

Loving 761

Chapter 761. If You'll Marry Me, I'll Marry You! (4)

The man was still cruising in his Land Rover through the night while playing some uplifting music in the car. The traffic had become much smoother now. He glanced at his phone and noticed it was almost midnight.

Su Chen sped up the car. Instead of going home, he headed to his office. He had a meeting tomorrow morning at the headquarters but had left some documents in his office.

"The empty night sky with stars all over the sky; we're not afraid of the hardships ahead..." he sang along to the music playing in the car. Suddenly, his phone started ringing and the screen lit up.

He slowed down and unlocked his phone. It was a message from an unknown number.

It was a very short text: If I'll marry you, would you marry me?

Su Chen was stunned. He floored the brakes and stopped his car by the roadside. Then, he stared at his phone screen.

Ji Zitong?

Had she thought it through already?

Su Chen stared at the line of text for a very long while. After some hesitation, he finally called Ji Zitong.

Ji Zitong was feeling uneasy right after she sent the message, she had no idea why she sent that, and she was not sure why she felt uneasy, she gripped her phone tightly, the amount of force she was using could almost crush her phone.

She was shocked when her phone rang. She took a deep breath after she saw the caller's name. After that, she picked up the call and Su Chen's deep voice reached her ears, sounding so distant. "It's me. I just want to confirm if you sent the message."

Ji Zitong was quiet for a while. After that, she nodded and said, "I sent that. Does your promise still stand? If yes, I have one condition to add."

Su Chen raised his eyebrows when he heard her reply. He considered it for a moment and then said, "Of course, but do tell me your condition."

Ji Zitong took a deep breath as her grip on her blanket tightened. She had to muster all her courage in order to be able to speak right now. "I don't want a contracted marriage. I want a real marriage."

She did not want bigger issues coming for her in the future. Besides that, she also wanted to be responsible for her own marriage as it was not meant to be used as a tool for trade.

Su Chen's eyes darkened as he gave her suggestion some thought. "Do you know what you're saying?"

"I know. This is just what I thought. Are you daring enough to do so? It's your decision to make now." Ji Zitong sounded calm all of a sudden. "I'm tired of getting bugged about this already, so I might as well find someone that I know. If you don't mind me being from a lower social class, I'm willing to marry you, but are you willing to marry me?"

Su Chen chuckled. "Social class? I don't care about that. There's no reason for me to decline, is there?"

"So, do you mean you agree?" Ji Zitong asked quietly.

"At 10.30 a.m. tomorrow, meet me at the entrance of the Civil Affairs Bureau. Bring your identification card. I have a meeting at the city town hall tomorrow, and it'll end by 10 a.m. so I'll be there by 10.30 a.m." Su Chen was very decisive.

"Tomorrow morning?" Ji Zitong was stunned to hear his reply. Though she knew Su Chen was always very decisive, she did not expect it to be this soon. Was it not too quick?

"Mmm, any issue with tomorrow morning?" Su Chen asked.

“Not really, but don’t you think it’s too fast?” Ji Zitong replied.

Su Chen grinned as he leaned against the car window. He looked out at the dim streetlamps as he said, “Ji Zitong, you were once a soldier. We need to make decisions quickly at key moments. I remember that you had this quality in you back then. Are you hesitating now? Do what you need to and don’t let your problems hold you back. That’s what I think about it. If you’re willing to, then I’m giving you a chance tomorrow. The promise will be void if I don’t see you.”

“I...”

“Alright, go to sleep. You have one whole night to think about it. I’ll leave if I don’t see you by 11 a.m. tomorrow.”

Su Chen then hung up on the call. He stared at his phone as the screen darkened, sucking in a deep breath as his gaze turned complicated. He could not help but smoke another cigarette.

He was addicted to smoking. Among the three of them, Mu Yuchen would smoke occasionally, but he stopped smoking ever since he married Xi Xiaye and would only take a drag or two when they gathered while Zhou Zimo never touched cigarettes at all.

He started the engine again after finishing two cigarettes. The car rumbled onto the road in the middle of the night.

...

The next morning, Mu Yuchen had already gone to work when Xi Xiaye woke up.

Her son had woken up several times in the middle of the night, and Mu Yuchen was the one that went and calm him down. He had been sleeping in the living room or the study room for the past few nights, and Xi Xiaye knew very well why.

While she felt sorry for him, it was funny to her.

She woke up when she heard their son's cry, but he already rushed into the room and picked the baby up.

"Missus, it's going to soon be a month since you gave birth. Since we're not having a full moon celebration for Little Master, are we expecting a hundred-day celebration? Just asking so we can prepare for it," Sis Wang asked as they were having breakfast.

Xi Xiaye stopped and thought about it. "Let's leave this aside for now. I'll talk to your Master first before deciding. I'll be going to the hospital with the baby later, and Xiao Rui will be following me. He'll only be going back to school next week. Give Xiao Rui's teacher a call and inform her."

"Noted, Missus. I've called them just now. Missus, Little Master has been very obedient and rarely cries. Aunt Lin mentioned he is one of the easiest children she has ever taken care of." Sis Wang chuckled.

"He's alright, but he gave his father quite a bit of trouble last time. His meeting documents are still in the study room. I'll send them to him later."

While she could finally go out after a month of staying at home, she still had to go to the hospital for a check-up.

Chapter 762. Too Many Excuses (1)

After the first month of the New Year passed, many things got back on track again, and the past year gradually faded away. The entire city returned to its usual clamor and bustle. People were constantly on the move were rushing at a fast pace again.

A black luxury sports car slowly rolled into the carpark in front of the entrance to Qi Kai Corporation and came to a steady stop.

Qi Lei wore the same metallic gray slim-fit suit. He looked dapper when he got down from the car while Yang Sheng followed beside him, holding a briefcase.

Yang Sheng clutched his briefcase as he quickly caught up with Qi Lei's long strides and said, "Master Qi, there's a meeting with the upper management at 9 a.m. At noon, you have a lunch appointment with the CEO of Feng Shun. At the same time, you need to discuss the materials for the South River Project.

At 3 p.m. in the afternoon, Glory World's VP Zhang will be conducting an inspection at the construction site for the South River Project. Previously, you said you'll be going with VP Zhang. This is the itinerary for today."

"What time is it now?" Qi Lei put both hands casually into his pockets as he slowed down his steps and glanced at the frantic Yang Sheng.

"Master Qi, it's 8.55 a.m., soon to be 9 a.m. We should be quick. Otherwise, we'll be late for the meeting and CEO Qi won't be happy again. Master Qi, let's hurry."

Yang Sheng was very anxious. With a boss like this, his heart could not quite take all the scares!

Qi Lei was always the kind of person who did things unhurriedly and always seemed very unorganized. Every time he went to work or for meetings, he would be just as calm, and get into the office or meeting room right on the dot. Even Yang Sheng was anxious watching him.

"We still have five minutes then, so what are you worried about?"

Despite seeing Yang Sheng's red face, Qi Lei was calm as always. He strolled into the building casually and went right up to the elevator.

"Master Qi, CEO Qi... He'll be unhappy..."

Yang Sheng could only sigh to himself. If only Master Qi knew how to curry favor from CEO Qi, things would not be like this right now, and the CEO would like Master Qi more.

"I can't be responsible for his mood. It's up to him whether he wants to be happy or not as long as I'm not late." Qi Lei smiled coldly. Unaffected, he walked into the elevator with a cold expression while Yang Sheng sighed to himself helplessly as he followed him in.

The elevator reached a level below the top floor very quickly. The upper management meeting room was on that floor while Qi Qiming's office was on the top floor.

Ding!

The elevator chimed when it reached the floor where the meeting room was. When the doors slid open, Qi Lei walked out in huge strides, yet just as he turned—

Bam!

A loud crash was heard as he bumped into a soft wall.

“Ah!”

A familiar cry rang out. Qi Lei quickly looked down and then realized that he had bumped into Gu Lingsha!

She wore a light-colored Western dress from a spring collection. There was also a purple scarf tied around her neck while her beautiful hair was tied up into a beautiful bun. She wore light makeup, and her outstanding appearance naturally attracted many looks. Her entire presence made her seem extremely capable and intelligent.

Her appearance had no doubt become the attention of many. Everyone’s gaze immediately followed her.

However, at this moment, her light purple skirt was a little moist. With the shattered porcelain pieces all over the floor, mixed with the wet fragments, she looked like a mess. Besides that, the documents that had fallen onto the floor were wet as a result of the collision.

Gu Lingsha froze. Annoyance flashed in her eyes as she looked up at the culprit who collided into her. When she saw that it was Qi Lei, her expression eased a little. She looked up silently at Qi Lei, then laughed gently as she greeted him.

“Lei...”

Nevertheless, Qi Lei's expression remained cold. His silent gaze turned to the mess on the floor calmly, but he did not say anything. When his tall figure just walked over without even a glimpse at Gu Lingsha, his gaze was no different from looking at a stranger.

As his fresh and clean fragrance walked past her, Gu Lingsha's expression turned pale and rigid in an instant. When she turned to look, Qi Lei's tall and lean figure was long gone as his steady footsteps did not stop.

Yang Sheng, who followed behind, was stunned for a while too. He forced a sheepish smile at Gu Lingsha, and then followed after his master without saying anything.

In a daze, Gu Lingsha could vaguely hear piercing ridicule from the side. Of course, it was all from those women. After a while, she bent down in a sorry state to wipe her skirt as she squatted down to pick the documents up from the floor.

However, there were some male colleagues who went up to help her because they could not bear to see this scene.

"Manager Gu, let me help you!"

"I'll help you too, Manager Gu!"

...

In an instant, a row of people got busy.

Gu Lingsha took those slightly wet documents and looked gratefully at the few male colleagues before her. "Thank you all!"

"Don't worry about it, Manager Gu!"

Gu Lingsha smiled a little bitterly and then turned around to look towards the direction that Qi Lei had left. Her beautiful eyes could not help but darken as she sighed and blinked her slightly hot eyes. She felt sad and wronged for some reason, yet she just gritted her teeth and continued walking ahead.

Gu Lingsha was obviously there for a meeting. She had just started working at Qi Kai, and Qi Qiming immediately gave her the position as a project manager and even made her his titular assistant. He took really good care of her. Naturally, she would be included in the Qi Kai upper management meeting too.

When she reached the meeting room, the meeting was just about to begin. Qi Lei had already taken his seat. Across him was Gu Lingsha's seat.

Gu Lingsha had just walked to her seat when Wang Qin said coldly, "Manager Gu, you're quite arrogant. You're almost late for your first upper management meeting."

Just as Wang Qin said that, quite a few people looked at her. Gu Lingsha immediately looked awkward as she quickly apologized, "My apologies. There was a small incident earlier. I'm sorry! I didn't mean to be late!"

Then, she looked up at Qi Lei across her, hoping that he could explain things and help her out. Wang Qin had never liked her, but usually, with Qi Lei around, Wang Qin would not dare to trouble her much.

However, right now, Qi Lei was not looking at her at all. He was browsing through a document. It was really just as Gu Lingsha had said that day. In the office, they could pretend to be strangers.

Chapter 763. Too Many Excuses (2)

After a stifling silence, some people were laughing at Gu Lingsha. After that, Qi Qiming shot Wang Qin an irritated glance and said coldly, "Shasha's just joined the company quite recently. She hasn't gotten used to things yet. As her superiors, you should all watch out for her. Okay, have a seat. Let's start the meeting now!"

When Qi Qiming said that, Wang Qin kept quiet and gave Gu Lingsha a look of disdain. Her gaze turned to the side and fell on Qi Lei. When she saw him nonchalantly flipping through the document with a calm expression and ignoring the little episode, she smiled gladly before shooting Gu Lingsha a delighted glance. In turn, Gu Lingsha looked extremely upset.

“My apologies, I’ll be more careful next time.”

After a while, Gu Lingsha bit her lip and said that before sitting down, feeling a little bleak.

The meeting was about the first half of the year’s work plan and general direction as well as some transfer of upper management. Throughout it all, Qi Lei listened half-heartedly with one hand propping up his head and staring down at the table. If you looked closely, you could tell that he was probably sleeping.

Meanwhile, Gu Lingsha was tensed. She kept shooting glances at Qi Lei, her eyes holding a mix of emotions.

When the car drove into Glory World Corporation, the sun was high up in the sky. The mist that filled the air had gradually dissipated. However, there was still a faint, bleak coldness in the air.

“Missus, we’re here,” said the chauffeur ahead.

Xi Xiaye nodded. With one hand carrying her son, she handed her bag to Mu Zirui. “Xiao Rui, help me hold my bag.”

“Yes, Mother!”

Mu Zirui quickly took it over while the door on Xi Xiaye’s side was opened. Sis Wang stood outside respectfully. “Missus, let’s get down from the car.”

“Okay, you all just wait for me downstairs. Xiao Rui, go and bring Father’s folder up.”

Then, she walked into the building. Mu Zirui responded and quickly followed her with the items.

The moment Xi Xiaye appeared in the building, she attracted a lot of attention, especially the cute little boy following by her side and calling her ‘Mother’. Of course, there was also the little bun that she carried in her arms.

“Hello, Director Xi!”

Along the way, many people greeted Xi Xiaye who had no doubt become the center of attention in the company. In just a few short minutes, all the departments knew that their Chairman’s Missus had brought along a little master to the company. Even Mu Yuchen, who was on the top floor, had immediately received the news, so he came down to get them personally.

Xi Xiaye and Mu Zirui took the special elevator and reached the top floor. They had just walked out when they met with Mu Yuchen who was about to go down and meet them.

“Why are you here?” Mu Yuchen frowned at her and took the little bun from her arms.

“You left some things in the study room. I’m going to go to the hospital later, so I decided to swing by and send it over.”

“Father, here...”

Mu Yuchen patted the folder in the boy’s hand.

“Mother says she could also bring me and Little Brother out to walk around,” Mu Zirui said as he tiptoed to look at the little baby in Mu Yuchen’s arms.

At this moment, Xiao Zicheng was waking up. When he saw that he was in someone else’s arms, his eyes widened and his gaze was fixated on Mu Yuchen. As he watched his father, he was spitting little bubbles, and a smile rippled across his face.

Mu Zirui’s line of sight kept falling onto Mu Zicheng. When he saw the baby’s faint smile, he could not help but cry out in wonder, “Father, does Little Brother know how to smile already?”

When Mu Zirui said that, Mu Yuchen straightened up and looked into his arms. He realized that the little bun was indeed looking joyful. As he looked indistinctly at him, Xi Xiaye smiled gladly. She could not help

but reach out to gently poke the little guy's cheeks. "He really does like you more. I carried him the whole morning, but I didn't see him looking like this."

"Even our son knows that his father has charisma. This is a fantastic thing. Anyway, let's go in first."

Mu Yuchen caressed Mu Zirui's little head, and then carried the little guy a little clumsily into his office. Xi Xiaye held Mu Zirui's hand and walked in too.

The secretary quickly brought some snacks over while Xiao Rui sat down very quietly.

Xi Xiaye had just taken a seat when Mu Yuchen called Hospital T's Dr. Huang for an appointment. After he hung up, he turned to Xi Xiaye. "I've already made an appointment with Dr. Huang. Just go at 11 a.m. The meeting's been pushed to the afternoon. Rest for a bit, then I'll go over with you guys."

"Sis Wang's still waiting downstairs. I'll be making a trip back to the Shen residence in the afternoon, and I'll bring Xiao Rui back with me too. You..."

"Meeting's at 3 p.m. in the afternoon. I have some things to discuss with Grandpa too."

"Is it about the South River Project?" Xi Xiaye asked softly.

Mu Yuchen nodded while he handed the little boy to Xi Xiaye. He wanted to briefly explain himself to her when there was a sudden knock on the door. The husband and wife both instantly looked to the door.

Li Si walked in with a slightly solemn expression. When he saw that Xi Xiaye and Mu Zirui were around, he quickly bowed and greeted, "Master, Missus, Master Xiao Rui!"

Upon seeing Li Si, Mu Yuchen's eyes darkened a little. He roughly knew what it was about, and his whole body slowly moved towards the desk. Li Si quickly went up and stopped behind Mu Yuchen to say with a lowered voice, "Master, we found out that woman is."

“Who was it?” Mu Yuchen turned around and looked up through narrow and profound eyes at Li Si.

“It was Gu Lingsha. The car with no number plate is one of Qi Qiming’s subordinate’s cars.” Li Si lowered his voice and subconsciously looked towards Xi Xiaye. When he saw that she was busy playing with her son and not paying attention to them, he turned to look at Mu Yuchen.

“Got it. Go down first.” Mu Yuchen’s gaze turned a little dark as his handsome face was gloomy too.

“Master, do we want to get people to stop her?” Li Si asked softly.

Mu Yuchen lifted a hand slightly and stopped him. “No need. I know what to do. Prepare the car right now.”

“But this woman was reckless. If you hadn’t rushed over in time, Missus... She’s provoking you, Master!” Li Si brows frowned into a knot as he said in an urgent voice.

Mu Yuchen did not say anything, yet Li Si felt a coldness fill the air. When he looked up to Mu Yuchen, he realized that his Master had returned to his usual calm and quiet self. Naturally, he dared not say anything more, so he bowed and quietly left.

Chapter 764. Too Many Excuses (3)

The meeting went on for over an hour before it ended. Instead of calling it a planning meeting, you might as well have called it a special meeting that Qi Qiming requested to introduce Gu Lingsha.

As expected, at the meeting, Gu Lingsha was delegated to the South River Project as one of the Project Managers working on the same tasks as Qi Lei.

Wang Qin knew about Qi Qiming’s intentions very well. She made Gu Lingsha look bad many times, yet the latter silently endured it all.

After the meeting ended, the first to leave their seats were Qi Qiming, Wang Qin, Yue Hai, and the rest. Later, everyone else swiftly kept their things and left the meeting room too while Qi Lei was barely in a hurry. Many people probably knew that their Vice President Qi had fallen asleep for an hour at the meeting again, and they were quite afraid to see CEO Qi’s furious expression when he left earlier.

“Master Qi! Wake up. The meeting’s over!”

As the meeting room quickly emptied, Yang Sheng only felt even more pressure with Qi Qiming’s extremely enraged expression earlier and Wang Qin’s concerned yet disappointed gaze. He went up to shake Qi Lei who was still propping his head up with his eyes shut.

Qi Lei then opened his eyes in a daze. As he turned to look Yang Sheng grumpily, he looked around and saw that his surroundings had emptied. He then tossed the pen in his hand onto the table, and slowly stood up. “Tidy up and let’s go back to my office.”

Yang Sheng nodded and swiftly tidied things up. Qi Lei turned around and was about to walk to the door when that light purple figure entered his sight.

Qi Lei’s gaze was quiet as he watched her. Having done packing up, Yang Sheng looked back and forth between the two of them. After that, he quietly walked out of the meeting room and closed the door behind him.

“Lei, do you have to act like this?”

When she heard the sound of the door closing, Gu Lingsha spoke up first. She broke the stifling silence, her beautiful eyes containing an indescribable sadness as she fixed her eyes on Qi Lei.

Qi Lei looked away and scoffed calmly. “What did I do now?”

“I know you’re angry. You’re angry at me, but this is my duty. I don’t have a choice. My father wants me to be trained in Qi Kai, so Uncle Qi just agreed to my request. You don’t have to be unhappy with him. If you want to blame someone, then blame me. You know that publicly treating your father like this will only make Uncle Qi sad. You don’t have to direct all your anger toward Uncle Qi because of me. If you’re not happy about something, you can hit me or curse me. I just hope that you won’t have that attitude with us, with everyone!” Gu Lingsha spilled all of her unhappiness at once. There was already a faint light in her eyes, reflecting endurance and persistence, unlike the old her at all.

Nevertheless, when Gu Lingsha said that, Qi Lei just laughed and said frankly, “Shasha, you’re wrong, or maybe I should say that you’ve overestimated yourself. I’ve always had this attitude. Do you think my mood could be affected by one person? Whatever that’s between the old man and I has got nothing to do with you. Right now, I’m just doing as you asked and pretending like I don’t know you at the company. Am I doing it wrong?”

When she heard Qi Lei, Gu Lingsha’s expression instantly turned rigid and pale. Her gaze slowly turned bleak, and she could not help but laugh bitterly. “Lei, no matter what you think of me, I just wanted to say that I have my reasons. I’m helpless too. Do you think I want to live in hatred? You’ll never understand the pain I’ve suffered, and the pain Ah Feng had to suffer. Also, why can’t you just try to understand us?”

“Where’s Qi Feng? I know he’s not dead. All these years, he’s never turned up alive or as a corpse. With all this hiding, I know very well what your plans are.” Qi Lei looked up and stared at Gu Lingsha. “Shasha, tell me, where is Qi Feng?”

Meeting Qi Lei’s forceful gaze, Gu Lingsha could only shake her head as she gritted her teeth and sighed. “Lei, forgive me. I can’t tell you right now, but I have my reasons. I just don’t want them to be hurt anymore.”

When he heard this, Qi Lei’s handsome face immediately flashed with a cold smile and his tone was unfriendly. “Fine, Shasha, I know you don’t trust me. That’s why you always have so many excuses. All the so-called reasons you have are probably very far-fetched. Since you insist on being this way, I can’t stop you either, but I think I’ll do my best to stop some things from happening.”

“Are you saying that you must go against me?” Gu Lingsha clenched her fists, feeling a little shocked. There was disappointment in her eyes as she quietly looked at him. “You once said that you’d always protect me. You.. Are you saying that you want to break your promise?”

“I used to want to protect you because I thought you weren’t strong enough, and that you needed protection, but now you don’t need it anymore. You’re so strong that you can plot against other people, so why would you still need my protection? Besides, all these years, you didn’t seem to care about me. I’ve always been someone disposable.” Qi Lei forced a smile while he turned to look out the window. His expression turned chilly in an instant too.

“No, Qi Lei, you’re not. I’ve always treated you as my most treasured friend and even my own kin. You’re not someone disposable,” Gu Lingsha quickly explained impatiently.

Qi Lei just lifted a hand to stop her from continuing. He sighed softly and lamented, "Whether or not it is, you know it best yourself. I thought you died, and I was heartbroken for many years, I even hated Mu Yuchen, yet you were alive, and you didn't send me a message at all. Even with Qi Feng's news right now, you're the same. You don't have to explain. You know well enough for yourself whether you've really treated me as a good friend of yours. I've always had a soft spot for you, and even admired you. I really wish this feeling could have been preserved, but now it looks like that's not quite possible anymore."

"Lei, don't be like this. I'm still me. It's just that I..."

"Mu Yuchen's not as easy to go against as you think. Even if you want to take revenge, please don't use those sinister tricks on the innocent. My bottom line is simple. As long as you don't hurt my people, I'll maintain a neutral stance. I think you should be able to accept this stance."

Qi Lei left these words with a lowered voice before he walked to the door and reached out to open it.

"Well, who're your so-called people? Aunt Wang? Or Xi Xiaye? Tell me!"

Chapter 765. No Room For Regrets (1)

Gu Lingsha's voice echoed through the empty room, but Qi Lei did not reply to her. The only response she got was the cold wind whistling from the rooftop.

Qi Lei had already disappeared when she tried to catch up to him.

Gu Lingsha's body shuddered as she covered her face and started sobbing. After some time, she sniffled. Her eyes were red as she put her hands down.

Helpless...

Why did all the promises become void as she was feeling helpless and struggling painfully?

What happened to forever?

What happened to protecting her?

The only person who used his life to protect her was Mu Lingtian. The others who spoke about protecting her were just all talk.

None of them knew the pain she went through. Everyone thought lightly of her suffering. No one knew she would have nightmares every night and would wake up from shock and pain, then fail to fall asleep again.

Two lives were lost. How could the perpetrator live peacefully?

As the survivor, should she not do something for the dead?

She was right. She did not do anything and would continue on this path even if it might be difficult for her!

Gu Lingsha's determination became firmer after she experienced despair once. She was adamant about her choice.

"Weiwei, Lingtian, and my baby in heaven, Ah Feng, please give me the courage. I'll make him pay for this!" She held her necklace as she mumbled to herself.

After Gu Lingsha finally calmed down, she took a deep breath, turned around and grabbed her documents on the ground before moving forward.

Inside Qi Lei's office.

"Master Qi, I think Ms. Gu cried just now. Her eyes are a little red. She..." Yang Sheng stood before Qi Lei's table and looked at him. He hesitated for a moment before speaking up as if he was trying to find out about something.

Qi Lei did not give him any reaction, so Yang Sheng just remained stationary and looked at him intently.

“She’s not the old innocent Shasha anymore. Just how horrible did the situation have to be in order to have pushed someone this far? I truly hope she doesn’t become a woman like that. I hope she turns back.”

Qi Lei spoke up after a while, sounding helpless. “However, it seems that whatever I did was futile. There’s nothing much that I can do. My mother is right. I’m just like a decoration without any real impact. How can I protect others?”

Yang Sheng felt bad when he heard Qi Lei’s forlorn tone. He quickly replied, “That’s not true, Master. You have talents that are better than Master Feng as well. It’s just that CEO Qi can’t see it. It is extremely rare to find someone like you in the world of business. I feel lucky to be working for you, Master Qi. I’m sure you’ll be recognized one day. I’ve always had faith in you.”

“I’m not sure if I’m worthy of you to have faith in me. I’ve always hoped to be a normal person and stay in a normal, peaceful family, living happily with my family members with no need to fight over pointless things like these. My life feels like a TV drama. What’s the whole point of this?” Qi Lei put down his documents as he sat down.

“Master Qi, it’s normal to feel like you’re not good enough. Not many people can be satisfied with what they have. It’s just a matter of perspective.” Yang Sheng then continued, “Do you still remember CEO Han from the Han Corporation?”

“Han Yifeng?”

Qi Lei raised his eyebrows and laughed. “I heard he’s doing pretty well over there while Xi Xinyi is struggling here. I have no idea what to say about him.”

Yang Sheng took a deep breath and finally spoke what had been on his mind, “He’s an unfortunate man. He’s lost so much. Please forgive me for saying this, Master Qi, but I never felt that Ms. Gu was a good match for you. She’s not worthy of you. I think it’d be perfect for you to find someone like Director Xi. Ms. Gu has never been within your reach, so you never really lost her. You should make better decisions than CEO Han.”

“A long time ago, I remember someone telling me that there’s no such thing as a perfect match. It depends on whether two people are willing to be with each other. I’m not sure how I feel about Shasha. I don’t know if I love her or if I only admired her, but it’s a fact that she’s given me a lot of good memories in the past two decades of my life. I hope these can stay, and I never expected them to change.”

This was the first time Qi Lei was opening up to someone. He was not sure why he could talk about this so calmly to his subordinate.

Did he secretly long for a listener?

“Director Xi said that, didn’t she?”

Yang Sheng smiled. “She was madly in love with CEO Han back then and almost lost herself. It’s all thanks to Chairman Mu. Speaking of which, your life experience is awfully similar to Director Xi’s. An unhappy childhood, rough relationships, and a headstrong personality... That’s probably why you find Director Xi relatable,” Yang Sheng teased him a little.

Qi Lei frowned instantly and denied, “Of course, I don’t feel that way! You’re overthinking! I don’t feel like that! I just think she looks quite pretty!”

Chapter 766. No Room For Regrets (2)

Yang Sheng had never seen Qi Lei like this before. He chuckled and just remained silent.

However, Qi Lei’s expression darkened as he then looked at Yang Sheng. “Speaking of her, have we found out anything about that incident? I know Mu Yuchen has been investigating. Was it my old man who did that?”

“I wanted to talk to you about this. Master Qi, your initial guess wasn’t wrong. This wasn’t CEO Qi’s idea, but the car was Yue Hai’s assistant’s car. Chairman Mu should’ve found out by now already. I heard from the HR Department that Yue Hai’s assistant was fired today under CEO Qi’s orders obviously,” Yang Sheng said quietly.

Qi Lei's eyes darkened further after hearing that from Yang Sheng. He seemed really disappointed. "I get it. There are very few reasons that would get my old man motivated. Does my mother know about this?"

"CEO Wang isn't aware. She did send some gifts over to Chairman Mu a few days ago."

Qi Lei closed his eyes and gave it some thought. "Okay, don't let her know about this. Make a dinner appointment with Mu Yuchen tonight. Make sure that he comes."

"Yes, Master Qi!"

After Yang Sheng replied, Qi Lei left the office.

...

The sun was shining brightly in the middle of the blue sky. People walking by Fatong Avenue could feel the spring breeze dancing through the trees.

Ji Zitong could feel the cold from behind her. She had struggled so much today, but in the end, she decided to fulfill her promise.

She changed into a violet windbreaker and tied her long hair into a bun. Although she did not put on any makeup as usual, she seemed much more elegant today. However, her eyes looked a little lonely, and there was also a tint of helplessness.

Her hands held her household register and identification card tightly.

After walking for a long while, she stopped and then turned around.

She raised her head and looked at the huge clock right in front of the Civil Affairs Bureau building across the street. The clock showed that it was 10.30 a.m. She waited for some time as the traffic light changed colors several cycles, then she finally mustered up some courage and walked towards the stairs.

When she took her first step onto the staircase, she felt a breeze pass by, and she heard a honk behind her. Quickly turning around, she saw a Land Rover parked nearby.

The car window rolled down. Ji Zitong looked inside and saw it was Su Chen.

Su Chen put on a cool smile when he saw her. He leaned over his car window and studied her, his voice actually gentle for once. "When I was on my way here, I wondered if you'd actually show up. Thank God that you didn't leave me waiting awkwardly here. Ji Zitong, I'm really grateful that you're giving me this chance."

Ji Zitong's quiet expression was shaken, but she smiled. "Thank you, Instructor Su, for giving me a chance as well."

Su Chen smiled as he took off his uniform. He grabbed the coat on the front passenger seat and put it on. "I have a name. It's called Su Chen. You can't possibly keep calling your husband 'Instructor Su'. Did you bring your documents?"

Stunned for a moment, Ji Zitong nodded as her hands gripped the things in her pocket. Her palms were sweating. For some reason, she felt lost and fearful at this moment.

The man was changing elegantly into a clean suit in his car. Even though he was not in his uniform, he still had a dignified vibe around him.

Su Chen looked at her and saw the emotions in her eyes. He then averted his gaze to her shirt pocket as he spoke in a firm tone, "Give it to me!"

Ji Zitong was astonished once again. She backed away several steps as she looked at him.

Su Chen frowned as he was still staring intently at her. He smiled instead as he fixed his sleeve. "I'm giving you another 30 seconds to think about following me inside. I'll respect your decision no matter what, but if I were you, I'd definitely go in without hesitation. There aren't many men as good as me left in this world. It'll be your loss if you miss this chance."

How could there be someone so shameless in this world!?

Ji Zitong was speechless when she looked at this narcissistic man before her.

The two of them stared at each other for some time. In the end, Ji Zitong took out her stuff obediently and handed them to Su Chen.

Su Chen took them and looked through them. After confirming there was no issue, he grabbed his folder and put her documents in. Then, he got down from the car and locked it before turning to Ji Zitong. He then spoke to her when he saw the anxiety in her eyes, "Don't worry. I'll use the rest of my life to prove to you that you've won your bet in this grand gamble."

Ji Zitong was dazzled. She lowered her eyes and said, "The rest of your life is a long one. Don't make overzealous promises. It'll tarnish your reputation if you can't fulfill it."

She then looked at the building again before finally walking forward.

Su Chen gave her words some thought. He took a deep breath and quickly followed behind her.

Chapter 767. No Room For Regrets (3)

There were very few people around in the Civil Affairs Bureau at 11 a.m. They walked past the main hall and arrived at the marriage registration counter. The staff handed them the forms after they clarified their purpose of visiting.

Su Chen was very efficient. He took the photo and signed it swiftly.

The whole process took very little time. It happened just like that.

The two of them walked out of the building at around noon. Ji Zitong walked in front and Su Chen was right behind her. She suddenly stopped when she reached the staircase, and he stopped beside her too.

Ji Zitong turned around and looked at Su Chen who stared back at her as well. He raised his hand and waved the two bright red marriage certificates in front of her.

Su Chen opened one of them and glanced through it. Then, he closed it and handed them to Ji Zitong. "Take a look."

Ji Zitong took them and quietly looked through the certificates.

The people in the photo looked a little awkward, specifically herself although the man seemed quite natural. She took a deep breath as she read their names. With a nod, she closed the documents.

Had she just gotten married like that?

Why did it feel like a dream?

Ji Zitong felt dazed as she looked at the gold imprint on the cover of the marriage certificate. In that instant, she felt lost. She thought about it and found it a little ironic. Nevertheless, she took another deep breath as if she was accepting her fate while she raised her head and looked at the warm sun.

A large hand came over and took the two red books away. "Alright, it's too late even if you regret it now. There's no room for regrets. Just take it as another new life experience. You should be celebrating the fact that you married me."

Su Chen put the marriage certificates away.

Ji Zitong turned over and looked at him as a faint light flashed past her eyes. Instead of her usual coldness, she seemed calm. "I'm not thinking about whether I'm regretting it or not. I'll follow the path that I've chosen. Will my life be as peaceful as the one I'm having right now?" She was staring at Su Chen intently when she spoke.

Su Chen frowned as he nodded. His voice was firm and filled with determination. "If that's what you want, I'm sure it's possible. I'm looking forward to a peaceful life as well. Otherwise, I wouldn't have made a promise like that with you."

Ji Zitong nodded. "Is that what you thought too?"

"Of course, why else were my grandfather and my sister so worked up for?" Su Chen replied.

Ji Zitong chuckled. She nodded as she gave Su Chen a gentle glance. "Thank you."

Su Chen did not reply and looked at the warm sun instead. "Let's go eat something."

...

The two of them went to a Western restaurant moments later, and each ordered food of their own.

"Do you want some wine?" Ji Zitong asked as she closed the menu.

Su Chen shook his head and said, "I'm heading back to my office later."

Though he loved alcohol, his work forbade him from drinking during working hours. He had excellent self-control and would not touch any alcohol unless it was necessary for socializing purposes. This made a lot of people think that he was an anti-social person. In addition to that, Su Chen rarely attended entertainment events with his colleagues as well. Even if he were to attend, he would look as serious as usual.

People could not understand him. They respected and feared Su Chen at the same time, not only for his position but also because of his network.

Ji Zitong understood and did not say anything else. She handed the menu over to the waiter.

"I have a meeting in the south of the city at 3 p.m. later. I'll send you home after our meal. Go back and pack up your stuff. I'll head over and visit your house tomorrow since it's a weekend. Is there any problem?" Su Chen asked.

Ji Zitong started to feel uneasy as she thought about it. She had just gotten married to a man without telling her family, so she had no idea how to tell her parents about this. Ji Zitong had a headache as she remembered her conversation with her mother last night.

Su Chen noticed her reaction and he just smirked. "Did you do it without telling them first?"

Ji Zitong was stunned. She looked at Su Chen with a guilty expression and sighed. "Sure, I was a little rash last night, but I'll do what I promised. I just hope that you can work with me to convince my parents. Let them know we didn't just do this on a whim and we'll be doing well together."

"So, you want me to put on an act in front of your parents?" Su Chen gave her a sharp gaze and asked a direct question.

Ji Zitong nodded. It was easier to make things clear now. She knew this man had always been this straightforward and direct. "It's not exactly acting. No matter what, our marriage certificates are real." She then continued moments later, "Don't worry. I'll do my best to fulfill my role as your wife."

"I see you're quite understanding. I hope we'll do well together then, Mrs. Su!" Su Chen felt that it was funny seeing her being so anxious with a cold expression. He raised his fruit juice and made a toast to her.

Mrs. Su?

Ji Zitong was stunned for a moment when she heard that term. She was caught off-guard by it. Then, she raised her glass of fruit juice as well and said, "Thank you. Let's do our best together!"

"What do your parents like?" Su Chen put down his glass and asked.

"They are pretty normal. My father likes to drink and practice martial arts while my mother likes flower arranging and taking care of her flowers. There's nothing too special."

Ji Zitong was quiet for a while after replying. "You've met my mother last night anyway."

Chapter 768. No Room For Regrets (4)

Su Chen nodded and made a pertinent judgment. "Quite a friendly person, but I didn't greet her properly. I hope her impression of me won't be too bad."

Ji Zitong's dark red lips curled up as she smiled and calmly said, "Don't worry about that. My mother's got an alright impression of you, but on my father's end it might be a little... My father's slightly old-school. He cares a lot about customs and traditions. You didn't visit him at our home, and now that we've just registered our marriage, I'm afraid that he'd be more or less unhappy, but don't worry. He's quite an understanding person. As long as you perform alright, he won't make things too difficult for you."

After briefly explaining the situation about her two elders at home, the waiter quickly served their food,

"Master Su, Miss, enjoy!"

Su Chen was a regular at this restaurant, so he was quite familiar with the waiters there too.

While Ji Zitong's words made Su Chen ponder things a little, right now he was someone else's son-in-law. To be honest, he had never curried anyone for their favor, thus he really had no idea how to do it. He thought to himself that he should really ask his secretary to help him with that.

When she saw Su Chen frowning slightly, Ji Zitong laughed to herself and consoled him, "My father likes to exchange hands over martial arts with others. I remember that you're quite skilled. Just based on this point alone, you should be able to gain some respect from him, so you don't have to be too worried either. I will..."

Su Chen raised his handsome brows and glanced at Ji Zitong. He said softly and a faint smile flashed on his handsome face, "Are you worried that I won't be able to pass your father's test?"

Ji Zitong's expression turned stiff, and she did not answer his question. Instead, she looked down quietly and focused on cutting the steak on her plate.

Su Chen reached over with his long arms and swiftly took over the fork and spoon from her hands. He skillfully helped her slice the steak on her plate as he said, "Don't worry about me. As long as it's a

woman I'm willing to marry, they'll only strongly agree to it and never go against me, so they won't make things hard for you. My grandfather and my sister have a good impression of you. With their recognition, there's basically no more issues after this. Go home and pack up tonight. Tomorrow I'll go to visit your parents, then you can move over to my place."

Move to his place...

Ji Zitong subconsciously trembled while she looked at him before gazing down at the folder beside his hand. As if she just realized something, she nodded and quietly responded, "Alright."

As Su Chen helped her cut the beef on her plate into bite sizes, he did seem like quite a gentle and polite gentleman right now. Of course, it was a side that Ji Zitong had never seen before. From what she knew, this Su Chen had always been an imposing and devilish instructor. In fact, because of their past grudges, to be honest, she did not think highly of him.

Therefore, right now she was a little surprised to see this side of him.

Upon noticing Ji Zitong's gaze, Su Chen frowned, and asked with a deep voice, "What are you looking at? I can't make you full."

Ji Zitong averted her gaze. "Nothing. I just feel like you do have some redeeming qualities."

"Oh?" Su Chen raised his brows and grinned as he said, "I do have many redeeming qualities. Your decision will only bring you gains and no losses."

"But to me, you haven't left too positive an impression, but now I find you aren't quite the same," said Ji Zitong after she pondered for a moment.

"Work and life are two different things. There are some moods I keep for my own people," Su Chen explained briefly with a calm expression. "Eat first."

Their meal was not awkward. During military training, they had lived together anyway, so he roughly remembered some of her living habits. Although it had been so many years, the two of them had just

about maintained the same habits from before, so right now they did not feel too reserved. After all, shyness and restraint would only seem pretentious.

Throughout the meal, the two had a rather happy and satisfying time, and there was no feeling of pressure or restraint.

When they were done, they rested for a moment. When the time was past 1 p.m., Su Chen then said, "Let's go. I'll send you back first."

Then, he got up and walked out.

Ji Zitong was stunned. She quickly reached out to pull at his sleeve as she lowered her voice and reminded softly, "Hold on. We haven't paid yet. They'll call us dine-and-dashers."

When Ji Zitong said that, Su Chen suddenly smiled mysteriously and looked at her. He chuckled amusedly, "Who told you that we'd have to pay to eat at our own restaurant?"

"This restaurant is yours?" Ji Zitong stared at him blankly.

"It's a restaurant that I invested in with Ah Chen and Zimo in my free time. This place is quite close to Zimo's office. Zimo comes here for meals quite often too. There are also one or two more in the north of the city. Next time, you can come here to eat since this place isn't too far from your flower shop anyway. Tomorrow, I'll give you a card," he explained.

"But can government officers..." Ji Zitong asked in puzzlement.

Su Chen raised his brows, not saying anything. Soon, his tall figure had already walked ahead. Ji Zitong hesitated for a moment, then did not say anything as she quickly followed after him.

...

It was a dazzling afternoon, and the warm sun sprinkled its gentle golden light. The wind that moved in the air was not as cold as early in the morning as it was now warming up.

Underneath the flower rack in the Shen residence backyard, Shen Yue sat on the rattan chair as he leisurely sunbathed while Mu Zirui sat on the chair by his side, holding a sketchbook and drawing in it.

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye left after having lunch there. Mu Yuchen returned to the office while Xi Xiaye returned to Maple Residence.

Lan Zilang smiled as he watched Mu Zirui's focused demeanor. He could not help but laugh softly as he said to Shen Yue, "Elder CEO, I can see that Zirui's been adapting quite well. When I went to fetch him, his class teacher even praised him. In fact, our Zirui's so smart that he can join Year One this July. It's good for him to start studying earlier too. Back then, Miss Xiaye started quite early too."

When he heard the update, Shen Yue nodded gladly. "This child's smart just like his grandma. He thinks quickly. Right now, it's not easy playing chess with him too. He's more nimble than that girl. He's got a good head on him!" said Shen Yue softly as he squinted at Mu Zirui.

"With Zirui around, Elder CEO, you won't be as lonely. Later on, when Miss Xiaye takes over the company, you can have a good rest." Lan Zilang smiled.

Chapter 769. Fall Out (1)

At over 70 years old this year, Shen Yue had rushing about for his whole life and never quite rested. In his early years, when he was still in the military, he could have continued climbing upwards too, but he considered Liang Fuhua, so he just gave up on the opportunity to be promoted. When he could have gotten a high position, he firmly chose to retire from the military. Upon his return, he began to rush about, and worked hard one step at a time before Fuhua grew to what it was today.

Shen Wenna was his and Liang Fuhua's only daughter. After she suffered the many misfortunes, Shen Yue was more open-minded now.

As long as the children thought it was okay, he would be fine with it. Everything else did not seem as important anymore. As the older generation, they just need to supervise.

“Yes, I can finally relax. I’ve been staying with Zirui these past few days, and I feel quite satisfied too. The only regret I have is that Fuhua left a little too soon. She would have been very happy to see our life right now.”

Lan Zilang knew well how much Shen Yue missed Liang Fuhua. He admired the way this elder had built his achievements from scratch, and at the same time was touched by his deep loyalty. This was also one of the reasons why he had stayed loyally by Shen Yue’s side.

“Elder CEO, I’m sure Elder Madam will see all of it. Back then, Elder Madam was more worried about Miss Wenna. Now, the hard times have gone and the good times are about to begin for Miss Wenna and her husband. Miss Xiaye has also found herself a good partner. Chairman Mu is a rare, fine man. Elder Madam would’ve only felt glad. Instead, it’s you, Elder CEO. You must take care of your health well. There will be many more great-grandchildren for you to carry in time to come.”

He looked at Shen Yue’s aged face that had experienced so much in life along with his white hair. Lan Zilang suddenly felt sad.

Time always passed by so quickly. In the blink of an eye, more than 20 years had passed by just like that. The business titan who was practically a legend with his all-powerful prime time in the business world, and had now become a gray-haired old man in his final days. This contrast would make anyone feel sad.

“These past two years, I could already feel myself not being as strong as I’d wished. I have to admit that I’m old. Zilang, you’ve been with me for so many years now. You’ve really been troubled a lot in all those years. In time to come, Xiaye will still need you to advise her. If you’re free, come over to visit my place. The house is too quiet. Zirui will usually need to be at school too. I’m afraid I’d be bored alone.” Shen Yue thought about it, and could not help but lament.

Lan Zilang nodded. “Don’t worry, Elder CEO. I will.”

It had been so many years that they worked together. Lan Zilang respected Shen Yue like he was his father, so Shen Yue did not need to say that at all.

When Mu Zirui snapped back to attention and heard their conversation, he could not help but walk over to tug at Shen Yue’s frail hand. “Great-grandfather, don’t worry, I’ll be by your side every day. If there’s anything you want to say, you can tell me, Xiao Rui. Mother told me that I’m a very qualified listener.”

Upon feeling the tug, Shen Yue chortled out loud happily. He patted Mu Zirui's head lovingly. "Good! Good! My great-grandson knows how to love his great-grandfather!"

Lan Zilang laughed along as well before he continued, "Oh, right, Elder CEO, the materials for the South River Project tender are still being prepared. News keeps coming from the government's side, and it looks like there's a slight delay. I want to seize this time to let Miss Xiaye smoothen out the company matters first."

"Mmm, I heard about that too. Qi Lei from Qi Kai isn't bad at all. Ah Chen especially recommended him to me, but I don't quite agree with his old man. He says one thing and does the other. I heard that he wanted to collaborate with City B's Hui Gu Corporation."

When this was mentioned, Shen Yue became quite dissatisfied.

Lan Zilang hesitated but could not help voicing his concern, "There is some news about that. Hui Gu Corporation's got solid capabilities. In fact, I heard that they've known each other for a long time, and have some past grudges with Chairman Mu. For the bid this time, I'm afraid that there'll be some risks. We have to do our best to get this bid. Once South River Project No. 1 starts, many people will notice that it is in high demand, and they'll be coveting after it. Projects No. 1 and No. 2 are closely related too. Glory World's main forte isn't on property. That's why they need us to help out. However, based on what I know, Hui Gu Corporation has real estate background. In terms of capabilities, they wouldn't be inferior to us. Plus, our city has been promoting heavily to attract foreign investments, so I'm afraid it won't be easy to get this project."

"Ah Chen's mainly developing the living area. They have to put in a lot of effort too. Wasn't the government planning on building a new city towards the south? What I think is that we should mainly go into living spaces, and do our best. Try to find out what grudges they have with Ah Chen. These people are clearly trying to bully my people. I'll have to score off for the children!" As Shen Yue said this, the flickering light in his aged eyes turned chilly too.

He knew that Shen Yue was distinguished for shielding others, so Lan Zilang responded, "Okay, Elder CEO! I'll get someone to investigate right away!"

...

At this moment, inside Gu Lingsha's office in Qi Kai Corporation.

Gu Lingsha did not know that only half a day would have passed when Qi Lei would go to her. He barged right in, looking stormy.

"Did something happen?" Gu Lingsha scowled. Her assistant was still there, so the fact that Qi Lei did that made her look bad.

Qi Lei walked over to her desk, and propped his hands on the cold table as he leaned towards her in her chair. His eyes had darkened. "Xiaye's incident... Was it you who did it?"

She immediately frowned and lowered her gaze. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"You do! I asked if you did it. You pushed her, didn't you?" Qi Lei's low voice was questioning.

Gu Lingsha sneered for a while. She turned to look at the computer screen beside her. "VP Qi, I have no idea what you're talking about!"

"Shasha, I told you not to disturb Xiaye. All those past grudges have got nothing to do with her and her child. You didn't have to go for her. When did you become this cruel?"

Qi Lei clenched his fists slightly and looked at Gu Lingsha in contempt. "Are you thinking about how to expand your resentment? Haven't you implicated enough people?"

Chapter 770. Fall Out (2)

A sneer flashed across Gu Lingsha's face. "Are you so sure that I did it? If I said it wasn't me, would you believe me? Or did Xi Xiaye tell you herself that I pushed her?"

Qi Lei's expression stiffened for a while as he looked at Gu Lingsha with mixed emotions. "How am I supposed to believe you? You don't want to live peacefully and insist on starting these storms. Shasha, I don't believe that you're that kind of woman!"

“That kind of woman? What kind? You barge into my office and condemn me for no reason. Don’t tell me it’s just to stand up for Xi Xiaye!”

“Shasha, I’m worried about you. I hope you won’t go down the wrong way and hurt the innocent! Xiaye’s friend is still unconscious until now. Can’t you reflect upon yourself? Now, you’ve even made a move on Xiaye. You’re crazy! Do you really think that Mu Yuchen’s a fool in the dark?”

Qi Lei clenched his fists in frustration and knocked on the table in front of him. Because he was so strong, the cup of coffee in front of Gu Lingsha shifted and the strong brown liquid splattered all over the table.

Upon these words, Gu Lingsha’s expression instantly became gloomy and stormy as she laughed coldly at Qi Lei. “Do you think that I was in that accident intentionally? Do you think that I intentionally crashed into that Ruan Heng?”

Her cold tone contained obvious fury. Gu Lingsha pointed at herself and glared at Qi Lei. When she saw him return a dangerous gaze, she immediately raged. “I, Gu Lingsha, dare swear that if I really did crash into him on purpose, I’ll be killed as soon as I walk out the door. My corpse will be crushed and I’ll die horribly! Are you happy now? I was a victim of the accident too. Even if I have the ability to predict things, I couldn’t have known that I’d crash into Ruan Heng. How dare you blame this on me? How dare you blame me?”

“No matter what, you’ll have to take some responsibility, won’t you? He’s still unconscious right now, and we still don’t know if he’ll be waking up. Do you think I don’t know that Su Nan was at the police station because of you the other time? If Mu Yuchen hadn’t come looking for me, you probably wouldn’t have let go of Su Nan, would you? What do you want? Mu Yuchen is Mu Yuchen. If you’ve got grudges and resentment, go look for him. Why do you have to include others?” Qi Lei demanded with a sunken gaze.

“I didn’t know that you’ve become such a hero who hates evil now! Su Nan’s incident had nothing to do with me. It was the police that made errors while doing their work. If you have to put it on me, I had nothing to say. If you want to know the answer so badly, then I can tell you that I did all of it. I did everything from crashing into someone, making some people end up in the police station, and causing that incident where Xi Xiaye almost had a miscarriage. Are you happy now? You’re already set on the idea that I did it, so I have nothing to say. You can go and expose me now too. Let me be criticized and disdained by everyone. I don’t care anyway. I’ve already died once. Do you think I’d care about anything else?”

Gu Lingsha sounded like she had given up on herself. As she sneered while feeling ridiculous about herself, her stubborn voice sounded determined. It made one feel sorry for her. Even Qi Lei seemed to have gone a little speechless as he slowly released his clenched fists, yet the gloominess in his eyes did not fade at all.

After a long while, Qi Lei said, "That's not what I meant."

"Then, what did you mean with your questioning tone? Am I so unacceptable to you!? If you've got anything else to say or any advice, you can say it all now since you want to just casually vilify me anyway!"

Gu Lingsha's clear voice now sounded slightly raspy. Her beautiful eyes started to redden, and her fists were tightly clenched at the moment as if she did not care about Qi Lei. She stared at him with furious and stubborn eyes, her vigor no inferior to his.

"If you didn't do it, then why would you be afraid of others vilifying you? Shasha, whether I'm speaking as a friend or as a playmate who've known each other since we were young, I hope that you can just live a simple and magnanimous life! Don't cling onto the past. What do you want? Do you want to live a quiet and stable life? I know that Qi Feng didn't die. As long as you two are willing to settle down and not be tangled with the past, I'm willing to give the whole of Qi Kai to you two as a wedding gift. That way, can you promise me?" Qi Lei's deep eyes gathered with dark whirlpools as it fixed unmoving on Gu Lingsha.

When Qi Lei said that, Gu Lingsha was stunned. She looked at Qi Lei with an unfathomable gaze, and after a long while, she forced a laugh. "Qi Lei, would you actually do this for Xi Xiaye? Have you fallen in love with her or something?"

"Don't keep trying to drag others in. It's got nothing to do with Xiaye! I'm concerned about you! Why don't you understand? You also said that Lingtian used his life to protect you. Is this how you'll repay him? Putting aside hurting his younger sister, now you even want to hurt his kin too? Shasha, wake up!"

"Shut up, Lingtian! If the accident didn't happen, would Lingtian have died? I'm taking revenge for Lingtian now! How am I wrong? You know that Lingtian has a prejudice against Mu Yuchen. How do you know for sure that the accident back then wasn't according to Mu Yuchen's directions? How can you understand where I'm coming from without knowing anything?"

“Reason! Where’s your reasoning? For what reason should Mu Yuchen be setting you up? All of you betrayed him first!”

“Reason? You’re right. Mu Yuchen’s not a fool. Do you really think I didn’t know that the reason he’d agreed to the marriage back then was just a strategy to delay? Hmph, Lingtian heard himself that he told Su Chen that marrying me was just a move in the chess game. Once the time came, he’d just divorce me!”

“Divorce? Does that mean that child is definitely not Mu Yuchen’s?” Qi Lei caught onto the key message.

“How do you know it’s not his? If it’s not, why do you think I’d dare get married into the Mu family? You know that Ah Feng and I have never done anything. He respects me very much!” Gu Lingsha raised her brows and smiled coldly, yet her smile lacked genuineness.

“Impossible! He told me himself that he’s never been with you! You even hid your pregnancy from him, and he doesn’t even know about the child! Shasha, tell me who does the child belong to? Tell me! Is it Qi Feng, or Lingtian?” Qi Lei fixed his eyes on Gu Lingsha. Today he must get to the bottom of this!