

## Loving 841

### Chapter 841. Decision (1)

The sky turned dark as the sun was setting in the west. The grass fields were tinted with a golden shade, waving along with the evening breeze.

On the cemented path towards the Shen residence, two figures were seen walking towards the house. It was a peaceful scene.

Mu Zirui held Xi Xiaye's hand while dragging the strap of his bag with his other hand. He looked at Xi Xiaye with his big eyes as he asked, "Mother, is Father back?"

"Mmm, he's back. He's now cooking at home. Did you listen to the teacher in class today?" Xi Xiaye put her arm around Mu Zirui's shoulder and asked.

"Oh, Mother, can you tell the teacher to let me enter Grade 2? I really don't want to stay in kindergarten anymore. I know everything the teacher teaches. Plus, the children there are too childish and not fun to play with," Mu Zirui begged Xi Xiaye.

"Too childish? You're still young. The process of learning needs to be built with a strong foundation."

"But, Mother, I've learned the knowledge already. Isn't it a waste of time?"

"We'll talk about it again after I discuss with your father," Xi Xiaye replied after giving it some serious thought.

She had checked Mu Zirui's homework before, and she noticed that his thought process was quick and pretty smart in general. Quoting Shen Yue, he really might be a prodigy!

Shen Yue started training him to take public transport home from a week ago. He sent some people to follow him in the beginning, then let him come home alone after everything went smoothly.

"Xiao Rui, recite both your father's and my phone numbers to me again."

“Oh, okay...”

Mu Zirui grabbed Xi Xiaye’s sleeve and swiftly recited their numbers.

Xi Xiaye nodded with a smile. “Good. If you’re ever lost, just call these numbers and you’ll find us. Alright?”

“Mother, you’ve repeated this so many times.”

“Are you saying that I’m nagging you? I’m just worried about you, alright?”

“Oh...”

When the two of them returned to the Shen residence, Shen Yue was making funny faces at Mu Xiao Cheng who was inside the cradle. Mu Zirui quickly put his bag aside and rushed over when he saw his little brother.

“Great-grandfather, I want to play with Brother too!”

“You’re back? Be careful. Don’t make him cry. What did your teacher teach you today?”

“Teacher told us some stories and taught us to memorize the multiplication table...”

Xi Xiaye smiled as she looked at the two of them. She then walked into the kitchen.

Mu Yuchen was cooking in the kitchen. While he was busy preparing the spices, he saw Xi Xiaye come in, so he started washing the vegetables. “Is Xiao Rui back?”

“Yep, he just told me that he wants to skip to Grade 2. He also said the other children at the kindergarten are too childish. Do children nowadays grow up that fast?” Xi Xiaye put on a helpless smile as she looked at him.

“Xiao Rui is very smart. Grandpa is impressed by his swift adaptability as well. His grades are great, so I think it’s worth considering. Getting prior knowledge could benefit him on the path of advancing academically. Hmm, we should start developing his interests as well.”

“I think the children of the current generation are pretty exhausting. Mr. Mu, can we not fill up Xiao Rui and Xiao Cheng’s time like other families? I hope they can have a happy childhood.” Xi Xiaye frowned as she stopped her hand movements and looked at him.

“Some people are destined with a heavy mission the moment they were born, and because they are burdened with a lot of responsibilities, I hope they can learn all the skills they can. Otherwise, they might not know what to do when they land in a tough situation. They should still learn what’s necessary. That determines if they can lead a comfortable life. I want them to experience what’s truly ‘work hard, play hard.’”

Xi Xiaye had nothing to refute. “Sure, that makes sense.”

...

After dinner, Shen Yue spoke as Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye were leaving, “I’m glad that you’re alright. The two of you should finish up the work at hand as soon as possible, and then let Xiaye be my Head Secretary at Fuhua for a month. I’ll have Uncle Lan assist you as well. Then, you’ll be taking over Fuhua officially after that. Ah Chen, you’ve learned a lot about property development. If there are any issues in the future, the two of you shall talk it out.”

Xi Xiaye nodded. “Mmm, I understand, Grandpa. I’ll be done with the handover work in a few days, so I’ll head over right away. By the way, are you really not going to fight for Project No. 2?”

“One mustn’t be too greedy. I’m sure you understand after this experience. Focus working on Project No. 1 since it’ll take at least several years, and it’s a large-scale project with enormous business opportunities. I’m thinking about adopting Ah Chen’s suggestion and giving Fuhua a slight change. We’ll be involving ourselves in other industries as well. Fuhua’s line of work is too specialized. Alright, we’ll

talk about it more when you come over. Qi Kai suffered a huge loss this time, but they totally deserved it.”

Shen Yue ran his fingers through his white hair. “I’ve heard about the conflict between you guys. Ah Chen, some things are bound to happen. We can’t avoid it, so why not accept it since we can’t change anything? It’s always better to be doing something than just feeling guilty about it, understand?” Shen Yue said.

Mu Yuchen’s eyes went quiet. He then nodded. “I understand, Grandpa. Thank you for what you’ve done.”

Shen Yue took a deep breath. “Alright, it’s getting late now. You guys should go home.”

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye traded glances with each other before saying goodbye to Shen Yue.

Chapter 842. Decision (2)

As usual, Mu Yuchen woke up early in the morning. Xi Xiaye and Mu Xiao Cheng were still asleep. As he was about to wake her up for breakfast, he got a call from Li Si.

Mu Yuchen quickly changed and went out.

At the resting hut in the park, Xi Xinyi found her way there by memory. Mu Yuchen was already waiting for her at the same spot.

Xi Xinyi stopped behind him and looked at him quietly, her eyes seeming complicated.

She knew what had happened to Glory World and Mu Yuchen, and she thought it would not end so quickly. Nevertheless, Mu Yuchen came out of jail after just half a month. He was a very capable person after all.

This man’s existence was like a myth in City Z. Not only was he capable, but his networks were formidable as well.

Xi Xinyi felt that Xi Xiaye was way too lucky to be married to this man. On the other hand, she herself...

With Wang Qin gone, her value in Qi Kai fell drastically. She knew very well that Qi Qiming was willing to help her because of her relationship with the Han family. Along with Yue Hai's help, Qi Qiming wanted to use her to topple Wang Qin.

When she first joined, it did help Qi Qiming gain more internal supporters, and Wang Qin's power was weakened. Now that Wang Qin had passed away, Qi Qiming was in full control of Qi Kai, so Xi Xinyi's value as a pawn declined over time.

Xi Xinyi was definitely affected by Wang Qin's death. She was not sure if Qi Qiming would still treat Yueying the same. With Han Yifeng's abandonment and the Han family's lack of concern, Xi Xinyi felt extremely restricted.

Fortunately, her movies earlier this year did very well at the box office. It was thanks to that that she did not become an abandoned pawn so quickly.

Xi Xinyi kept thinking about it. She thought it was time to find someone else to help her, and in the end, she could only feel safe working with Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen had also told her before that he would give her one chance, so why not take it? Hopefully, he would not be too harsh on her since she was related to Xi Mushan and Xi Xiaye.

"I've thought about it, and I'll agree with it. Tell me what you want me to do," Xi Xinyi said.

Mu Yuchen turned around and glanced at Xi Xinyi. His expression turned cold as he spoke, "You're getting smarter."

Mu Yuchen's strategy was exceptionally effective. They found out that Gu Qiwu and Qi Qiming met in secret. Ah Mo found something odd, and now with Xi Xinyi, everything was going according to plan. The sole unfortunate event was Wang Qin's death.

Mu Yuchen's eyes darkened as he thought about it.

"I'm just going with the flow. I'll do my best in whatever you ask of me, but please don't forget what you promised. I want my son." Xi Xinyi never expected she would do this. Her hatred towards them never reduced, but she knew very well she was responsible for the consequences she bore today. If it was not for her greed, maybe...

Xi Xiaye was right. She was a person like that.

"I can give you a chance, but whether it works depends on you." Mu Yuchen gave her a sharp glance as if he could see right through her. "If you still won't reflect on yourself after going through so much, you won't be able to use any chances given to you anyway."

Xi Xinyi's face turned pale and her eyes looked blank. Finally, she nodded after some time. "I know in the past... I'm sorry for what I've done to Xiaye. Whether you believe me or not, I really love Yifeng and our son. My methods were too extreme. I'm not a good wife or a good mother either..."

Xi Xinyi started to tear up. Tears then flowed out of her eyes and rolled down her cheeks.

Mu Yuchen averted his gaze towards the blue lake. "Saying the word 'love' sounds really cheap when you're able to hurt the person closest to you. I feel sorry for Han Yifeng."

"But you wouldn't have gotten together with my sister if it weren't for me, right?" Xi Xinyi mumbled.

Mu Yuchen scoffed. "Really? Do you really think one person can alter someone's fate? As long as I fancied her, I'd still be able to get her even if she married Han Yifeng."

Xi Xinyi was taken aback. She took a deep breath and hesitated before asking, "Is Gu Lingsha really the person who pushed me?"

"It's clearly written on the document given to you," Mu Yuchen replied.

Xi Xinyi nodded. "Okay, I'll do whatever you say."

Mu Yuchen walked aside and gazed at Xi Xinyi. "It's great that you thought this through. Save your tears for Han Yifeng. The first thing I need you to do now is to get closer to Gu Lingsha."

Xi Xinyi was stunned for a moment before she felt troubled. "Chairman Mu, you might have no idea, but Gu Lingsha is extremely careful. She isn't really friendly to anyone. I've never seen her getting close to anyone since she's been here."

Mu Yuchen put on a grin as he signaled Li Si who quickly handed her a document.

Chapter 843. Decision (3)

Xi Xiaye took it and opened it briefly to skim through. She was stunned.

After that, she looked up at Mu Yuchen in disbelief, her beautiful eyes filled with a confused light.

It was such an important document, and he actually showed it to her. What was the meaning of this?

Before she could react, Mu Yuchen already continued to explain briefly, "With this, I'm sure it won't be too hard for you to get close to her. Once the South River Project No. 2 winning bid is revealed, Qi Kai will definitely publicize it a lot. Gu Lingsha will be one of the main people in charge, so you two will have lots of chances of contact. The attached document is some more information on Gu Lingsha. There's even an analysis of her personality too. You're smart. You don't need me to teach you how to do this, do you?"

Xi Xinyi was absent-minded. She looked down silently at the document for a long while, then glanced up at Mu Yuchen and muttered, "But there are many movie companies under Qi Kai, so Qi Qiming might not choose Yueying. There might be an even higher probability that we'll just have an assisting role."

The curve on Mu Yuchen's lips widened as he said calmly, "Don't worry about that. I have a way to make them choose Yueying."

Xi Xinyi frowned and looked at Mu Yuchen, puzzled. Still, he did not explain.

As Li Si watched Mu Yuchen walk away, he could not help but remind Xi Xinyi before turning around to follow after him, "Miss Xi Xinyi, keep these things properly. It's very important."

Xi Xinyi watched as he moved further away. After a while, she looked down at the information in his hand, her gaze filling with mixed feelings in that instant.

She was not sure if this was the right choice, but for her son, she could only take the gamble. When she thought about that, Xi Xinyi took a deep breath and calmed herself down before keeping the document and turning around to leave.

On the cemented path towards the carpark, Li Si followed Mu Yuchen who was emitting a chilly aura, his footsteps unhurried.

"Master, can you really be sure that Xi Xinyi will be on our side?" Li Si asked worriedly. Master had given her those bits of information that they had spent tons of effort to find in the end. In fact, they even went through a lot of trouble to slot Xi Xinyi by Gu Lingsha's side, breaking through Qi Qiming and Gu Lingsha's guards. However, whether it would work, Li Si dared not be certain about it.

Mu Yuchen suddenly turned to look at him. His calm, handsome face froze a bit before he said calmly, "Consider this planning ahead. She was Mr. Wen's pawn before this. Her identity itself is already a form of disguise. Even though she might be reduced to an abandoned person now, she still has some potential. Ever since the last incident, I could already feel that we have more to face in the future. Qi Feng's a pretty tough one to handle. It's not a bad thing to plant a spy on that end. It'll do us good to know their moves in time."

"Master, don't we have Master Qi on the other end? Master Qi's gone through such a tragedy, and I'm sure he's bitterly disappointed with Qi Qiming and the rest, but now since he's willing to return to Qi Kai to work, that's enough to prove that he doesn't want to continue being dispirited. Maybe he's figured some things out too," Li Si expressed his puzzlement. Then, he paused and said again, "In fact, Master, I think it's still a little dangerous to make Xi Xinyi our spy. We can't be sure that she'll really come to a realization and turn over a new leaf. It's too risky using her as a pawn. We can't be sure if she'll just turn around and go against us instead later on."

Li Si's concern obviously made sense. His Master had always been the type of person who would not work with someone he was doubtful of, especially for such a high-risk matter. To put such a chess piece as such an important position was an extremely extravagant risk.



“After Xi Xinyi’s gone through so much, she’s becoming more and more mature, and she’s more careful handling matters too. If this chess piece is used well, it will garner an unexpected effect. In fact, it isn’t just us here. On Qi Lei’s end, we’ve got to get someone to watch over him. Now that Wang Qin’s gone...”

When Mu Yuchen said this, he did not continue. He stopped walking gloomily, and with both hands behind his back, his bleak line of sight stared at the scenery ahead with his long shadow that the sun had cast. After a long while, he continued, “Your Missus promised VP Wang that we would watch over him. Since that is so, we have to keep our promise.”

Li Si’s heart sank. After a while, he nodded gently. “Master, I understand... But, Master, I’m afraid you’ll have to start worrying again. I’m concerned that you might be too worn out.”

“While we’re alive, as long as we live a little happier, it’s alright to be a bit more tired.” Mu Yuchen suddenly turned to look at Li Si with his hands behind his back as he said calmly, “We can’t always just be living for ourselves, can we?”

Li Si’s heart felt a little sour at the sound of these words. A slight pain surged in his chest as he fixed his gaze on Mu Yuchen and sighed. “Master, well, we still have Master Qi on the other side. Only he is on the frontline of this battle. VP Wang’s death must have been a huge blow to him. Of course, it’s best that he can walk out of this shadow. Hopefully, the police can also find out who the real culprit is as soon as possible.”

“Right now, Qi Lei’s facing the most difficult circumstance, but everything he’s facing is also closely related to our future, yet he’s just the leading role on the surface. Planting Xi Xinyi as a pawn is just a backup. Even though it’s risky, I still want to try. Apart from doing it for the sake of some kinship, I also want to gamble the worth of her maternal love. If she were smarter, I wouldn’t treat her unfairly.”

As Mu Yuchen said that, he picked up his steps and slowly walked away.

“No matter what, we’re still bleeding the same blood. I don’t like the kind of tropes where kins slaughter each other. There’s no one who will understand this more than I do.”

His deep tone was colored with a bleak sorrow. In the end, Li Si’s expression turned grave upon hearing that.

“Okay, let’s go back. Call Qi Lei. See if he’s free today. If he is, he can come over in the afternoon too. He should go out more.”

“Okay, Master! I’ll give Master Qi a call right away.”

As Li Si caught up with Mu Yuchen’s footsteps, he took his phone out from his pocket and swiftly called Qi Lei.

Chapter 844. Master Mu's Invite

Meanwhile, on the clean cemented path on the way to the Grand Lakes Villa area.

Qi Lei was dressed in a black hooded trench coat. He walked along the quiet sidewalk while holding huge bags. The warm sun cast a long shadow of his tall figure. The cold breeze that rustled past made his clothes a little messy while his already frail frame appeared lonely and desolate.

He went back to the Qi residence late at night. The bags contained all of Wang Qin’s things that she had packed up. As for everything else, whatever that should have been cleared were cleared; nothing was left behind.

He hoped that Wang Qin who was gone would no longer need to face Qi Qiming. Qi Qiming did not even have the right to keep her things. He was completely detached from the Qi family. From now on, it would just be him, Qi Lei, alone.

He did not know if he would be alone forever. Now that Wang Qin was gone, his heart was emptied by half too. The energy in him felt as if it had been hollowed out.

However, he knew that he was still alive, still breathing, and blood in him was still warm. There were still many things he wanted to do. Even if it was not for himself, it would be to fulfill Wang Qin’s lifelong wishes.

The phone in his pocket buzzed for a long time. Just when he thought the other person was about to hang up, Qi Lei took it out to look at the screen. He realized it was Mu Yuchen’s work number, so he then answered the call.

“Master Qi, it’s me Li Si.”

“What’s up?” Qi Lei answered calmly. You could not hear any warmth from his deep voice.

“Our Master’s having a barbeque at Maple Residence this afternoon. Are you coming?”

Qi Lei knew about the news of Mu Yuchen being released very early on. Now, the media had also been clearing the misunderstandings about Mu Yuchen. The calamity that he had been going through was finally coming to an end, which was great. However, his mother was never coming back.

He thought about it, then he said with a solemn tone, “Nah, I’m a little busy.”

Upon hearing Qi Lei’s dull tone, Li Si said on the other end, “Master Qi, our Master says... you haven’t given our Little Master a gift.”

A gift?

Qi Lei instantly frowned and could not help but say, “Your Master Mu really never rises early without profit. How dare he ask for his son’s gift? I remember when Xiaye was still hospitalized, I already sent a gift over. Don’t be greedy, profiteer!”

Li Si laughed out loud from the other end. He quickly explained, “No, Master Qi, you’ve misunderstood. Our Master says it’s for our First Master. The gift you gave our Missus was for the Little Master. I’m guessing you haven’t met our First Master, have you?”

“What? First Master? Little Master? Since when did that bastard Mu Yuchen have another son?” Qi Lei cried out in surprise.

“Our First Master’s already quite a few years old, Master Qi.”

“Mu Yuchen’s illegitimate son?” Qi Lei’s mind instantly flashed with this possibility.

“No, Master Qi, you’ll know when you come over in the afternoon. Our Master Mu said that you can even bargain for the role of godfather.”

“Go to hell! A daughter would be much better!”

“Haha, if it’s a daughter, you might need to wait a few more years.”

“Okay, please tell Mu Yuchen that I want steak with honey sauce, yellow croaker stewed in red wine, and...”

Before Qi Lei could finish, Li Si had already hung up. When he heard the dead tone, Qi Lei’s face darkened and he cursed Mu Yuchen before picking up his pace and walking ahead.

Shortly after noon, Zhou Zimo, Su Chen, and Ji Zitong all made their way over. They even brought quite a number of ingredients for the barbeque. Li Si had his lunch at Maple Residence, so he saw that everyone had rushed over, and were happily preparing the food with the servants.

Inside Maple Residence’s living room, Xi Xiaye and Ji Zitong were chatting idly on the sofa, while Mu Yuchen and his buddies went to the study room, Mu Zirui was happily busy in the backyard with Li Si.

“You’ve been married for so long, but this is the first time I’m seeing you two come over together. Mr. Mu and I were just talking about it earlier. We think that you and Su Chen look fitting together. You have the look of a couple similar in features [1],” said Xi Xiaye smilingly as she examined Ji Zitong.

When she heard that, Ji Zitong was momentarily stunned. Suddenly, she did not know how to answer her. She thought about it for a moment before replying, “That’s just a baseless belief. Actually, I didn’t think that he and I would. It’s just that suddenly...”

Now that she recalled it, she still felt like it lacked consideration, but ever since she married Su Chen, she did not feel that different. Her life remained quite peaceful. Apart from the awkwardness of suddenly having to share a room with him, everything else was going quite well.

Xi Xiaye seemed to be able to read Ji Zitong's thoughts. She found out about the whole story of Su Chen and Ji Zitong's marriage from Mu Yuchen. Upon deeper thought, she felt like it was extraordinarily similar to her and Mu Yuchen's situation. They both married in the spur of a moment, and both lacked better options.

Xi Xiaye pondered for a moment and then decided to be an advocate of Su Chen. "Marriage's like that. As long as you get used to it, Su Chen's a pretty good person. The three of the buddies are all great. They don't have the foppish ways of those sons from prestigious families. The Su family's a decent bunch too. Don't worry. Last night, Mr. Mu told me that Su Chen's a gem. Even though he can be a little dominant and stubborn, he's an extremely tolerant and considerate man."

"I know how he's like. We're already married anyway. No matter what, I have to continue on." Ji Zitong clasped her hands together gently, yet her eyes were blank.

"Watching the two of you right now reminds me of how Mu Yuchen and I were back then. After that, I thought I was really lucky. Of course, I also hope that you'll be as lucky as I am. Zitong, you're a great girl. Whether it was from the time I gave birth to Xiao Cheng, or this time, I really have you to thank for."

"You're too courteous, Director Xi," Ji Zitong replied awkwardly.

"Just call me Xiaye."

Ji Zitong was the most awkward girl that Xi Xiaye had ever met. Although it had been so long, she continued to respectfully call her 'Director Xi', yet Xi Xiaye felt helpless hearing this address.

Ji Zitong paused. Something that Su Chen had said from before flashed in her mind. She pondered for a moment, and then lowered her voice as she said softly, "Okay, I'll call you Xiaye then."

Xi Xiaye smiled and nodded cheerfully. She was about to continue when she heard someone call out from outside, "Master Qi, you're here!"

It was Li Si's voice.

Master Qi?

Qi Lei?

Xi Xiaye raised her brows in surprise. She turned to Ji Zitong who looked up in shock too.

Chapter 845. Gather (1)

Before Xi Xiaye and Ji Zitong could react, Qi Lei's tall figure had already greeted their sight.

"You're all here?"

Qi Lei was at ease as if this was his own home. He walked over to Xi Xiaye and put the gift box he was holding onto the table. He picked up an empty cup from the coffee table and poured himself some tea under Xi Xiaye and Ji Zitong's shocked gaze, finishing it in a few gulps.

"What's wrong? Why are you looking at me like that?" Qi Lei's handsome face flashed with a puzzled look. He shrugged at Xi Xiaye. "I didn't come uninvited this time. It was Mu Yuchen who very sincerely invited me, and even asked for a gift on behalf of your older son. Call him over for me to say hi."

At this moment, Li Si's voice came. "Missus, it was Master who invited Master Qi over. He said that the last time, Master Qi only brought a present for Little Master, and forgot Master Zirui."

Now, Xi Xiaye finally reacted. She examined Qi Lei and could not read many emotions on his face, so she relaxed a little.

Since Wang Qin's funeral, she had not seen him. She only heard from his assistant that he thanked her for that cactus. Now, looking at him, he did not seem as gloomy as before, so she felt relieved.

However, because of what Li Si had just said, her bright face instantly blushed again. He had actually asked for a gift directly. It did seem quite like that man's profiteering personality.

"Have a seat first. Li Si, is the outside almost ready?"

“Mmm, it’s all ready.”

Li Si lifted a hand to pull his sleeve up and took a glimpse at the time. It was close to 5 p.m. and they had been at it for quite a while now. Master and the rest had also gone upstairs for over an hour.

Xi Xiaye waved for Mu Zirui to come over.

“Xiao Rui, this is Uncle Qi Lei.”

“Hello, Uncle Qi!”

With his beautiful eyes, Mu Zirui stared at Qi Lei and bowed like a gentleman, much to the latter’s amusement. “Is he really your son? He does look quite handsome. He’s almost as handsome as when I was younger.”

As Qi Lei said this, he reached out to pat Zirui on the head before handing the gift box on the table to Mu Zirui.

Mu Zirui looked at the gift box before him and subconsciously turned to Xi Xiaye to ask for permission. “Mother?”

Xi Xiaye nodded gently, then Mu Zirui reached out to take it as he said, “Thank you, Uncle Qi!”

Qi Lei smiled and nodded.

“Xiao Rui, go upstairs and call your father and the rest down.”

“Okay, Mother! I’ll also see if Little Brother’s awake...”

After a while, inside Mu Yuchen’s study room, the buddies were discussing some matters when they suddenly heard the sound of footsteps. They looked up to see that little head peeking in at the door.

“Father, Mother is asking you to go downstairs,” said Mu Zirui softly.

Mu Yuchen nodded with a smile. “Okay, tell your mother that I’ll be down right away.”

Mu Zirui left with a grunt.

Su Chen watched as Mu Zirui’s little figure vanished from their line of sight before he looked at Mu Yuchen with interest. “Why did you suddenly think of adopting a little one? You’re now the father to two sons.”

“Xiaye was worried that her grandpa would be too lonely, so she was thinking of letting Zirui accompany him more in the future. It’s not a bad thing to add another lively one in the huge Shen Residence. Zirui’s quite smart too. It’s good to have someone accompany Xiao Cheng next time, just like Ah Mo is doing right now.”

Upon hearing that, Su Chen and Zhou Zimo exchanged a glance and nodded. “I understand what you mean. It’s great having a brother like Ah Mo. Right, how are he and Lingshi?”

“I asked him about it a while ago, but he was still thinking about waiting on Lingshi,” Mu Yuchen responded in a low and raspy voice.

At this moment, the atmosphere in the room suddenly fell silent and the buddies did not say anything.

“Ah Mo’s loyal to Lingshi. It’s been so many years, and he only has Lingshi in his heart. Lingshi’s just finding it hard to let go. Their love has spanned over a decade now. Hey, we’ll cheer them on when they get back.”

“Su Chen’s right. Alright, Chen, don’t worry too much about it. If Ah Mo could work a little harder, then all will be good. We could throw a shotgun wedding,” teased the gentle-looking Zhou Zimo suddenly when he heard Su Chen.



Mu Yuchen frowned and shot a dangerous glare at Zhou Zimo while Su Chen was already laughing out loud. "That's enough, Zimo. With Ah Mo's honest personality, he probably wouldn't do such things. A shotgun wedding is more of your style. You look quite serious, gentle and refined in manner. No one would believe that you're the master of tricks."

When he said that, Zhou Zimo's handsome face froze. Then, he cleared his throat and lifted a hand to cover the smile that grew on his expression. "Ah, can you not talk about these things? I've stopped for a long time now."

"Stopped? You? If you could really turn over a new leaf, would you have given me two boxes of condoms? Lucky thing the one receiving the parcel was me!"

Speaking of this, Su Chen felt his face turn hot!

Zhou Zimo smiled innocently and feigned confusion. "What about it? You don't know how to appreciate things. Those are good stuff. A partner sent it over to me as a gift. There were all sorts of fruit flavors. I have no use for it, but you would! Aren't you happy that I gave it to you for nothing? On account of you being newly wedded, I especially gave you two boxes. I only gave Ah Chen one..."

When Mu Yuchen heard this admission, his handsome face turned stiff. He cleared his throat as he got up and walked out. "Give it all to Su Chen. I don't need it."

"That's your size..."

Bam!

Zhou Zimo wanted to explain more when the pen in Mu Yuchen's pocket already flew towards him. Fortunately, Zhou Zimo was swift enough to evade it. His joyous laughter boomed. "What are you shy about? There are only a few of us. Of course, I remember everyone's sizes. Such as how Su Chen's one is..."

"Zhou Zimo, get lost! I don't know you! If you dare say another word, I'll kill you!" Su Chen's palm flew over, his steadfast face blushing.

“Chen!”

Zhou Zimo quickly evaded him swiftly, reaching out to pull Mu Yuchen’s sleeve. Mu Yuchen was quite speedy as his tall figure moved aside and avoided him. As a result, Su Chen pushed Zhou Zimo to the wall and he cried out miserably.

Mu Yuchen looked at Zhou Zimo coldly, then said without emotions, “I never use those things. You should keep it for yourself.”

“You’re kidding me, you...”

Chapter 846. Gather (2)

Mu Yuchen disappeared out of the doorway before Zhou Zimo could say anything. Zhou Zimo then let out another cry of pain.

Su Chen glanced at him coldly before catching up to Mu Yuchen.

Zhou Zimo felt aggrieved as he rubbed his shoulder which Su Chen punched moments ago as he shook his head while mumbling, “How come the two of you have become so weird after getting married? You guys weren’t like this before. What’s up with you?!” He bemoaned his fate before catching up to them.

Mu Yuchen saw Mu Zirui slowly going downstairs when he arrived at the staircase. Mu Zirui turned his head over and looked upward as he heard the sound of footsteps. Mu Yuchen lowered himself and carried him.

“Father...”

“Mmm, you got heavier. Seems like you had a good time at grandpa’s place.” Mu Yuchen gave Mu Zirui a loving smile.

Mu Zirui put an arm around his neck and chuckled. “Grandpa said I grew bigger. He can barely carry me anymore! Father, when will I be as tall as you?”

“Wait until you’re about 30. You need to eat more. When I was your age, I could eat a full bowl of rice, the same big bowl used in grandpa’s house. I wasn’t a picky eater as well. I heard from your mother that you don’t like to eat carrots and vegetables. You can’t grow taller like this.” Mu Yuchen gave Mu Zirui a serious look, but there was a tint of gentleness underneath.

“Can I grow taller by eating carrots and vegetables?” Mu Zirui blinked his big, innocent eyes and asked Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen pinched his cheeks as he had a rare, warm smile on his face. “Of course. A balanced diet promotes growth. I was around 170cm when I entered high school. Together with Uncle Su Chen and Uncle Zimo, we were handsome and great at basketball, so we were pretty popular among the girls.”

Mu Zirui hesitated before finally deciding to tell his father his secret, “Father, the girl, Ah Hua, in the next class is really pretty. A lot of boys like her, but she likes me. She also gave me her favourite wind chime which is really lovely.”

“Mmm? And then?” Mu Yuchen squinted his eyes and gave Mu Zirui a curious glance.

Mu Zirui smiled as he blushed. “Ah Hua said she wants me to become her boyfriend.”

Boyfriend?

Mu Yuchen raised his eyebrows. “What did you say?”

“I didn’t say anything. I took her gift and then told her that we’re still too young, and it’s not the time for a relationship.” Mu Zirui gave Mu Yuchen a serious reply.

Mu Yuchen could not help but laugh. He pinched Mu Zirui’s cheek again and asked, “You know what being in a relationship is like? Who taught you about it? But what you did was correct. You’ll meet even prettier girls in the future. Your job now is to focus on your studies.”

“But, Father, Ah Hua is really beautiful.” Mu Zirui’s eyes were sparkling as he explained.

“As beautiful as your mother?” Mu Yuchen asked.

Mu Zirui gave some serious thought to it before shaking his head.

“That’s it then. Your mother and I are still young. Don’t find us a daughter-in-law so soon, okay?”

“Father, what’s a daughter-in-law?”

...

The father-son pair talked as they walked downstairs. When they saw Xi Xiaye and Qi Lei chatting on the sofa in the living room, the two of them walked straight towards them.

“Here we are.” Mu Yuchen put down Mu Zirui and greeted Qi Lei.

Qi Lei nodded as he glanced at Mu Yuchen. He heard the sound of footsteps coming from upstairs and saw both Su Chen and Zhou Zimo coming down.

“It’s pretty lively here!” Zhou Zimo and Su Chen traded glances as they laughed.

“It’s almost time now. Tell Li Si and the servants to prepare the stuff. We’ll head out now.” Xi Xiaye then walked towards the front yard.

By the time night arrived, the evening around the Grand Waves Villa area was spectacular. Colorful lights surrounded the villa area as the sky turned dark, and the front yard of Maple Residence was well lit. It all seemed very lively.

They left the main cooking to Mu Yuchen and Li Si. Zhou Zimo and Qi Lei were playing cards while Su Chen and Ji Zitong were preparing the ingredients together while Xi Xiaye was helping Mu Yuchen out. Mu Zirui was in-charge of delivering the cooked food to the table.

“Have a try?”

As Xi Xiaye was slathering the sauces on the barbeque meat, the smell was extremely tempting. She felt hungry and looked up to see the man handing her a stick of barbequed meat.

Xi Xiaye looked around and realized no one noticed, so she smiled cheekily and took a bite.

“Mr. Mu, I’m starting to realize you’re a real treasure. You are so breath-taking and you’re an excellent cook. Here’s a reward for you!” Xi Xiaye swallowed her food happily and then planted a kiss on his cheek.

Mu Yuchen enjoyed himself as he smiled and continued with the barbeque. “I told you you wouldn’t regret marrying me.”

“Alright, quickly finish these up.”

...

“Ah Chen, are you done? Come and have a drink!”

“Xiaye, you guys, leave it for a moment. Everyone come and have a drink!”

Su Chen’s voice was heard by everyone.

Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye came over with the barbequed meat.

After they had their fill, Su Chen and the others started playing cards again.

Just as he expected, Qi Lei guessed that Mu Yuchen wanted to tell him something when he was invited over.

Mu Yuchen was lying down on the lounge chair on the front yard with Qi Lei right beside him. They were both watching the group playing cards. Xi Xiaye had brought Mu Zirui back in for a shower, and the little guy was getting up as well.

Chapter 847. Gather (3)

Qi Lei turned over to Mu Yuchen as he said, "Congratulations on getting out."

Mu Yuchen looked at him, his eyes darkening. "I guess I'm lucky, but you don't seem very fortunate."

Qi Lei's eyes darkened as he looked away, while his voice sounded calm, his tone felt sorrowful—

"I sure am a little unfortunate, but so what? Are you going to offer me some words of comfort right now?" His voice sounded cold just like the wind passing by.

A light flashed in Mu Yuchen's eyes as he said, "I thought about doing so, but seeing you now makes me think that you don't need it. Great." He raised a toast, and they finished their glasses together.

"I've heard too much of those and I'm getting bored with it. Yang Sheng got a cactus plant from Xiaye several days ago. I understand. That's my mother after all, so it's normal to be sad, but there's nothing I can do to bring her back to life. I still have a life to live. You don't have to tell me. I understand," said Qi Lei as he gulped the wine down.

"What do you plan to do from now on?" Mu Yuchen asked.

Qi Lei took a deep breath and leaned back onto the chair. "That old man wants me to take over my mother's position. He thinks he's doing me a favor! My mother had a lawyer and made her will a long time ago. All her shares and properties are left to me. That old man was just afraid that I might not be able to take on the stress and sell all the shares that I have.

"My mother's group influence fell considerably after she passed away. I suppose it'll be very challenging even if I want to rebuild it." He looked at Mu Yuchen straight in the eye.

Mu Yuchen raised his eyebrows. "VP Wang was able to do it, and you're saying that you can't?"

Qi Lei smiled before sighing. "Talking to you does feel motivational at times."

"I've heard what's happening in Qi Kai. It's not a favorable position for you. With Qi Kai getting South River Project No. 2, your situation is pretty bad." Mu Yuchen gave him an objective analysis, "I think Qi Kai is trying to make a shift through this project. A lot of entertainment-focused companies are starting to get involved in other industries with property and business being common targets."

Qi Lei nodded. "You're right. That's happening right now. Qi Kai started out in the showbiz industry, and it's been several decades. If we don't find other pathways to break through the current situation, we might get left behind in the future. Since the Hui Gu Corporation is interested, our company isn't going to let this chance slip away. The whole company is focused on this one project."

"However, it doesn't seem like you're involved in South River Project No. 2. You're almost losing your spot in handling Project No. 1 as well," Mu Yuchen noted.

Qi Lei shook his head. "Yeah, I've been thinking about it this whole time. I'm pretty much a failure ending up like this."

"You're not the only one who had it tough. Don't simply use the word 'failure'." Mu Yuchen looked at him sternly for a moment and then continued, "Grandpa told me yesterday that he met you a few days ago."

"Yes, it was regarding South River Project No. 2. I've understood from him that Qi Kai successfully obtained the core land. Do we not have any hope now?" Qi Lei asked.

Mu Yuchen grinned. "That's what this is about. Do you regret working with me now?"

Qi Lei smacked his own head and looked at Mu Yuchen quietly before shaking his head. "I can only say it's my fault. I never expected you to be arrested at such a critical moment, and I..."

"Do you think Qi Kai is better at working in the showbiz industry, or in property development?" Mu Yuchen suddenly asked before Qi Lei could reply.

“Of course the showbiz industry! Although property development is tempting, it’s still difficult for the current Qi Kai to handle it alone. Why else do you think we need the Hui Gu Corporation?” Qi Lei glanced at Mu Yuchen like he was looking at an idiot.

Mu Yuchen looked down and laughed. Then, he peered over at Su Chen and the others before he stood up. “I’m glad that you’re fine now. There’s something I should tell you, but I’ve been a little busy with all the work piled up lately. Come and meet me in my office next Friday at 3p.m.”

Ah Mo should be back by then. It was about time to tell him about Qi Feng.

Mu Yuchen walked away before Qi Lei could reply.

Qi Lei was affected by the laughter around. He closed his eyes and calmed down himself before heading over.

They were still playing cards. The loser would have to do something interesting. Li Si was mimicking the cries of animals for the third time now. The first time was a wolf howl, the second time was a pig squealing, and the third time was a dog barking.

Everyone laughed as they enjoyed Li Si’s talented acting.

Su Chen and Ji Zitong worked pretty well together.

As for Zhou Zimo, he unleashed his inner talent and gave the crowd a performance. Even Qi Lei and Mu Yuchen chuckled. Having lost again, Zhou Zimo threw his cards away and put on a serious expression. “Do you guys want to know, between Chen, Su Chen, and me, who has the biggest...?”

“Who?” Qi Lei gave him a dirty glance.

Su Chen’s first reaction was to choke Zhou Zimo’s neck.

Chapter 848. Gather (4)



It seemed like something was revealed there. Mu Yuchen frowned and gave Zhou Zimo a disgusted look.

“Cough! Help me!” Zhou Zimo yelled, “I didn’t say it’s yours...”

The crowd averted their gaze to Mu Yuchen who just glanced at everyone expressionlessly. In the end, they all turned back to Zhou Zimo.

“You guys misunderstood. I’m trying to say if you guys want to know who has the biggest age among the three of us!”

“You’re the smallest no matter what,” Mu Yuchen quickly retorted.

“That’s right! You have no ambition and will easily become a traitor! Ah Chen and I were always the ones who helped you out when we were little! When we were still in high school, you were so afraid to extort money from the younger students, but then you enjoyed most of the food we bought with the money! Shameless!”

Su Chen gave Mu Yuchen a nod before he grabbed Zhou Zimo’s tie. “I’d have handled you if it wasn’t because you were so small!”

The crowd laughed.

Qi Lei was oddly envious of their relationship. Nonetheless, they started chatting with one another.

Night fell, and it was past 10p.m. when they noticed the time.

They were all a little drunk. Only Xi Xiaye and Ji Zitong were still sober. Sis Wang drove both Zhou Zimo and Li Si back while Ji Zitong helped Su Chen get into the car.

Qi Lei’s Grand Lake Villa area was pretty close, so Mu Yuchen could still send him back.

Mu Yuchen helped get Su Chen into the car as he said to Ji Zitong, Remember to prepare some soup for him to sober up. He's still got work tomorrow. He drinks a lot every time he comes over. I've had Sis Wang put some wine in your car boot as well as Xiaye's gift for you. Su Chen is my good brother, and he's been alone all these years. Please take care of him from now on."

Ji Zitong nodded. "Don't worry, Chairman Mu. I'll definitely treat my husband well."

"Just call me Ah Chen. Both Xiaye and I should be calling you our sister-in-law. Su Chen is slightly older than both Zimo and I. He's the elder brother among us, and he's a loyal and attentive friend. I'm sure that marrying him isn't the wrong decision," Mu Yuchen said.

Ji Zitong was stunned for a moment. She looked at Su Chen for a while and sighed. "I know. I guess this is fate. I never expected us to be together. The old me would never have believed it."

Mu Yuchen grinned. "Su Chen is a simple man. He should be the most carefree one among the three of us. Actually, the two of you were already been fated from back then. All these years, you're the only girl he's so worked up about aside from his mother and sister. I wish the two of you happiness."

"I..." Ji Zitong mumbled. She was about to say something else, yet Mu Yuchen interrupted her as if he knew what she was going to say.

"There's no need for any more words. You'll understand after you live with him for a longer time. It's getting late now, and I need to send Qi Lei back." Mu Yuchen then walked towards his own car.

Ji Zitong was stupefied for a while. She came back to her senses when she heard the sound of the car engine starting. Then, she looked over at Su Chen as she slowly lowered herself into the driver's seat.

It was around a 10-minute drive between the Grand Waves Villa area and the Grand Lake Villa area. Qi Lei had already fallen asleep when Mu Yuchen sent him back to his home, and Yang Sheng arrived in time as well.

"Thank you, Chairman Mu!" Yang Sheng acknowledged Mu Yuchen as he took Qi Lei over at the entrance of the villa.

Mu Yuchen nodded, glancing at the drunk Qi Lei as his expression softened. "He drank quite a lot tonight. Remember to give him some pills to sober up. Tell him not to worry as I'll never go back on my promise. Also, I'm very thankful for him."

"Chairman Mu... do you know who did it? Master Qi really had it rough recently. I don't want to see the murderer going unjudged."

Wang Qin had helped Yang Sheng a lot. Even though she passed away, he felt it was wrong to leave her murderer free.

"Leave it to the police. What you need to do now is to take care of him."

"Master Qi guessed it was CEO Qi... He had several fights with CEO Qi since VP Wang left. He even took away everything that belonged to CEO Wang from the home. Then, he burnt the things that he couldn't take. CEO Qi was furious. I think Master Qi will have a hard time at work again tomorrow."

Yang Sheng gave Qi Lei a bitter glance. He was not sure why he told Mu Yuchen this, but he could not think of anyone else to rant to except him and Xi Xiaye.

Most people only knew of Master Qi as a playboy. No one knew Qi Lei was a pretty cold person who hardly had any friends. He still had someone to talk to when Mu Lingtian was still alive, and occasionally spoke to Gu Lingsha as well, but now...

"Tell me directly if anything happens to him the next time," Mu Yuchen said.

"Thank you, Chairman Mu." Yang Sheng looked at Mu Yuchen gratefully.

Mu Yuchen nodded and pointed at the door. "Get in now. He's quite drunk."

Yang Sheng nodded. "Okay, please be careful on the way back." He then helped Qi Lei to get inside the house.

Mu Yuchen watched as the two of them vanished through the door, yet he did not leave right away. He leaned against his car door and lit up a cigarette in annoyance. The cigarette was nearly finished but he hardly took a drag on it anyway.

Chapter 849. Begin Again (1)

When they returned to the Grand Waves Villa area, the entire area was in stillness. Mu Yuchen slowed his car down and drove slowly on the cemented path towards Maple Residence. From afar, with the help of the dim car headlights, he could see that slender figure waiting by the door.

She wore a simple, long stay-at-home dress while she stood quietly at the door.

“It’s still a cool night. Aren’t you cold?”

When she came up to him, he had already taken off his coat and put them over her shoulders.

Xi Xiaye fixed the coat he put on her as she looked up with twinkling eyes. “I was worried, so I came out to look. You did drink a lot too...”

“It’s fine. I haven’t been this happy in a while. Have the boys fallen asleep?” Mu Yuchen said as he put an arm around her shoulders and walked into the house.

“Mmm, they’ve both fallen asleep. Oh, Mr. Mu, earlier Father and Mother called...”

“What did they say?” he asked softly.

“Nothing much. They were just asking about you. It’s going to be the first of May soon, and the new batch of students are going to graduate. In June, the students have to defend their dissertations, so they’re a little busy on their end,” Xi Xiaye explained briefly.

“Are Father and Mother both supervising dissertations?”

Ever since Xi Mushan and Shen Wenna got back together, Mu Yuchen rarely interfered with their lives anymore. She only found out from Xi Xiaye and Shen Yue that the two of them were doing well.

“Mmm, they are. The dissertations that Mother has been supervising every year are great. Every time, it will be quite a rush back to the university after the New Year. Coincidentally, Father previously graduated as an engineer, so he can help her a little. Right now Father’s mainly helping her supervise the students’ experiments while she guides them with the data analysis for their dissertations.”

“Let’s find a day to visit them.”

“Mm-hmm...”

...

Without those trifling matters from before, Xi Mushan and Shen Wenna have had quite a few months of peaceful living. They taught classes in the day and were busy with work. At night, the husband and wife duo would go home and cook together before marking the students’ homework.

Just like today...

After the two of them had their lunch, Shen Wenna returned to the study room and began marking the students’ thesis while Little Apple sat leisurely on her lap with its eyes squinted. Xi Mushan cleaned the dishes in the kitchen.

Just as Shen Wenna was fully focused on reading through a document, there was suddenly a glass of warm water beside her. Xi Mushan’s deep voice interrupted her. “Have some water and rest for a bit.”

Shen Wenna peered up before setting aside her pen and drinking two mouthfuls of water. “This batch of students’ dissertations are quite impressive in quality. I think there are quite a few excellent ones. Wang Ning who’s in my class is quite good. His grades are top-notch, but his family background isn’t outstanding. Previously, when the recommendation list for school admissions came to me, I told him to apply for it, but he rejected it. It’s probably because he’s thinking about going out to work sooner. He still has a younger brother doing his third year in university, and a younger sister still in high school. See if you can find a connection and recommend him. I don’t want him to waste his talents. If we can recommend him to a research institute, I think this student has huge potential.”

“I remember that there was a career fair a few days ago, and a lot of students in your class have found a job. Has Wang Ning not found one?” Xi Mushan looked at Shen Wenna, perplexed, as he bent down to pick up the thesis before her and flip it to read.

“No, I heard that he wants to stay in this city.”

“I’ll see if there’s anything suitable. We’re almost done editing the dissertations these past few days. Once we return them, let’s go to Maple Residence to take a look. Ah Chen...”

Knock knock.

Before Xi Mushan could finish, there was already a knock from outside. Xi Mushan then stopped what he was saying, looking at Shen Wenna questioningly, and then went to open the door.

When Xi Mushan saw who was standing outside the door, he was stunned.

Upon seeing the steadfast and bright Xi Mushan, Xi Xinyi was a little dazed, but she still called out softly to him, “Father...”

“Why are you here?” Xi Mushan stared at Xi Xinyi in confusion though his face did not reveal much of an expression.

Xi Xinyi looked inside, hesitated, and then said softly, “Nothing, I just wanted to talk to you for a while.”

Xi Mushan looked at Xi Xinyi, then turned around and peered into the house before he nodded. His tall figure walked past her. “Let’s go. We’ll talk downstairs.”

Xi Xinyi had mixed expressions as she glanced inside again, yet the door was already closed.

The father and daughter walked downstairs one after another, but the two of them did not say much. Even the atmosphere was rather stifled.

“Father, have you and Aunt been doing good?” Xi Xinyi spoke up first, finally breaking the silence.

“Pretty great. We’re rushing for the students’ graduation recently, so we’ve been a little busy. How are you?”

Xi Mushan actually did not quite know how to face this daughter of his. Even if he had not been willing to back then, Yue Lingsi did give birth to Xi Xinyi, and she was his daughter. This was a fact that could not be changed.

“I’m doing pretty well. I’ve just come from the sanatorium. Mother’s alright too. She knows that you handled the matters at the sanatorium for her, so she’s thankful for you,” said Xi Xinyi softly after hesitating.

However, as Xi Xinyi said that, a smirk already flashed on Xi Mushan’s face. “Thankful? Xinyi, I know very well the kind of person your mother is. I’m afraid she wouldn’t have known to use that word.”

Even though Xi Xinyi knew that it was not very appropriate, when she thought of the way Yue Lingsi had begged her earlier, she could not help but blurt out, “Father, Mother’s suffered enough with the lesson this time. I hope that you could go see her just once. There are things that she’s been wanting to say to you...”

“All that can be said between us has been said. There’s nothing else to say,” Xi Mushan responded with an indifferent expression.

“Father, perhaps Mother just wants to repent. She was wrong back then, but she only did so because she cared too much about you. I never knew how she felt, yet after I’ve experienced all of this, I can empathize with her. Right now, I really regret all those things I did to Sister. I think Mother’s the same. A few days ago, Brother-in-law came to look for me...” Xi Xinyi said with a darkened expression while her voice was colored with a hint of sadness.

“Ah Chen went to look for you?” Xi Mushan seemed quite shocked as he stared at Xi Xinyi. Confusion surfaced in his eyes.

Chapter 850. Begin Again (2)

Xi Xinyi nodded as she lowered her gaze sadly and silently sighed. “Mm-hmm.”

She picked up her steps and continued walking ahead, her sad voice coming through. "I've been thinking a lot recently. I thought about the past and the present. Actually, when Han Yifeng asked for a divorce from me, I should've understood that I've pushed myself to the edge. However, then, I still refused to see that I was wrong. I didn't know how to see the truth. Only when I really lost him and the child did I know..."

When she said this, Xi Xinyi suddenly stopped walking. She lowered her head and stared at her hands that were open before her. Her voice that trembled slightly contained a hint of sorrow as she choked on her sobs. "Did I know that... I ruined all of this on my own. I pushed myself to the edge... Father, I feel so helpless right now. I miss Yifeng so much. I miss my son so much... I wish I could return to the past... When Yifeng left, he did give me a chance, but I...I..."

At this point, Xi Xinyi already could not help as tears streamed down her face. She could not continue.

Xi Mushan stood with his hands behind his back as he turned to look at Xi Xinyi who was crying silently. After a while, he sighed and handed her a tissue from his pocket. "Here."

Xi Xinyi sniffed. She looked up with red eyes at Xi Mushan and accepted it after a long while.

Xi Mushan did not take another glance at her. He only stood with hands behind his back as he continued walking ahead. Xi Xinyi followed unhurriedly behind him.

"It's good that you could figure this all out yourself. I hope that the grudges between your mother and I can end here too. There's no need to meet again. As for your matters with Xiaye, I've promised Xiaye not to interfere in the past. Unexpectedly, things still played out the way it did today." Xi Mushan sighed. "You're like your mother. You won't spare tricks to achieve your aims. That's how you caused today's tragedy."

"Father..."

"I should take some responsibility for the Xi family suffering today's misfortune. I didn't perform my duties well, and I almost didn't even get the chance to make up for it. Xinyi, I hope that you won't take the same path as your mother. I hope that you'll have a different ending from the one she did."



As Xi Mushan said that, he suddenly turned to look at Xi Xinyi.

“Father, do you think I still have a chance? Do I still have a chance to redeem myself?” Xi Xinyi looked nervously at Xi Mushan, her hollow heart desperately needing a sliver of courage.

“Once, I also thought that your aunt and I wouldn’t have a chance to start over again, but now we have reconciled.” Xi Mushan’s deep voice had a hint of gratitude. He paused, then continued, “Losing is terrifying, but what’s even more terrifying is standing in the same spot and watching it leave you without knowing how to get it back.”

“Father... I... I’m afraid he doesn’t want me anymore, and I fear later my son will abandon me too...” Xi Xinyi said as she choked on her sobs and teared up.

“If you don’t go looking for them, you’ll lose them forever. Let the miserable past stay in the past. The fact that you came today shows that you’re probably aware of your errors. It’s a good thing to want to turn over a new leaf. This is positive luck for you. Understand?”

Xi Xinyi sniffled and nodded through misty, teary eyes.

“Alright, the past won’t repeat itself. There’s still the future, so you’ll have to choose how you want to live it, mmm?” Xi Mushan said earnestly and then took in a deep breath before he took a look at Xi Xinyi and patted her on the shoulder. Then, he silently turned around to leave with hands behind his back, leaving her standing all alone on the empty pathway.

After a while, Xi Xinyi wiped away her tears, and when she turned to look, she only saw Xi Mushan’s faint, frail back...

When he reached home, Shen Wenna was standing at the balcony enjoying the scenery. Xi Mushan went over to join her and could still see Xi Xinyi’s figure leaving slowly.

Shen Wenna had a calm expression. Xi Mushan carefully turned to look at her for a long while. He could not read anything from her expression, so he thought about it, then said, “I can tell that she’s regretful. I hope she won’t be like her mother. She hopes that I can go take a look at Yue Lingsi.”

“Why don’t you go then?” Shen Wenna looked at him with an indifferent expression.

“Wenna, I love you. That’s a fact that has never changed. Do you understand?” Xi Mushan thought that she was annoyed, so he frowned helplessly.

Shen Wenna lowered her gaze, lifting her hands to hold onto the chilly railing as she quietly looked down in the direction of Xi Xinyi’s figure moving gradually away. She said a little difficulty, “Those three words are too heavy.”

“Yes, to us, they are all too heavy. That’s why I’m grateful.”

Xi Mushan’s silent eyes could not help but flash with tenderness as he silently looked at Shen Wenna beside him.

Shen Wenna’s beautiful face rippled with a smile. “But just like that, many years have passed. We’ve lost the things we should have. We didn’t have a chance to experience all the beautiful times we once fantasized about having.”

“Who says we’ve lost our chance to? We still have time now. Come with me!” Xi Mushan looked at the side of her face that seemed faintly sad, and his heart hurt. His hands could not help but reach over to gently hold her hand as he pulled her inside.

Shen Wenna was surprised. “Where are you bringing me?”

“You’ll know if you come with me,” Xi Mushan said to her before he dragged her out through the door.

Shen Wenna naturally felt a little awkward as he pulled her all the way. She tried to struggle for a bit, but he locked his grip onto her so tightly that she could not wiggle free. It was a good thing that it was lunch break, so there were not many people on the road.

Xi Mushan brought Shen Wenna through the forest of peach trees. Soon, they reached outside the school piano room.

It was only when Xi Mushan pulled Shen Wenna to sit down before a shiny piano that she fell into a daze. Her beautiful eyes shifted as she stared stunned at Xi Mushan beside her while his long fingers were already on the piano keys. A series of alluring musical notes poured out...

This song was, of course, one that Shen Wenna was familiar with. In fact, Xi Mushan had frequently played this for her back then. She had not heard this song for a very, very long time. It had been so long that she had even forgotten the last time she listened to it. It might have been ten or twenty years ago, or even longer than that...

Right here waiting...