, so she did not expect it to be like that now.

When she tore her gaze away, she noticed that Mu Yuchen was already sitting steadily in the car driver's seat. She then nodded, "Okay, right, please help me reply to the Commerce Department that I'll get someone to retrieve the documents in another two days."

It was the data analysis that she had let Mu Yuchen bring straight to the Commerce Department. The Commerce Department's efficiency was very high. They had very quickly amended the parts that needed corrections and handed it back to her for review.

"Okay, Director Xi!" As Li Si answered, she opened the car door for Xi Xiaye, who nodded politely as she bent down and was about to enter. However, suddenly Xi Xinyi's rushed and concerned voice was heard from behind.

"Hold on, Sis!"

This sudden voice had startled Xi Xiaye in that second. The fingers that held onto the documents had subconsciously tightened as her entire body stiffened. She remained in that posture, and after a few blinks, she eased.

She thought about it and did not know what else she could say at this point, so she might as well pretend she did not see them. Maybe it would be better for her. Just as she was about to get into the car, Han Yifeng's voice suddenly rang out too.

"Xiaye! Xinyi's just worried about whether you're doing well. There are some things that we should find a place to sit down and talk about it. That'd be best for everyone, wouldn't it?"

Han Yifeng had suddenly caught up too and he was holding onto Xi Xinyi who was panting. Seeing Xi Xinyi's beautiful eyes filled with guilt, unease, concern, and pain, he felt sorry for her. He turned to see Xi Xiaye's slightly angled body unmoving, and he felt an indescribable feeling again.

The fact that things have turned out this way was not his intention. He only hoped that Xiaye could be frank and accept everything. That way, they might not need to feel so miserable and guilty.

Sometimes, people were like that, always hoping that others could be forgiving, yet very seldom standing in the other person's shoes to think about all the pain that other person had endured and swallowed to let them be. They never thought of how much strength and courage were needed.

He, Han Yifeng, had no doubt made this mistake too.

Xi Xiaye laughed bitterly. She fell silent for a moment before she straightened up, turned over, and her eyes looked indifferently at them. Although her gaze was still, her slightly raspy voice was very calm, "All that should've been said, I've said. All that should've been returned, I've returned. I'm doing very well right now. As for all your concerns, forget it."

When she heard this, Xi Xinyi turned pale. "Sis, I really didn't know that that would happen, I didn't know that Grandmother and the rest... Now, even Grandfather is very angry too. He's not feeling too well. Won't you go back to visit him? It's because of your matter that he hasn't spoken to us in many days. Grandmother's not doing too well either. The doctor said that she can't be provoked again..."

"So? You want me to satisfy your requests and present myself as a toy to Master Qi. Otherwise, where have you planned to stuff me? Or do you want me to be charitable and forgive you, smile and wish you the best, and then present you with a generous engagement gift?"

Xi Xiaye smiled calmly, yet her twinkling eyes were filled with ridicule. “Years ago, you guys also used the same card to force my mother to yield voluntarily. Have you forgotten? So many years later, I didn’t think that the same move would be used on me again.”

“It’s not like that, Sis. Listen to me. Mother has felt very ashamed towards Aunt. She often goes to University A to look for Aunt, but she’s always unwilling...”

Xi Xinyi ran up and wanted to explain.

“Mother’s naturally apathetic and gentle. She already yield everything, so what else do you want from her? All these years, haven’t you guys thought of letting her go?”

“Enough, Xinyi! Enough, Xiaye! When Xinyi and I get engaged, we hope you can come even if it’s not for the sake of our past, we’re now still considered as people in the same circle just as you wished. Let’s just treat it as getting to know each other once again!”

When Han Yifeng saw Xi Xinyi looking extremely miserable, he instantly stopped the topic from continuing.

Xi Xiaye’s lips curled apathetically. She was made of unyielding character, stubborn and unwilling to concede. “CEO Han, those who know me, Xi Xiaye, would know that I’m not someone who’s willing to befriend just anyone. You two are a Mayor’s heiress, Xi family’s beloved daughter, and Han Corporation’s CEO Han. I’m just a common wage earner, so... I appreciate your good intentions. It’s fine.”

Then, she bent down and got into the car, the car had very quickly driven away, gradually vanishing from Han Yifeng and Xi Xinyi’s line of sight...

Chapter 80. Apathetic (2)

The car steadily traveled on as the husband and wife maintained a quiet understanding. Xi Xiaye looked out the car window while Mu Yuchen focused on driving.

Unlike the past few journeys, there was no music, so it was currently pin-drop silent.

“Is there anything you want to say to me?” Mu Yuchen’s deep voice suddenly broke the stifling silence.

Then, Xi Xiaye tore her gaze away from the world outside the car window and turned to look at him. She lowered her gaze and fell silent for a while before she said in a bitter and raspy voice, “It’s just some past grudges. There’s nothing to talk about. When the times comes... When I’m in the mood, I’ll tell you more.”

“How many years have you thought about that person?” He did not look at her as his gaze remained focused on the road ahead, yet his question seemed significantly important.

How many years had she thought about him?

Xi Xiaye obviously knew who he was referring to.

She did not know how many years she had kept Han Yifeng in her heart either. Ever since the day she could understand things, she had been fed the idea that she had to become a filial daughter-in-law to the Han family. When she was younger, they would always say to her —

“Xiaye, go play with Bro Yifeng!”

“Xiaye, you have to think of a way to cheer Bro Yifeng up.”

“We heard that Yifeng fought with someone else for you. What happened?”

However, she had to admit that in that long period of time, Yifeng was indeed like a brother to her. He protected her, treated her well, and cared for her very much.

So, why had it all changed after that?

There was a time when Han Yifeng’s emotions became hers too. She was used to him being around, and when all of this was shattered, all of his habits and memories were forcefully removed from her life. The oppression from before made her feel a little suffocated.

“It’s been a very long time now... The Xi family and the Han family are family friends. Back then, it was decided that Han Yifeng and I were to get engaged even before we were born. From what I recall, Father and Mother had always been very loving, so I really couldn’t believe that Father would’ve cheated on Mother...”

She sighed sorrowfully, her twinkling eyes holding loneliness and bleakness that was hard to hide. “Xi Xinyi’s mother and my mother were very good friends back then. I’ll never forget the way Mother looked like she was about to break down when she found out about all of this... On the other hand, I never would’ve thought that many years later, I’d find myself on the same path as my mother. Xi Xinyi used to be called Yue Xinyi. She was very good friends with Su Nan and me...”

“So, sometimes, you really can’t help but lament about how fate just likes to mess with people. Mother said that it felt like she had fallen from heaven to hell. At that time, because I was young, I didn’t understand, but when I grew up and experienced the same thing, I immediately knew how she felt.”

Xi Xiaye had never mentioned this to anyone. Even with Su Nan, she was not willing to talk about these things. These memories were a wound that just formed a scab and would still hurt when touched.

“Mmm, understood. Someone as naive as you will believe lies rather easily. You aren’t vigilant at all.” He listened for quite a while before coming to this conclusion.

“You’re not me. You don’t understand how it was either. You can’t just rashly make such a judgment,” Xi Xiaye disagreed.

“I won’t argue with you. From now on, you’re with me. Let me teach you how to judge a person. There are some investments which worth you must first measure. Just knowing how to give your all without knowing how to demand isn’t very wise.”

Mu Yuchen shot her a side look. He was lazy to argue with her.

“I know you don’t want to talk about these unhappy things too, but with whatever you need to face, you’ll still have to face them. You can’t just ignore it. I’ve heard about Yueying’s matter. Glory World currently doesn’t have any asset in the aspect of showbiz. Yesterday, a few Vice Presidents handed me a

document. They hoped that if it was possible, Glory World could take over Yueying, making it a stepping stone for Glory World to enter the showbiz industry. I want to hear your thoughts.”

Then, he gradually slowed the car down and finally stopped by a street. He turned to fix his eyes on Xi Xiaye, his deep eyes sunken with an indescribable look.

She looked up at Mu Yuchen, stunned. “Is the company planning to advance into showbiz?”

She was very shocked, especially since she had heard that he particularly disliked showbiz. In fact, she remembered that previously, Vice President Liu had suggested entering the industry too. While the old Chairman, Mu Yinan, had wavered slightly, it was the Master’s single vote from abroad that vetoed it. Subsequently, no one had raised it again.

“Even though I don’t quite like getting into this line of work, it’s still not wrong for the company to diversify our development.”

Mu Yuchen seemed to be able to tell that Xi Xiaye was hesitating. He laughed and said softly, “I know about your relationship with Yueying. If you want, I can put Yueying under Glory World and then let you be the Executive Director there, killing two birds with one stone.”

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye raised her brows slightly. So, it turned out that he had said all of this because he had a selfish motive?

She thought about it for quite a while and then shook her head lightly. “I don’t quite agree. Based on what I know, the Han Corporation is already planning to help Yueying resolve their crisis. The several projects from Qi Kai’s end should probably be allocated to Yueying already. If the company were to make a move now, it’d incur too much cost. You know how it is.

“Besides, the management for the movies and television industry is all Greek to me. I can’t be your Executive Director. I’m still interested in the South River project, so it’s best if I stay and be a good Planning Director,” Xi Xiaye answered honestly. Her strength lay in business planning. Showbiz was complicated and she did not have any experience at all, so how could she do it?

“I’m giving you the chance to take revenge, yet you don’t want it? Do you still want to hold onto this South River project?” Mu Yuchen looked at her and said with a faint smile.

What an easily satisfied woman!

“No, I just know what’s appropriate. I know my own capabilities. In fact, going steady and striking hard is very important. Do you think that I made it from a small employer to my current position overnight?”

“Are you preaching to me? Hmm?” Mu Yuchen could not help but chuckle as he watched her little face brimming with seriousness and determination. He reached out to pat her head, but she frowned and pushed his hand away, upset.

She realized that he seemed to like patting her head as if he was a teacher teaching his student or a brother teaching his younger sister.

Whatever it was, it just felt weird!