

Loving 751

Chapter 751. Master Mu's Status (2)

The little thing closed his eyes again moments later. Xi Xiaye took him from Mu Yuchen. This time around, Mu Zicheng only stirred slightly and gazed up drowsily at Xi Xiaye for a little while before closing his eyes and continuing to sleep again.

Xi Xiaye stared at the little guy for a long while. Then, she took a deep breath and glanced at the clock on the wall.

It was already late at night. The breeze outside was getting really chilly. Although it was a busy night, in the end, Xi Xiaye decided to dismiss everyone.

“Aunt Lin, Sis Wang, it’s already really late. You guys can head back and sleep. I guess he’s still getting used to the new environment. I’ll take care of him for now. Mr. Mu, go get your son’s pillow.”

Holding her son, she then walked into the bedroom.

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Mu Yuchen frowned as he looked at the third person on their bed. Peering at Xi Xiaye across him moments later, he asked, “What are you doing?”

Xi Xiaye watched her son as she lay down on the bed, and casually combed her messy hair. “He hasn’t been sleeping very well and might wake up at night, so it’s easier for me to take care of him this way. You can help out too. Alright, it’s time to sleep. Stay over on that side since you just recovered from a fever. Don’t stay too close to us.”

She then proceeded to switch the main lights off and only left the dim lights right beside the windows on.

Mu Yuchen felt the throb of a headache coming on as he looked at the two of them for a while before letting out a helpless sigh. He glared at the baby unhappily.

He needed the mother's slender body, not the baby!

What a nightmare!

He knew this was coming!

His status in this family was becoming lower and lower!

He massaged his temples before he crossed over and grabbed the blanket right behind Xi Xiaye. Ignoring her struggles, he pinned her down. "I didn't expect you to forget about me once you found something new. Is this how things are going to be now?"

Xi Xiaye turned around and faced him in shock. She then noticed that he really seemed dissatisfied and sounded jealous as well. Now, she finally understood why her man was acting weird the whole night.

She could not help but scold him, "That's enough, Chairman Mu. I didn't expect you to be this petty."

"It's not about being petty. It's a matter of attitude. Your behavior will lead to spoiling our son. No matter how well you take care of him, he'll become someone else's husband in the future. Then, he'll only listen to his wife. This is the bad part about having a son. I'm sure he's not going to listen to you in the future. I told you daughters are always better. Moreover, I'm your husband, so I'll be the one who walks alongside you until the end of the journey of life."

"What are you talking about? A daughter will become someone else's wife as well! So, are you saying that you're an unfilial son? No wonder you're not close to your parents. Plus, I don't think you've been listening to me as well! I'm sure our son will grow up to be an understanding and mature person who'll treat us very well. I expect my son and my daughter-in-law along with our grandkids to visit us frequently, just like how we visit our grandparents now. Mr. Mu, I now realize you can be pretty selfish at times."

Xi Xiaye shot him a cold and disapproving gaze as a warning.

“I’m the exception. I’m selfish because of you. Fine, I shouldn’t put it that way. Don’t look at me like that! Just leave our son to me. You just worry about work and me.”

“Don’t you like our son?” Xi Xiaye squinted at him.

“How is that possible? I like any child that you give birth to. I just want to voice out my opinion. I’m just worried that you might be overburdening yourself! What do you think of me, Mrs. Mu?” he asked seriously as he hugged her tightly.

Xi Xiaye gave him a serious look and replied, “You’re alright. I used to think you were ideal, but your image is starting to deteriorate, and you’re shifting slightly further away from the ideal.”

“That’s not bad. I was brought up in a peaceful family. The relationship between parents can influence the children a lot.”

“What do you mean? Please express yourself properly.” Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows as she noticed that his eyes were definitely plotting something.

“I mean we have to behave very lovingly in front of our sons. Not only are we in a fantastic relationship, but we also need to have rapport too. If you always ignore me, aren’t you worried that I might...?”

“Worry about what? Are you going to look for a female secretary? Or go out with some movie star for dinner? I heard from the PR Department there’s a new ambassador lately. She’s a young, innocent girl, and quite a pretty one too. Ahem, a certain someone was looking at her for too long during the anniversary dinner and she felt embarrassed. Do you think I don’t know about it?” Xi Xiaye raised his chin with one finger as she looked straight into his eyes.

Mu Yuchen finally understood the terror of a woman who remembered his past faults. He felt a chill shoot down his spine and he quickly said, “Who was looking at her? You were standing right behind her. I was looking at you. Moreover, do you think my standards are that low? How is it my fault if she gets the wrong idea? You know very well I don’t like people in the entertainment industry.”

As he finished his sentence, he was reminded of something and he quickly let go of her. His eyes darkened as he took a deep breath and he pulled the blanket over the two of them. "It's getting late. Go to sleep."

Their happy moments were taken over by a gloomy atmosphere. He had already closed his eyes when she looked at him. Starting to feel bad, she quickly snuggled up to him. "I don't mean that. Please don't get angry at me, Mr. Mu."

He grabbed her hands and replied without even opening his eyes. "I don't dare be angry at you."

She chuckled. "Really?"

"What do you think?" He glanced at her.

Chapter 752. Master Mu's Status (3)

His noble and handsome expression that contained a hint of unhappiness came into her sight. Xi Xiaye instantly smiled cheerfully. "At least, you're slightly self-aware. Do you have to be jealous of your own son? He's just a little baby. It's our duty and responsibility to take care of him."

"You also have a duty and responsibility to me," he immediately said.

"I'll compensate you well enough in time. When our son grows older, we'll have a lot of time together."

"How are you going to compensate me?" When he heard her response, he immediately opened his eyes and looked meaningfully at her.

"I'll treat you to a meal..."

"Before that, it's best if you can pay a little bit of interest. One kiss isn't too much, is it?"

"I... Mmm... our son..."

“He’s not awake. Even if he is, he won’t understand what’s going on.”

This pervert!

He managed to get quite a few minutes of sweetness out of her. Then, a certain someone suddenly squeezed the pillow tightly as he rolled off the bed and ran out of the door.

Xi Xiaye watched the sorry way he ran off and could not help but chuckle. After that, she fell asleep a little exhausted. Poor Master Mu slept on the cold sofa outside for the night. When he woke up the next day, his head felt heavy. In the end, he caught a cold and had a rather high fever.

Inside the chairman of Glory World’s office.

Cough cough!

The suppressed coughing kept continuing to echo throughout the room. Sitting before the window, Mu Yuchen was browsing through a document. He looked up at the few super large screens which were displaying information related to the stock market and company insights while his other hand covered his mouth with a clean tissue.

“Chairman Mu, Chief Su is outside here!” the secretary reported.

Mu Yuchen did not even blink as he said with a raspy voice, “Let him in, and bring two cups of Mao Jian.”

“Got it, Chairman Mu!”

The secretary left quickly. In a moment, Su Chen’s lean figure walked in. As he set his coat down, he sat down and casually tossed the hard disk in his hand onto the table. He said in exhaustion, “I managed to find out. Look at it yourself! It was a car without a number plate, and it should’ve been a woman sitting inside. She wore sunglasses, so you have to find out who it is yourself.”

“More than a month has passed since the incident, and you bring me this half-heartedly. Your skills have worsened.” Mu Yuchen closed the document in hand as he complained in a raspy voice. Then, he could not help but cough lightly a few more times.

“Why are you still at work when you’re sick? Don’t tell me it’s too earn money for your child. Your wealth is enough to sustain the many generations after you! You can’t blame me for this either. I only had people investigate it once work started after the New Year. I don’t manage the administrative region. Do you really think it’s easy to investigate all the cars in City Z without a number plate? Besides, we’re the traffic police, not the Ministry of Public Security. The fact that we could find this is pretty commendable. Besides, the region that this car passed through is my rival’s,” Su Chen said while looking annoyed. He was recently quite troubled by his family. What a bad start to the year!

“Is your backyard on fire again?”

Mu Yuchen had been hearing a lot about the things on Su Chen’s end from Li Si. Indeed, he had gotten into something with Ji Zitong. Back then, when he saw Elder Su and Su Yu appear before Ji Zitong’s flower shop, he already had a feeling that there was going to be a spectacular show from Su Chen. It certainly turned out as he expected.

Su Chen accepted the tea that the secretary served him and carefully took two sips. “Forget it. Let’s not talk about these things. Work’s ending soon. Let’s have a few drinks with the bros. Call Zimo. Oh yeah, a friend of mine’s returned from abroad too, so let’s hang out.”

“Do I look like I can go right now?” Mu Yuchen held back his coughs and asked in a hoarse voice.

“Why can’t you? You don’t drink, so you can just chat with your buddies. Let’s go!” Su Chen urged, and without waiting for Mu Yuchen to answer, he got up to take his coat before casually swinging it over his shoulders. “I’ll give Zimo a call.”

Then, he took out his phone from his pocket and was about to call Zhou Zimo when his phone unexpectedly buzzed. Su Chen looked down and saw that it was Ji Zitong. He already knew what was up. Early this morning, he heard from his sister, Su Yu, that the elder had gone to exchange martial arts moves with Ji Zitong’s father again!

He lifted a hand to massage between his brows as he felt his head ache. The call went through. "What is it?"

"Go to XX Restaurant near my father's martial arts center right away. Your grandfather invited my father to drink, and now the two of them are drunk. The elder came by in a taxi himself!" It was hard to miss the hint of contained anger in Ji Zitong's voice.

When Su Chen heard her furious voice, he widened his eyes. After a while, he reacted. "It's only been a few days. How did the old man and your father progress so quickly to become good friends?"

"Come over right away and explain the whole thing to my parents. Tell them that I've got nothing to do with you. You know that I've got limited patience."

Ji Zitong sighed deeply. Without waiting for the other person to answer, she hung up, and then looked helplessly at the two who were sprawled drunk on the table.

Elder Su's temperament was quite agreeable with her father's. Ever since the last time Elder Su came to look for her parents at the martial arts center, Elder Su had been coming quite frequently whether it was to play chess with her father or to exchange some moves. In just half a month, the two of them were like friends who had known each other all along. In short, they became close friends.

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On Glory World Corporation's end.

Mu Yuchen handed the hard disk that Su Chen tossed over to him to Li Si. He said in a hoarse voice, "Find that woman in the recording. I want the results tomorrow."

"Yes, Master!" Li Si answered respectfully, and then took the hard disk from Mu Yuchen's hand.

"Ah Chen, come with me. The elder is drunk and is probably unconscious right now." Su Chen sighed helplessly and said in bewilderment, "He's only happy if he gives me nonsense to deal with!"

Mu Yuchen took his windbreaker from the rack, and simply put it over his shoulders. He grabbed the car keys from the table, and looked meaningfully at Su Chen. "The elder's risking his life to get you a wife, so you should thank him. Let's go."

Su Chen found his words rather odd. "What wife? Where did you get this gossip? Ji Zitong and I had nothing to do with each other at all!"

Su Chen quickly chased after him as he explained profusely. At most, he was just hiring her to be his wife. Even when he had proposed that, that woman had looked at him in disdain!

Mu Yuchen, who walked ahead, suddenly stopped in his steps and abruptly turned to look at Su Chen while smiling faintly. "I didn't say it was Ji Zitong. You exposed yourself."

"Bloody hell! You bastard, you tricked me again!"

Chapter 753. Long Time No See (1)

The start of spring was still a little chilly, especially when night fell. Amidst the bleakness, there would be frigid gales.

After two senior apprentices from the martial arts center helped Father Ji back to the center, Ji Zitong stood in the cold wind while peering through the glass window and waiting for Su Chen to arrive. She saw Elder Su still fast asleep on the table, and her brows furrowed into a knot.

She watched as the traffic light turned from red to green, then red again. She also kept glancing at the phone in her hand too, shrinking as her whole body shuddered from the cold. Unable to help but take a look at her phone again, she realized that half an hour had passed and Su Chen was nowhere in sight. Irritated, she could not help but curse Su Chen inside again. She was about to pick up her phone when suddenly—

Clatter!

Someone bumped into her from behind, and the phone in her hand fell to the ground.

Ji Zitong frowned as she quickly bent down and was about to pick up her phone from the ground.

“I’m sorry, Miss. Are you okay?”

Then came the kind voice of a male whose hand picked up the phone even quicker than she could.

The familiar yet distant voice came made Ji Zitong stop what she was doing in that instant. She subconsciously looked up to take in a dashing man in a tuxedo. Stunned, her beautiful eyes froze, and then a coldness flashed through them. Finally, they returned to being calm.

“Zitong, it’s you!”

The man was extremely stupefied as his gaze was fixed on Ji Zitong before him. “Zitong, long time no see...”

Dong Wentao.

Ji Zitong did not think that she would ever see this person ever again.

“It really has been a long time, Captain Dong. Can you return my phone?” Ji Zitong’s lukewarm voice was heard although her beautiful face was extremely reserved without any expression.

“I’m sorry. Here.”

Dong Wentao handed the phone to Ji Zitong who quickly took it back. She was about to turn when he suddenly called out to her, “Zitong, that day... I’m sorry that I didn’t go.” His low raspy voice sounded a little apologetic.

“I know you didn’t go. Actually, I didn’t go either. While you got engaged to Wang Yanran, I was still training with the troops, so I couldn’t leave, and you didn’t wait for me. I didn’t wait for you either, so you don’t have to apologize to me about anything.” Ji Zitong put both hands in her pockets as she looked magnanimously at this man before her.

"I know that you still went in the end, and even injured your leg in a fall. I let you down. I did go looking for you afterward, but Chief Su didn't let me in. Zitong, how have you been all these years? I haven't been able to get you off my mind all these years."

Dong Wentao had no idea what else he could say at this point. He had so much to say; everything had been suppressed for a long time, and at this point, right before her, all of those words became feeble. Nonetheless, right now, he could only bitterly tell himself that once you missed some things, you would never get it back, and once you missed some people, that was it.

"Compared to your ascend up the promotion ladder, given your high role as captain of the police force, I clearly can't measure up to you, but I really do have to thank you for the thought, Captain Dong." Ji Zitong seemed very calm while her beautiful eyes studied the man before her.

"Zitong, my family arranged Yanran for me. My parents..."

"Okay, Captain Dong, you can save these words. Just be good to your wife then. She's your capital to promotions and wealth, so you have to serve her well. You're from the army, hence you should always care about the result over the process. I don't like to hear these things either."

"Zitong, there are still some things I have to clarify, but you never gave me a chance," Dong Wentao said disappointedly. There was an indescribable complexity in his eyes as he fixed them on Ji Zitong's cold face. "Back then, we were both too prideful, so prideful that neither wanted to give in. We went through so much, yet you're still as stubborn and hostile as before, Zitong."

"You didn't give me a chance either!" An insulting sneer flashed on Ji Zitong's face. "So arrogant that I wouldn't yield? It was only you who never wanted to yield. Every time we fought, I'd always be the one compromising, including getting closer to you. I went against my own wishes and joined the army without a second thought. While you? Have you ever cared for me? Right, you're also a high and mighty son of an official. Someone like me just can't measure up to you. Oh, you don't have to lower yourself for me either. Forget about the mockery of your family. I'll have to honor you as the god of occupying a leading position."

"Zitong, you've misunderstood. My mother never looked down on you. She just thought our personalities weren't suitable. She's got nothing against you," Dong Wen quickly explained.

“She’s right. We’re extremely unsuitable. If we were a match, how could you have made it to your top position? You mother-and-son pair are quite far-sighted.”

“Oh, isn’t this Miss Ji? What a coincidence that you happened to bump into our Wentao? What? This time, what are you planning to talk about to my husband? I was wondering why no one turned up. It turns out you’re here chatting away with this vixen!” This sharp voice that interrupted their conversation was quite harsh. Ji Zitong could immediately tell who this voice belonged to.

It was Wang Yanran, Dong Wentao’s wife who was dressed in pearls and looking all high and mighty.

“Yanran, watch your words!”

“How am I not watching my words? How long have you rekindled your spark with this vixen behind my back? Have you forgotten how this vixen almost ruined our wedding back then!? Why? Are you hurt now?”

“Yanran, shut up. We’re in public! Zitong and I just bumped into each other. If you want to cause a scene, do it at home!” Dong Wentao frowned and reprimanded his wife softly.

“You, shut up! Zitong, Zitong, how intimate. No one would believe the two of you bumped into each other! Earlier, you were telling me to go home first. Wasn’t it to ride off into the sunset with this vixen?”

“Wang Yanran, you better be more respectful.”

“How am I being disrespectful? I know that you’ve always loved Wentao, but now he’s my man, Wang Yanran’s husband. You’re terribly shameless by seducing him. Do you even deserve my respect?”

“What an egoistic and dumb woman!” Ji Zitong smiled in disdain. She turned to look at Elder Su through the window and cursed Su Chen inside again.

It was all this bastard’s fault. Otherwise, she would not have bumped into these people.

“What? Are you cursing me?”

“Yes, I am!”

“You’re the dumb woman. It serves you right that no one wants you! Husband, did you know that my friend saw her details at the matchmaking center? Her mother’s still marketing this dumb woman. She’s still going for blind dates like she’s playing house. How embarrassing!”

Chapter 754. Long Time No See (2)

The sharp voice broke through the cruel bite of the cold wind. Because Wang Yanran’s voice was loud and shrill, many people around them were beginning to look their way. They even started to surround them, or point at them and whisper among each other.

Ji Zitong’s expression finally tensed in that instant. Her beautiful eyes were filled with anger while her hands that hid underneath her sleeves began to clench into fists as she coldly fixed her gaze on Wang Yanran’s face.

“Yanran! Enough! Stop this. We’re outside. Watch your image! Don’t be cursing in the streets like a fishmonger’s wife!” Dong Wentao seemed really upset, and then he looked apologetically with mixed emotions at Ji Zitong as he pulled at Wang Yanran’s arm.

It was barely fine when Dong Wentao said nothing, but as soon as he said that, it undoubtedly added fuel to the fire!

Wang Yanran wriggled free of Dong Wentao’s arm. She turned and then pushed him away, her sharp voice containing some degrees of fury to it now. “Let go of me! Why? Do you feel sorry for her now? Cursing in the streets like a fishmonger’s wife, eh? Telling me to watch my image? You two want to meet behind my back but are afraid that I’d know? Don’t act all innocent. Let everyone see your faces. Let them see it! Dong Wentao, I’m done loving you! Do you think I don’t know that all these years, you’ve been missing this woman behind my back, that you haven’t tossed that bracelet she gave you? Last week, when I was tidying up the room, I even found a picture of you two together in your book! What? Speechless now?”

“Yanran, let’s go home! Stop talking!”

Dong Wentao was extremely humiliated at this point. His dark brows furrowed into a knot as he walked up and dragged Wang Yanran by the arms, yet she struggled even harder. “Bloody hell! Let go of me! I’ve caught the two of you just in time. Are you afraid that I’d expose this slut’s scandal? Everyone come judge for yourself. Not only did this woman ruin my husband and my wedding back then, but now she’s even shamelessly seducing my husband. Disgusting mistresses like this one are the most shameless! Everyone, come look! Hmph!”

Wang Yanran’s voice attracted many bystanders. Those with a discerning eye would think that it was a show about a wife catching the mistress, thus many people begun to point and scorn Ji Zitong. Their curses kept coming while some even took their phones out to take pictures of her. Without a doubt, Ji Zitong was probably going to appear on Weibo very soon.

Ji Zitong’s eyes filled with anger. Her first reaction was to smack the hands of those people who tried to take pictures of her. With a stormy expression, she walked up in long strides to push Dong Wentao aside without a word before she quickly reached out to hold Wang Yanran by the collar. In her stern voice, she spoke through gritted teeth, “Slut? Who are you calling a slut?”

“Ah! You want to use violence against me too! How dare you manhandle me, slut!?! Look, everyone! The mistress thinks she’s right! Let go of me! Let go of me quickly!”

Wang Yanran began to struggle and she subconsciously gripped Ji Zitong by her clothes with both hands.

“Back then when I was dating him, you were nowhere in sight! If we were to talk about a third party, you’d be the one! You just picked up a used man that I, Ji Zitong, discarded. What are you being so delighted for? Are all daughters of Bureau Chiefs like you? Only blind trash men would fancy an arrogant and unreasonable bimbo like you. What? Do you think I don’t know that it was you who played those little tricks at your wedding? I was just too lazy to expose you!”

“Nonsense! How would you explain today then? Haven’t you been missing my husband all these years? Your mother even pitifully told me this, hmph!”

“Me missing him? Is he even worthy?”

Ji Zitong's cold voice contained thick ridicule. "A man who relies on a woman for promotions is just a softie living off a woman. If you like him, feel free to have him. I've never disturbed you two. You don't have to keep holding onto me!"

"Yanran, Zitong, stop fighting. Please stop fighting!" Dong Wentao could not keep quiet any longer. He went up and tried to separate the two of them.

"Me keep holding on to you? You slut! You want to slander me while seducing my husband for no reason! Look at yourself. You don't match him. Are you still thinking of trying to be upper-class? Stop daydreaming! Let go of me! You want to hit me, don't you? Do you want to hit me in your fury of embarrassment? Come then! Hit me!"

In the barrage of Wang Yanran's shouting, Ji Zitong already furiously clenched her fists uncontrollably. She wanted to punch this annoying face so badly, and the reality was that she eventually did!

"Ah!"

Her shriek sounded as if a pig had been slaughtered. Wang Yanran's first reaction was to clutch Ji Zitong by the collar in an instant. She went all out and slapped Ji Zitong's face as her sharp nails scratched her like mad. Even the earrings on Ji Zitong's ear were pulled off.

"How dare you hit me?! What a justified mistress! Slut! How terrifying! You shamelessly seduce my husband, and openly meet up with him. How thirsty are you!"

"Yanran! Stop!" Dong Wentao held Wang Yanran by the shoulders and pulled her back. "Enough! Stop causing trouble. Zitong, go home!"

"Let go of me. I want her to learn her lesson. Don't seduce someone else's husband in your free time! Pfft, slut! I want to teach her a lesson."

"Who do you want to teach a lesson to?"

Just as Wang Yanran was going to kick Ji Zitong again, Ji Zitong felt herself pulled back. A tall figure blocked before her. In the next second, his imposing manner pushed Wang Yanran back.

“Chief Su...”

Dong Wentao looked at the man who had suddenly appeared before him, and his expression instantly sank. He subconsciously trembled as he quickly pulled Wang Yanran back.

“What Chief Su? Who are you? Don’t be a busybody!”

Wang Yanran had not realized who he was just yet. She cursed as she looked up. When she saw Su Chen’s steadfast and handsome face that was mad, she was subconsciously stunned, and could not look away.

“Stop it now, Yanran. He’s Chief Su from the Traffic Management Bureau!” Dong Wentao could not help but begin to panic. This year, he had been mulling over a career change, and he wanted to look to him for help when that happened!

Of course, Wang Yanran knew about Su Chen. Had her father not asked Dong Wentao to go out with him more recently?

Why would he be here? And even bump into this ugly scene?

As she thought about this, she suddenly had a bad feeling. She turned uneasily to Dong Wentao and saw that his expression had clouded over. She hesitated, then said, “So, it’s Chief Su. I apologize. I didn’t recognize you earlier. This woman was just...”

Chapter 755. Long Time No See (3)

“I saw what happened.” Su Chen interrupted Wang Yanran before she could finish her sentence. He shot Dong Wentao a sharp gaze. “Captain Dong, you seem to be enjoying yourself. What are you guys trying to do by blocking this place?”

“Chief Su, this woman is trying to seduce Wentao. She’s a bad influence on society! She’s destroying someone’s marriage!”

“You self-absorbed idiot!” Ji Zitong laughed coldly at Wang Yanran.

“So, are you saying you weren’t here waiting for Wentao?” Wang Yanran’s suppressed anger resurfaced the moment she heard Ji Zitong’s words.

“Stop it, Yanran! I already told you that we just happened to bump into Zitong. It’s been many years since we last met. Can’t I at least greet her?” Dong Wentao glared at Wang Yanran irritably as his eyes darkened.

Wang Yanran was about to say something, but she kept her anger in check as Su Chen was there.

“Ms. Wang, it’s not very nice of you to accuse someone without any proof. Captain Dong, I’m afraid it’s your fault this time. Women are meant to be protected, and not be a target to hurt. I believe I’ve told you this back then. I see you haven’t learned at all after all these years.”

Su Chen’s tone of voice was firm as he glanced at the surroundings with his sharp eyes. He frowned when he noticed the crowd was taking photos and videos. Then, he turned around and looked at Ji Zitong. The next moment, he put his arm over her shoulder. He lowered himself down and whispered beside her ear as she started to struggle, “You can choose not to cooperate if you want these rumors to spread. It doesn’t affect my reputation anyway.”

Ji Zitong then stopped struggling and behaved.

Su Chen seemed satisfied, so he straightened up and asked, “Where’s Grandfather and Father? They must’ve been waiting.”

Ji Zitong looked at him and sighed. “Several students from my father’s center took him back. Grandfather is still inside.”

Ji Zitong glanced into the restaurant. Through the window, they could see an old man with white hair sleeping on the table.

Su Chen put a hand onto his forehead. "Let's go in." He then went into the restaurant with his arm wrapped around her.

The whole thing just now seemed like a cheap joke as the two of them acted intimately. The ugly rumor wore off by itself, especially when people saw Mu Yuchen standing quietly right behind Su Chen!

Mu Yuchen had been behind Su Chen the whole time. Despite him usually being calm and collected, even he was surprised when Su Chen put his arm over Ji Zitong as they walked into the restaurant.

"It's Master Mu! Chief Su and Chairman Mu!"

"Oh my God! It's really them!"

The crowd started to react. Su Chen had taken part in making a public service announcement video regarding road safety some time ago, so people were familiar with his looks, and this elegant-looking man here must be Glory World's Master Mu!

It was a well-known fact that they were good friends.

Mu Yuchen did not say a word. The crowd opened up a path for him as he walked past. When he passed by Dong Wentao and Wang Yanran, he glanced at them. Wang Yanran shuddered slightly as she spoke up, "Master Mu, I..."

Mu Yuchen did not say anything. He signaled Li Si behind him with a look. In turn, Li Si nodded as he marched towards the staircase.

Su Chen let go of Ji Zitong as they entered the restaurant. He went forward and saw his grandfather sleeping soundly.

"What's the occasion that made you drink so much?" Mu Yuchen's voice reached them as Su Chen was trying to get his grandfather up.

“Chairman Mu, you’re here!”

Ji Zitong finally realized Mu Yuchen was there as she gave him a slight bow. Mu Yuchen waved his hand and said, “It’s fine. I’ll let Li Si handle the matter. You don’t have to waste your time dealing with people like them in the future.”

Ji Zitong gave Mu Yuchen a grateful look. “Thank you, Chairman Mu.”

She then glanced over at Su Chen who was staring coldly at all the empty bottles strewn all over the table. Mu Yuchen took out his phone and called the Shen residence to tell them to get their family doctor over. He then went over to help get Elder Su up after he hung up.

“He’s not worried about worrying others at all. I really don’t know what this old man is thinking!” Su Chen looked at his drunk grandfather helplessly. Elder Su did not respond much aside from some random mumbling. Mu Yuchen held his other side, and they quickly got him into the car.

Mu Yuchen stopped Su Chen as he was about to get into the car. He tilted his head over at Ji Zitong. “You should send Ms. Ji back while I’ll send your grandfather back to your place. It’s getting late now, so we’ll meet again soon. Xiaye’s waiting for me at home too.”

“It’s fine. My home is nearby,” Ji Zitong quickly explained.

However, Mu Yuchen had already got into the car while Li Si grabbed the keys and slid into the driver’s seat.

Su Chen knew very well what Mu Yuchen was planning. He just watched as Mu Yuchen’s black car disappeared in the traffic. Then, he took out his keys as he walked towards his car.

“Get into the car!” He called out to Ji Zitong as he boarded his car.

Ji Zitong hesitated for a moment. She took a glance at the time on her phone before finally deciding to get in the car.

“My grandfather has high blood pressure. If he does come again, don’t let him drink. Thank you for today. I’ll buy you dinner. What would you like to eat?” Su Chen started the engine as he asked.

Ji Zitong was stunned. She looked downwards and took a deep breath. “I should be the one to thank you. Let me buy you dinner. There’s a pretty amazing restaurant right in front. Let’s go there.”

Chapter 756. Recognize (1)

The night was getting quiet while a vast sea of stars filled the sky.

Maple Residence was getting quiet as it was shrouded in a gentle light.

Wang Hui went back to the Mu Residence after dinner. Because Mu Yinan had caught a cold, she was worried and wanted to take a look at him.

The two maternity matrons went to sleep after a day of work as well, but Xi Xiaye was still thinking about work. She went to the study room to do some work from Fuhua after she put her sons to sleep. When she glanced at the clock, she noticed it was already almost 10 p.m.

He was not home yet.

Xi Xiaye frowned. He had been coming home late recently because he had a lot of events to attend at night even though he was sick.

“Mother, are you not going to sleep?” Mu Zirui rubbed his eyes as he stood by the door.

“Xiao Rui? Why are you still awake? Didn’t Aunt Wang put you to sleep?” Xi Xiaye extended her arms to him and signaled for him to come over.

Mu Zirui walked over quickly. “I woke up to get a drink, then I saw that your room lights were still on. Is Brother asleep?”

“Yeap, he’s asleep. Let me get you some water. Sit here.” Xi Xiaye smiled and patted Mu Zirui’s head before going to fetch him a glass of water.

“Thank you, Mother! Mother, is Father not home yet?” Mu Zirui drank half the glass, then he curled up on the sofa beside Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath and picked up her phone on the table. “Your father’s company has been very busy lately. Here, help me call your father and ask him when is he coming back. Also, ask him if he drank.” She punched Mu Yuchen’s number in and handed the phone to Mu Zirui.

“Oh! Okay!” Mu Zirui grabbed the phone and put it beside his ears. Mu Yuchen then picked up the call.

“Xiaye?” His voice sounded a little hoarse.

He got a childish sounding reply instead. “Father!”

“Xiao Rui?”

“Father, Mother is asking when will you be back, and if you drank tonight,” Mu Zirui grabbed the pillow beside him as he asked.

“Where’s Mother? Hand her the phone.”

“Oh.” Mu Zirui turned towards Xi Xiaye. “Mother, Father said...”

However, before Mu Zirui could finish his sentence, Xi Xiaye was already walking into the bedroom. “Tell him if he drank and isn’t coming back anytime soon, he’s sleeping on the sofa tonight!” Her slender figure then disappeared into the bedroom.

“Oh! Okay, Mother!” Mu Zirui replied to his mother before talking on the phone again, “Father, Mother said if you drank and you’re not home within half an hour, you’ll be sleeping on the sofa. She’s taking a shower now!”

Mu Zirui had not been going to kindergarten in the past few days and stayed in Maple Residence for the past week, so he noticed his mother's habits. She would always take half an hour to shower. She would also be unhappy if she did not see his father by the time she was done showering.

Mu Yuchen frowned as he put on an awkward smile when the call was cut off. He shook his head helplessly.

He could not do anything even if he slept on the bed as well! Every night, he had to sleep in the study room after she fell asleep!

What a nightmare!

...

It was almost 11 p.m. when he arrived home. He noticed that the lights in the study room were still on, so he took a peek inside and saw her sleeping on the table.

Xi Xiaye suddenly smelled the person's unique scent and woke up from her sleep. She caught a glimpse of the man in the corner of her eye and smelled some alcohol on him.

"Why are you back so late? You reek of alcohol!" She squinted at him intently.

He pulled her up as he sat down on the chair and shifted her onto his lap. "Why don't you sleep in the bed? You don't have to push yourself so hard. Uncle Lan sent us some information. I looked through it and found that Fuhua's management system is great. The Vice Presidents fulfilled their roles exceptionally, so you don't have to do everything on your own. Later, you..."

Xi Xiaye wrapped her arms around his shoulder and sighed. She grabbed a document in front of her and mumbled, "I'm really worried as I'm about to take over such a huge company while I'm nearly a stranger to the property development industry. What should I do if I can't handle it? Maybe we should merge it with Glory World and let an experienced Vice President take over. I'll continue to be Director Xi..."

“What is there to worry about? I’ll keep an eye on it. Fuhua is the work of Grandpa and Grandma, and it will stay that way forever. It carries its own special meaning. I’ve promoted several capable personnel before the New Year, so you can delegate the work and we’ll be able to relax a little. I’m planning to stop the market expansion in Europe and focus on maintaining our current market.”

“I agree with that move. There are too many projects going on and our funds are widely dispersed. Since you’ve decided to step foot in the showbiz industry, you should invest more in it. As for property development, we have Fuhua backing us up, so it shouldn’t be an issue. Regarding the tender for South River project No. 2, we really need to rely on Grandpa. Hopefully, he can acquire it and we can proceed on the two projects together. This will be beneficial for us and Qi Lei.”

“Mmm, this shouldn’t be much of an issue since Grandpa is handling it, but things might get difficult as Qi Kai is working with the Gu family. No matter what, we need to be prepared.”

“I understand. We’ll do our best, but it seems things will get difficult for Qi Lei if we don’t get it. Why does Qi Qiming dislike him so much? He’s still his son. That’s really cruel.” Xi Xiaye frowned as she felt it was unfair for Qi Lei. “Let’s just wait and see what’s going to happen.”

Suddenly, there was an email notification chime from the laptop. Xi Xiaye took a glance at it and saw that it was from Mu Yuchen.

“Open it,” Mu Yuchen instructed.

Xi Xiaye then nodded. She entered the password and opened the email.

Chapter 757. Recognize (2)

“Ah Bao sent it? What is it?” Xi Xiaye opened the email.

Mu Yuchen’s expression turned serious. He covered her little hand, controlling the mouse with his palm as his eyes darkened. His sudden movement shocked Xi Xiaye. When she turned over, she saw that he was staring at the laptop screen intently.

“What’s wrong?” Xi Xiaye asked.

His grip on her hand tightened. He coughed slightly without saying anything.

Xi Xiaye looked at him for a while. She suddenly thought of something as she looked away slightly disappointedly. Reflexively, she moved her hand and mumbled, "Can't I look? I'll go and prepare your bath water then..."

As she was about to get up from his lap, he stopped her. "Xiaye, I don't have any secrets to keep from you. You can stay if you want to look."

She then sat back down and scrolled the window upwards. A large chunk of text appeared on screen with some photos attached.

Xi Xiaye was stunned as she read through them.

Gu Qiwu...

What was happening?

"How could this be? He..."

Xi Xiaye could not believe what she was reading. She shuddered as she pointed at one of the images. "This... Isn't this the photo Auntie had? This man is Gu Qiwu? Wait... This... A hat, sunglasses... This... This is the man that stopped me in the tunnel back then!"

"Are you sure he's the one instead of Qi Qiming?" Mu Yuchen looked at her and asked.

Xi Xiaye stared at the photo of the man in sunglasses for a long while, then she nodded confidently. "It should be him. Although I couldn't see his face back then, the shape of his face is pretty identical to the man in the photo, and I remember him having a tiny mole near his ear. Right here..."

Mu Yuchen's eyes darkened when he heard Xi Xiaye. He read the email again as his grip wrapped around her waist tightened. He was almost merging Xi Xiaye and him into one person.

“You... Are you searching for the person that stopped me back then? What conflict does Gu Qiwu have with you? Is it because of Gu Lingsha?”

Mu Yuchen remained quiet for a moment before replying, “The conflict between us is huge...”

His tone of voice sounded a little melancholic. Xi Xiaye felt oddly sad hearing that, so she grabbed his hand, “Did you find out something? It’s not just about Gu Lingsha, is it? She’s still fine right now. The ones who had it worse were Lingtian, Ah Shi, and you. You had to bear the fault even though it’s not your mistake. Tell me what happened.”

“Maybe it’s exactly because Lingtian died that our conflict is sure to never end,” he replied with a grim smile as his arm around her waist relaxed. His face was still expressionless although his voice sounded a little poignant. “I called him Mr. Wen the other day, but he didn’t give me any reaction. He should at least be curious about who I was talking about in that situation, but he didn’t even stop as if he had practiced this. At that moment, I could almost be sure he was the one that stopped you in the tunnel. Ah Bao also found out the accident in City B might be related to him.”

“He’s really trying to hurt you. It doesn’t make sense if it’s just for the sake of Gu Lingsha, but you mentioned Lingtian. Could it be...?” Xi Xiaye suddenly thought of something, and her expression shadowed over. She then remembered her man rushing to City B several days after the New Year.

She knew that he was trying to find out about Lingtian and Ah Shi’s biological father, but now he was linked to Gu Qiwu?

“Do you mean that that person... is him? Impossible!”

Xi Xiaye could not believe it. Her heart sank and she started to feel uncomfortable, unable to imagine what he was feeling.

“Ah Bao is trying to get some DNA samples from him. I’ve sent Lingshi’s sample over already. We’ll be able to conduct a DNA test afterward.”

Mu Yuchen closed the email and then deleted it. "We'll find out the truth once we get the results. However, make sure no one else finds out about this before we're clear of the whole situation. Keep it a secret from the others, especially my grandparents and Lingshi. You cannot let them know at all costs. Understand?"

Xi Xiaye nodded. She realized that he was worried the elders could not take it while Mu Lingshi might lose control and go see Gu Qiwu too. There might be unthinkable consequences if this went out of hand.

"He wants to take revenge on you! Is it because he thought you caused Lingtian's death? Or is it because of something else?" Xi Xiaye turned around and grabbed his shoulders uneasily. "I could tell he has a grudge against you. He's the man that gave me a warning, but didn't we come to the conclusion that Mr. Wen is Qi Qiming?"

"He probably borrowed this name and misled us. Why do you think we haven't been able to find him after so many years? His relationship with Qi Qiming isn't ordinary as well. I feel that things took a huge turn and we've returned to square one."

Mu Yuchen's tone was quiet. He seemed much calmer as compared to Xi Xiaye.

"Don't worry. We might be able to solve this whole matter together with all the conflicts in the past." He comforted her.

Chapter 758. If You'll Marry Me, I'll Marry You! (1)

Xi Xiaye could only nod gently as light flowed in her eyes. She looked at the laptop screen that had dimmed as she said calmly, "If it's really him, then Ah Shi..."

At this moment, Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered that when she found Sis Lan back then, and those things that Sis Lan said, the heaviness that had been weighing on her chest started to feel more oppressive. She thought about it, then said contemplatively, "Sis Lan must have known some things, but she chose not to say anything. I think she must have known the story between them. No matter what, if Qi Qiming was the original Mr. Wen, he would've at least known Aunty too. In that picture, there were two men. One is Gu Qiwu, so the other should be Qi Qiming."

"What do you think Gu Qiwu was thinking about when he tried so hard to hide the truth, and could even bear to see Aunty fall into depression while Lingtian and Lingshi grew up so lonely?"

Xi Xiaye could not figure it out. There were many of such people within families of the rich. After all, were Qi Feng and Qi Lei not like that too? They had the guts to do such things, yet had no courage to bear the consequences.

“Alright, let’s just set this aside for now and wait for the results.”

“Mmm, you go take a bath first. You reek of alcohol. I’ll go prepare the water for you and get Sis Wang to cook you some porridge.”

Xi Xiaye got up slowly, and then lowered her head to plant a kiss on the corner of his lips. Without waiting for him to reply, she walked out of the study room.

As he watched her slender figure vanish out of the doorway, Mu Yuchen’s silent face flashed with a faint smile. He lifted a hand to touch where his lips had curved upwards, and he could faintly feel the warmth she had left behind. As a result, the gloominess in his eyes faded even more.

Xi Xiaye swiftly got Sis Wang to cook him some porridge while she prepared the bathwater for him. When Mu Yuchen walked out of the study room, he saw that she was putting away the windbreaker and coat that he had casually tossed onto the sofa.

“Right, Grandmother’s gone back to the Mu residence. Grandfather hasn’t been feeling too well these past few days. You should visit him if you have the time. Father and Mother have been a little busy recently too. They leave early and return late, so it’s just Grandfather alone at home. Actually, right now, it’s enough for me and Aunt Lin to take care of the baby. Let Grandmother accompany Grandfather more. Once I start working again, she can help take care of the baby. Before this, she asked me if I’d want to move to the old residence for a bit.”

It was slightly inconvenient not to be living with everyone.

“It’s okay for us to stay here. I’ll talk to her,” He said as he took the clothes from her and walked to the bathroom.

Perhaps because there were too many unhappy memories from the past at the old residence, she knew that he did not seem to quite like staying at the old residence.

Yet, just as Mu Yuchen walked into the bedroom, the baby's crying began. Xi Xiaye quickly walked over and rushed to the bed.

"Baby's awake... Mother's here. Don't cry. Mother's right here..."

She swiftly picked up her son from the bed and checked him in a flurry. He did not dirty himself, then she realized that he was probably awoken. As she was pondering over where to prepare his milk formula, she realized that the man had already set his clothes on the stool aside while his tall figure stood before the coffee table. His secrecy was impressive.

After a while, he came back and handed the milk bottle to Xi Xiaye. She took it and fed her son before he finally stopped crying.

"Did you not eat tonight? Are you feeling that hungry?" Mu Yuchen sat down beside Xi Xiaye as he watched his son drink hungrily. He frowned. "Look at those eating manners..."

When Xi Xiaye heard his disgruntled comment, she could not help but roll her eyes. "This is his conditioned reflex. He wouldn't know anything? I... That's not enough. You know he doesn't like milk powder."

"He's just a little thing and already so delicate. I don't receive the same treatment." He meaningfully looked at her chest hidden underneath the loose pajamas as he smiled faintly.

"Go bathe! You're like a hooligan!" Xi Xiaye pushed him away, then he chuckled. He got up to take his clothes and walked to the bathroom.

...

The midnight starry sky remained dazzling and charming as the entire city gradually fell silent from the initial bustle.

The black Land Rover passed through the busy traffic coated in freezing winds as it drove into a slightly old alley and finally stopped before a junction. The road was too narrow, so they could not drive in.

“Just park right here. It’s only a few steps away right in front of this little road. We’ll need to take a huge round if we take the main street ahead,” Ji Zitong unbuckled her safety belt as she said.

Su Chen’s dark eyes looked at the pitch-black alley ahead, and his brows frowned into a knot. Without waiting for Ji Zitong to say anything, he quickly reversed his car.

Su Chen looked a little surprisedly at her. When he saw that she remained unfazed, he could not help but speak out, “You’ve got quite the guts. It looks like a city area that’s about to be relocated soon. Someone even died a few days ago. Aren’t you scared? You dare to walk through that place?”

“I’ve stayed a whole night at a mass grave before, Instructor Su. Don’t you think that saying the word ‘scared’ right now would seem quite pretentious? Besides, I didn’t kill that person, so they won’t come looking for me?” Ji Zitong looked at Su Chen in disagreement.

With this reminder, Su Chen did remember that when they were training in the wild, and they did stay for a whole night at the mass graves in the rural areas.

“I almost forgot that even your Instructor Mu praised your boldness back then. We all agreed back then that you would have a great future in the army, but I didn’t expect you to not persist on.”

Su Chen’s eyes were colored with a faint daze as if he was reminiscing a distant memory. He paused and continued again, “About that thing, it was my fault. I’d like to apologize to you, but I was just doing my duty as an instructor.”

When Su Chen said that, Ji Zitong was stunned. Her eyes started to be dazed as she sighed and turned to look out the car window as she said softly, “There’s no point in saying all of this now. I know, and I don’t blame you either. Fate is as such. There’s no use struggling against it.”

“Do you believe in fate?”

When Su Chen heard her question, he looked amusedly at her. "I can't find that spirit of being unwilling to admit defeat in you anymore. What can exhaust someone's spirit in their bones completely? Cadet Ji Zitong, it looks like you haven't been doing so well all these years."

"I was still young then. I joined the army hot-blooded, but a few years down the road, I realize that that place is actually the best place to settle someone down."

Chapter 759. If You'll Marry Me, I'll Marry You! (2)

When she said this, Ji Zitong's eyes begin to contain some warmth as she sighed and lamented, "At first, I thought that I joined the army for him too, but afterwards I realized that I had done it for myself. So, I never felt any heartache or suffocation because of this unfortunate relationship. I only felt a little regretful. After all, I did invest in it too."

This was the first time that Ji Zitong had talked about her relationship with Dong Wentao in front of someone else.

"He and I never had the kind of love that went all in to sacrifice for the other. Both of us held back, and my bottom line was just right there. I kept reminding myself that I could only give so much and had nothing more to give. A relationship should go both ways. There aren't many people who can go through the suffering of one-sided sacrifices, and not receive the same in return. At least, I'm not that kind of person."

Ji Zitong's tone was calm, yet you could hear some bitterness in her words. "Not everyone woman who foolishly loves will be able to get happiness in the end. When the damage is done, leave some energy to love yourself. Instructor Su, I have to admit that what you'd said back then was right, love is a petty thing. That's why it's easier to lose it. He and I also didn't love each other as deeply as we thought we did."

"You need to be more clever about meeting those kinds of people. The reason I didn't let you out back then was that I'd previously seen him and that woman appear together at my grandfather's birthday banquet. While you know back then, it was a critical time in the training. A cadet's emotional state was very important," Su Chen explained for the first time about the unhappy incident too.

Ji Zitong nodded before she said a little desolately, "No matter what, I actually have to thank you, whether for what it was back then or just earlier, and I'd like to apologize for my attitude from before."

“How rare of you to have such self-awareness, but I permit you to not apologize to me as long as you see the truth for what it is,” Su Chen said rather magnanimously. However, he had always been like that. He would never really be calculative with a woman, what more need a woman to apologize to him. If Ji Zitong had not gone way too overboard back then, he would not have fussed with her.

Ji Zitong turned to look at him, yet she realized that he was focused on the dark road ahead. He held the steering wheel steadily and did not continue talking.

After a while, the car passed through the dark alley and drove towards the flat and wide main road ahead. After they made a huge turn, they finally reached a rather new and clean building.

“We’re here. That’s it right in front. You can just park here,” Ji Zitong said calmly as she looked into Su Chen’s eyes that had calmed down too.

Su Chen was quite frank. He quickly braked and the car slowly stopped. His tall figure leaned to a side and his arms stretched out. Quickly, he opened her side of the car door. “Go home. Have a good sleep, and all will be well when you wake up. Ah Chen will take down those negative news, so don’t worry. Next time, if you meet them again, you can call me if you can’t evade them.”

Ji Zitong nodded gently. “Thank you, Instructor Su.”

“No worries, consider it even for my grandfather’s thing,” Su Chen said simply.

Ji Zitong then got down from the car. Just as she was about to close the car door, a questioning tone suddenly came from in front.

“Zitong? Why are you so late!”

Ji Zitong turned to look at the source of the voice. She saw that her mother, Chen Ling, was standing not too far away and was looking puzzledly at her, and the car beside her.

“Mother! It’s late. Why aren’t you asleep yet?” Ji Zitong frowned and asked.

Chen Ling slowly walked up and stopped beside Ji Zitong as she looked at the car. "Your father drank too much, and he was puking all over the house. I was cleaning up, so I came out to throw rubbish, then I saw you weren't home yet even though it's late, so I waited for you. The mister in the car is..."

Su Chen clearly did not expect this either. He looked at the lady's shrewd eyes that stared at him in the car. After a while, he understood it and swiftly got down from the car.

"Hello, Aunty, I'm Su Chen." Su Chen bowed steadily and calmly, while he briefly introduced himself.

When Su Chen said that, Chen Ling's eyes immediately flashed with surprise. Her gaze came with a sharp light immediately, and she sized Su Chen up and down a few times. With that gaze of hers, she seemed like she was about to look Su Chen inside out. After a long while, her face that was weathered with hardships flashed with a smile. The light in her eyes seemed satisfied as she smiled and said, "Not bad! So, you're Su Chen? How old are you this year? Where do you work?"

Stunned, Su Chen subconsciously looked to Ji Zitong who was frowning as she held Chen Ling back. He thought about then responded, "I'm 33, and I work at the city's Traffic Management Bureau."

"Are you the only son?" Chen Ling continued to ask.

"Mother, stop asking. It's cold outside. Let's go home. Instructor Su, please go home too, it's really late!"

Ji Zitong frowned hard as she dragged Chen Ling home, yet Chen Ling wriggled herself free and softly reprimanded Ji Zitong, "Stop talking. Don't interfere. Stand right there!"

Then, she turned and smiled cordially at Su Chen again.

Su Chen then realized what was going on, so he raised his handsome brows in amusement, then smiled faintly at Ji Zitong who looked all awkward. He answered humbly, "Aunty, I also have an older sister, Su Yu, who's married. My father's in politics too. Mother has a small business, and I have a grandfather."

"Haha, good! Good! This one's not bad. Your grandfather has told us all about it. It looks like that pretty looking lady was your sister. She's quite sweet. Yesterday, she even brought me several sets of the latest

fashion outfits. How nice of her to be spending much money. She's really quite thoughtful. Why haven't you come to our place to visit with Tong Tong when it's been so long? It's cold outside. How about you come in to sit?" Chen Ling said as she pointed to her house ahead.

Su Chen looked at Ji Zitong's whose eyes had darkened even more. Ji Zitong wanted to dig a hole for her to hide in. She quickly explained, "Mother, Su Chen and I are just..."

"Thank you, Aunty. Today's a little late. Next time, I'll come visit again. My grandfather's brought trouble to you all, and I'm very sorry about that. It's cold outside. You and Zitong should go in soon."

"Oh, okay, Mother, he has other things to attend to later. Let's go in first! You drive safely!"

Upon hearing Su Chen, Ji Zitong allowed no explanation and immediately pulled Chen Ling ahead, ignoring her protests.

Chapter 760. If You'll Marry Me, I'll Marry You! (3)

Su Chen smirked as he watched the two of them walk into their house. He took out a cigarette from his pocket and started smoking.

He closed the door to his car and smoked half the stick as he leaned against the door. Then, he extinguished it and threw it into a nearby trash can when he saw the lights turned on inside the room on the second floor. He got back into his car.

Ji Zitong peeked outside her window when she heard the sound of a car leaving. Her expression softened when she saw the car leave under the dim street lamps.

"Su Chen looks great, and he's got a good family background. Both his grandfather and his sister are very pleasant as well. You should really consider him. He's handsome and just several years older than you. Men like him usually make good husbands. Trust me."

The voice of Ji Zitong's mother, Chen Ling, reached her as she drew the curtains. Ji Zitong frowned and looked at Chen Ling who had a cheeky smile on her face.

“Mother, I’ve told you that Su Chen and I aren’t together. He was my instructor during my time in the army. I don’t understand what happened, but you guys have misunderstood my relationship with him!” Ji Zitong had forgotten how many times she had to explain this to them.

“Not related? You guys are just fighting, aren’t you? There’s no way he’d send you back home if what you said is true. Look at what’s over your shoulder. Moreover, his grandfather and sister are already in contact with us!”

Chen Ling did not believe her at all.

Ji Zitong glanced over her shoulder to see Su Chen’s coat. It was pretty chilly when they were next to the river just now. As a gentleman, he had given her his coat, but she totally forgot about it.

Ji Zitong’s expression froze as she quickly shrugged the coat off. “I said there’s nothing between us. It’s the truth!”

“Tongtong, you’re not a child anymore. Grab your chance when there’s someone eligible near you. You’re 27 this year, and you’ll be 30 in a few years’ time. A woman’s youth is precious. You’re past the prime when you can afford to choose. Think about it. How many blind dates have you been on? At least thirty? I’m tired of going to the matchmaking office!”

Chen Ling looked at Ji Zitong and started nagging her again, “Your father and I only have one daughter. How can I not be worried? You’ve met so many men, yet you don’t like any of them! I think the Ph.D. student looks pretty good. He’s humble and gentle, so why aren’t you interested? You’re always known to be picky. Can you stop being a perfectionist? Just settle for someone suitable!”

“You said I was unstable before. I opened a flower shop and start getting stable, and now you’re bugging me with this issue again? Why are you so eager for me to get married? I don’t see any issues with being alone. Why do I have to get married? Do you really think my life will be better after marriage?” Ji Zitong sat down on her bed, annoyed.

“Do you think women can afford to not get married? Tongtong! Are you still thinking about that man? He’s already married and probably has a child already. Just forget about him. You can’t just stay single for him forever, can you?” Chen Ling said quietly.

“It’s not about him! I told you. I just don’t want to get married. It’s that simple! Don’t always assume that’s the reason. I’ve long forgotten what that man looks like. Don’t always mention him in front of me please!” Ji Zitong was getting agitated.

“Fine! If it’s not about him, then what’s happening now? Aren’t you just staying single for his sake? If that’s not the case, I’ve arranged another blind date for you. Go and take a look. Get married to someone that’s suitable and stop being so picky. This person is a university lecturer who’s 32 this year. At 1.75 meters tall, he looks gentle and both his parents are high school teachers. He’s quite alright...”

“That’s enough! I’ll find someone and get married in a few days, alright? Please stop bothering me. It’s late now, so you should go to sleep. It’s going to be a busy day at the store. Don’t worry about this anymore. If you really think our household can’t keep me any longer, I’ll find a man and get married. Then, I won’t be an eyesore to you. You can go out now.”

“Tongtong, I don’t mean that... Tongtong, listen to me...” Chen Ling was about to say something else, but Ji Zitong started pushing her out of the room and then locking the door.

Ji Zitong was getting sick of days like this. They had not been particularly worried before. Since she had been staying with her grandmother when she was a child, she was not really close to her parents, and only came back to them when her grandmother passed away several years ago.

She understood that Chen Ling was concerned about her, but she was not taking her concerns very well. She felt a little depressed as she remembered what Wang Yanran said earlier. Her information at the matchmaking center was probably...

It was not that she did not want to get married. She just did not want to compromise. Why should she settle for less in marriage?

Why should she compromise for the sake of her feelings?

How many women could accept staying beside a man they did not love their whole life?

She had no idea, but she was sure that she could not accept it because she always had a prideful soul. It might not mean anything to others, but she felt like there was nothing wrong with staying true to her principles.

...

She jumped onto her bed and stared at the ceiling. Her eyes did not blink at all as she felt helpless. Finally, she closed her eyes a while later and took a deep breath as she grabbed her pillow. However, she grabbed soft fabric instead. It was Su Chen's coat.

Stunned, her eyes darkened as she hesitated. Then, she slowly pulled her phone out.