

Loving 721

Chapter 721. I'm Still Me, What About You? (1)

On the second day of the New Year, the entire city remained in a joyous state of celebration. It was a brand new scene all around. The air was even filled with the faint fragrance of plum blossoms, and everyone could not help but feel spirited by this.

Qi Lei had both his hands at the back of his head as he leisurely walked through the long corridor and was shocked to see overflowing plum blossoms in full bloom. He could not help but ask Yang Sheng in awe, "Since when was the backyard planted with plum blossoms? And can they survive? I thought City Z's weather isn't suitable for plum blossoms."

"It was planted the year before the last, but it didn't blossom during winter last year. A lot were planted and only a few survived. Initially, the butler wanted to take them all out and change them to peach blossoms, but the Missus said to wait until after the season. There were so many of them planted, and she hoped at least some would make it," Yang Sheng said softly.

When Qi Lei heard the reply, he pondered for a moment, and then those profound eyes looked down at the plum blossoms. There were mixed emotions in his eyes. He did not say anything and just pulled his hands back to stuff into his pockets.

"Right, Master Qi, there's news from Chairman Mu's end." Yang Sheng recalled the news he received from Li Si.

"Oh? What is it?" Qi Lei very quickly gathered his thoughts and looked at Yang Sheng.

"Director Xi gave birth at dawn yesterday at Hospital T," Yang Sheng reported softly.

When he heard the update, Qi Lei instantly frowned. He thought about it and was puzzled. "That shouldn't be. I remember the last time someone said that she was due in another two more months. Why did it happen so soon?"

"Master Qi, that's because something happened to Director Xi on New Year's Eve. I heard she was pushed down by Xi Xinyi, and then she had to deliver prematurely. If Chairman Mu hadn't rushed over in

time, who knows what would've happened?" Yang Sheng only knew the rough situation and was not quite sure about what actually happened.

"Pushed by Xi Xinyi? Is she okay now?" Qi Lei's handsome face scrunched up as he asked in concern.

"I heard that the mother and son are safe now, but it seems like Director Xi's body is injured. I'm not too sure about the exact situation either. Would you like me to call and ask Chairman Mu's assistant about it?"

Qi Lei nodded. "Find out what actually happened. Why did she suddenly have an early delivery? Was there a fight? Is Xi Xinyi that daring? But since the mother and son are safe, it shouldn't be too huge of an issue."

"I find it quite unbelievable too. No matter how Xi Xinyi is, she probably wouldn't dare challenge Xiaye again, would she? If she didn't learn her lesson from the last time, was she not just digging her own grave?"

Qi Lei brushed his high nose, a faint mocking smile flashing across his face. "Maybe it was because she couldn't handle the trauma. Han Yifeng left just like that. He even brought the child with him. While I heard she's been on the decline, the Han family is still willing to accept her. This is what I don't understand."

Yang Sheng was puzzled.

Qi Lei smiled coldly. "Don't forget. Xi Xinyi is still loved by the Yue family's Elder. the Han family can gain a good reputation by not abandoning her, and they could get the Yue family's fancy, so why not? However, I really judged this Han Yifeng wrongly. I thought he wouldn't abandon Xi Xinyi, but it looks like that is all there is to love."

"You can't blame CEO Han with someone like Xi Xinyi. I heard that he wanted Xi Xinyi to quite the entertainment industry for a long time, but she wasn't willing to give up. However, now that I think about it, who would want to give up on such a thriving career to focus on being a housewife just to stay by a man's side? All those things she did to Director Xi... I'm afraid that even this time around, it was most likely caused by a loss of self-control."

“What are you two talking about? What did Xi Xinyi do to Director Xi? Caused by a loss of self-control? Can you tell me more?”

Just as Yang Sheng said that, a clear and melodious voice suddenly came from behind. Yang Sheng subconsciously spun to look and saw that Gu Lingsha was slowly making her way towards them. She wore a bright pink coat, and her hair was all tied up into a bun with a pearl hair clip with not one strand of hair out of place. It revealed her fair and beautiful face as her sapphire blue eyes dazzled and flickered with a faint radiance.

She walked a few steps up to Qi Lei’s side and then stopped.

“Miss Gu!” Yang Sheng bowed slightly and greeted.

Gu Lingsha smiled and nodded appropriately. “Happy New Year, Assistant Yang. What were you two saying about Xi Xinyi? She’s Manager Xi from Yueying Culture Media under Qi Kai, right?”

Yang Sheng nodded and responded, “It’s her.”

Upon hearing that, Gu Lingsha shrugged slightly, pursed her lips, and spread her hands as she said in shock, “Uncle Qi did mention her to me before. What’s wrong with her? What about Director Xi? She should be Glory World’s Director Xi, am I right?”

“Yes, we heard that on New Year’s Eve, Xi Xinyi pushed Xi Xiaye to the ground and caused Director Xi to...”

Before Yang Sheng could finish, Qi Lei suddenly spoke up and disrupted him, “Yang Sheng, wait for me in the car.”

“Master Qi?” Yang Sheng looked quite confused while Gu Lingsha wanted to hear the outcome, but since Qi Lei disrupted him, he was momentarily stunned. She could not help but urge, “Caused Director Xi to what?”

“Wait for me in the car,” Qi Lei repeated himself. Not daring to say anything further, Yang Sheng knew that Master Qi always hated it when people discussed gossip, so he was considered to have violated a huge taboo. In fact, it was a huge taboo when it came to Director Xi. Master Qi must be angry as his expression did not look too happy.

“Got it, Master Qi!” Yang Sheng then quietly retreated.

“Why are you so free to return today? On New Year’s Eve, Uncle Qi didn’t see you. He was quite furious, but I still have to say Happy New Year,” Gu Lingsha said as her eyes darkened. After a while, she turned to look at the quiet man.

Qi Lei’s tensed handsome face eased a little as he looked at her and quietly averted his gaze from the blooming plum blossoms in the corner. “Happy New Year. Why don’t you go home for the New Year this year? You even said a few days ago that Aunty misses you.”

“Mother has my father’s company. Uncle Qi says he’s been celebrating New Year’s alone for quite a few years now, so I wanted to stay back to accompany him. I’ll be with my parents in City B in another two days.” Gu Lingsha smiled gently.

“Shasha, are you sure you want to work at Qi Kai? Isn’t it better to stay by Uncle Gu and Aunt Gu’s side? Why do you have to come to City Z? And do you have to join Qi Kai?” Qi Lei asked. His calm gaze fell onto the plum blossoms before him, no longer looking at her.

Chapter 722. I’m Still Me, What About You? (1)

When Qi Lei said that, Gu Lingsha’s expression turned slightly rigid. The smile on her face froze too. However, moments after she suddenly laughed and turned to look at Qi Lei, she smirked with pursed lips. “What’s wrong? Don’t you welcome me at Qi Kai? I remember that you were quite eagerly inviting me to join Qi Kai.”

Qi Lei’s expression remained solemn as he suddenly sighed and lamented, “Shasha, it’s been six years. Many things should be in the past now. Even those that shouldn’t be are now. I hope that you can forget some of the past grudges. No matter why you returned this time, I hope that you can still be the innocent and happy girl from before like the first time we met. Continue to maintain that innocence.”

“So?” Gu Lingsha’s hands that hid beneath her sleeves had already tightened as she watched the plum blossom petals that flew before her, and her line of sight slowly stopped on Qi Lei’s face. “You’re right.

It's been six years. Time has passed too quickly. In the blink of an eye, it's going to be six years. Six years is a lot of time to change many things. Do you think I've been living happily these past six years, Lei?"

Qi Lei turned to look at her. After a long while, he could see the sadness and fatigue that she had endured between her brows.

Of course, she could not have lived happily, but then again, who could?

"I suddenly find that you're a little strange. You're no longer the person I was once familiar with. You were innocent back then. I remember you telling me that you'd always protect me, but it seems like your protection has never come into play, so I never treated it seriously. Back then, when I nodded and agreed to Mu Yuchen's proposal, you told me that if I really wanted happiness, you'd do your best to give it to me, but when the wedding date came closer, I never saw you anymore. Instead, it was Ah Feng and Lingtian that I saw..."

As Gu Lingsha said this, her eyes suddenly became slightly misty. There was a feeling she could not describe. She was upset, miserable, and felt a little depressed. "I don't want to hear you explain yourself either. I just want to ask you, even if I had chosen to leave with you and not Qi Feng, could you have really given me happiness?"

Qi Lei froze at that question. He reached out to rub the railing beside him as if there was something dirty on that railing. After a long pause, he smiled bitterly and suddenly turned to look at her. "I'm still me. What about you? Shasha, are you still you? Happiness... was something I never had, so how could I have given it to you? You need to fight for that yourself, and not rely on someone else to give it to you. Back then, even if you were willing to leave with me, I probably wouldn't have really taken you away with me. You never liked me. In fact, I knew that you were already..."

"I knew that you were already pregnant then, so no matter what, I couldn't have taken you away." Qi Lei sighed, and when he reached the end, his tone became even calmer.

The light in Gu Lingsha's eyes faded. She pursed her lips as she looked at Qi Lei with a gaze that contained faint hurt and slight shock. After that, she smiled pitifully. "When did you find out?"

Qi Lei looked at her with mixed expressions. After a while, he blinked and turned to look at the plum blossoms by the corner once again as he said softly, "The day that Mu Yuchen decided on the wedding

date and sent the betrothal gifts, I saw that you bought a pregnancy test kit in your handbag, and after that, the way you looked seemed to be filled with panic and being at a loss. I could already guess... That child... Is it Qi Feng's? Or Lingtian's? Or actually Mu Yuchen's?"

Gu Lingsha was stunned as she trembled all over, and could not help but bite her red lips gently. Her pitiful eyes flickered with tears, and she could not help but cover her face as her chest heaved with pain.

Her child, her poor child...

"Can you tell me?" Qi Lei could not quite bear to see her like this, so he handed her a tissue.

Gu Lingsha was fazed for a while before she reached out to take the tissue. In the blink of an eye, large teardrops immediately slid down while she just sighed deeply, she turned around and with her back facing Qi Lei. Then, she quickly wiped away her tears and did not answer him.

"It's gone. There's no use going after it. Back then, I did think of giving birth, but... So, Lei, if it were you, would you have just quietly accepted it all? Some things can be tolerated or forgiven, but some things are like a dead knot that can never be undone. You haven't been through that pain, so you won't understand all that I'm suffering through." Gu Lingsha scoffed coldly.

"Shasha, that's not the only ways to resolve grudges. There are many ways more to settle it. We can't put all the blame on Mu Yuchen. You were going to leave with Qi Feng while being his fiancée. That would've been an embarrassment to him. Besides, does he know you have a child? Any man wouldn't be able to bear it, so I can completely understand that he's just human!" Qi Lei frowned while he could not help but defend Mu Yuchen.

"Enough, Qi Lei! Since when did you get so good at defending Mu Yuchen? If it were not for him, we wouldn't be where we are today. You don't understand the situation at all. You've changed! You've become so strange!"

Gu Lingsha bit on her lip as she looked sadly at Qi Lei, watching the way the innocence on his handsome face from back then had faded. His eyes had become more profound too. Finally, he could not help but laugh bitterly as he quietly turned around and walked towards the corridor ahead.

“Joining Qi Kai will only be my father and Uncle’s decision. The Gu family wanting to collaborate with the Qi family needs a trustworthy person. If you don’t want to see me, you can pretend like you don’t me in the office. I’ll pretend I don’t know you either, and that I only know you’re the Deputy CEO of Qi Kai. That’s fine, isn’t it?” Gu Lingsha said, and then her figure very quickly vanished in the corridor.

Qi Lei frowned and stared after her vanishing figure for a long time. Then, he massaged the space between his brows because of the haze.

What else could he say?

What else could he do?

After a lengthy amount of time, he sighed softly. He had a bad feeling because he was afraid that the days to come would be quite chaotic, no matter who was among them.

He understood Gu Lingsha too well. With that determined tone of hers, who could influence her decision?

Right now, he was actually a little worried about Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye. If it were really as he thought, then how could Qi Qiming give up on Qi Feng’s issue on this end?

When he thought about this, his heart skipped a beat, and he could not help but lift a hand to smack his head.

Chapter 723. I'm Still Me, What About You? (3)

Mu Yuchen!

You wicked businessman!

He always wondered why Mu Yuchen would give him such benefits. It was a trap after all!

The said benefits were not received yet, but now he was involved in this whole conflict. Was Mu Yuchen using him?

“You bastard, Mu Yuchen! Why did I believe you!? I must be mad!” Second Master Qi yelled as it dawned on him, but after that, he understood he did not have any other choice. Mu Yuchen had probably seen that and...

...

When Li Si found Ji Zitong, she was preparing to set up her store.

It was not very big. It was just a small store with the interior almost done. Ji Zitong was busy placing the flower baskets down.

Ding!

“Assistant Li? Why are you here?” Ji Zitong straightened up as she looked at Li Si in surprise.

“May I sit here?” Li Si smiled.

Ji Zitong nodded as she grabbed a towel to clean her hand and invited Li Si in. “Please come inside. It’s pretty cold out there. Things are still a little messy as we’re not open yet. I hope you don’t mind!”

“You don’t have to be so humble, Ms. Ji. It looks great.” Li Si went in.

Ji Zitong handed him a glass of warm water. “Have something warm to drink.”

“Thank you.”

Li Si took a sip before putting it aside. He took out a cheque from his briefcase and gave it to Ji Zitong. “Ms. Ji, please take this. It’s Master’s reward for you, and he has approved your resignation.”

Ji Zitong was stunned to see the large sum on the cheque. She frowned slightly before shaking her head, refusing to take the cheque. "I don't need it. I just did my job. Please give it back to Chairman Mu. I'm just glad that Director Xi is safe."

Li Si smiled and left the cheque on the table before her. "I'm afraid you don't know how Master works, Ms. Ji. He'll never take back anything that he has given out. This is what he thinks you deserve. Everyone's satisfied with your performance, and there's still a long future ahead, so maybe we might work together again."

Ji Zitong pushed the cheque back. "I have my own principles as well and I only take what belongs to me. Please pass this message to Chairman Mu for me."

Li Si looked at the aloof Ji Zitong and then glanced at the cheque again before sighing. "Ms. Ji, you impress me. If you insist, I'll go and let Master know then."

Ji Zitong nodded. "Thank you, Assistant Li."

Li Si smiled as he stood up. At the same time, his phone started ringing. Li Si quickly took out his phone and noticed it was a call from Su Chen.

"Hello, Master Su Chen."

Su Chen's voice quickly reached him back. "Mmm, it's me. I have something to pass to your Master. Ah Chen said you're nearby Dong Huan Road."

Li Si responded, "Yes, I'm at Dong Huan Road right now!"

"Give me a specific location. I'll head over."

Li Si walked out to the entrance and looked at the store sign covered by a red cloth. "Master Su, I'm at the second junction of Dong Huan Road. There's an unopened flower store called 'Smile'. I'll wait for you right here. It's Ms. Ji's store."

“Smile? Alright, I’ll be there in five minutes,” Su Chen replied before hanging up the call and continued driving his Land Rover.

“Xiao Chen, you’re getting older now. Ah Chen is one year younger than you and he’s a father already. You’re 33 this year. Aren’t you worried?” Su Yu frowned as she looked at Su Chen from the front passenger seat. She continued when he ignored her, “When I went to decorate Ah Chen’s baby room a few days ago, I heard from his grandmother that Ah Chen met with his wife through a blind date, and they are doing well together! Your brother-in-law and I are great together as well, so you don’t really have to hate the idea of blind dating so much. It’s the New Year now. You should get yourself a girl!”

It was Su Chen’s turn to frown. He did not even look at Su Yu as he retorted, “Since when were you worried about me as well? You insisted on not getting married before too. Didn’t you only get married at 30?”

“I’m not worried, but I have to listen to our parents and grandfather nag me about it. Have you ever considered how I feel? Do you think I really care about you?” Su Yu glared at her brother unhappily.

Su Chen narrowed his eyes at her before switching on the music player in the car.

“Just let them be, alright? Forced marriage is not what I want. Can you imagine waking up to a stranger that you have no feelings for at all?” Su Chen’s sharp gaze stunned Su Yu. She almost forgot her brother had always been blunt and straightforward.

“Then, list down your type and I’ll find one according to your standards!” Su Yu said.

“I’m not that free. Give me another few years.” Su Chen did not sound very interested, and his expression looked pretty unhappy as well. “Marrying for the sake of marrying is not wise. Not everyone is as lucky as Ah Chen, so it’s great if you meet the right one, but you’ll have to bear the consequences if otherwise happens.”

“But you have to give it a try in order to know if it’s the right one,” Su Yu argued.

Su Chen did not reply. Instead, he slowed down the car and then parked by the roadside. Picking up the bag beside him, he asked, “Just this?”

“Mmm.”

He got out of the car after Su Yu’s reply. Looking up, he saw the sign ‘Smile’ under the red cloth.

“Master Su!” Li Si quickly greeted him.

Su Chen looked around and was stunned for a moment when he saw the person behind Li Si.

Chapter 724. The Stronger The Light, The Darker The Shadow (1)

Ji Zitong never expected to see him again. She had not seen him since then, and now they were reunited after several months.

“When can you return me my letter, Chief Su?” Ji Zitong’s face turned stiff as Li Si left.

Su Chen gave her an amused glance. “Didn’t expect you to be doing this.”

“It’s none of your business.” Ji Zitong stared at him. “You said you’d give it back when you return.”

“I remember saying that we’ll see when I get back. Do I look like the kind of person who’d go back on my word?”

Su Chen’s sharp gaze made Ji Zitong gasp and she closed her eyes. “Who knows what you’ll do? We don’t have a good impression of each other anyway.”

“So, do you mean I don’t have to return the letter to you anymore?” Su Chen laughed as he pulled his coat tighter around himself and was about to leave!

“Stop right there!” Ji Zitong was enraged as she quickly grabbed Su Chen’s shoulder. “Give it back to me, you bastard!”

Su Chen was very alert, so he reacted in time when Ji Zitong tried to grab him. His iron grip stopped her hand accurately as he closed in.

She was dumbfounded as she smelled his wild scent. Pain blossomed in her head when she bumped into his solid chest.

Su Chen was surprised when the woman fell into his arms. He backed off before he could embrace the gentleness, but his first reaction was—

This woman was strong!

He leaned against his car as he looked down to notice that the woman in his arms was stunned. Two of them frowned and pushed each other away moments later.

Not only did they not separate, but they were also clumped even closer together. Ji Zitong was wearing a woven sweatshirt, and it somehow got hooked onto Master Su's zipper. After struggling for a while, there was a loud rip!

Ji Zitong looked down.

Mmm!

Red color!

Fiery red!

She put on a teasing grin and smirked at Su Chen. "Chief Su, I didn't expect you to be quite sexy, but I think you deserve to be called a pervert right now!"

Su Chen's expression darkened as he looked downwards. He quickly grabbed his trousers and his eyes were turning into a thunderstorm. Just as he was about to erupt in madness, Su Yu's voice reached him from behind.

“Xiao Chen, what are you doing? Who is this girl? Is this the girl who was mentioned to grandfather the other day?”

Before Su Chen could react, he quickly fixed his outfit and looked at Ji Zitong’s mocking grin. He swore that this was the most embarrassing moment in his life! His face was strained as he stared at Ji Zitong. However, a smile suddenly appeared on his face.

Su Yu walked to Su Chen and was looking at Ji Zitong, seeming interested.

“Xiao Chen?” Su Yu called out to him again as he did not reply.

“That’s her indeed! We recently got into a fight. Haven’t you guys always wondered why I don’t like anyone else? I’m interested in her. If you can convince her to marry me, maybe the elders at home will get a grandchild or two in a few years,” Su Chen whispered to Su Yu as his eyes were filled with deception. Then, he gave Ji Zitong a slight bow.

Game on!

He then ignored Su Yu’s dumbfounded expression and went back into the car.

Su Yu came back to her senses when she heard the sound of the car engine. She did not have time to talk to Ji Zitong. Instead, she bowed to her as well. “Hello! I’m Su Yu, Su Chen’s sister. Nice to meet you. We’ll meet again!”

Ji Zitong had no idea what Su Chen had told Su Yu earlier, but she knew that the way this strange girl looked at her was odd. It was also peculiar that Su Chen suddenly calmed down even though he was so angry moments before, especially his last gaze at her before he left.

Her body shuddered as she thought about it. She sensed a chill travel down her spine and she could not stop shaking.

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City Z was filled with a festive air this New Year, and it was really a lively one for them.

Inside Xi Xiaye's room at Hospital T.

Xi Xiaye could finally walk around after staying in bed for several days. Thanks to Mu Yuchen, she had not been disturbed and rested well for the past few days, so her weak body was slowly recovering.

In order to help her kill time, Mu Yuchen brought her a few books from home too.

Xi Xiaye was now reading a book on the bed. While she was really engrossed reading, she felt a warmth on her shoulder as red dates were delivered right to her mouth. She chewed on one before turning her head aside to find that the man was already beside her before she even realized it.

"Didn't I ask you to go home and rest? You've been here for several days. It'll be fine with Mother around." He had lost so much weight in the past few days, and she felt really bad.

"It's fine." He gave her a simple reply and put a coat over her shoulder. "Remember to wear an extra layer of clothes before you go out. The doctor said we'll be able to be discharged after our son's condition has stabilized. You seem really bored here."

She closed her book and left it aside before giving him a hug. She buried her face into his chest and inhaled the wonderful scent of soap on him. Then, she looked at him and mumbled, "Do I look very ugly now? Very, very ugly? I can smell myself... Will you leave me because of this?"

"Can your brain think of something else? Have you ever seen any man ignore his own woman, the mother to his son?" Mu Yuchen patted her head and just let her hug him.

Chapter 725. The Stronger The Light, The Darker The Shadow (2)

Xi Xiaye smiled and hugged him for a long while before finally letting him go. Sucking a deep breath in, she still felt a little traumatized when she thought about what happened on New Year's Eve. She had almost...

Fortunately, he arrived in time and protected them both.

“Do you remember what happened that day?” Mu Yuchen suddenly asked. He refrained from asking her such questions these past few days because he was worried that her condition was still unstable, and Li Si’s investigation should be finishing up soon.

That day?

Xi Xiaye frowned as her body shuddered slightly. She did not seem like herself.

She just remembered Xi Xinyi had suddenly crashed into her. It was too fast for her to react, and her mind had gone blank afterwards.

Mu Yuchen was observing her reactions. He held her shoulders and continued, “Xi Xinyi said she was pushed from behind and then crashed into you. I don’t think she has the guts to lie. Did you hear anything at that time? Xi Xinyi said that person was in the car behind her. You should have at least heard the sound of the car if what she said was true. Can you think of anything?”

Xi Xiaye put a hand on her forehead as she was trying to recall the entire timeline. She felt a slight headache as she was thinking about it as hard as she could. Quietly, she mumbled, “Car... Car... I think I heard it. It was a black car... black...”

Xi Xiaye somehow remembered the tiny details after he reminded her. Before she fell unconscious, she saw a black shadow, so that should be it.

Xi Xinyi...

There was no point for her to do this. She knew it would not give her anything she wanted, or maybe Han Yifeng’s cold treatment caused Xi Xinyi to dump all her hatred onto her.

Would their conflict still continue?

Xi Xiaye’s eyes turned cold as her face stiffened as well.

“So, you’re saying that you’re sure you saw a black car drive past?”

Xi Xiaye nodded as her tone of voice sounded determined. “Mmm, it’s very quiet around West Park, and there aren’t usually a lot of traffic there. Cars rarely drive past, and there weren’t really any other cars at that time, so I’m pretty sure.”

Mu Yuchen took a deep breath as he grabbed her slightly cold hands. The expression in his eyes looked fierce and serious. “I’ll find the person who did this to you.”

“Mmm, how’s Xi Xinyi now?” Xi Xiaye asked.

“Li Si got someone to keep an eye on her. She seems to be quite distraught these past few days,” Mu Yuchen replied after receiving the news daily from Li Si.

Xi Xiaye’s expression looked complicated. “Han Yifeng’s absence with her child seems to have a huge impact on her. She came to me before as you saw that day when I was talking to Su Nan in the hospital. She wants me to help convince Han Yifeng and return her child to her. However, I told her that there’s nothing I can do. I have no idea how she has the audacity to make such a request of me. How can she be so sure that I’d be able to convince Han Yifeng? It’s between them after all.” She found it ridiculous.

Mu Yuchen had a mysterious smile on his face while his tone sounded odd. “If you actually tell Han Yifeng, he might really do it. Don’t underestimate your influence.”

“What do you mean?” She blinked her eyes and looked at him in doubt.

He smiled and looked downward at her hand. His grip became tighter as he sighed. “I think Han Yifeng thinks of you very highly now. Apart from feeling guilty, there might be some other things involved.”

Some other things?

Xi Xiaye’s eyes looked empty, but they returned to normal moments later as she smiled. “It’s not a bad thing to maintain a certain image to someone. A person’s feelings are sensitive and fragile.”

“Are you worried about him?” he asked with a frown.

Xi Xiaye rolled her eyes at him. She put her hands on his cheeks and their lips met with each other’s. Their tongues explored each other’s mouth as things got heated up.

He closed his eyes and enjoyed this moment.

However, he did not take advantage of the situation and stopped when it was appropriate.

Xi Xiaye’s eyes were dreamy when she backed off. She looked at him seriously and asked, “Are you feeling jealous right now, Mr. Mu? It’s been so long. Let the past stay in the past.”

He opened his eyes and saw her cheerful smile. Then, he turned away and coughed. “What a heartless woman! I’m jealous? Do I have to be jealous of him? Don’t even think about comparing us!”

She chuckled as she saw him act that way. She planted a kiss on his cheek and teased, “Mr. Mu, I realize that you’re really cute when you’re fussy.”

The man, who was able to keep calm when closing a deal worth billions, blushed as he stared at this happy woman beside him.

Cute?

Did she just use that word to describe Mu Yuchen?

He adjusted her falling coat after she was done laughing.

“By the way, get Xi Xinyi to come over. I want to see her.”

In the end, Xi Xiaye decided to talk to Xi Xinyi again. She just wanted to find out what exactly happened. If Xi Xinyi really had pushed her on purpose, then...

Mu Yuchen looked into her eyes and then nodded. "You should talk to her."

Chapter 726. The Stronger The Light, The Darker The Shadow (3)

After Xi Xiaye made that request, Mu Yuchen handled it very quickly. He was highly efficient.

In the evening, as the golden rays of the warm sun gradually faded away, Xi Xinyi stood outside Xi Xiaye's ward.

"Our Missus is inside. Please enter," the black-suited bodyguard's cold and indifferent voice instructed. Xi Xinyi only bit her lip slightly before she lifted a hand to silently push open the door.

At this moment, inside the ward, Xi Xiaye was lying on her sickbed casually flipping through some information of Fuhua Estate when she heard the sound of footsteps from the door. She looked up and calmly looked at Xi Xinyi who stood hesitantly at the door.

Xi Xinyi froze, her beautiful eyes filled with a hint of uneasiness and vigilance. She stared unwaveringly at Xi Xiaye who also looked at her with indifference. With that cold expression and unmoving gaze, it was hard to guess what she was thinking about.

Xi Xinyi felt like she was having an unlucky year. Many bad things had caught up to her. Yue Lingsi was crippled, Han Yifeng brought her son far away while she was constantly being suppressed by Mu Yuchen, and now she was suddenly implicated in this incident.

Ever since that incident happened, she almost broke down. She even prayed fervently to God, hoping that Xi Xiaye and her unborn child would be fine. Otherwise, she knew the consequences that she would have to endure very well. Mu Yuchen was a heartless person, one she dared not provoke. She did not want to ruin herself either.

She thought to herself that she could only hope for Xi Xiaye to be fine. When she regained consciousness, she would look for her, and she should know what happened. Then, she could prove Xi Xinyi's innocence!

The two sisters stared at each other for a long while. Xi Xiaye's calm gaze looked toward the sofa before her as she said calmly, "Have a seat."

Xi Xinyi had a gaze filled with mix emotions that fixed on Xi Xiaye for quite a while. Finally, she went towards the sofa and sat down quietly. When she looked up at Xi Xiaye on the sickbed, Xi Xiaye had already lowered her head to continue flipping through the document in her hand.

After she gave birth, Xi Xiaye was much frailer than before, but she did look much more elegant and mature now. There was a hint of tenderness between her cold brows, and her little face reflected a healthy blush. You could see that Mu Yuchen took really good care of her.

Meanwhile, Xi Xinyi thought about herself...

Back then, she had given birth to a son too, but how did Han Yifeng treat her? The Han family did not seem to pay more attention to her, so she had to endure the grief in her heart.

Initially, she had been a princess at the center of everyone's attention, a gem that everyone held preciously in their hands. Alas, in just a short year, things changed! She, Xi Xinyi, had fallen from heaven, and straight into hell.

At the same time, Xi Xiaye had walked step by step to where she was today!

These two days, she had clearly confirmed Xi Xiaye's identity. When she saw the old CEO of Fuhua Real Estate, Shen Yue, personally visit her, she believed that Shen Yue was indeed Xi Xiaye's grandfather! Shen Wenna was also an heiress from a celebrated family!

No wonder back then when Han Yifeng said those things to her, he would have had such an expression. It seemed like he knew about it all.

Xi Xiaye was going to be inheriting Fuhua Real Estate while her husband was a top gun in the business world. With that, did she need to fight with Xi Xinyi's measly Yueying Culture Media company?

When she thought about how they had used to tricks to shun and scheme against Xi Xiaye back then, those scenes made Xi Xinyi conceive herself as dumb and ridiculous. No wonder Han Yifeng had even mocked himself saying that he was a clown!

She used to be an actress, but she never would have thought that in real life, she would have such a dramatic life. Everything was so ridiculous that she could not help but scoff at herself!

"I lost, Xi Xiaye. You win. I couldn't have guessed that all this while, I've just been putting on an absurd and ridiculous show." Xi Xinyi laughed a little dazedly. She seemed to really be in the dumps. Her wan and sallow expression made her seem like she had aged by more than 10 years.

Upon hearing her bitter words, Xi Xiaye slowly looked up and stared at her.

"But I really didn't push you. Someone pushed me from behind! Even though I hate you, and I do hope you and your child would get lost, I only thought that... I've never thought about doing anything to harm you. Chairman Mu has information about me in his hand. He can destroy me anytime. I wouldn't be so dumb as to brazenly do something to you," Xi Xinyi explained anxiously.

"You must have seen the car behind me leave then too, didn't you? Xi Xiaye, I beg that you tell everything you know to Chairman Mu, and return my innocence. I was framed too. Please tell him to let me go. I swear I won't disturb you anymore. We'll both go our own ways!"

...

Go our own ways?

Could that really be achieved?

Xi Xiaye's indifferent gaze fell onto Xi Xinyi's pale little face. Seeing that she was incredibly tensed all over and was practically looking at her with both fists clenched, she smiled calmly. "If it wasn't you, who could be? Tell me, if I let you go, could we really both go our own ways?"

“I don’t know who it was either! But someone really pushed me from behind. Xi Xiaye, you can’t wrongly accuse me. I didn’t push you!”

“But you did hit me. If Zitong and Mu Yuchen didn’t come in time, you know very well what would’ve happened.”

Xi Xinyi started to seem irritable and restless. When she heard Xi Xiaye, she immediately stood up and swore to God. “I told you that someone else pushed me from behind. Why won’t you guys believe me? I dare swear on my life that if I, Xi Xinyi really pushed you, then I’ll get hit by a car when I leave my house and die on the streets! Are you happy now? Do you believe me now?”

Xi Xiaye’s gaze remained calm as she quietly observed every change in Xi Xinyi’s expression. She could vaguely feel that Xi Xinyi did not seem like she was lying.

If it were really as Xi Xinyi said, who was the person who pushed her then?

Was it an accident? Or was it someone who hated Xi Xinyi, or someone against Xi Xiaye, or someone gunning for Mu Yuchen, or someone else altogether?

Xi Xiaye had no clue at all. She pondered for a moment before finally saying calmly, “When I fell, I did see the shadow of a black car, but that’s not enough to prove that you didn’t do anything.”

Chapter 727. The Stronger The Light, The Darker The Shadow (4)

Yet, upon hearing Xi Xiaye say that, Xi Xinyi was relieved! She closed her eyes and sighed.

This would finally help her side a little!

The shadow of a black car!

Yes, it was a black car.

“That’s right. The car was indeed black in color, but I didn’t notice it then. I just thought it was a car parked by the roadside. I didn’t think there were people in the car. I remember when I drove over, the car wasn’t parked there. It only came after that.” Xi Xinyi squinted her eyes and tried hard to recall.

Xi Xiaye became alert when she thought about it, so she asked, “Why were you there?”

Xi Xinyi became rigid and her expression was a little gray while her gaze darkened. She thought about it and decided there was no need to keep it a secret. She sighed. “I went to look for Father. I couldn’t find him at his apartment, so I went to West Park. Unexpectedly, I bumped into him, so...”

“Went looking for Father? Because of your mother?” Xi Xiaye asked.

Xi Xinyi shook her head. “No, I know that the thing with my mother is already set in stone. She’s just a crippled person now. Father gave her quite a few years of monetary expenses at the rehabilitation center, so I have nothing else to say about that. I went to look for Father because I wanted him to persuade you, to help me beg Yifeng and tell him to return the child to me. I’ve been suffering these recent days. I feel hopeless. I can’t lose my child. I’ve got nothing left... Nothing! I can’t lose my child too.”

When Xi Xinyi said this, she could not help but cover her face with both hands as she cried softly.

Xi Xiaye watched quietly with an oddly indifferent expression. She did not feel any pity. If she could have thought things through at the start, she would not have ended up where she was today.

“I told you that I’m helpless in this matter. Han Yifeng has his own thoughts, and I don’t have a way to change him. Since you want your child, you should have immediately gone after him when he first left. You should’ve left this place and returned to where the both of you had once loved each other, San Francisco. Even though we can’t turn back time, everything could’ve been started anew. Han Yifeng has actually given you many chances. You just didn’t appreciate them yourself.”

Xi Xiaye’s tone was extremely cold as she lowered her gaze and flipped another page of the document. “About the matter between you and Han Yifeng, I want no part of it. I told you, the moment Han Yifeng chose you, the fate between me and him was put out. Now, I only want to be by Mu Yuchen’s side. I admit that I did like Han Yifeng before this, but that was also just a matter of the past. Right now, the

person I love will forever only be Mu Yuchen. I hope that the people I care about can live peacefully. My baseline has always been this, Xi Xinyi.”

As Xi Xiaye said this, she looked up at Xi Xinyi again. The light in her twinkling eyes was bright and clear. Her expression was filled with determination.

“It’s not wise to be venting all of your anger and resentment onto me. Hatred and jealousy can kill someone’s conscience. You are now a mother too, so you should consider it as gaining karma for your child. Let go of everything and start over. Be a good example to your child and let him have a mother he can be proud of. Otherwise, what do you think a woman lives for? What else is there for you to lose right now? You’ve even sacrificed yourself.”

As Xi Xinyi wept, her hands that covered her face were filled with tears. She looked wan and sallow in her sorry state. As she thought about how well-regarded she had been more than a year ago compared to how she was right now, the stark comparison made her feel pathetic.

“I will tell Mu Yuchen and explain it to him. I hope you can cooperate and find the person who did it. That person might very well be our common enemy right now. You should go home,” Xi Xiaye calmly asked her to leave.

Xi Xinyi sniffed and stood up. She lifted a sleeve to wipe away her tears. Her wet eyes were misty as she looked at Xi Xiaye on the sickbed who did not even look up at her. Although she wanted to say something, she stopped. In the end, she did not say anything before she quietly departed.

When Mu Yuchen came over at night, Xi Xiaye was holding her son, Mu Zicheng, who had just been coaxed to sleep. She softly told Mu Yuchen about her conversation with Xi Xinyi, lamenting a little helplessly, “I think Xi Xinyi has changed quite a lot in terms of her mindset recently. Perhaps it’s enlightenment after a few months of decline. At least, she’s now a mother who cares about her child.”

Mu Yuchen did not answer. An apathetic coldness flashed in his eyes.

So what?

No matter how enlightened Xi Xinyi had become, as long as he held those bits of dirt on her, he would not be worried that she would play any tricks. Besides, for someone as merciless as him, apart from Xi Xiaye whom he acknowledged as a good woman, all other women were the same to him. He would never hesitate to take them on.

Moments after that, he softly asked her, "Do you trust that she could still turn over a new leaf?"

Xi Xiaye shook her head. "I don't know about that. To me, it doesn't mean much, but to Father, it might mean something different."

She was now a mother too, so the bond of blood was very hard to explain.

Mu Yuchen nodded. He understood how she felt. Just like him and Lingtian, even if he knew that he had betrayed him, apart from lamenting about it, he felt even more disappointed. Even so, he could not begin to hate him.

He leaned down slightly and reached out his long fingers to gently poke at his son's soft cheeks in Xi Xiaye's arms. He said in a deep voice, "You should worry about this less. Recover well and raise our son well. How did he fall asleep so quickly? He just had his eyes open and was staring at me."

"Babies are like that. They sleep when they're full. In a while more, you can amuse him. I'm sure he'll laugh."

Xi Xiaye stopped talking and looked down at her son sleeping comfortably in her arms. Her calm lips curled with tenderness. She could not help but plant a soft kiss on her son's forehead.

Mu Yuchen's eyes revealed an odd glow. He watched her before gently pinching his son's little arm.

It was so tiny!

Master Mu pinched it, and then his handsome brows furrowed into a knot. He could not help but sigh. "He's so little. When can he grow up?"

“He’ll be growing day by day. Children grow very quickly, and they look different every day. Why are you so anxious?” Xi Xiaye shot him a glance.

“I already found two very experienced maternity matrons. They’re quite good. You can see them for yourself when you’re discharged in two days. If you’re not happy with them, we can switch them up again.”

Chapter 728. The Stronger The Light, The Darker The Shadow! (5)

Xi Xiaye nodded. “By the way, it’s the seventh tomorrow and Ji Zitong’s flower store is opening. Remember to send someone over to greet her. She’s been of great help during this period of time.”

“I’ll get someone to do that. I’ll be heading to City B tomorrow afternoon and will only be back by dawn. I’ll ask Mother to come over and stay with you, alright?” He was worried that her arms might get tired from holding their son, so he gently supported his son’s weight and took him as he looked at her.

Xi Xiaye moved her body closer to him. “City B? Why? You only had a day of rest during the New Year holidays and you need to go to work already?”

“My friend is having an auction over there, so I’m just going to take a look. I also have something to discuss as well. I’ll be back by dawn on a private flight.”

There was a knock on the door as Mu Yuchen finished. They looked toward the door and saw Shen Wenna slowly coming in with a Thermos flask in her hand. There was also a handsome young boy in a black suit beside her. It was Mu Zirui.

Mu Zirui had been visiting with Shen Wenna recently. Having already adapted to his life with Shen Yue and Shen Wenna, life at the Shen residence was great for him. Shen Yue frequently played chess with him too.

“Mother, Xiao Rui, why have you guys still come even though it’s so late already?” Xi Xiaye sat up as she looked at her guests.

“I made some supper for you. Your grandfather picked several kindergartens for Xiao Rui. He told me to come and discuss with you and see which one to send him to. Here, let me hold you...” Shen Wenna put down the Thermos flask and took the little baby from Mu Yuchen.

As Mu Yuchen was about to reply, he felt someone tugging at the hem of his shirt. He peered down and noticed it was Mu Zirui.

“Father, I don’t want to go to kindergarten.”

“Why not?” Mu Yuchen asked.

“Because I don’t know the other children. They don’t like to play with me. I’ll wait until Little Brother grows up and we’ll go to school together.”

Mu Zirui moved closer to Shen Wenna and looked at the little baby in her hands intently. He carefully touched the little baby’s cheek while his eyes were filled with uncertainty. “Grandmother, why is Brother always sleeping? He’s so small...”

“Because he doesn’t eat enough rice. He’ll grow once he eats enough. Xiao Rui, you’ll be able to grow faster too if you eat more!”

“Oh, then I’ll eat less. I’ll eat more once Brother is as big as me. I’ll wait for him!”

Mu Zirui stared at the baby with his pair of huge, innocent eyes as Shen Wenna smiled and patted his head. “Xiao Rui, you have to eat more. You’ll be able to protect your brother once you grow up.”

...

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye traded glances with each other and smiled.

On the seventh, Ji Zitong’s flower store, ‘Smile’, opened.

The store was already crowded early in the morning. Baskets of carefully arranged flowers were displayed in two rows, and anyone who passed by would be able to smell the strong fragrance of flowers. Many people visited the store to congratulate them on their opening.

On the way to the airport from Hospital T, Li Si reminded Mu Yuchen as they were in the car, "Master, we'll be passing by Ms. Ji's store later. Missus asked you to visit her and send her some gifts!"

Mu Yuchen was resting with his eyes closed in the passenger seat. He nodded. "Let's go and take a look then."

"Yes, Master."

Things were busy inside the store. Many people dropped by and the store was crowded at the moment. Ji Zitong was attending to all the guests and customers.

It was not a large store, but they still hired two employees.

"Welcome! Come in and take a look. We have some drinks and snacks as well!"

"Congratulations!"

"Thank you!"

"Thank you!"

Ji Zitong wore a red, festive, long coat today with her long hair tied into a bun. She appeared clean and smart as she was greeting the guests at the entrance with a big smile on her face,

However, Ji Zitong had no idea that across the street inside a black car...

"Grandfather, that's the girl. Her name is Ji Zitong. Her father owns a martial arts school, and her mother is retired. She was in the military before. Xiao Chen and Ah Chen were her instructors in one of the training camps before. Xiao Chen and her have known each other for quite a long while. She worked as a bodyguard for Ah Chen's wife a while ago. I heard that she's pretty good and Ah Mo had positive comments about her. Her family background is clean and their family is well received by their

neighbours. The last girl ranted to us because Xiao Chen brought this girl over,” Su Yu reported everything she knew to Elder Su sitting in the passenger seat.

Elder Su was used to giving commands and had a demanding personality. With a solid sitting posture and sharp gaze, his face was strained. Although his hair had turned all white, his old-style military uniform still looked powerful as ever. He did not seem to show many emotions on his face.

His sharp gaze now looked through the window gap as he stared at Ji Zitong who was greeting her guests.

“That’s all you got after this long? Is this how efficient you can get?” Elder Su was unsatisfied with the simple information from Su Yu, and his voice was filled with an imposing manner.

Su Yu shrugged. “Grandfather, just ask Xiao Chen if you want to know more. He did say that he’s interested in her, but they were arguing recently. Xiao Chen wants to marry her, but she doesn’t want to!”

“Nonsense! Which part of my grandson isn’t worthy of this girl? I don’t believe it. I’ll go and meet her personally later. Xiao Yu, you head in first!” Elder Su could not stand people bad-mouthing his grandchildren.

Chapter 729. Finding Out

Su Yu quickly nodded. “Yeah! Xiao Chen is a talented young man. This girl needs to have better senses! I’ll head over now then. Stay in the car and don’t be reckless. I’ll go and find out what happened. It’s her big day today, so don’t give her any bad impression.”

Elder Su grunted coldly, “Go and test the waters. Why didn’t Xiao Chen bring her home? What are they arguing about? Is she dissatisfied with the Su family? Also, investigate her family immediately. If there are no problems, then tell Xiao Chen to bring her home as soon as possible.” His way of doing things was quick and decisive as usual.

“Alright, alright! I get it, Grandfather. Can I get down from the car now?”

“You have fifteen minutes to complete the mission! Go!” His voice was still strong and powerful.

“Yes, Sir!” Su Yu waved her hands and then got out of the car.

...

Ji Zitong was surprised to see Su Yu by the entrance of her store. At first, she felt this woman was familiar, and then her mind replayed Su Chen’s embarrassing scene the other day. This woman had been there as well. Her name was...

Su Yu?

Su Chen’s sister?

Information about this woman before her flashed in Ji Zitong’s mind.

Su Yu waved her hands and her bodyguard handed a flower basket as a gift while she greeted, “Hello, Ms. Ji. Congratulations! I hope you don’t mind my uninvited attendance. Do you still remember me?”

Ji Zitong bowed slightly as she gratefully said, “You’re Instructor Su’s sister, Ms. Su Yu. Thank you for coming. It’s my honor that you came!”

“You’re welcome. Where’s Xiao Chen? I don’t see him anywhere.” Su Yu smiled as she looked inside for and did not see Su Chen at all, hence her question.

‘His girlfriend’s shop is opening and he isn’t here? No wonder she’s angry with him! He totally deserves it!’ Su Yu scolded Su Chen in her mind.

However, Su Yu’s words confused Ji Zitong.

Su Chen?

What about him?

“Alright, let’s not talk about him for now. I’m here today to congratulate you. Your store looks really gorgeous!”

“Thank you.” Ji Zitong was still puzzled. She felt that the way Su Yu looked at her was kind of odd, so she returned a glance in alarm.

Su Yu was an observant person. She got the gist of how Ji Zitong was feeling the moment she saw her expression. “You don’t have to be nervous, Ms. Ji. Xiao Chen told us what happened. Don’t worry. Our family is pretty open-minded, so we don’t really mind how you guys go about it, but anyway, it’s Xiao Chen’s fault that he only told us about you guys recently. My brother has always been an insensitive person, but he’s still a nice guy, and doesn’t have the bad attitude of a youngster from a rich family.”

What?

Ji Zitong was frowning, but Su Yu continued, “I heard your family owns a martial arts center that your father operates. Is it nearby?”

“You...” Ji Zitong’s voice was getting quiet.

“I hope you don’t mind. I’m actually quite fond of martial arts myself. I just think it’d be interesting to take a look.”

Ji Zitong then replied, “It’s nearby.”

“Then, what about your mother? It’s odd to not see your parents here on the day of your new store opening.”

“My mother is arranging some flowers in the back while my father is busy at his center and will be here later. It’s getting cold outside, Ms. Su. Please come in.” Ji Zitong made a welcoming gesture to Su Yu who nodded and then followed her into the store.

At the same time, inside a black car across the road.

“Master, that looks like Elder Su’s car, and isn’t that Ms. Su Yu?”

The Mus and the Sus were pretty close to each other, so Li Si was familiar with the Su family. It was common for Li Si to send Su Chen back in his car the times he got drunk, and he was a regular to the Su family’s garage, thus it was natural for him to know Elder Su’s car plate number.

Mu Yuchen turned over and looked across the road to see the black car. He then averted his gaze towards the entrance of the store. Su Yu was chatting with Ji Zitong as they walked inside.

“That’s odd. Since when did Ms. Su Yu become so close to Ms. Ji? The elder seems to be in the car as well!” Li Si mumbled doubtfully.

Mu Yuchen raised his eyebrows as a faint light flashed in his eyes. He remembered something as he looked back. “Go the airport right away.” His calm voice reached Li Si.

“Huh? Aren’t we going to head inside?”

They were already here, but were not going inside?

Li Si was puzzled.

Mu Yuchen lowered his head and continued flipping through the magazine in his hands. “Just send someone to deliver the gift over. Also, don’t mention anything you see today to Master Su. Understand?”

Do not mention it to him?

What did that mean?

Li Si was at a loss, but he did not raise any questions when he saw Mu Yuchen return to his usual calm self from the rear-viewing mirror. “Yes, Master! I’ll have someone deliver the gifts now.”

He quickly took out his phone and dialed a number before their car went on their way once again.

Mu Yuchen then had a grin on his face. He gave it some thought before taking out his phone and giving Zhou Zimo a call.

Zhou Zimo was playing cards with some friends when he received the call. He quickly picked it up when he saw it was Mu Yuchen.

“Come to the private airport in half an hour and follow me to City B.” Mu Yuchen’s direct and concise words reached his ears the moment the call was connected.

Zhou Zimo was stunned for a moment. When he got back to his senses, he threw his cards away and stood up to grab his coat before everyone else could react to what happened. “I’ll be there immediately.”

“Master Mo, you’re leaving? Your money...”

“Transfer it into my account!”

Chapter 730. Auction (1)

It did not take more than half an hour for them to reach the private airport as Zhou Zimo sped all the way there.

The airplane steadily flew through the clouds. Inside the luxurious private plane, Mu Yuchen leisurely poured himself two glasses of whiskey. He walked over and handed one of the glasses to Zhou Zimo before he sat down as he took a swig.

“How’s it going? How do you feel being a father?” Zhou Zimo took a swig and looked amusedly at Mu Yuchen as he teased, “Why do I feel like you’ve become thinner? This little thing has worn you out.”

Mu Yuchen smiled helplessly. The light that gathered in his eyes had some tenderness to it. He sighed and said, “The little thing likes to weep on the daily. His condition will stabilize after a few more days in

the incubator. Then, Xiaye can be discharged and go home too. He probably won't be a worry-free little fellow in the future either."

"Don't you plan on having a full moon banquet?" Zhou Zimo squinted and asked. Then, he took another sip. "I've even already prepared the present."

"We'll see about the 100th day. Xiaye doesn't quite like the bustle anyway. Besides, if it's not something valuable, I won't accept it."

"Please, would I bring something unpresentable for your son? You'll see when the time comes!"

Mu Yuchen laughed, the two buddies clinked their glasses and downed the whole glass at a go.

Zhou Zimo picked up the bottle to pour more as he looked up at Mu Yuchen to ask, "Did you hear about something from City Z? Otherwise, why would you be rushing over at such a time? Do you have a lot of work? Tell me more."

Mu Yuchen leaned languidly against the sofa, lifting a hand to prop his head up by the forehead. There was a heaviness gathered between his brows. "Remember that pen you saw the last time?"

"The pen? The Qinghua one embedded with gems?" Zhou Zimo immediately remembered how that pen looked. Since he was an amateur collector hobbyist as well, when he first saw that pen, he really liked it.

Mu Yuchen nodded indifferently and set aside his glass. "Mmm, that's the one. Ah Bao managed to find out that it was the work of a famous guru in City B. The person who custom made it should be someone related to Aunty. I told Ah Bao to lay the nets there. Tonight, I'd like to invite you to watch a good show with me."

"Oh? Are you sure there'll be a good show?" Zhou Zimo glanced meaningfully at Mu Yuchen, seeming very interested.

"I'm not sure, but you can just pretend like I invited you out for a spin," Mu Yuchen answered calmly.

Zhou Zimo rolled his eyes at him. "Going out for a spin with you really takes quite the effort, but I do know there's a pretty decent hot spring over there. It should be early enough when we reach. Let's go take a bath first."

"I'll satisfy you, but before that, let's go with the old rules."

"We'll go with the old rules then!"

Then, Zhou Zimo finished the drink in his glass in a go. He unbuttoned his shirt and took off his blazer before suddenly taking out a deck of cards and tossed it to Mu Yuchen. Mu Yuchen leisurely caressed the black cufflinks on his sleeve and slipped his blazer off. He picked up the cards and skillfully shuffled them.

Half an hour later, Mu Yuchen rolled over and lay down on the sofa while Zhou Zimo was rolling his sleeves up and going all out with the massage.

"You rarely come out to play cards with your buddies anymore, but your skills haven't worsened. Still, it seems like you haven't enjoyed yourself this much since we returned from service. Also, how long have you not relaxed? Why are you all stiff?"

"I don't have the time," Mu Yuchen answered calmly. He never liked going to those kinds of places anyway. After he got married, he just became a domesticated man.

When he heard his reply, Zhou Zimo could not help but cover his forehead as he sighed. "Chen, why do I feel like you're about to become an old man? No wonder Su Chen said that the fun in you is about to whittle into nothing more."

"Su Chen?"

Mu Yuchen softly muttered when he suddenly remembered the scene he saw in front of Ji Zitong's florist. If he guessed correctly...

“A fire is about to start in his backyard. Just wait for a good show.” Mu Yuchen turned to smile mysteriously at Zhou Zimo.

“What do you mean?”

“You’ll find out soon.”

...

It was a dazzling afternoon. In a suite in Hospital T, Xi Mushan came to visit Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye was just carrying her son, Mu Zicheng. The little guy had fallen asleep after having his fill of milk. With bleary eyes, he stared at her for a bit before falling asleep again. Xi Xiaye got the nurse to carry him back to the nursery.

“I told Mu Yuchen to bring Xi Xinyi over for a chat. I know that she went looking for you at West Park. How’s Yue Lingsi now?” Xi Xiaye propped herself up to sit down and looked at Xi Mushan who sat on the sofa.

Xi Mushan responded with a nod, “The other day, I looked at her from outside the ward. She’s not doing too well. It’s karma, I suppose.”

“She only has herself to blame for inviting all that she’s experiencing today. Father, since you and Mother have remarried, then promise me that you will focus on treating her well. The school is almost done with the preparations, and school will begin once it’s past the 15th. You should move over to live with Mother. Mu Yuchen’s already settled Grandpa’s end. Next will be you and Mother starting over again.”

Xi Xiaye’s tone was a little solemn as she spoke. She thought about it, then continued, “There are many good memories of you and Mother at University A. The other day, I flipped through Mu Yuchen’s document. I know that he secretly bought a huge chunk of University A shares under both your names, and he appointed you as Vice President of the school with a simple aim. Apart from wanting to make you feel better, it’s also to let you and Mother be together again to relive your good times.”

“Mmm, I’m very well aware of this. Ah Chen’s thoughtful.” Xi Mushan felt very glad. He could not help but feel a little guilty too. As he wanted to say something more, Xi Xiaye could also guess what he wanted to say, so she spoke up first to stop him, “I won’t say much now. School’s reopening in another two days. I’ll get Mu Yuchen to arrange for someone to help you with the move. Also, Father, on Su Nan’s end, Ruan Heng isn’t awake yet. You and Mother should look after Uncle Su’s family too.”

“Don’t worry. We’ll take care of that.”

“Father, there’s something I’ve always wanted to ask you.” Xi Xiaye suddenly fixed her eyes on Xi Mushan whose gaze flickered. “Have you ever regretted giving up your role as Mayor?”

When Xi Xiaye asked this, Xi Mushan was stunned for a moment. He thought about it for a long time before responding, “There’s no such thing as regretting it or not. To me, there’s actually nothing more important than your mother. Do you know why I haven’t been willing to face your mother these twenty over years?”

Xi Mushan’s low and raspy voice was filled with an aged and bleak tone while his profound gaze quietly focused on Xi Xiaye.