

Marry Me Quick Novel Online Free - Chapter 743 –760

Chapter 743 Am I a Real Man?

As time passed, Xia couldn't guess what was on Jingshu's mind. Since she hadn't seen him for quite some time, she didn't dare to contact him for fear that the call would lead to the most undesirable outcome for her – a breakup. The situation had come to a standstill until Ziyue and Muchen's wedding. She had been looking forward to Jingshu's return. Still, he had never even glanced at her throughout the entire ceremony.

Hmph! So what? I don't care! she thought furiously, with a tinge of sorrow. But why did he reach out when I got drunk? What the hell does that mean? Jingshu had no answer to her questions, but there was a slight change in his expression.

His thick eyelashes drooped as he lowered his gaze dejectedly, making him look like a disappointed kid.

However, his silence was the source of Xia's pressure. She felt as though there was a mountain pressing down on her chest.

She plucked up her courage and let out a cold snort as she removed herself from his embrace.

"Speechless, are we? Or did you take this opportunity to return to Yunzhou City to break up with me?"

This time around, Jingshu reacted immediately.

Without any hesitation, he replied firmly and anxiously, "No."

He seemed to be worried about more unfavorable words from Xia.

"You left me alone without any explanation, so why can't I break up with you? I didn't know you had such double standards, Jingshu!"

The resentment and anger that Xia had been holding back erupted at that moment. She felt that she had nothing else to lose.

However, her words agitated Jingshu, whose face darkened. "Come again?"

"I want to break up with you! Did you hear me?"

"Impossible!" he replied with blazing determination.

Xia snorted and walked past him to the door wobbly.

"Where are you going?" he asked as he followed her.

"I caught the bouquet just now, which means I'll find my true love soon. The guests at the wedding are quite decent – perhaps I can find the right person for me later. Who knows?"

Though Xia was not the prettiest back in school, she was deemed likable by many. She was vivacious yet tactful, understanding yet mischievous.

It was a wonder that none of the guys made a move on her.

It was only on graduation night that it was revealed – after everyone was drunk – that they thought she already had a boyfriend.

Jingshu was a flirty and flamboyant man, qualities of being brought up in a fine family. Fortunately, he was kind, and Xia had been carrying a torch for him.

She was willing to concede defeat and tolerate his behaviors in their daily squabbles.

However, this time around, he had crossed her boundaries.

Xia leaned against the door frame and smiled at him, waiting for his reply.

As the bridesmaid, she wore a pink evening gown with her hair and makeup done exquisitely, exuding a glamorous sex appeal.

Suppressing his anger, Jingshu suddenly softened his tone.

“Xia, you are drunk. Stop saying those spiteful things.”

Xia frowned. What is going on with him now? Why isn't he angry?

In the next moment, Jingshu suddenly walked to her and pulled her into his embrace before she could even react.

He turned around and locked the door before removing his necktie to tie her wrists together.

Then, he carried her in his arms and threw her on the bed.

Xia was flummoxed by his actions.

“What the hell are you doing? Let me go!” she roared in protest as she tried to get up from the bed.

With her wrists tied together, it was not an easy feat.

She rolled over with her belly on the bed and her behind sticking out in the air before reaching a kneeling position and straightening her back.

Jingshu's gaze danced over her even as she was performing a series of inelegant movements.

Nevertheless, it didn't matter to her anymore, for he had seen enough of her embarrassment and mishaps. One more addition to the list wouldn't mean much.

She glared at him angrily. “If you're a real man, let me go. Are you proud of bullying a woman?”

To Jingshu, her angry expression seemed flirtatious.

While struggling to sit on the bed, one of the straps of her gown slid past her shoulder.

The gown sculpted her figure tightly as she knelt, glowering at him with her wide eyes.

She was nowhere as pretty as his exes, but she was more alluring than them.

Jingshu felt his throat tighten. He wanted to ease his tie, but it was already around her wrist.

Xia scooted over to him and stretched out her leg to give him a kick after seeing his silence.

However, her leg did not retract after that.

His gaze darkened as he massaged her leg, making his way from her calves to her thighs.

“I’ll let you decide for yourself if I’m a real man,” he muttered hoarsely.

“G-G-Get out! I’m going to bed soon!” she stuttered after feeling the intensity of his gaze.

She had always been on guard and ferocious, but she looked like a little girl being called to the discipline room at that moment.

Seeing her meekly sight sent a wave of satisfaction to Jingshu.

He lowered his head and kissed her forehead gently, slowly making his way to her lips.

When they finally kissed, Xia struggled to get away, but Jingshu pushed her onto the bed and made advances on her.

She bit his lips in defense, but it only made him chuckle. Still lingering close to her lips, he said softly, “Go ahead. When everyone sees the condition of my lips tomorrow, what do you think their deductions will be?”

Xia froze, and Jingshu took this opportunity to unzip her dress.

For aesthetic purposes, Xia only wore silicone bra inserts.

As Jingshu pulled the dress away, her bra was also removed along, revealing the top half of her beautiful figure.

Upon seeing her slight figure, Jingshu took a sharp breath. Meanwhile, a flush crept up on Xia’s body, painting her in a pinkish hue.

Since she couldn’t move her hands, she could only yell, “Let me go, you b*stard!”

Nonetheless, none of her protests reached him. He started kissing her sensitive spots, sending shivers down her spine.

After all, she could not control her physical response.

She cowered and let out a moan as her body was dyed in red.

Her voice stimulated Jingshu, who hugged her tightly as he panted breathlessly.

When he took off the gown completely, he caressed her body softly. Her waist was so smooth and soft that it seemed like he might easily break her with just a little more force.

The moment he thought of her as the woman he had fantasized about, he felt another bout of desire. He wanted to be one with her, to hear her moan and beg for his mercy.

He was brought up in a complicated family background, so he was no longer a virgin and was familiar with sex.

However, he knew it was completely different for Xia – her mind and body were innocent and pure.

He had wanted to sleep with her, but he could never bring himself to do it. But in that dreamy space, he could no longer rein in his desires anymore.

Chapter 744 Did He Escape Again?

Jingshu tried to be as gentle as possible, stopping himself whenever he became too passionate.

She's going to be mine anyway. We can take it slow.

With that thought in mind, he slowed down and kissed her gently to guide her slowly.

Xia felt slightly lightheaded, like she had been thrust into a warm bath.

The temperature in the room slowly rose as their breathing quickened.

She immediately tried to curl herself into a ball out of shyness. Still, Jingshu held her hand firmly to reassure her.

She turned around and let out another muffled moan as she bit her lips to suppress her desires.

The same emotions were stirring inside Jingshu.

"Xia," he called her name, panting.

Xia opened her eyes in a daze. Though she couldn't decipher his expression, she noted that his eyes were set ablaze, entrancing her with their intensity.

They were sweating profusely. Jingshu's damp hair fell to his forehead, making him look even more sexy.

Xia suddenly felt a sense of accomplishment upon seeing his restraint.

She smiled and wrapped her legs around his waist.

As soon as she did that, he let out a low grunt and wrapped his arms around her tightly.

"You asked for it!"

With that, he lowered himself into her. A yelp was heard from Xia, but Jingshu muffled her cry with a passionate kiss.

It was going to be a long night.

Xia felt it to be painful and physically demanding.

"If you beg me to stop, I'll do that right away," he coaxed.

Xia returned to her senses. Not only am I willing to beg, I can even call you 'daddy'!

However, it seemed to have fueled him further after she did that. He grew more excited after hearing it.

She finally understood it would not be over anytime soon.

Jingshu had been going on and on for the entire night. When it was completely over, she was already unconscious.

...

Both of them slept through the next morning until it was midday.

Jingshu woke up first; the first thing in his sight was her dark, silky hair.

He froze for a moment before his memories slowly returned to him.

They were facing each other in bed, with Xia sleeping in his arms. Her soft body was ensconced in his embrace, and her face was partially covered by

her hair.

She was still in a deep slumber.

Jingshu gently retracted his arm that was encircling her waist and brushed her hair behind her ears. Then, he pulled behind the sheets slightly, revealing her flushed cheeks due to the heat.

Her brows were slightly furrowed, and her lips were swollen.

She looked vulnerable and childlike in her sleep, tugging his heartstrings.

He lowered his head and kissed her gently. He dared not deepen the kiss to avoid waking her up.

Then, he gave a peck on her cheeks before tiptoeing into the bathroom.

Standing in front of the mirror, he saw the scratches on his body and smiled.

Suddenly, he recalled something and quickly got dressed.

The moment he opened the door, a waiter stood before him with a trolley of food. The waiter had two of his fingers curled up in the air, suggesting he was about to knock on the door.

Jingshu arched his eyebrows inquisitively.

"I was asked to send this over," the waiter explained.

"Muchen?" A frown covered his forehead.

Chuan saw him leave with Xia the night before. Since they had not appeared since then, it was obvious what had happened between them.

Well, I don't mind, but I'm not sure about Xia.

With that thought in mind, he waved to the waiter. "I'll bring it into the room myself, thanks."

He then pushed the trolley back into his room without waiting for the waiter's reply.

Xia was still sleeping.

I'm only going out for a bit. The food will still be warm.

He went to a pharmacy nearby.

The pharmacist was a middle-aged woman.

"How may I help you?" she asked in a business-like tone.

"I-I... uh... I'm looking for... some cream for wounds," he stammered uneasily.

"Where is the wound?" She glanced at him before turning around to look at the shelves.

He frowned, embarrassed to speak his thoughts.

She turned around and repeated, "Where is it?"

Jingshu scratched his head and admitted, "Down there, for a woman!"

The pharmacist froze for a brief moment before comprehension dawned on her.

"I see."

When she passed the cream to him, she looked at him sententiously. "You don't seem that young anymore. Remember to control yourself. It's very

sensitive there, so be gentle—”

“Thanks.” In his thirty years of life, this was the first time he felt so embarrassed.

He grabbed the cream, placed the money on the table, and fled without waiting to get the change.

...

When he returned, he was dumbfounded to find the bed empty.

He ran to the bathroom and shouted, “Xia!”

No one was in the bathroom either.

Just when he was about to leave the room to look for her, he heard someone pull the curtains.

Xia emerged from the balcony in bath robes. Her hair was still damp – she had taken a shower after waking up.

She glanced at him before shifting her gaze away.

“Is your brain just a decoration?” Instead of looking around the room, he’s about to look for me outside. What an idiot.

Jingshu heaved a sigh of relief without getting angry at all.

He placed the cream into his pockets and brought her to the dining table.

“You must be hungry. The waiter sent some food over; just take what you like.”

While speaking, he took some of the food onto a plate on the dining table.

There was a variety of different cuisines. Should I thank Muchen’s thoughtfulness?

Xia ignored him and started eating a sandwich. The physically-taxing activity last night had indeed worn her out.

When she woke up, she thought he left her again when he was nowhere to be seen.

At least there’s some decency left in him.

After the meal, Xia realized that Jingshu didn’t touch the food at all.

“Have you eaten?”

Jingshu shook his head and passed the cream to her awkwardly. “This... is for you...”

“What is—”

She choked before she could finish her sentence. Upon realizing what it was for, she blushed and let out a cold snort.

She was about to leave the room but felt a pain in the lower half of her body and took the cream.

Jingshu leaned against his chair as he watched her enter the bathroom. He thought she wouldn’t want the medicine at all.

He wanted to help her with it, but he knew she would disagree.

Suddenly, he found himself imagining what Xia was doing in the bathroom

and turned hard.

Damn it!

Chapter 745 Don't Regret

Xia finally felt better after applying the cream.

She saw her reflection in the mirror when she was washing her hands. After seeing how red her cheeks were, she splashed some cold water on her face until it subsided.

Jingshu was helping himself to the food at the dining table. Perhaps it was because of the hunger – he seemed to be in a rush, but he still looked elegant.

Xia had always thought Jingshu was just another rich kid from a well-off family until Yunan showed up and revealed that their family was involved in the military and politics.

She even saw Jingshu's grandfather on television before.

This explains why Jingshu had the correct core values even though he acted like a rogue and fooled around.

She sat down in front of him and appraised him seriously.

It has almost been half a year since they last met. She hadn't even properly looked at him since the night before.

There were not many changes – he didn't even lose any weight.

Jingshu couldn't find any topic to start a conversation. Though he didn't regret his actions the night before, he was surprised at how things turned out.

His will was particularly strong yet weak in front of Xia.

Since he had no clue on how to initiate a conversation, he kept on eating until Xia couldn't stand it anymore and placed her glass on the table loudly.

"Are you a pig? You are going to stuff yourself to death!"

"Men eat more than women," he replied matter-of-factly.

She didn't want to continue the conversation with him and instructed, "Find some clothes for me!"

"Okay." He made his way out of the room.

Xia pouted. Why does he seem so dumb today?

As soon as he walked out of the room, he saw Ziyue holding a bag in front of their door hesitantly, unsure if she should knock.

"Why are you here?"

"Where's Xia?" She gestured to the bag. "I brought her some clothes."

She heard what had happened between them last night.

They were already involved with each other before that and stayed in the same hotel room until the following afternoon. It was beyond clear what had transpired.

Still, she was worried about Xia, so she arrived with a bag of clothes.

Jingshu suddenly realized everyone knew about his night with Xia.

What should I do about it? Suddenly, he felt embarrassed, and his feet started fidgeting around.

“Thanks!”

He thanked her and took the bag into the room.

...

Knowing that the clothes were sent by Ziyue, Xia went to see her as soon as she changed into them.

Ziyue waited outside the room, foreseeing that Xia would want to talk with her.

They both went to the restaurant downstairs to grab a cup of tea.

Xia was still full, so she only took small sips of the tea.

She saw Ziyue’s hesitant expression and said, “I did it voluntarily with him. Don’t overthink things.”

“Er...” Ziyue looked embarrassed. It had crossed her mind that Jingshu might have forced Xia.

After all, they hadn’t seen each other for so long. As soon as they saw each other, they did it...

Xia pouted. “If I was unwilling, there would be no chance for him to make advances on me, no matter how drunk I am.”

“So, what are your plans?” Ziyue asked.

“What else?” Xia sighed and smiled. “Let’s try it out for now. If it doesn’t work out, I’ll break up with him. I might not meet another man as handsome and rich as him, but at least I slept with him once.”

Ziyue kicked her under the table. “Be serious!”

The lifted corners of her eyes slowly eased, replaced by firmness and solemnness. “As long as he loves me, I will not let him go.”

She had known him for three years. In the beginning, they didn’t like each other. Slowly, their animosity wavered and shifted into an interest in each other. Finally, they fell for each other and confirmed their relationship. They had gone a long way.

After getting together with Xia, Jingshu had mended his old ways and stopped flirting around.

Hence, she believed his love for her was genuine.

As long as they still loved each other, she would not leave him for external reasons.

She was already twenty-six, at a somewhat awkward age. She could feel the stark difference between her and the young girls who just joined the company. Yet, she still had a distinct passion and impulse that young women carried. After hearing her words, Ziyue knew she had nothing else to add to the conversation since Xia had always been courageous and decisive.

When she was in love, she would give everything she had.

They chatted for a bit longer before leaving the restaurant.

Behind a row of potted plants next to their table, Muchen looked at Jingshu, who had a grim look clouding his features.

“Why? Aren’t you happy hearing that?”

Jingshu remained silent and gulped down the cup of cold coffee before him. Muchen tapped on the desk nonchalantly as though he was watching an exciting drama.

“Of course.” However, his eyes were filled with worry.

Muchen had been independent since he was fourteen, so he could see things clearer than Jingshu.

He retracted his hand and narrowed his eyes. “Don’t do things you might regret.”

This was the only advice he could give as a friend.

He stood up, straightened his shirt, and left.

I can’t believe I’m fussing over my friend’s relationship problem the day after the wedding.

...

While Ziyue and Muchen went on their honeymoon, they sent Zixi to Jingshu’s place.

With a small backpack behind him, he crossed his arms and paced around the living room, complaining about his father.

Initially, Ziyue wanted to bring him along, but Muchen managed to convince her otherwise.

He was furious about the turn of events. Finally, he was tired of complaining and concluded, “I might be adopted. They don’t even bring me along!”

Then, his eyes caught sight of Jingshu sitting by himself on the couch, lost in his thoughts.

“Uncle Jingshu, what’s wrong? Are you ill?”

Jingshu looked at him and caressed his hair. “Are you hungry? I can make something.”

The moment Zixi heard his offer, a look of apprehension appeared. “No, I’m not hungry!” he said firmly.

He remembered something and added, “Even if I am, Aunt Xia will be cooking anyway!”

Jingshu pinched his cheeks. “She’s not here. I’m the only one around.”

“Where did she go?”

I don’t want to eat anything he makes. It’s not edible at all. They are all burnt, and they smell awful.

Jingshu sighed. This kiddo is rubbing salt in the wound.

After leaving Lumiere Jade House, Xia returned to their place to pack her stuff. She was going back to her hometown for a visit.

“I’ll be right back,” she promised.

Who the hell knows how long that's going to be? Jingshu thought in annoyance.

He was about to follow her, but Muchen handed their son to him. With that responsibility, he couldn't leave his house.

He glanced at Zixi and explained patiently, "She went to visit her parents."

"Didn't she say when she's going to be back? Let's give her a call!"

Zixi's words jolted Jingshu to his senses.

He immediately took out his phone, dialed Xia's number, and gave the phone to Zixi.

"Cry and beg her to come back. Otherwise, I'll cook for you every day!"

Chapter 746 I Didn't Treat Him Unfairly

Qin Zixi hung up right away before the call could connect.

He said as he blinked, "I have a cellphone."

Then, he placed his backpack down and took out his cell phone from inside.

Bai Jingshu nodded as he thought that made sense. But, what if An Xia didn't want to answer his call?

Bai Jingshu couldn't help but lean over to take a look as he watched Qin Zixi fiddle with his cell phone. Qin Zixi quickly put away his cell phone and said, "Don't look. I'm entering the password."

A password was required to use his cellphone. Who could have thought?

Bai Jingshu found it amusing to see him being so serious.

"Alright, go ahead and enter the password."

Qin Zixi held the cell phone in his hands and waited for a moment after entering the password and pressing something else.

Bai Jingshu leaned over to take a look, and he saw that the call had been made and there was a profile picture.

"Do you know Aunt Xia's phone number?" Bai Jingshu hadn't seen Qin Zixi in almost half a year, so his understanding of him didn't improve since last year.

Qin Zixi glanced at him and answered, "I do. Mom saved everyone's numbers for me."

"Do you recognize all of them by their names?"

"I have their pictures." Then, he pointed to An Xia's picture on the screen and showed it to Bai Jingshu.

Mothers are really thoughtful of their kids.

Just then, the call connected.

The voice he had been longing to hear came from the other end of the phone call. "Hello, Zixi?"

Her voice was gentle.

"Aunt Xia." Qin Zixi asked in a soft tone, "When will you come home to Uncle Bai?"

Bai Jingshu instantly took a deep breath, feeling a surge of frustration that he

couldn't express.

An Xia and Qin Zixi had clearly spoken on the phone before.

An Xia either didn't pick up or ended the call after just a few words every time Bai Jingshu called her.

"I'm already on the way back. I'm in a car, and I'll be back this evening."

Qin Zixi happily replied, "Okay, I'll be waiting for you!"

Bai Jingshu turned to Qin Zixi as he wondered when he had become so eloquent.

What had happened during the six months he was away?

Unable to resist the urge, Bai Jingshu tugged at Qin Zixi's sleeve, signaling him to give him the phone for a moment.

However, Qin Zixi waved his hand innocently and said, "I already ended the phone call."

Bai Jingshu suddenly understood why Qin Muchen sometimes didn't get along with Qin Zixi at that instant.

Children could be little angels, but sometimes, they could also become obstacles to one's love.

...

In the afternoon, Qin Zixi rushed over to An Xia with teary eyes as soon as she returned to Bai Jingshu's house. "I'm starving, Aunt Xia."

He sniffled as if he was about to cry after speaking, but he held back.

An Xia felt heartbroken when she saw him in such a state.

She picked up Qin Zixi and gently asked, "What did Uncle Bai give you for lunch?"

She walked straight inside with Qin Zixi in her arms, completely ignoring Bai Jingshu, who had come to meet her.

Bai Jingshu noticed the suitcase she had left at the door, and he brought it inside for her.

He happened to overhear An Xia's words, and he quickly answered, "I ordered takeout from Lumiere Jade House for his lunch. I didn't treat him unfairly!"

An Xia only glanced at him without saying anything.

She sat on the couch with Qin Zixi following that. They were cuddling affectionately as they chatted for a while. Then, they took selfies with their phones before sending them to Su Ziyue. They continued chatting on their phones after that, leaving Bai Jingshu aside by himself.

Qin Zixi got tired and fell asleep shortly after. Bai Jingshu said just as An Xia was about to carry him upstairs to bed, "Let me handle it."

He took Qin Zixi from An Xia's arms.

Qin Zixi was surprisingly heavy despite his slim appearance.

An Xia didn't say much.

She only watched as Bai Jingshu carried Qin Zixi upstairs and disappeared from her sight as he made it through the corner of the stairs before she withdrew her gaze.

Is he being afraid now? Why is he so eager to help?

Nevertheless, Bai Jingshu was genuinely kind and patient with Qin Zixi.

Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue left Qin Zixi in Bai Jingshu's care when they went to Country J last year. Bai Jingshu was even looking forward to cooking for Qin Zixi at that time.

Qin Zixi happily ate a lot, but he ended up in the hospital with diarrhea that night.

Bai Jingshu tried cooking for Qin Zixi a few more times after that, but he refused to eat.

Surely Bai Jingshu would like Qin Zixi even more if he were his own child?

An Xia stood in the living room for a while before carrying her suitcase into the room she used to stay in.

Bai Jingshu came out, and he saw that there was no one in the living room and the suitcase was gone. So, he hurriedly chased after her as he slapped on his forehead.

He felt like he was becoming more and more foolish at that instant.

He opened the door to An Xia's room after turning around and running upstairs, and he saw her sitting cross-legged on the floor, organizing her clothes.

She initially planned to stay in her hometown for a while longer, so she brought a lot of luggage.

However, her parents liked to inquire about her love life as they were getting older.

She couldn't tell them about her current situation with Bai Jingshu, that she had a boyfriend at this stage.

Coincidentally, Su Ziyue called and informed her that she and Qin Muchen were going on their honeymoon, and Qin Zixi would be starting kindergarten. Hence, they asked her and Bai Jingshu to take care of Qin Zixi.

Besides, An Xia happened to be planning to return to Yunzhou City, so she decided to come back.

However, she knew that Mr. Qin was only using Qin Zixi and had to go to kindergarten as an excuse so that he wouldn't disturb his alone time with Su Ziyue together.

Mr. Qin might appear serious and cold, but he was incredibly skilled at manipulating people.

Bai Jingshu broke the silence in the room when he asked, "Are you hungry? What would you like to eat?"

He didn't know what to say, so he randomly found something to talk about.

Unexpectedly, An Xia nodded before saying, "Anything is fine."

Bai Jingshu instantly felt joy, and he ran downstairs to cook veggie noodles for An Xia.

He also brought out the beef that hadn't been touched since he ordered too much in the afternoon, and he placed it on the dining table.

An Xia came downstairs with a small package shortly after.

The package was filled with pickled vegetables made by her mother, and she loved it so much that she would bring some back every time she returned to her hometown.

"Come on, eat up," Bai Jingshu said when he saw her come downstairs.

An Xia put the package into the refrigerator before sitting at the dining table.

She didn't mind the plain-looking veggie noodles, and she started eating them with the beef.

She had been on the road for about three to four hours from her home, and she hadn't eaten anything since noon. It was natural that she was starting to feel hungry now.

The atmosphere around the dining table was quiet. There was only the occasional sound of An Xia eating.

Bai Jingshu stood up before her and said when she finished her meal and was about to get up to collect the dishes, "Let me do it. I insist."

An Xia didn't argue with him and let him take the dishes to the kitchen.

She smiled as she watched Bai Jingshu bend over and skillfully washed the dishes in the kitchen.

She still remembered the shocked appearance on Bai Yunan's face the first time he saw Bai Jingshu washing dishes.

But, Bai Yunan didn't say anything. He only looked at her with a scrutinizing gaze.

Chapter 747 What Did They Say To You?

People like them would always spend their time on meaningful things.

There had always been other people doing house chores for them since they were children.

As a result, Bai Yunan concluded that she was not worthy of Bai Jingshu.

Although Bai Yunan and Bai Jingshu didn't seem to get along, they still cared about each other deep down.

Bai Yunan could feel An Xia held a special place in Bai Jingshu's heart, but he never said anything to her.

That was why An Xia felt insecure for the first time as she realized there was quite some distance between them.

But, it didn't matter.

She loved Bai Jingshu.

Bai Jingshu was done with the dishes before long as there wasn't too much to

begin with.

He turned and saw An Xia staring straight at him following that.

He clenched his hand into a fist, pressed it against his lips, coughed dryly a few times, and began to lower his sleeves which he had just rolled up.

However, he couldn't lower them even after a while because he was too nervous.

An Xia walked over to him and gently put away his hand to help him lower his sleeves. Then, she asked in a calm tone, "Why didn't you come back for half a year?"

Bai Jingshu didn't expect her to ask that and was slightly stunned. His face darkened slightly as he didn't know how to respond.

"Are you sure you don't want to speak up?" An Xia tidied his cuffs and lightly tapped on his arm, making him feel uneasy.

Bai Jingshu pursed his lips as he looked at her suggestive expression. He knew that she was offering him a way out.

But, he really couldn't explain at that instant.

How could he tell An Xia that he was threatened by his old man, and his old man would bring harm to her if he left Jingcheng City?

His silence had gradually let An Xia down.

Then, An Xia crossed her arms and asked, "Does it feel good to be ignored and left aside?"

She had been avoiding Bai Jingshu's calls during this period. Part of it was because she was genuinely angry while the rest was because she was driven by her stubbornness.

But, she couldn't endure it any longer in the end.

Bai Jingshu lowered his eyes and reached into his pocket.

He hesitated for a couple of seconds when he touched his pack of cigarettes.

He took it out and said, "I'm going to smoke a couple of cigarettes."

He turned and left with the cigarettes after speaking.

And so, a cold war happened between the two of them.

...

An Xia took a few days off from work when Su Ziyue got married and suddenly returned. She had called her boss to request leave.

She had initially thought that her strict boss would not agree to grant her leave. But, her boss agreed without saying too much unexpectedly.

It was already Monday in the blink of an eye, and An Xia had to go to work.

She held Qin Zixi's hand and went out after breakfast.

Bai Jingshu happened to be in a car at the entrance. He got out of the car and looked at An Xia before saying, "Get in."

An Xia silently held Qin Zixi's hand as they got into the car. She said when they passed by a bus stop, "Stop the car."

“What’s wrong?” Bai Jingshu turned back and looked at her in confusion. An Xia opened the door of the car and got out. She continued, “Take Zixi to the kindergarten. I’ll take a bus to the company by myself.”

She went to the bus stop after saying that.

She got on board a bus that was going to pass by the company shortly after. Bai Jingshu’s grip on the steering wheel tightened as his expression turned gloomy.

Meanwhile, Qin Zixi who was sitting in the child safety seat in the back row blinked his eyes as he noticed Uncle Bai looked terrifying.

...

In the company, An Xia canceled her leave and started working.

She wrote a resignation letter during the lunch break and handed it to her boss.

It was déjà vu all over again as the boss didn’t say anything and agreed to her request just like when she asked for leave.

An Xia realized that her boss, who took over after Bai Jingshu left was actually sent by the Bai family at that point.

The Bai family had started to intervene in her relationship with Bai Jingshu. Thankfully, they were only targeting Bai Jingshu and hadn’t come to her yet. They probably thought it was unnecessary to involve her for the time being. Although her family was considered wealthy in the small county town where her hometown was located, they were only insignificant people and did not deserve much attention in the eyes of the Bai family.

Bai Jingshu called just as she was packing up and preparing to leave.

He asked in a tone full of anger, “Where are you, An Xia? Why did you resign?”

“Because I have a new life plan now, so I don’t want to work at the company anymore,” An Xia replied in a cheerful tone.

“Send me the address, I’ll come find you right away.”

Bai Jingshu didn’t even hear An Xia’s response after finished speaking, and he hung up the phone domineeringly.

An Xia only wrinkled her nose as she knew he was throwing a tantrum at her. She felt her indecisiveness had gotten worse since she had been friends with Su Ziyue for so long as she still sent the address to Bai Jingshu.

She was in a coffee shop not far from the company, and Bai Jingshu arrived before long.

Bai Jingshu threw the car keys onto the table and asked loudly as soon as he arrived, “Why did you resign?”

“I already explained it to you on the phone. I have a new life plan, so I don’t want to work at the company anymore,” An Xia replied as she glanced at him with an indifferent expression.

But, Bai Jingshu sneered out of anger. "A new life plan? Is it going back to your hometown and taking over your parents' department store?"

An Xia raised her chin and slapped on the table as she answered, "That's right. Not only do I want to go back to my hometown and take over my parents' department store, but I also want to find a man to marry!"

"An Xia!"

"Although my family only runs a department store and does some small business, we're not sophisticated."

Bai Jingshu immediately realized something from An Xia's words.

"What did you know?" Bai Jingshu asked.

"What did I know? Nothing at all." But, An Xia's expression suggested the exact opposite.

Bai Jingshu continued asking, "Did someone look for you?"

"Who would that be? No one looked for me."

The more An Xia tried to deny it, the more Bai Jingshu felt his old man had taken action toward her.

"What did they say to you? Are you hurt?" Bai Jingshu stared at An Xia nervously.

An Xia replied, "Your family is trying to separate us, is that right?"

Bai Jingshu realized that he had been outwitted by her at that instant.

The deadline given by his old man was approaching and that had made him extremely anxious. Even the slightest matter could make him feel on edge now.

He knew it was his old man's doing when he learned about An Xia's resignation and her words about her family being not sophisticated.

His old man had made it clear that he would take action personally if Bai Jingshu didn't break up swiftly with An Xia after all.

Bai Jingshu had nothing to hide at this point.

He nodded as he picked up a glass of water, took a sip, and said, "The reason he wanted me to return to Yunzhou City is to break up with you."

An Xia only smiled. "So, was your family the reason why you couldn't come back to Yunzhou City earlier?"

Bai Jingshu's eyes were full of anger as he asked, "Are you happy that I couldn't come to Yunzhou City?"

"What an idiot," An Xia retorted as she rolled her eyes at him.

Bai Jingshu reached out and ruffled her hair. "You've gone too far without my restraint all these days!"

An Xia asked teasingly, "Wouldn't your family already skin me alive if I've gone too far?"

Unexpectedly, Bai Jingshu's expression suddenly darkened as he replied in a

deep voice, "Don't talk nonsense!"

An Xia retorted, "Why? Surely they can't do that?"

Chapter 748 Returning To The Bai Residence Together

The two of them engaged in playful banter as they exchanged words back and forth.

Bai Jingshu didn't answer An Xia's question earlier, and she didn't press for a response.

That night, An Xia was tossed around by Bai Jingshu on the bed until late into the night.

Bai Jingshu cleaned up with An Xia afterward, and he wrapped her in a towel before carrying her back to the bedroom.

An Xia crawled into bed, squinting her eyes as she watched Bai Jingshu bring her pajamas over.

Bai Jingshu couldn't help but soften up when he noticed An Xia looking all tired and weak. But, that didn't stop him from being cheeky.

"Do you still have the strength to put it on?"

An Xia only glared at him before snatching her pajamas from him.

Then, Bai Jingshu turned off the lights and got into bed, pulling her into his embrace.

The room was pitch black. Only the sound of their breathing could be heard.

An Xia was tired, but she couldn't fall asleep.

She heard Bai Jingshu call out, "Xia."

"Hmm?" An Xia responded softly. She shifted her body slightly before saying impatiently, "Don't hold me so tightly. I'm feeling stuffy."

Bai Jingshu chuckled and gave her a massage. Although he had never done this before, he knew he had to be gentle.

His touch was just right, and An Xia felt relaxed and comfortable as she let out a few hums.

For some reason, Bai Jingshu found it easier to speak up about what he couldn't do during the day in the darkness.

He shared with her the events that had taken place during the past six months when he was in Jingcheng City.

An Xia only quietly listened.

She knew that Bai Jingshu was restrained by his family.

An Xia asked after Bai Jingshu had finished speaking, "What about this time? Are they only allowing you here because of Mr. Qin's wedding?"

He hesitated for a moment before answering, "Right."

"What do you mean by that? Is it true or not?" An Xia turned over and lay flat on her back following that.

Bai Jingshu said after a while, "Attending Muchen's wedding is only one of the reasons. They also want me to..."

“To break up with me.” An Xia finished the second half of his sentence for him. It was just as she had suspected.

The Bai family wouldn't allow Bai Jingshu to be with someone like her, who didn't have any prominent family background or connections. Initially, they didn't pay much attention to their relationship. But they realized that Bai Jingshu might be serious about their relationship later on, so they started interfering.

They used her as leverage to threaten Bai Jingshu, preventing him from going to Jingcheng City.

Although Bai Jingshu appeared indifferent as he explained, An Xia could sense that he must have been closely monitored. Otherwise, why wouldn't he even give her a call?

However, things would be treated differently if it was about his good friend, Qin Muchen. The Bai family wouldn't dare to stop Bai Jingshu from attending Qin Muchen's wedding.

That was why they allowed Bai Jingshu to go to Yunzhou City, not only to attend Qin Muchen's wedding but also to break up with An Xia.

Bai Jingshu replied in a deep tone, “Stop saying that. You know it's impossible.”

An Xia chuckled. “That's right. I can't waste such a wonderful opportunity even if we were to break up. Your family holds great power and influence, so they should at least offer me some compensation...”

Bai Jingshu sternly warned when she became audacious, “You won't be getting out of bed tomorrow if you keep talking nonsense!”

An Xia only let out a disdainful snort.

She knew that Bai Jingshu was just trying to scare her deep down.

“They must be asking you to return to Jingcheng City now, right? What's your plan next?”

An Xia asked casually, and Bai Jingshu furrowed his brows as he replied, “What do you mean by what I plan to do? It's our plan!”

An Xia didn't argue with him over the choice of words, and she asked, “Alright. What's our plan?”

Bai Jingshu answered after a slight pause, “We'll go back to Jingcheng City together.”

“What does that mean?”

“It means we'll go back to meet my parents.”

...

Bai Jingshu seemed to have cleared all his doubts overnight, and he started making preparations to return to Jingcheng City with An Xia the next day.

An Xia realized his decision would undoubtedly place him in direct opposition to his family, yet he still appeared resolute.

She knew that she hadn't chosen the wrong man at that instant.

The two of them decided to return to the Bai Residence. But what about Qin Zixi?

An Xia received a call from Su Ziyue before they could figure out how to make an arrangement for Qin Zixi.

"Qin Muchen and I are coming back. We're about to board the plane."

An Xia was caught off guard. "Aren't you on your honeymoon? Why are you coming back so soon? You haven't even been gone for a few days."

Su Ziyue replied cheerfully, "I'm pregnant."

An Xia put the call on speaker, and Bai Jingshu, who was beside her, heard the news. He exclaimed, "Look! It's karma!"

He quickly adjusted his tone when he noticed An Xia and Qin Zixi looking at him, and he said, "I'll go prepare some fruits for you. You guys can continue."

He left as he hummed a tune after that.

He knew Qin Muchen the best. How bold of him to leave Qin Zixi with them while he went on his honeymoon. Look at what happened now.

It was truly a sight to behold.

Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen returned to Yunzhou City the next day.

The couple hosted a feast at Lumiere Jade House when they returned.

An Xia and Bai Jingshu, along with Qin Zixi, attended the feast together.

Qin Zixi rushed toward Su Ziyue as soon as they entered the private room.

"Mommy!"

However, Qin Muchen intercepted him before he could reach Su Ziyue.

Qin Muchen lifted Qin Zixi with a stern expression, and he made him sit in a chair. "Sit properly! Don't move around!"

Su Ziyue pinched Qin Muchen's waist and yelled, "Get out of the way! Who said you could scold my son?"

Even Bai Jingshu, who was watching from the side could feel the pain. But, Qin Muchen maintained his composure and replied, "I'm just worried that he might bump into you."

Chapter 749 You Have No Right To Interfere

Su Ziyue only gave him a disdainful look. "Zixi is still so young. How hard could he possibly bump into me? Besides, I'm not some fragile glass that would shatter after a little bump!"

"Fine," Qin Muchen said, but he still carefully supported her.

He didn't know Su Ziyue was pregnant with Qin Zixi back then. He already had a son and became a father by the time he realized it.

Hence, he was even more nervous than Su Ziyue.

An Xia sat there, feeling a bit curious, and she stared at Su Ziyue's flat belly.

"How do you feel now?"

"I don't feel anything. It's just the same as usual. He's only making a big deal

out of nothing,” Su Ziyue replied with a smile.

Bai Jingshu couldn't help but feel a little down.

He and Qin Muchen were both thirty years old, but Qin Muchen already had a wife and a son, and he was even doing humanity a favor by having a second child. What about him?

Was it a punishment for his past recklessness? Was that why he and An Xia hadn't been able to make progress in their relationship for so long?

He had never thought about getting married before meeting An Xia.

Moreover, his parent's marriage was not a happy one.

But now, not only did he want to get married, he had even thought of several names for their children in the future.

It was still early after they all had their fill, so they arranged for another room to continue having fun.

To them, having fun was simply ordering a few drinks and hanging out together.

An Xia was sitting next to Su Ziyue, and she pondered for a moment before saying, “Bai Jingshu said he wants to take me back to the Bai Residence.”

Su Ziyue was taken aback for a second as she poked the lemon slice in her cup with a straw. She ordered lemon tea since she had developed a liking for sour things recently.

“What do you think?” Su Ziyue asked.

An Xia took a deep breath before answering, “I'm ready to stay with Bai Jingshu and face whatever comes our way.”

She would not back down after Bai Jingshu had made it clear that he would do the same for her by taking her back to the Bai Residence.

Su Ziyue smiled, and she held An Xia's hand before saying, “To be honest, I wasn't so sure about your relationship with Bai Jingshu before, but you showed that you love each other. Bai Jingshu is serious, and you showed courage as well. You will definitely find happiness together.”

An Xia nodded. “Thanks.”

It didn't matter that no one had high hopes for her and Bai Jingshu before. It wasn't a competition in any way, and she didn't need anyone's approval. She just wanted to be with him.

...

The next day, An Xia took a flight to Jingcheng City with Bai Jingshu.

The Bai family had a prominent military and political background. Naturally, they lived in the military compound.

They resided in a luxurious villa.

There were guards standing at the entrance with serious expressions, and they all stood tall and firm.

An Xia suddenly felt a little afraid as Bai Jingshu led her inside.

Bai Jingshu sensed her fear, and he tightened his grip on her hand. He didn't say anything about her nervousness. He only turned and encouraged her with a smile. "Let's go inside."

Naturally, the guards recognized Bai Jingshu, and they nodded slightly at him. "Young Master Jingshu!"

An Xia noticed how the guards addressed Bai Jingshu, and she asked him in a low voice, "Do you have any other siblings besides your older brother?" She thought Bai Jingshu only had an older brother.

"Yes." Bai Jingshu showed a slight discomfort, but An Xia didn't notice it because he had quickly concealed it.

Bai Jingshu brought her inside following that.

The decoration and furnishings were so sophisticated and dignified that it created a serious atmosphere in the villa.

Just then, a middle-aged woman came out from inside. She was momentarily stunned when she saw Bai Jingshu, and she exclaimed, "Young Master Jingshu is back!"

"Aunt Liu." Bai Jingshu smiled. Then, he brought An Xia forward and said, "This is my girlfriend, An Xia."

Aunt Liu had gained some weight recently and looked friendly, especially with a smiling face. "Hello, Miss An!"

An Xia glanced at Bai Jingshu before calling her "Aunt Liu" as well.

"You two just came from Yunzhou City, didn't you? You must be hungry. I'll prepare some food for you." She turned and walked away after finished speaking.

An Xia wanted to say that she wasn't hungry, but Bai Jingshu stopped her. He brought her upstairs and said as they walked, "Let's go to my room and freshen up a bit. We'll go downstairs to eat and rest afterward."

Bai Jingshu's room was spacious and immaculate.

The decor inside showcased the taste and habits of a mature man.

An Xia only glanced around for a little while before Bai Jingshu ushered her into the bathroom.

They went downstairs after freshening up and changing their clothes.

An Xia looked around as she descended the stairs, but she had only seen Aunt Liu and no one else since she arrived.

Bai Jingshu explained when he sensed her confusion, "They have all gone to work and will only be back in the evening."

An Xia felt relieved, and she inquired, "Isn't your grandfather retired?"

"He still has his own affairs to attend to." Bai Jingshu brought a chair for her to sit down and gave her a reassuring look. "Don't worry too much."

"Okay."

An Xia nodded and started eating.

Aunt Liu had prepared five dishes for them. Although An Xia didn't have much appetite, she still ate a little of each dish out of respect.

She observed Bai Jingshu and An Xia as they ate, and she couldn't help but sigh. "Sigh... You must be so busy every day around this time that you don't even have time for dinner at home. On the contrary, I'm getting more and more lonely as an old housewife. Please have some more. There's still more in the kitchen if it's not enough."

An Xia quickly replied, "This is more than enough. Thank you, Aunt Liu."

An Xia went to rest after dinner.

She wasn't feeling particularly tired initially, but lying on the bed gradually made her feel sleepy, and she fell asleep after a short while.

It was already noon when she woke up, and she found herself alone in the room.

She sat up on the bed and called out, "Bai Jingshu?"

However, no one answered her. So, she got dressed and went downstairs.

She heard a woman's voice from outside as soon as she opened the door.

"Did you really bring that woman back, Jingshu?"

It was a young woman's voice. The way she addressed Bai Jingshu showed she was someone familiar to him as she sounded disdainful.

The woman must be talking about her as she was just brought back by Bai Jingshu.

An Xia knew she shouldn't show herself at a time like this.

Therefore, she gently closed the door, but not completely.

She stood by the door and continued to eavesdrop. She heard Bai Jingshu shout coldly after a few seconds, "She is my girlfriend, not just some woman!"

An Xia couldn't help but smile. Bai Jingshu had always been protective of her.

"You..." The woman faltered as if she wanted to say something, but eventually restrained herself. She continued in a soft tone, "Grandpa and Daddy will not approve of this, Jingshu."

Bai Jingshu was angered, and he yelled, "Shu Yanian!"

The woman appeared agitated as well. She said with her voice trembling slightly, "It's been so many years, Jingshu. I..."

"Shut up! Don't try to appear pitiful in front of me, and don't call me by my name. You are only my sister-in-law since you married Bai Yeqi. You have no right to interfere in my affairs."

Chapter 750 Fearless

An Xia heard the sound of heavy footsteps approaching her as soon as the words were spoken.

She quickly shut the door and locked it before turning back to the bed, pretending to have just woken up.

Bai Jingshu entered the room shortly after.

There was no trace of anger on his face, and he smiled at An Xia when he saw her sitting on the bed.

He walked toward her and sat down by the bed before reaching out to caress her messy hair. "Just woke up, did you?"

"Yeah." An Xia nodded, and she asked, "Where did you go? Why didn't you wake me up?"

"I didn't wake you because you were sleeping soundly, and it was still early."

An Xia carefully observed Bai Jingshu's facial expression as he spoke, but she couldn't see anything unusual about him at all.

She wouldn't believe that there was nothing between Bai Jingshu and Shu Yanian after hearing their conversation.

Women's instinct was infamously accurate after all.

She knew that Bai Jingshu had countless past relationships even back when she was with him.

But, none of them had ever happened without her knowledge.

It was the first time that a woman who might have had a complicated relationship with Bai Jingshu appeared so close to her, and she was in the Bai Residence of all places.

An Xia suppressed the urge to ask about that. She only asked, "Did... Did they come back?"

"Everyone hasn't returned except for my sister-in-law, Yanian." There was no trace of abnormality on Bai Jingshu's face when he mentioned "Yanian."

...

Everyone from the Bai family had returned during dinner.

The men in the house had influences in the military and political scenes, and each of them appeared even more commanding than the last.

An Xia hadn't met any of them except for Bai Yunan.

One of the young men had been scrutinizing An Xia as if he was comparing something since he stepped in the door.

He bore some resemblance to Bai Jingshu, and they looked like they were of similar ages. So, An Xia guessed that he was Bai Jingshu's elder brother, Bai Yeqi.

She had memorized a few keywords during the conversation between Bai Jingshu and his sister-in-law.

Women were sensitive by nature, and she already imagined a few old-school and typical scenes from love dramas in her mind.

However, it was her boyfriend who got involved in this case.

An Xia glanced at Bai Yeqi for a second before quickly averting her gaze.

Bai Jingshu introduced her to everyone in the Bai family, and she made sure to remember their names by addressing them properly.

However, Bai Jingshu's father and grandfather clearly didn't hold a favorable

opinion of An Xia.

His grandfather didn't even try to hide his disapproval. The anger showed on his face wasn't well-concealed at all.

"Alright, enough of this. Let's eat!" Old Master Bai said as he picked up his fork and started to eat.

The atmosphere at the dining table was tense. Only the clinking sound of eating utensils and eating could be heard.

Bai Jingshu had told An Xia that the Bai family had a house rule of not speaking while eating.

Fortunately, it wasn't difficult for her.

Bai Jingshu was summoned into the study by Old Master Bai after dinner, and his father, Bai Mingxu also followed.

The only people left in the living room were Bai Jingshu's eldest brother, Bai Yunan, his elder brother, Bai Yeqi, and his wife, Shu Yanian.

However, no one said anything to each other. They all sat quietly on the couch, minding their own business.

Just then, Aunt Liu brought them some fruits on a tray.

"Here, please have some fruits." Aunt Liu placed the fruits down and smiled at An Xia. "Make yourself at home, Miss An. Have some fruit. Don't be shy."

Suddenly, Shu Yanian, who had been fiddling with the TV remote control, stood up and walked over to An Xia before saying, "It's fine, Aunt Liu. Miss An won't eat anything at this late hour."

She turned to An Xia after saying that. "Would you mind going for a walk with me, Miss An?"

An Xia smiled as she replied, "I'd love to."

Is she going to confront me now?

Shu Yanian smiled gently as she reached out to hold An Xia's hand.

An Xia quickly stood up and subtly evaded her hand, but Shu Yanian's expression remained unchanged as she withdrew her hand nonchalantly, and the smile on her face soon disappeared.

Bai Yunan, who had been fiddling with his phone, interjected just as the two of them were about to head outside, "Why did you ask someone out for a walk so late at night?"

He was clearly asking Shu Yanian.

Shu Yanian couldn't help but feel embarrassed, and she turned to her husband, Bai Yeqi, hoping he would speak up for her.

But, to her surprise, Bai Yeqi only glanced at her coldly before lowering his head.

An Xia noticed the awkward situation, but she pretended nothing had happened.

Then, Bai Yunan ignored the couple and looked at An Xia. "Jingshu should be

downstairs soon. Aren't you going to wait for him here?"

An Xia realized that Bai Yunan was helping her at that point.

Bai Yunan always had a better relationship with Bai Jingshu. They were very much like each other be it appearance or personality.

On the other hand, Bai Yeqi was nothing like Bai Yunan despite sharing some resemblance to Bai Jingshu. He had a more delicate appearance with less masculine features.

An Xia only smiled. "It's okay. It won't be long and I'll be back soon. Please let Bai Jingshu know that I've gone out if he comes down during this time."

Bai Yunan was surprised as Bai Jingshu had already asked him in advance to look after An Xia.

However, it seemed like his naive little brother was worried for nothing. An Xia wasn't afraid of anything at all.

Bai Yunan nodded. "Okay."

He lowered his head after he finished speaking, and he continued to fiddle with his phone. But, he frowned slightly shortly after, and he appeared displeased as he was typing something on the phone.

Meanwhile, An Xia and Shu Yanian went out together.

Only detached villas were in the area. So, the security was decent.

The two ladies took a stroll after coming out of the courtyard.

There were not many people around due to the cold weather.

Neither of them said anything. It was as if the one who spoke first would somehow diminish their status.

An Xia was anxious as she was eager to know what had happened between Bai Jingshu and Shu Yanian.

However, she had to remain composed.

Although she had never engaged in a confrontation with another woman, she had witnessed how Su Yige acted before, so she still knew a thing or two when dealing with such situations.

Finally, Shu Yanian couldn't hold back any longer when they reached a shaded area.

"I know you love Jingshu very much, Miss An. But, just because he brought you home doesn't necessarily mean you can marry into the Bai family, do you understand?" She warned in a gentle tone as if she was genuinely advising An Xia.

"While it's true that one should always respect the elders, you should say those to Bai Jingshu. What others think or perceive has nothing to do with me. The only person who matters to me is Bai Jingshu."

An Xia had heard Bai Jingshu tell Shu Yanian that she had no right to interfere in his affairs.

Bai Jingshu had made that clear regardless of his past with Shu Yanian, that

much was certain.

Shu Yanian fell silent for a few seconds before speaking again. “No, you’ve misunderstood, Miss An. I just...”

“An Xia!”

Just then, Bai Jingshu’s voice came from behind.

An Xia interrupted, “Bai Jingshu is looking for me. Let’s go back.”

Shu Yanian was standing in the shade, but An Xia could still sense the shift in her emotion even though her face was concealed by the darkness.

Shu Yanian was furious.

Chapter 751 Let’s Put It Into Practice Now

An Xia ignored Shu Yanian and ran toward Bai Jingshu.

Bai Jingshu appeared out of breath as well. It suggested that he was in a rush looking for her.

He held An Xia’s arm and asked, “Didn’t I tell you to wait for me in the living room? Why did you follow her out?”

Shu Yanian, who caught up from behind, happened to hear Bai Jingshu’s words.

She stood about a yard away, and her figure appeared pitiful as she was against the light under the dark sky.

But, An Xia broke free from Bai Jingshu’s hand, turned around, and walked toward Shu Yanian following that. She took her hand and said in a cheerful tone, “Yanian was worried that I might feel uncomfortable in the living room, so she asked me out for a walk. I didn’t want to refuse her kindness, so I decided to accompany her. Isn’t that right, Yanian?”

Her repeated use of “Yanian” made both of them uncomfortable at that instant.

Bai Jingshu was relieved even though he felt uneasy at first.

“Alright, let’s go back. It’s getting late,” Bai Jingshu said, and he walked over to An Xia before pulling her back to the villa.

An Xia turned her head to look at Shu Yanian as she was being led by him.

“Hey, why are you leaving your sister-in-law behind?”

Bai Jingshu placed his hand on her head, preventing her from turning back, and he answered coldly, “Don’t worry. She’s used to the cold in Jingcheng City.”

An Xia couldn’t help but smile when she heard his words.

Jingcheng City was in the north. It was already late autumn and the weather was becoming colder.

On the other hand, Yunzhou City was in the south, and An Xia was used to living in the south. Naturally, Bai Jingshu was worried that she might not adapt well to the colder climate.

However, what truly made her happy was Bai Jingshu wanted absolutely

nothing to do with other women. He was decisive in not involving himself in ambiguous relationships with them.

Any doubts that she might have about Bai Jingshu's relationship with Shu Yanian earlier were instantly cleared at that point.

She realized that she could trust her own judgment and Bai Jingshu after being together for nearly three years.

...

Only Bai Yeqi was in the living room when they returned to the Bai Residence. The lights in the living room mainly had been turned off. Only a dim lamp was still on. Bai Yeqi was seen lowering his head and his face couldn't be clearly seen.

Bai Jingshu brought An Xia inside, and he didn't even bother to look at Bai Yeqi as they went straight upstairs.

Bai Yeqi greeted when he noticed their return, "Back already?"

Bai Jingshu paused his steps briefly, and he replied nonchalantly, "Yes."

Then, Bai Yeqi said slowly with an inexplicable hint of provocation, "It's dry and chilly in the nights at Jingcheng City. You should take care of yourself, Miss An."

An Xia clearly felt Bai Jingshu's body become tense at that instant.

He shouted after gritting his teeth, "Bai Yeqi!"

"Jingshu is easily agitated lately. I'll have Aunt Liu make some soup to cool you off tomorrow," Bai Yeqi said just as Shu Yanian entered the living room.

"Goodnight," Bai Yeqi added before walking toward Shu Yanian. Then, he said gently, "You're back, my dear wife."

An Xia felt discomfort as Bai Jingshu tightened his grip on her hand at that instant.

But, she didn't tell him to let go of her. She silently followed him back to their room instead.

Bai Jingshu fumbled in his pocket and found a cigarette when they were inside their room. However, he looked at An Xia and asked instead of taking it out, "Why don't you go take a shower first?"

An Xia only stood before him, holding her hand that was still painful with faint red marks.

He looked at An Xia, who gazed at him with a calm expression. Bai Jingshu felt as if she was silently interrogating him even though she didn't say a word with that look on her face.

Why did Bai Jingshu react so strongly to Bai Yeqi's words?

Why did he lose control when Shu Yanian entered the room? He even squeezed her hand so tightly that she felt like her bones would be crushed.

How could he not notice it?

He had always been a considerate lover to An Xia. He would never vent his

frustration on her even in anger. Perhaps it was his family who taught him not to treat women harshly no matter the circumstances.

Bai Jingshu's face was tense as he struggled to find the right words.

An Xia was usually approachable. But, she could also be cunning and make things hard for him.

Bai Jingshu raked his fingers through his hair out of frustration. "There's nothing between me and Shu Yanian. You just stay away from Bai Yeqi!"

"Right." An Xia withdrew her hand as she responded indifferently.

She no longer trusted him.

There was no way nothing was going on between them.

"Come on, does it still hurt? Let me massage it for you." Then, Bai Jingshu pulled her hand over and pretended to blow air on it. He looked at An Xia, who still didn't crack a smile, and he said, "Are you not happy yet? Try hitting me. Let's see if that makes you feel better."

An Xia didn't hold back, and she gave the back of his hand a good twist.

Bai Jingshu instantly moaned in pain, but he didn't retract his hand.

Why did she always do that? He would be fine if she only hit him.

An Xia headed into the bathroom after letting go of his hand.

Bai Jingshu touched his hand for a moment before taking out a cigarette.

Then, he walked over to the window and lit the cigarette as he leaned against the window.

Smoke came out from between his lips and spread to the surrounding, obscuring his face. But, it was still unable to conceal his charm.

He restrained himself and only smoked one cigarette. He closed the window and returned to the room once the smoke had dispersed.

An Xia came out of the bathroom shortly after.

Her fair and delicate face had turned pink because of the steam. A few strands of her hair were dampened and stuck to her face. She wore fluffy pajamas with a cartoon pattern after taking a shower.

She looked refreshed and delighted.

Bai Jingshu adjusted his collar and said to An Xia, "Come here."

An Xia walked over and sat down. She asked as she narrowed her eyes, "Be honest, how many cigarettes did you smoke today, Bai Jingshu?"

Bai Jingshu's body stiffened, and he immediately held up one finger. He firmly answered, "Just one!"

An Xia only raised an eyebrow as she gave him a doubting look.

Bai Jingshu promptly pulled her into his arms, kissing her on the lips, and he showed a satisfied expression before asking, "Do you have a dog's nose or something? How could you smell it when I only smoked one?"

An Xia toyed with the buttons on his collar and pouted. "It's not just that. I know exactly what you are thinking with just a twitch on your brow."

“...” Bai Jingshu couldn't help but feel speechless.

He bit An Xia's earlobe without applying force. Then, he whispered softly in her ear, “I never twitch my brow when I'm thinking ordinary things. I only twitch my brow when I'm thinking about doing that from behind you.”

An Xia's face abruptly turned red.

Bai Jingshu picked her up and tossed her onto the bed before she could react. He said with his dark gaze, “Come on, let's put it into practice now.”

An Xia blushed, but she quickly kicked him off the bed with one foot. “No!”

Bai Jingshu sat on the floor and started acting mischievously. “Don't be like this, Xia. The floor is cold.”

However, An Xia stood her ground firmly and shouted, “Get lost!”

Chapter 752 He Can't Marry You

An Xia didn't fall for his tricks as she tossed a pillow at him and simply ignored him.

Later on, Bai Jingshu hesitated for a while but eventually decided to climb into bed.

The weather was indeed cold, and An Xia couldn't possibly let him sleep on the floor for real.

...

The following day was Saturday.

After breakfast, Bai Yeqi and his wife went out, and An Xia was clueless about their plans.

She had no interest in asking either.

Shortly thereafter, Bai Mingxu came downstairs and glanced in Bai Jingshu's direction. He said, “Jingshu, I need to attend to some matters at the military base. Grandpa requires something, so come along with me and help bring it back.”

“Okay,” Bai Jingshu replied without hesitation, holding An Xia's hand as he got ready to leave.

Bai Mingxu then looked at An Xia and said, “Miss An, you can just stay at home.”

His tone was assertive and unquestionable.

An Xia glanced at Bai Jingshu.

Bai Jingshu frowned slightly, his expression darkened slightly.

He understood that Bai Mingxu wanted to take this opportunity to have Old Master Bai talk to An Xia.

Old Master Bai, having experienced real battles in his youth and having held a high position before retiring, had a commanding presence and a strong temperament. If he had any issues with An Xia, she wouldn't stand a chance against him.

Bai Jingshu hesitated for only a couple of seconds before deciding to refuse,

but suddenly, An Xia pushed him out.

Perplexed, he turned back and saw An Xia's smiling face.

She nudged him again. "Hurry up, Mr. Bai is calling you. Don't keep him waiting."

Bai Jingshu wanted to say something, but with so many people around, he couldn't easily express himself.

An Xia briefly held Bai Jingshu's hand, reassuring him silently before letting go. She wanted him to know that there was no need to worry and that she wasn't afraid.

Suddenly, Old Master Bai's voice echoed from the stairs. "What are you dawdling for? Have you grown bold now that you won't listen to me and refuse to go with your father to help me bring something back?"

Although Old Master Bai was in his sixties, he had a strong presence and good spirits when he spoke. His unexpected remark startled An Xia, who was unprepared.

With his grandfather expressing his disapproval, Bai Jingshu found it hard to say anything more. He reluctantly followed Bai Mingxu and left, glancing back three times before finally departing.

Observing her grandson's behavior, Old Master Bai became angry and pointed at him with his cane. "Bai Jingshu, is it worth going to such lengths for a woman? Do I look like I'm going to chop her up and eat her?"

Bai Jingshu couldn't help but think, Aren't you?

That was precisely what he had been worried about.

An Xia understood why Old Master Bai was angry.

She communicated with Bai Jingshu through her eyes, urging him to leave quickly. Subtly, she made a phone gesture with her hand. It was only then that Bai Jingshu departed with a sense of peace.

After Bai Jingshu and Bai Mingxu left, Old Master Bai came down the stairs.

An Xia hurried over to support him.

Old Master Bai raised his hand and declined An Xia's assistance. "Why do you need to help? Do I look so old that I can't walk anymore?"

An Xia silently withdrew her hand.

She recalled Bai Jingshu's warning about Old Master Bai's strange temper.

In fact, An Xia could understand Old Master Bai's behavior. After all, he used to be a formidable person in his youth, and now that he was old and idle at home, it was inevitable for him to want to assert his authority and find a sense of existence by meddling in things.

Trying to play along, An Xia smiled and said, "No, you look energetic."

Old Master Bai snorted. "Don't flatter me with nonsense. I have a lot of health issues. Why else would they give me a cane to lean on?"

An Xia found herself at a loss for words.

She could now see why Bai Jingshu had been so snarky when they first met, as the words he uttered had the power to provoke anyone's temper.

As it turned out, the family's sharp tongue seemed to run in the blood.

Feeling uncertain about what to say, An Xia sighed. It seemed like anything she said would be rebutted by Old Master Bai.

He sat down on the sofa with his cane and looked up at An Xia. "Speak up! Why aren't you speaking? You're as timid as my grandsons. Every time I say something to them, they dare not reply!"

In a soft voice, An Xia replied, "Well, they are your grandsons, after all." It was only natural for them to be timid and submissive.

Old Master Bai couldn't hear her clearly and raised his voice. "What did you say? Speak louder!"

His loud shout made An Xia's heart tremble, and she raised her voice too, asserting, "Grandsons are meant to be timid!"

Old Master Bai's expression became serious as he retorted, "You've got some guts! How dare you come to the Bai Residence with my grandson!"

An Xia lowered her head, looking sincere. "Of course, I'm afraid too. However, it's precisely because Bai Jingshu is willing to bring me to the Bai Residence that I can't just back down and disappoint him."

After finishing her statement, she looked up at Old Master Bai.

She realized that the members of the Bai family were all exceedingly shrewd, and her little cleverness wouldn't be enough; honesty and speaking the truth were her best approach.

Although she kept her head lowered, she could feel Old Master Bai's gaze fixed on her.

He was scrutinizing her every move.

After a while, he let out a sigh. "You're a bit plain-looking."

An Xia touched her face. Plain-looking?

She was well aware that the siblings of the Bai family were all exceptionally attractive, but she hadn't expected Old Master Bai to be such a beauty critic.

Although she admitted that Bai Jingshu might be slightly better-looking than her, she had been considered a class beauty since childhood.

"Compared to Jingshu, I might be a little less good-looking." An Xia smiled and nodded along.

Understanding Old Master Bai's peculiar temperament, she knew arguing with him would be futile. It was better to go along with what he said.

But then, the next words from Old Master Bai wiped the smile off An Xia's face.

"Our Bai family is not ordinary, and not just anyone can enter," he asserted.

Seeing An Xia's expression change slightly, he continued, "I can tell that you are a nice person, and Jingshu likes you a lot. I'm not that narrow-minded of a

person. Both of you can be together, but there is one condition: he can't marry you."

An Xia's face turned pale, and she was left speechless.

She understood the implications behind Old Master Bai's words.

They wouldn't stop her from being with Bai Jingshu, but they wouldn't allow Bai Jingshu to marry her either. They were only willing to let him keep her as a lover.

This kind of statement was even more embarrassing and hurtful than not allowing her to be with Bai Jingshu at all.

Suddenly, Old Master Bai looked behind An Xia and remarked, "Weren't you going to a friend's wedding with Yeqi? How come you're back alone?"

An Xia turned her head and saw Shu Yanian, who had dressed up carefully, standing quietly not far away. She hadn't noticed when Shu Yanian had returned.

With a smile, Shu Yanian walked over and explained, "I felt a bit unwell, so I came back first."

Old Master Bai's words carried a hint of reproach as he said, "You left Yeqi alone there. What if he drank too much and can't come back?"

An Xia felt a strange sense of balance in her heart. Even if Old Master Bai didn't like her, it didn't seem like he was particularly fond of Shu Yanian either.

Shu Yanian lowered her head, appearing as if she had been wronged, and didn't dare to speak up. "I wasn't feeling well, so I came back early."

Old Master Bai seemed quite impatient with her demeanor and waved his hand repeatedly. "Go rest then. Why are you standing here for?"

Chapter 753 How Despicable of You

Shu Yanian glanced at An Xia and said, "Then I'll go upstairs first."

With that, she proceeded up the stairs.

Halfway there, she turned back and met An Xia's gaze.

Their gazes locked in the air. Shu Yanian gave a meaningful smile and slightly raised her chin before continuing her ascent.

An Xia understood that Shu Yanian must have overheard the conversation between her and Old Master Bai just now.

She lowered her head, feeling a mix of emotions.

Old Master Bai took a sip from his glass of water and then fixed his gaze on An Xia. "Miss An, that's all I wanted to say."

After he finished speaking, he kept his eyes on her and waited for her response.

An Xia was momentarily stunned but then offered a light smile. "From your perspective, you're right. I might have an average appearance and my family background might not be as impressive as Bai Jingshu's. It's natural for elders to care about their younger ones. I understand that. Just like if I brought Bai

Jingshu home, my parents might also find fault with the fact that he's had many girlfriends in the past. It works both ways."

Old Master Bai sensed something off in her words, and his eyebrows nearly shot up as he retorted, "What do you mean? Find fault with my grandson?"

An Xia hurriedly clarified, "Please don't get angry. I was just making an analogy. Naturally, my parents want me to be happy, and they would prefer me to marry a virtuous and self-disciplined man. If they want to find fault with my boyfriend, it must be out of concern for my happiness. So, I completely understand the good intentions of the elders."

However, her smile didn't quite reach her eyes.

Being the only child in her family, she had been doted on and cared for.

Regardless of whom she chose as her boyfriend, her parents would feel like someone had taken their daughter away. This parental mentality was quite common.

She had been the pampered daughter of the family. In Old Master Bai's eyes, allowing her to be Bai Jingshu's lover seemed like a special favor granted to her.

His expression darkened as he remarked, "What a sharp tongue you have!"

An Xia kept her head down and remained silent.

Just then, a male voice sounded at the door. "Grandpa."

Recognizing it as Bai Yeqi's voice, An Xia looked up.

The way Old Master Bai spoke to Bai Yeqi was slightly better than how he had spoken to Shu Yanian, but it still wasn't particularly good.

"Why are you back so soon too?" Old Master Bai asked.

With a smile, Bai Yeqi walked over and responded, "It wasn't a very important gathering anyway. I was worried about Yanian's health, so I came back early."

After saying that, he looked at An Xia. "Miss An, you're here too."

An Xia tugged at the corner of her mouth, forcing a stiff smile.

Bai Yeqi didn't pay much attention to her reaction as he sat down next to Old Master Bai and said, "Grandpa, there's something I want to talk to you about."

An Xia found Bai Yeqi and his wife quite interesting. They seemed affectionate on the surface, but it didn't seem so behind closed doors.

However, she reminded herself that it was none of her business about other people's marital matters.

Yet, her curiosity about the past between Shu Yanian and Bai Jingshu was piqued.

She politely excused herself. "I'll go upstairs then."

Old Master Bai didn't say much, and An Xia nodded slightly at him before turning and heading upstairs.

In the hallway, she ran into Shu Yanian, who was smoking.

Shu Yanian had a captivating beauty that seemed to fit well both in private

and public settings. Men would eagerly seek to marry her and have her as their wife. Something was intriguing about her charm, but An Xia couldn't quite put her finger on it.

Between her slender fingers, Shu Yanian held a cigarette, and the swirling smoke added to her enchanting presence.

An Xia didn't mind women smoking, but she felt that Shu Yanian's demeanor was quite affected.

She pretended not to see Shu Yanian and continued walking past.

However, as she passed by, Shu Yanian asked in a soft and airy voice, "Do you know who taught me to smoke?"

An Xia chose to ignore her.

Provoked by An Xia's dismissive attitude, Shu Yanian turned around abruptly. She tightened her fingers around the cigarette and said in a soft and eerie voice, "It was Jingshu."

How intimately she addressed him!

However, An Xia didn't want to say another word to her. Twisting the doorknob, she was about to walk inside.

Shu Yanian threw the cigarette to the ground. Then, she walked briskly toward An Xia and grabbed her arm. "An Xia, do you see the reality now? You can't step into the Bai family, and Jingshu will never marry you! Do you really think Jingshu loves you that much? He loves the Bai family that raised and nurtured him more! Sooner or later, he will give up on you!"

An Xia coldly shook off Shu Yanian's hand. "Can smoking intoxicate people? How else could you come up with such utter nonsense?"

Shu Yanian seemed disappointed as she didn't see a devastated expression on An Xia's face. "Don't you care?"

"Of course, I care, but what I care about is Bai Jingshu, not marrying into the Bai family. I don't think you can understand my feelings. If not, how would you become Bai Jingshu's sister-in-law?"

An Xia's words carried a deeper meaning, as she was deliberately provoking Shu Yanian.

She was genuinely curious about what had happened between Shu Yane and Bai Jingshu.

Although she could vaguely guess something from the events of the past few days, they were all unfounded assumptions. Only the parties involved knew exactly what had happened.

Shu Yanian's expression changed, and her voice took on a different tone. "Did Jingshu tell you everything?"

An Xia remained silent, knowing that her silence would only make Shu Yanian more anxious, prompting her to reveal more.

"So what? I've known Jingshu for many years, and I even saved his life. Do

you think he would possibly marry you if he didn't marry me?" Shu Yanian's expression became smug.

An Xia looked up and glanced behind her.

Bai Yeqi had appeared there at some point, wearing a smile on his face that resembled Bai Jingshu's. Although he wore a well-fitted suit, he exuded a gloomy vibe.

Following An Xia's gaze, Shu Yanian saw Bai Yeqi.

Startled, she shouted at An Xia in a fit of rage, "How despicable of you!"

Unperturbed by Shu Yanian's outburst, An Xia turned around and went into her room.

She had no interest in ruining someone else's marriage. Shu Yanian insisted on saying those things, so what could she do about it?

However, when she thought of Bai Yeqi's expression just now, she started to feel uneasy.

Although Bai Yeqi seemed like a person who loved to smile, An Xia felt that he wasn't easy to get along with.

Was he going to do something to Shu Yanian?

After pondering for a while, An Xia felt a bit guilty and decided to call Bai Jingshu.

Just as she was about to dial his number, Bai Jingshu's call came in.

It was truly telepathic.

She pressed the answer button and placed the phone to her ear.

"When are you coming back?"

"Did my grandpa give you a hard time?"

Both of them spoke at the same time, and after finishing their sentences, they paused for a moment.

Chapter 754 Not from the Same Mother

An Xia chuckled and reassured him, "What can he do to make things difficult for me? He just thinks I'm not good enough for you and doesn't want me to marry into the Bai family. He won't do anything to harm me."

Bai Jingshu's voice was filled with anger. "Do you think I would praise you for being optimistic?"

An Xia secretly smiled and comforted him, "Alright, let's not hurry with this matter. It's not as if your family will suddenly start liking me. I actually called you for something else. About your second brother, Bai Yeqi... he wouldn't resort to violence against women, would he?"

Bai Jingshu's voice suddenly turned serious. "What happened? Is there something wrong? I'll come back right away."

After he finished speaking, there was a brief silence on the other end of the phone. An Xia could hear him talking to someone, but his voice was low, and she couldn't make out what he was saying.

Then, he spoke into the phone again. "I'll be back soon. Are you okay?"
"I'm fine." An Xia didn't understand why he was so nervous. Is he worried about me or Shu Yanian?

After hearing Shu Yanian's words, she realized that Bai Jingshu and Shu Yanian had a past together.

Shu Yanian had even saved his life before.

...

Bai Jingshu returned quickly.

An Xia was in the middle of a game, leaning on the sofa when Bai Jingshu burst into the room.

He rushed to her, supporting her shoulders and carefully examining her. After ensuring that she was fine, he let out a sigh of relief.

An Xia immediately said, "Don't talk for now. Don't disturb my game, or I might lose!"

Bai Jingshu playfully messed up her hair and grumbled, "Is the game more important than me?"

Busy playing the game on her phone, An Xia didn't have time to pay attention to him, but she coaxed him, "You're important, the most important one."

Although Bai Jingshu knew that An Xia was just saying it to please him, he was still happy.

He patiently used his hands to tidy up her hair.

By the time he finished fixing her hair, she had completed her game.

He took her phone and put it aside. "Tell me, what's going on with Yeqi? What did he say to you?"

"Shu Yanian said some unpleasant things, and he might be angry about it. I could tell it from his expression." An Xia frowned slightly as she mentioned this.

Upon hearing this, Bai Jingshu felt relieved. As he leaned back, he stretched out his long arm and pulled An Xia into his arms. After giving her a kiss, he said, "Did you call me back for such a trivial matter? They are a married couple, so let them deal with their issues. What does it have to do with us?"

An Xia chuckled and reassured him, "What can he do to make things difficult for me? He just thinks I'm not good enough for you and doesn't want me to marry into the Bai family. He won't do anything to harm me."

An Xia absentmindedly toyed with the buttons on his collar and casually asked, "Do you want to know what Shu Yanian said to make Bai Yeqi angry?" Bai Jingshu's body stiffened for a moment, then he adopted a nonchalant tone and replied, "What's there to know? You often make me angry for many reasons."

An Xia sensed the avoidance in Bai Jingshu's tone and smiled gently at him. Then, she tilted her head up and kissed him on the chin.

Bai Jingshu lowered his head to capture her lips, but An Xia stopped him with a finger on his lips.

Confused, Bai Jingshu looked at her. An Xia whispered, "Shu Yanian said, since you didn't even marry her, how could you possibly marry me?"

As soon as she said that, Bai Jingshu couldn't hide his expression anymore.

"Xia, you—"

An Xia stood up from his embrace, straightened her clothes, and calmly said, "Bai Yeqi overheard her saying that. You better go and see what's going on between them."

Resuming her seat, she casually picked up her phone and continued playing the game.

Her words to Old Master Bai earlier hadn't been mere chatter.

Being the only daughter in her family, An Xia was greatly pampered. Her father, once struggling before he got married, worked diligently after her birth to ensure she never suffered.

The love and indulgence she received at home were unparalleled.

Although she had mentioned having a boyfriend to her parents, she hesitated to reveal too much about Bai Jingshu.

Revealing Bai Jingshu's name to her doting father would inevitably lead him to find out everything about Bai Jingshu.

Inevitably, Bai Jingshu's past would definitely be exposed.

Her parents might have concerns or look down on him.

She knew them very well.

As An Xia was engrossed in her game, she suddenly heard Bai Jingshu's urgent voice from outside.

"Aunt Liu, call the doctor!"

As soon as An Xia heard this, she couldn't continue playing the game. She quickly turned off her phone and rushed outside.

Bai Jingshu walked toward her as she came out, and his tense face slightly relaxed as he said, "Stay in the room, and don't worry about anything else."

An Xia nodded but still asked, "What happened? Who got injured?"

"It's Bai Yeqi who got injured. I'll go and check on him first. I'll be back soon.

Go inside quickly." Bai Jingshu didn't have time to explain anything to her and pushed her back into the room.

An Xia had no choice but to return to the room.

There was some commotion outside for a while, but it soon quieted down.

An Xia absently toyed with the buttons on his collar and casually asked, "Do you want to know what Shu Yanian said to make Bai Yeqi angry?"

Bai Jingshu's body stiffened for a moment, then he adopted a nonchalant tone and replied, "What's there to know? You often make me angry for many reasons."

An Xia sansad tha avoidanca in Bai Jingshu's tona and smilad gantly at him. Than, sha tiltad har haad up and kissad him on tha chin.

Bai Jingshu lowarad his haad to captura har lips, but An Xia stoppad him with a fingar on his lips.

Confusad, Bai Jingshu lookad at har. An Xia whisparad, "Shu Yanian said, sinca you didn't avan marry har, how could you possibly marry ma?"

As soon as sha said that, Bai Jingshu couldn't hida his axprassion anymora. "Xia, you—"

An Xia stood up from his ambraca, straightanad har clothas, and calmly said, "Bai Yaqi ovarhaard har saying that. You battar go and saa what's going on batwaan tham."

Rasuming har saat, sha casually pickad up har phona and continuad playing tha gama.

Har words to Old Master Bai aarliar hadn't baan mara chattar.

Baing tha only daughter in har family, An Xia was graatly pamparad. Har fathar, onca struggling bafora ha got marriad, workad diligantly aftar har birth to ansura sha navar suffarad.

Tha lova and indulganca sha racaivad at homa wara unparallalad.

Although sha had mantionad having a boyfriend to har parants, sha hasitatad to ravaal too much about Bai Jingshu.

Ravaaling Bai Jingshu's nama to har doting fathar would inavitably laad him to find out avarything about Bai Jingshu.

Inavitably, Bai Jingshu's past would dafinitely ba axposad.

Har parants might hava concarns or look down on him.

Sha knaw tham vary wall.

As An Xia was angrossad in har gama, sha suddanly haard Bai Jingshu's urgant voica from outsida.

"Aunt Liu, call tha doctor!"

As soon as An Xia haard this, sha couldn't continua playing tha gama. Sha quickly turnad off har phona and rushad outsida.

Bai Jingshu walkad toward har as sha cama out, and his tansa faca slightly relaxad as ha said, "Stay in tha room, and don't worry about anything alsa."

An Xia noddad but still askad, "What happanad? Who got injurad?"

"It's Bai Yaqi who got injurad. I'll go and chack on him first. I'll ba back soon.

Go insida quickly." Bai Jingshu didn't hava tima to axplain anything to har and pushad har back into tha room.

An Xia had no choica but to raturan to tha room.

Thara was soma commotion outsida for a whila, but it soon quiatad down.

Looking out of the window, An Xia saw two cars driving away.

Is the injury severe?

It was different from what she had imagined. She thought Bai Yeqi would hit

Shu Yanian, but it turned out that Bai Yeqi was the one who got hurt.

...

Bai Jingshu had said he would be back soon, but when he finally returned, it was already evening.

The Bai Residence felt strangely empty, with only An Xia and Aunt Liu present.

The latter had prepared dinner for An Xia and had been anxiously waiting at the door.

An Xia didn't have much of an appetite for eating alone, so she had a light meal and then joined Aunt Liu at the door. However, Bai Jingshu was still nowhere to be seen.

She tried to comfort Aunt Liu, saying, "Aunt Liu, why don't you sit for a while? It must be tiring to keep pacing like this."

Aunt Liu let out a sigh. "Young Master Yeqi is seriously injured. They say he's still unconscious. Although he has an extreme personality, he's not a bad person... I used to have some prejudice against him too—"

Realizing she might have said something inappropriate, Aunt Liu stopped herself abruptly.

An Xia pondered for a moment and tentatively asked, "I feel like Jingshu seems closer to his eldest brother."

Aunt Liu hesitated for a moment and sighed. "Of course, that's true. Young Master Yunan and Young Master Jingshu share the same mother. Young Master Yeqi has a different mother from them."

An Xia nodded thoughtfully. "I see."

Suddenly, the pieces started falling into place. Bai Yunan and Bai Jingshu's strong bond made sense now, and she noticed that Bai Yeqi didn't resemble Bai Yunan much in appearance.

With this information, many things became clear.

It seemed that among the three brothers in the Bai family, Bai Yunan was being groomed as the heir, as he was the son of Bai Mingxu's wife.

Bai Yunan and Bai Jingshu were true siblings, and Bai Yeqi was older than Bai Jingshu. This revelation left An Xia wondering if Bai Mingxu had an extramarital affair in the past.

It was hard to believe that such a meticulous person would have such a secret.

As there was no female head of the household in the Bai family now, An Xia couldn't help but find the family's history intriguing. However, she knew that Aunt Liu wouldn't disclose any further details.

After all, it was considered a secret within the Bai family.

Lost in thought, An Xia was jolted back to reality by the sound of a car pulling up outside the door.

Chapter 755 The Unexpected Question

Steady footsteps approached from afar.

An Xia tiptoed to take a look and immediately recognized the familiar figure. Meanwhile, Aunt Liu suddenly grabbed her arm. "I can tell that Young Master Jingshu really likes you, Miss An. You should take good care of him. After Madam left, there's no one in this house to look after him..."

"Left?" Bai Jingshu's mother is still alive and not dead?

Aunt Liu seemed like she wanted to say more, but Bai Jingshu and the rest had already arrived nearby, so she didn't say anything further.

Only three of them came back.

Old Master Bai walked at the front, while Bai Jingshu and Bai Yunan followed behind. All three of them looked a bit serious.

As Bai Jingshu spotted An Xia waiting for him at the door from afar, the serious expression on his face instantly vanished, and he rushed up to her with a glint of excitement in his eyes. "It's so cold at night. You don't have to wait for me out here."

An Xia thought about telling the truth, that she was merely standing at the door for a while, not specifically waiting for Bai Jingshu.

However, as she observed his excited expression, coupled with Aunt Liu's words, the words on the tip of her tongue were swallowed back.

Old Master Bai walked slightly behind Bai Jingshu. When he saw the affectionate scene between the two at the door, he couldn't help but frown. With a thud, he leaned on his cane and knocked it to the ground. "What are you both crowding at the door for?"

An Xia swiftly pulled Bai Jingshu to the side.

Old Master Bai snorted coldly, and Aunt Liu promptly approached him and asked, "Old Mr. Bai, do you want to have dinner now?"

"I've already had it. You don't have to fuss around. Yeqi is fine now, so you should rest early too." Old Master Bai was still very kind to Aunt Liu.

An Xia understood that after the conversation they had in the morning, Old Master Bai disliked her even more.

He didn't say anything more and went upstairs to rest. It seemed that he was tired today.

An Xia asked Bai Jingshu, "Did you really have dinner?"

Bai Jingshu nodded and asked, "Yeah, I did before coming back. What about you?"

Bai Yunan, the lonely guy standing beside them, couldn't stand it anymore. He cleared his throat and said, "Can't you discuss whatever you have to say in your room? Do you have to block the doorway?"

For some reason, An Xia was not as afraid of Bai Yunan as before.

She smiled playfully and replied, "Okay, Yunan."

Bai Yunan raised an eyebrow and glanced at Bai Jingshu.

Bai Jingshu immediately took An Xia's hand and went upstairs.

As he watched the two figures disappear, Bai Yunan pressed his forehead with his hand. Then, as if remembering something, he took out his phone and checked for any new messages. A hint of confusion appeared on his face, and he silently put the phone back.

Steady footsteps approached from afar.

An Xia tiptoed to take a look and immediately recognized the familiar figure.

Just then, Bai Jingshu returned after realizing he had left something in the car.

Seeing Bai Yunan still in the living room, he casually asked, "How come I haven't seen Qingyou around these past two days?"

Lu Qingyou was the granddaughter of the neighboring Lu family. The old men of the two families were close friends, so the relationship between the younger generations was naturally good. Lu Qingyou had been following Bai Jingshu and Bai Yunan since she was young, and Bai Jingshu treated her like a sister.

"She's interning and busy," Bai Yunan replied briefly.

"Oh?" Bai Jingshu sensed something unusual from Bai Yunan's brief response.

Swinging his car keys, Bai Jingshu circled Bai Yunan and continued, "Is she so busy that she doesn't even have time to come back on weekends?"

In the entire compound, everyone knew about the crush the granddaughter of the Lu family had on the eldest son of the Bai family.

Over the past few years, whenever Bai Yunan went on out-of-town missions, no matter how challenging the location, Lu Qingyou would make sure to visit him during her summer or winter vacations.

Although the two had quite an age gap, both families were open to the idea of them being together.

However, Bai Yunan stubbornly refused the marriage alliance between the two families.

Yet, it didn't deter Lu Qingyou, the persistent girl who never gave up on him.

Bai Yunan glanced at Bai Jingshu, who decided to add more teasing remarks, saying, "Could it be that she's got a boyfriend now?"

Seeing Bai Yunan's expression change, Bai Jingshu looked worried and continued, "Tsk, after all, Qingyou is young and attractive. Many lads have their eyes on her. Moreover, she's from the Lu family. Who knows how many people want to become their in-laws and climb up the ladder..."

Bai Yunan's face darkened with anger, but he quickly composed himself and coldly sneered at Bai Jingshu. "Mind your own business!"

After saying that, he walked straight past Bai Jingshu and headed upstairs.

Bai Jingshu inadvertently looked up and saw An Xia, leaning over the railing

on the second floor, looking down.

Bai Jingshu was rendered speechless. Sure enough, my true brother never lets an opportunity go by without teasing me.

Although he only mentioned how young and attractive Lu Qingyou was and had no other intentions, it wasn't good for An Xia to hear him complimenting other girls.

An Xia gave him a sideways glance and said, "What are you staring at? Go get your stuff!"

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Bai Jingshu had no choice but to hurry to the car to get his belongings.

Meanwhile, Bai Yunan also reached the second floor and spotted An Xia still leaning on the railing. He walked over to her.

As An Xia noticed Bai Yunan coming up the stairs and turning the corner, she couldn't see him anymore. However, she heard footsteps beside her and guessed it was likely him.

When she turned her head, her guess was confirmed.

Quickly standing up straight and straightening her back, she greeted him, "Yunan."

Bai Yunan secretly pondered, Do I come across as too stern? Why does she always act like one of my soldiers, standing at attention every time she sees me?

He thought he was being approachable, but perhaps she still found him intimidating.

"Are you getting used to staying here?"

An Xia hurriedly replied, "Yeah, I'm doing fine."

Then, she bit her lip and added, "I have a question to ask you."

Without a smile, Bai Yunan looked down at her but gave off an approachable vibe.

He asked, "What is it?"

An Xia hesitated for a moment before finally voicing her question. "You don't seem to oppose me being with Bai Jingshu."

Seeing that Bai Yunan's expression remained unchanged, she continued, "I call you by name along with Bai Jingshu, and you never objected. When I came to the Bai Residence, you even helped me."

To her surprise, Bai Yunan straightforwardly admitted, "If Jingshu likes you, what's the point of me objecting?"

This response caught An Xia off guard.

Bai Yunan slid his hands into the pockets of his suit pants, his expression still unchanged. He seemed to want to say something but hesitated, holding back for some reason, and remained silent.

Curious, An Xia urged, "Yunan, just say what you want to say."

Seeing through his thoughts, Bai Yuning appeared somewhat uneasy. He covered his mouth with his hand, cleared his throat, and asked, "Is Su Ziyue

doing well?”

At once, An Xia was completely dumbfounded.

This unexpected question momentarily caught her off guard.

However, she quickly composed herself, concealing the shocked expression on her face. After all, it was unusual for the serious Bai Yunan to initiate such a conversation. Since she happened to know the answer, she replied, “She’s doing fine. Ziyue and Mr. Qin went on their honeymoon and came back shortly after because she got pregnant again.”

“That’s good,” Bai Yunan replied expressionlessly.

As soon as he turned around, his expression darkened.

Damn it, Qin Muchen is having their second child, and here I am still all alone!

This is frustrating!

Chapter 756 He Used to Have a Hard Time

An Xia stared at Bai Yunan’s back figure for a few seconds and couldn’t help but feel like he was angry.

She wondered if he had feelings for Ziyue.

How was that possible?

Not long after, Bai Jingshu came upstairs. An Xia pulled him into the room and asked him mysteriously, “Does Yunan have a girlfriend?”

Bai Jingshu shook his head and replied, “No.”

An Xia thought for a moment and asked again, “What about a boyfriend?”

Smack!

Bai Jingshu patted An Xia’s head. “What are you thinking all day?”

“Yunan just asked me about Ziyue, could it be that he—”

Bai Jingshu cut her off, saying, “Probably.”

An Xia blinked and looked horrified by the idea.

Bai Jingshu reassured her, “Don’t worry. He might have been interested in Su Ziyue before, but that was just in the past. As for whether he likes her or loves her, I’m not sure, but right now, he definitely doesn’t have any thoughts about her.”

An Xia felt relieved by Bai Jingshu’s certainty.

“Then why did he specifically ask about Ziyue?” she asked, considering Bai Yunan’s typically serious and aloof demeanor.

Bai Jingshu offered her an analogy to explain.

“It’s like when you see a cute cat on the roadside, and then someone else takes the cat away. Later, when you see the cat’s owner, wouldn’t you ask how the cat is doing?”

An Xia nodded but then shook her head. “Ziyue is not a cat.”

“I said it was an analogy! Silly!”

“You’re the silly one!”

“Oh, look who’s part of the silly family!”

...

The following day, Bai Jingshu went to the hospital to visit Bai Yeqi, and An Xia accompanied him.

Based on what Bai Jingshu told her, a dispute between Shu Yanian and Bai Yeqi had resulted in a shattered vase. During the scuffle, Bai Yeqi fell and got cut by the shards.

He sustained multiple wounds and head injuries, but fortunately, his life wasn’t in danger.

An Xia recalled that Old Master Bai had also returned with Bai Yunan and Bai Jingshu the previous night.

It was understandable for Shu Yanian to remain in the hospital. However, she wondered if Bai Mingxu also stayed there throughout the night.

This made her think that Bai Mingxu seemed to care deeply for Bai Yeqi.

An Xia couldn’t help but recall Aunt Liu’s words from the previous night.

Bai Mingxu, with his identity, engaging in an extramarital affair, was a serious matter and could lead to disciplinary action.

Aunt Liu’s mention of Bai Jingshu’s mother leaving hinted that Bai Mingxu might have divorced her. Moreover, when Aunt Liu asked An Xia to take better care of Bai Jingshu, it sparked her curiosity about whether Bai Jingshu had faced hardships in the past.

She turned her head and glanced at Bai Jingshu, and her mind flashed back to when she first met him—his shameless and smug appearance. It was hard to imagine him having a tough life.

“An Xia!”

Bai Jingshu’s voice brought her back to the present. Turning to face him, she asked, “What is it?”

“Get off the car. What’s on your mind?” Bai Jingshu placed one hand on the car door and reached for her head with the other.

An Xia quickly covered her head with her hand. “Don’t touch it. You’ll mess up my hair!”

Bai Jingshu snorted. “How vain of you.”

However, he didn’t touch her head again.

An Xia was not very tall, and she looked petite without wearing high heels.

Standing in front of Bai Jingshu, she resembled a little girl. Bai Jingshu had a habit of affectionately rubbing her head.

He would mess up her hair and watch her pretend to be annoyed with him.

Despite being a bit childish, Bai Jingshu never seemed to tire of it.

Moving on from their playful moment, they proceeded to the hospital where Bai Yeqi stayed in a VIP ward with an attached reception room.

As they entered, Bai Mingxu was having a meal while one of his subordinates

reported something to him.

Upon seeing Bai Jingshu and An Xia come in, Bai Mingxu briefly raised his head and gave instructions to his subordinate before focusing his attention on them. "Here you are."

Bai Jingshu nodded in acknowledgment and turned his gaze toward the inner room. "How is he doing?"

Age was catching up to Bai Mingxu, and despite his robust physique, he appeared tired after staying up all night.

"He woke up a few times last night, but he's feeling better this morning," Bai Mingxu replied. However, when his gaze fell on An Xia, he furrowed his brows slightly. "Miss An is a guest. Why did you bring her to the hospital?"

As Bai Jingshu's girlfriend, it was normal for An Xia to visit the hospital when someone in his family was hospitalized.

However, the unfamiliar tone in Bai Mingxu's words showed his displeasure toward her.

An Xia didn't feel angry as she already knew that the people in the Bai family didn't particularly like her.

It was Bai Jingshu who reacted strangely upon hearing Bai Mingxu's words. His tone changed as he said, "We're family, so let's not use such distant words. It hurts to hear them."

After speaking, he pulled An Xia into the room.

An Xia noticed that Bai Mingxu's expression changed in response to Bai Jingshu's words.

She couldn't help but admire her keen observation.

The relationships within the Bai family were undeniably complicated, and the emotions were even more so.

As they continued further inside, they finally arrived at Bai Yeqi's ward.

Propped up against the headboard, Bai Yeqi had gauze wrapped around his head, his face unnaturally pale.

His condition looked somewhat serious.

As soon as he heard the door open, he turned to look at them, but his lips only slightly parted without uttering a word.

Just then, Shu Yanian emerged from the bathroom.

Her appearance was also far from well.

Holding a washbasin in her hand, she said, "You are here."

After approaching, she placed the washbasin aside and began to wipe Bai Yeqi's face with a towel.

An Xia and Bai Jingshu exchanged glances and took a seat on the side.

Given the strained relationship between Bai Jingshu and Bai Yeqi, and with Bai Yeqi's inability to speak in his current condition, An Xia felt no need to engage in much conversation.

After sitting for a few minutes, Bai Jingshu stood up and suggested to An Xia, "Let's go back."

An Xia obediently rose and left with him.

At the door, they ran into Bai Mingxu.

His face darkened slightly as he asked, "Leaving so soon?"

Bai Jingshu responded nonchalantly, "We've seen the person. If we continue to stay here, are we going to have lunch here too?"

An Xia shifted her gaze and looked elsewhere.

If she were in Bai Mingxu's position, with a son like Bai Jingshu, she would likely find it hard to resist the urge to scold him.

"You..." Bai Mingxu pointed at Bai Jingshu but struggled to find the right words to say.

Nevertheless, Bai Jingshu paid no attention to his father's words and pulled An Xia away.

Back in the car, Bai Jingshu took out a cigarette case and extracted a cigarette without lighting it.

An Xia leaned over and found a lighter in his pocket, offering, "If you want to smoke, go ahead."

Bai Jingshu raised an eyebrow and squinted at her as he placed the cigarette in his mouth. He mumbled, "Light it for me."

An Xia obediently held the lighter and ignited the cigarette for him.

After taking a drag of his cigarette, Bai Jingshu leaned in and sealed her lips, passing the smoke to her.

Tears welled up in her eyes as she choked on the smoke, but Bai Jingshu didn't let go of her. Instead, he passionately kissed her before finally releasing her.

With a smirk, he squinted his eyes, took another drag of his cigarette, and seemed satisfied with her teary face. In a playful tone, he asked, "Hey, I am right here. Why are you crying?"

An Xia was about to scold him, but when she met his gaze, she hesitated slightly and asked, "Are you not happy?"

Bai Jingshu took a quick drag of the cigarette and ended up choking on it.

Chapter 757 Are You An Xia?

An Xia took the half-smoked cigarette from Bai Jingshu's hand and put it out. Then, she opened a bottle of mineral water and handed it to him.

After drinking the mineral water, he gradually calmed down, yet she couldn't help but notice that his eyes appeared slightly red.

"Jingshu..." She reached out to touch him.

However, Bai Jingshu suddenly grabbed her hand and said, "I'll take you somewhere."

An Xia didn't inquire further and smiled slightly. "Okay."

In response to her compliance, Bai Jingshu also smiled and rewarded her with a kiss on her hand.

An Xia's unconditional trust and obedience deeply touched him. It felt as though she would follow him willingly, no matter where he took her or what he did.

The feeling of being cared for and trusted wholeheartedly by someone was truly wonderful.

...

Bai Jingshu mentioned taking her somewhere, and An Xia didn't think much of it. She assumed it would be a nearby place with sentimental value to him. However, as he drove, they ended up at what seemed to be a noodle shop in a neighboring city.

From the outside, it looked nothing like a typical noodle shop.

The entrance was adorned with various colorful flowers and plants, enclosed by a fence, and a wooden fence surrounded the area. The ground was covered with a lawn, and a stone path in the middle allowed people to walk through.

Before entering, An Xia thought it was a flower shop.

As they stepped inside, she was greeted by the delightful aroma of seasonings and noodles. It was only then that she looked up and saw diners sitting in groups, confirming that it was indeed a noodle restaurant.

After finding a place to sit, An Xia curiously asked Bai Jingshu, "Did we come all this way just for noodles?"

He responded, "I'm taking you to meet someone." Then, he signaled the waiter and ordered two bowls of noodles.

After taking the order, the waiter didn't leave immediately and asked, "Mr. Bai, are you here to see the owner?"

Bai Jingshu's expression turned unusually serious as he replied, "Yeah, but there's no rush to call her. We'll be staying here for the night."

The waiter nodded and left with a smile. Before leaving, she gave An Xia a curious and friendly smile.

An Xia blinked and felt a bit embarrassed for some unknown reason.

Looking at Bai Jingshu, she had a hunch about whom he wanted to introduce her to by bringing her to this place.

With a playful smile, Bai Jingshu looked up and teased, "Aren't you curious about whom I'm bringing you to meet?"

An Xia pursed her lips, trying to control the slight curve forming on them. She turned her head to the side and awkwardly replied, "How would I know?"

The smile on Bai Jingshu's face grew even more pronounced.

Soon, two steaming bowls of noodles were served.

On such a cold day, being able to eat a bowl of hot and steaming noodles was

a blissful thing.

While An Xia was enjoying her meal, she felt someone approaching their table.

Looking up, she saw a tall middle-aged woman walking toward them.

The woman wore a camel-colored cashmere coat with her hair elegantly pinned up. She exuded an air of grace and composure.

From her delicate features, it was evident that she must have been a beauty in her youth.

As An Xia was observing her, she had already walked up to them.

Feeling An Xia's gaze, Bai Jingshu also turned his head to look behind him.

When he saw the woman, his expression softened, and he called out, "Mom."

An Xia nearly dropped her fork in surprise.

Is she Bai Jingshu's mother?

Bai Jingshu was already thirty years old, but his mother looked no older than her early forties!

In disbelief, An Xia exclaimed, "Mom?"

Bai Jingshu glanced at her with a meaningful expression, seemingly amused by her reaction.

Lu Qingying appeared slightly surprised, but then she smiled as she took a seat next to Bai Jingshu. Calmly, she looked at An Xia and asked, "Are you An Xia?"

An Xia stammered for a moment, placing her silverware on the table and sitting up straight. "I-I am An Xia. Nice to meet you, madam!"

Her dry tone revealed her nervousness.

It clearly indicated how tense she was feeling right now.

When Bai Jingshu mentioned bringing her to meet someone, she guessed it might be his mother.

However, she never expected his mother to look so young.

"You don't have to be so nervous." As Luo Qingying noticed An Xia's face turning red from nervousness, her expression softened.

After that, she turned to Bai Jingshu with a hint of reproach in her tone.

"You're all grown up now. When you bring your girlfriend over, you should have informed me in advance. She comes all the way here, and you can't just let her eat noodles."

An Xia quickly interjected, "Madam, it's delicious. Look, I've finished it all."

She even nudged the empty bowl of soup to emphasize that she was telling the truth.

Luo Qingying laughed, finding An Xia's lively and good-natured personality charming. She wondered how her unconventional son ended up with such a wonderful girl.

"Glad that you like it."

An Xia pursed her lips and smiled modestly.

Bai Jingshu couldn't help but chuckle as he covered his mouth to hold back his laughter.

"I think you've almost finished eating. Why don't we head back to the house and rest, or perhaps have some tea?" Luo Qingying suggested, shifting her gaze to An Xia. It was obvious that she was seeking her opinion.

An Xia was momentarily taken aback and looked at Bai Jingshu.

He looked back at her with a smile, as if saying, 'I'm not the one being asked, it's you.'

An Xia quickly replied to Luo Qingying, "Sure, anything works for me."

...

An Xia went to Luo Qingying's house with Bai Jingshu.

The residence was a cozy little villa, not particularly extravagant, but it was clear that the decorations in the house and the plants in the yard were all well taken care of.

Unlike the Bai Residence, this place felt more alive and homely.

Luo Qingying led them to the tea room.

There were numerous plants and potted greens with intriguing names that filled the space.

Seated at the tea table, Luo Qingying started boiling water as she said, "Uncle Cheng went to the west side of the city for some business and won't be back until evening. If he knew you were here, he would be delighted."

As soon as An Xia entered, she curiously looked around and touched various objects out of interest. When she heard the reference to "Uncle Cheng," she turned her head to Luo Qingying with a puzzled expression.

Noticing her confusion, Luo Qingying warmly smiled and explained, "He is my husband, Cheng Jinghua. He's an excellent cook and can handle any cuisine."

Her genuine gaze held a sense of pride as she spoke.

Feeling a bit overwhelmed by the unfamiliar situation, An Xia wasn't sure how to respond.

She had never been in this kind of setting before.

Luo Qingying noticed her embarrassment and continued, "I also have a daughter, a few years younger than you. She is currently studying at a university in Jingcheng City."

With these few words, Luo Qingying conveyed her current situation and effortlessly changed the topic.

An Xia stopped exploring the room and settled down next to Bai Jingshu.

The tea room was tastefully decorated, featuring a tea table set in front of a large ceiling-to-floor window. The floor was adorned with a soft carpet, and outside the window, a small pond with an artificial rockery and flowing water

added to the serene ambiance.

It was quite evident that the rockery was carefully handcrafted.

In short, every detail in the house reflected the owner's thoughtfulness and care.

Regardless of the journey that brought her here, An Xia could tell that Bai Jingshu's mother was leading a happy life.

Her calm and peaceful demeanor was a testament to her happiness.

Chapter 758 The Past of the Older Generation

Bai Jingshu had been driving for the entire morning, and as fatigue set in, he leaned against An Xia's shoulder.

An Xia pushed him gently and whispered, "If you're tired, go to sleep. Don't lean on me. Your mom is watching..."

However, Bai Jingshu seemed to have completely ignored what she said and stretched out his long legs. Lying down, he rested his head on her lap and fell asleep.

Luo Qingying somehow found a blanket from somewhere and handed it to An Xia.

Bai Jingshu seemed to completely ignore what she said and stretched out his long legs, lying down and resting his head on her lap, falling asleep.

Lu Qingying somehow found a blanket from somewhere and handed it to An Xia.

An Xia accepted it embarrassedly and covered Bai Jingshu with it.

Not long after, Bai Jingshu's breathing became steady.

An Xia looked up and smiled awkwardly at Lu Qingying.

What should I do? It's my first time meeting my mother-in-law, and here I am showing affection in front of her...

Will she think I'm not reserved enough?

Attempting to please Luo Qingying, An Xia picked up her teacup and took a sip. "Madam, you look very young."

While it was meant to be a compliment, it was genuinely true that Luo Qingying appeared younger than her actual age.

Lu Qingying smiled at the comment and said, "When I was eighteen, I married Bai Mingxu. Our marriage was arranged by our parents, and we had been engaged since childhood. Naturally, we got married when we grew up, and the next year, I gave birth to Yunan."

An Xia felt uneasy as she knew where the conversation was heading.

"I thought I would spend my whole life with Bai Mingxu." Lu Qingying expressed with a hint of sentimentality in her voice.

"But in our tenth year of marriage, I found out that he had a deeply loved ex-girlfriend and a son who was only a year younger than Jingshu and a year older than Yunan."

An Xia lifted her teacup to take a sip, but Lu Qingying took it away first. She looked at An Xia and said, "This tea has gone cold. Let me refill you a hot one."

Then, she poured out the cold tea and replenished An Xia's cup with a fresh, steaming brew.

As An Xia savored the warmth of the tea, she couldn't help but feel a little calmer.

She couldn't imagine the challenges Lu Qingying must have faced during those times.

In the past, women had less independence compared to today's standards. Lu Qingying had probably been a very obedient and well-behaved girl when she was young. She entered into a marriage arranged since childhood, expecting it to be a lifelong commitment. However, an unexpected revelation tore through her world, bringing in a storm of turmoil.

The stable and peaceful curtain of her life was lifted, revealing the true hardships she had endured.

A prestigious family like the Bai family, with military and political backgrounds, would definitely not easily allow them to divorce. An Xia understood that Lu Qingying must have endured numerous hardships to achieve the enviable life she had today.

True happiness didn't come without effort, and every gain required sacrifices. Lu Qingying's expression softened as she apologized, "I'm sorry for talking to you about the past of the older generation on our first meeting."

An Xia shook her head. "Thank you for sharing these with me."

Lu Qingying didn't delve further into those matters but offered a brief glimpse into her past experiences.

In the end, she looked at An Xia earnestly and said, "Jingshu is the youngest child of the Bai family, but he receives the least love and attention. Yunan, as the next successor of the Bai family, naturally gets all the attention. Bai Mingxu has always cared for his second son, who was born to a woman he deeply loved. Therefore, Jingshu, being the youngest, was hardly cared for, which is why he used to be so wayward."

An Xia was slightly taken aback and responded, "But he has you, and you still care about him."

Lu Qingying gently sighed, "Although I am still his mother, I am no longer Mrs. Bai. While I can still care for him and love him, my power is limited..."

Pausing for a moment, she lovingly gazed at Bai Jingshu and continued, "But now, he has you. You will become the closest person to him, and you will be together for a lifetime. He will never be lonely again."

An Xia was deeply touched and didn't know what to say, so she simply nodded.

She lowered her head and reached out to touch Bai Jingshu's head. Being born into a prominent family didn't necessarily guarantee happiness. The absence of family affection could leave an unfilled void in one's heart. An Xia had never expected to marry Bai Jingshu and create a happy family with him.

There might be challenges and disagreements along the way, but she knew that they would at least have a warm and caring home where they wholeheartedly protected each other.

...

Bai Jingshu slept soundly during his nap.

When he finally woke up, the tea room was empty, and evening had descended outside.

A calming incense was burning on the tea table, and the room was filled with a pleasant fragrance.

The heating inside the room was on full blast. Bai Jingshu uncovered the blanket, wiping the fine sweat off his forehead before getting up and walking outside.

"Mmm, this is delicious!"

"Let me taste this one too..."

Following the voices, he headed to the kitchen, where he found An Xia using a fork to sample the dishes.

Lu Qingying was arranging plates at the dining table, and her husband, Cheng Jinghua, had returned at some point. Wearing an apron, he was busy cooking in the kitchen. While stir-frying, he asked An Xia, "How does it taste?"

An Xia's eyes narrowed with a smile as she responded, "It's delicious!"

Lu Qingying noticed Bai Jingshu's presence and warmly greeted him, "Are you awake now? Wash your hands, and we can eat soon."

Hearing Lu Qingying's invitation, An Xia picked up a piece of chicken, using her hand to catch any oil that might drip, and walked over to Bai Jingshu. She eagerly said, "Try this quickly. It's even better than what I had at the restaurant."

Bai Jingshu looked at An Xia, who had oil all over her mouth, with a slightly disgusted expression on his face. However, he lowered his head and ate the chicken she gave him.

An Xia anxiously asked, "How is it?"

Bai Jingshu playfully pinched her nose and then went to the kitchen. Standing beside Cheng Jinghua, he called out, "Uncle Cheng."

Cheng Jinghua was a typical man, tall and solidly built, with thick eyebrows and big eyes that gave him a down-to-earth vibe. He responded, "If you had told me earlier that you were coming back, I would have bought more food."

Bai Jingshu chuckled. "These are enough for several meals. Don't worry too

much. An Xia and I will leave tomorrow. We just wanted to drop by and visit you and Mom.”

It had been the same since childhood; every time he visited, Cheng Jinghua would want to prepare an extravagant feast to entertain him. He always cared deeply for Bai Jingshu.

Cheng Jinghua smiled and didn't say anything more.

During the meal, Cheng Jinghua kept serving food to An Xia. Seeing her enjoying the meal, he said with a touch of melancholy, “I have no idea when Lulu will be back.”

Lu Qingying gave him a reproachful look. “Lulu just came back two weeks ago and stayed for two days. She's having her internship now, so of course, she's quite busy.”

Cheng Jinghua frowned. “I wonder if her work is going well.”

An Xia understood that the “Lulu” they were referring to was their daughter, Cheng Qiulu.

Bai Jingshu served An Xia a piece of chicken and remarked, “Lulu also loves the fried chicken strips made by Uncle Cheng.”

As he mentioned his sister, there was a faint smile in his eyes. It seemed that he really cared for her.

Chapter 759 I Promise I Won't Run Away

An Xia and Bai Jingshu stayed at Lu Qingying's house for one night. The next morning, after having breakfast, they were ready to drive back to Jingcheng City.

Before leaving, Lu Qingying gave An Xia a hug and sincerely thanked her.

Then, she turned to Bai Jingshu and added, “You can tell me if you come across any problems. Maybe I can help you with something.”

The Bai family blamed her for a long time after Bai Mingxu divorced.

Perhaps in their eyes, Bai Mingxu's extramarital affair was indeed wrong, but it wasn't a major fault. They thought that she should pretend that nothing had happened and continue to live with Bai Mingxu as long as they apologized and persuaded her.

But Lu Qingying couldn't do that. She had been told what to do by others her whole life. Since she hadn't done anything wrong, she didn't want to give up on herself and compromise.

After she left the Bai family, they didn't let her see Bai Yunan and Bai Jingshu for a long time.

Even though she felt guilty toward them, she didn't regret her decision.

Something went off in Bai Jingshu's mind then, and he immediately understood the meaning behind Lu Qingying's words.

From what he remembered, Lu Qingying hadn't set foot in the Bai family since she divorced Bai Mingxu.

And this time, she was saying that she would step in to resolve the conflict if the Bai family insisted on not accepting An Xia.

Bai Jingshu still felt his heart waver.

He resented Lu Qingying when he was young. However, as he grew older, he gradually began to understand her feelings.

“Okay.” Bai Jingshu smiled, his expression somewhat similar to Lu Qingying’s.

He said again, “Mom, you’ve done enough for me. Thank you.”

Startled at first, Lu Qingying soon had tears on her cheeks.

...

On the way back, An Xia asked Bai Jingshu, “Did you hate your mother when you were younger?”

“Of course I did.” Bai Jingshu smirked with a hint of mockery in his smile.

“Especially when I was a teenager. I thought she didn’t love me. I thought she wasn’t worthy of being a mother because of how selfish she was.”

But An Xia couldn’t laugh. After a moment of silence, she commented, “The most despicable person is your father. He clearly had a woman he deeply loved, yet he still married your mom. And because he didn’t dare to resist, he ended up betraying two women.”

There was a trace of anger in her tone as her expression turned cold. She looked infuriated with her fists clenched on her lap.

Bai Jingshu couldn’t help but laugh at her appearance. He reached out and caressed her on the head. “Why are you so mad?”

An Xia was dying to say that all scumbags deserved to be condemned, but when she thought that it was Bai Jingshu’s biological father, she swallowed those words.

Instead, she turned her head and warned him, “If you dare to do something like that in the future, I’ll chop you up and feed you to the dogs!”

Bai Jingshu snorted coldly. “I think you’re more likely to do something like that!”

“Says who?! An Xia glared at him.

“Don’t believe me?” Bai Jingshu raised an eyebrow. “How about you marry me and see?”

Bai Jingshu changed the topic so quickly that the confused An Xia could only sputter, “What?”

...

Three hours later, the car stopped at the Civil Affairs Bureau in Jingcheng City.

Bai Jingshu then got out of the car and opened the door for An Xia. Looking at her perplexed expression, he urged, “Come on out.”

An Xia not only didn’t get out of the car, but she also shrank back inside. She frowned and looked at Bai Jingshu. “Why are we here?”

Bai Jingshu patiently asked in return “What can you do at the Civil Affairs Bureau?”

“Get married!” An Xia obediently replied.

“So...”

“So why are we here? We are not getting married, are we?” An Xia looked befuddled.

Bai Jingshu’s patience finally ran out. Without missing a beat, he bent down and carried An Xia out of the car before they headed to the Civil Affairs Bureau.

Only then did An Xia realize that Bai Jingshu was serious.

She struggled to get down.

“Bai Jingshu, you need to calm down. Even if you want to get married, we don’t have our ID cards!”

“Don’t worry about that.”

An Xia continued, “Today is—”

“It’s Monday, a working day. That’s right.”

An Xia didn’t know what else to say.

The two of them had already entered the hall by now. An Xia noticed that people around them were staring at them.

She felt embarrassed and whispered to Bai Jingshu, “Let me down quickly!”

This was so embarrassing!

“No.” Bai Jingshu had thick skin and a determined attitude.

An Xia quickly reassured him, “I promise I won’t run.”

Bai Jingshu finally stopped and gave her a peck before letting her down. “You should have said so earlier.”

Once An Xia was on the ground, she reached out and pinched his arm.

Bai Jingshu acted as if he didn’t feel any pain as he held her hand, leading her to join the queue with a cheerful expression. “Hurry up. It’s not too crowded now. Let’s queue up first.”

An Xia was being pulled by him to join the queue.

When it was her turn, Bai Jingshu magically pulled out two ID cards from somewhere.

An Xia stared at him in astonishment. “Where did you get it?”

“Your ID card, you mean?” Bai Jingshu waved the ID cards and explained, “I took them from your bag before we came to Jingcheng.”

Only then did An Xia remember that she had brought her ID card with her when she came home. She had planned to apply for a travel permit, but she didn’t expect Bai Jingshu to find it.

“How did you find mine?”

“As long as someone is attentive, there’s nothing they can’t find.”

Bai Jingshu smiled smugly. His hands were trembling with excitement as he

filled out the forms.

An Xia glared at him. "You fox! You brought me to Jingcheng just to trick me into getting a marriage certificate?"

"You can say that." Bai Jingshu didn't even lift his head. When he saw that An Xia hadn't started writing yet after he filled out his form, he reached out to take hers. "You're so slow. I'll fill it out for you."

As he spoke, he took the form in front of An Xia.

"Hey, you..." An Xia wanted to take it back, but when she saw how afraid Bai Jingshu was that she would change her mind and run away, she softened and didn't say anything.

She didn't expect that Bai Jingshu had already made up his mind to marry her when he brought her to Jingcheng.

She thought that with Bai Jingshu's personality, he wouldn't want to get married so quickly.

After Bai Jingshu filled out the form for her, he handed her the pen again.

"Quickly, sign your name in the declarant section."

An Xia looked at Bai Jingshu's anxious appearance and suppressed her smile as she signed her name.

Until the marriage certificate was in her hands, An Xia still felt like it was unreal.

Get married? To Bai Jingshu?

Sh*t, what about the wedding?

Happily, Bai Jingshu put away the marriage certificate and held An Xia's hand with a smile. "Let's go home, my wife."

An Xia immediately pulled her hand back, snorted, and walked ahead.

As she walked, she shook her head and sighed.

How did she easily get a marriage certificate with Bai Jingshu?

There was no proposal or ring. And he hadn't even met her parents!

She didn't know if her parents would reject Bai Jingshu when they met him.

Thinking of this, she started to feel a little sorry for Bai Jingshu.

Bai Jingshu, who caught up to her from behind, stubbornly held her hand.

Their fingers were tightly intertwined as if they couldn't be separated no matter how hard they tried.

"Dear, let's have Aunt Liu cook something delicious for you when we get home."

Chapter 760 We Got Married

Shameless man!

In the next moment, the corners of An Xia's lips curled. "I am a little hungry."

Darn it, she couldn't believe how easily she was compromising with Bai Jingshu!

...

The two happily returned to the Bai Residence.

As soon as they entered the courtyard, they saw Shu Yanie coming out with a thermos cup in her hand.

Bai Jingshu was elated that he finally managed to bring his wife back home. Seeing Shu Yanie, he flashed her a smile and asked, "Did you go to the hospital, sister-in-law?"

Shu Yanie's gaze flickered from their intertwined fingers before she nodded with a somewhat forced smile. "Yes. Where were you two yesterday?"

"We had something to do in the city. You should go to the hospital quickly, don't keep my brother waiting." After Bai Jingshu finished speaking, he led An Xia inside.

Shu Yanie tightened her grip on the thermos cup handle. Did Bai Jingshu actually call Yeqi his brother?

Since she married Bai Yeqi, Bai Jingshu never called Bai Yeqi "brother" again. She even secretly rejoiced that she had a place in Bai Jingshu's heart. Otherwise, Bai Jingshu wouldn't have held a grudge against Bai Yeqi for so many years.

On weekdays, the people in the Bai Residence who were hospitalized stayed in the hospital, and those who went to work went to work. Only Aunt Liu was at home.

As soon as Aunt Liu saw the two, she greeted them with a smile. "Did you go to the city again?"

It was obvious that she was talking to Bai Jingshu.

"Mhm." Bai Jingshu nodded. "We decided to go there just yesterday."

"You always go to the city whenever you come back. Are you hungry? Let me cook for you. The others won't come back for lunch. I'm glad you two came back..."

Aunt Liu kept muttering as she went to the kitchen.

After the two finished their meal, they returned to their room.

An Xia went to change her clothes, while Bai Jingshu played with his phone.

After a while, An Xia came out in her new clothes and took out her phone. She saw a WeChat transfer notification.

Despite feeling somewhat puzzled, she still accepted the transfer.

And then she was dumbfounded.

There were five nines.

99999.00!

What in the world was going on?!

Did Mr. Qin drink too much and transfer the wrong amount?

She sent a trembling emoji to Qin Muchen and asked, 'Mr. Qin, why did you transfer so much money to me?'

Not long after, Qin Muchen replied, 'Congratulations on getting married.'

Uh...

She looked up at Bai Jingshu and saw him smiling smugly while typing on his phone.

She first checked her WeChat Moments and indeed saw Bai Jingshu's new post. It was a picture of their marriage certificate with the caption, 'We Got Married!'

But strangely, besides Su Ziyue's "Congratulations" comment, she didn't see any comments from Qin Muchen and Nan Chuan.

She quietly walked behind Bai Jingshu and saw him sending messages to Qin Muchen. He sent a lot of messages in a row, but Bai Jingshu ignored him.

He replied, 'Don't think I don't know you're there just because you're not replying to my messages.'

She glanced at the messages he sent.

'Muchen, I got married!

'F*ck, why aren't you congratulating me when I just got married?

'I know you are jealous of me!'

An Xia couldn't bear to look at it. How could she feel that Bai Jingshu was like a child showing off his favorite toy?

When Bai Jingshu pressed the back button, An Xia saw that the message list was filled with the same message: 'I got married!'

An Xia suspected that he sent an 'I got married' message to everyone on his friends list.

In that instant, she understood that it was normal for Nan Chuan and the others, who were single, to ignore Bai Jingshu.

He was being too showy about a marriage!

An Xia received another transfer notification on her phone then.

This time, it was from Nan Chuan.

The amount was not small either.

Bai Jingshu heard the new message notification on her phone and realized that An Xia had somehow stood behind him.

Forcing a cough, he quickly put his phone aside. "When did you come out? Why didn't I hear any sound?"

An Xia smiled and looked at him. However, before she could answer his question, she got another transfer notification on her phone.

This one was from Mo Xiyi.

An Xia couldn't help but laugh. Even the solemn Mo Xiyi was ignoring Bai Jingshu.

"What are you laughing at?" Bai Jingshu curiously leaned over to her side and slid his finger on her message list. That was when he saw the transfer notifications from Qin Muchen and the others to An Xia.

After he clicked on it, he wore a disgusted expression. "Is this all?"

He then shook his head and muttered to himself, "They will have to give us congratulatory money during the wedding anyway."

An Xia received tens of thousands in just a few minutes, and yet here Bai Jingshu was, complaining that it was too little.

She turned her head and asked Bai Jingshu, "Why did they all transfer money to me and ignore you?"

Smugly, Bai Jingshu kissed her on the face. "They're jealous of me."

It's because you're being such a show-off! An Xia thought to herself.

But wait, did he just mention "during the wedding?"

She smiled to herself.

At that moment, Su Ziyue also transferred the same amount of money as Qin Muchen did. An Xia's phone promptly started ringing.

"It's Ziyue," she informed Bai Jingshu before answering the call.

Su Ziyue probably put it on speakerphone, as there was some noisy background noise on the other end of the phone.

"An Xia, congratulations!"

"Thank you. Why did both you and Mr. Qin send me so much money?"

"He sent it to Bai Jingshu, I sent it to you. I don't see a problem with that."

"Geez, you shouldn't have. Both Bai Jingshu and I are family now. You can give just one to..."

She turned her head and glanced at Bai Jingshu. That guy became even more cocky and even came over to put her phone on speaker.

Suddenly, the person on the other end of the phone changed.

Qin Muchen's low and pleasant voice came through. "An Xia, did you willingly marry Jingshu? We will help you otherwise."

Bai Jingshu shouted into the phone, "Qin Muchen, you *sshole! I'm cutting ties with you!"

Qin Muchen only chuckled. "You want to cut ties with me after accepting my money? Do you think I don't know that you don't want to give our second baby congratulatory money?"

Qin Muchen's tone was serious, and An Xia looked at Bai Jingshu with a disdainful gaze, conveying her inner contempt. She didn't expect Bai Jingshu to be so stingy.

Bai Jingshu felt his head throb then.

"Just hang up. There is no need to talk to this kind of person."

An Xia pushed away his hand. "Shoo, you!"

Qin Muchen sounded aggressive when he talked to Bai Jingshu, but when he spoke to An Xia, he even gave her a few sincere words of blessing.

After the call ended, Qin Muchen's gaze fell on Su Ziyue's belly.

His resentment from sleeping in the guest room for three days had slightly diminished after he gave Bai Jingshu a piece of his mind.

He looked at Su Ziyue with a serious gaze. "Yueyue, the air conditioner in the guest room is broken."

So please let me sleep in the master bedroom, he quietly begged. Even if he could only hug his wife without doing anything else, he was fine with just touching and kissing her.

Su Ziyue merely threw him a glance. "I'll have someone come to fix it later." Upon hearing that, Qin Muchen could only wonder if his tricks didn't work anymore.