

Marry Me 61

CHAPTER 61

"Mr. Qin!" Nan Chuan's voice could be heard from outside the door.

Qin Muchen turned and walked to the door. When he returned, he was holding a bag in his hand. "Get changed," he said before turning around to leave, closing the door behind him for her.

Frozen for a moment while staring at the closed door, Su Ziyue then opened the bag. The contents of the bag were clothes, from undergarments to blouses. A look of awkwardness flashed in her eyes. Did he send Nan Chuan to buy these?

Thinking about how Qin Muchen usually handled situations, she thought it might not be possible. After putting on the clothes, she realized that the fit was just right. Wearing a simple knitted top and trousers, she looked pure and ethereal.

When she pushed the door and came out, Qin Muchen was smoking in front of the window, but he put it out when he saw her coming out. Scanning her from head to toe, he concluded with four words, "It fits you well."

"Thank you."

Both of them did not say a word as silence stretched between them. Then, Su Ziyue brought up an old topic, "Are you free? Let's get the divorce procedures done today." It was better if they got the procedures done sooner, then she could cut off all ties with him. Regardless of what he wanted to do or what intentions he had, it would not have anything to do with her anymore.

"I'm not free." Expressionless, he was quiet for a few minutes before he turned to ask her, "How are you going to deal with your cousin sister?"

"You don't have to worry about that." Reaching out her hand, she scratched the back of her head. Her wet hair was making her feel a little uncomfortable. Seeing that he was silent, she pressed on, "Then when will you be free?"

"I'm busy for the whole of next week." His voice sounded a little strange, as if he was about to throw a tantrum. "I'm going abroad on a business trip for at least a week."

When she heard that it would take up to a week, Su Ziyue knitted her brows. "Can you get the procedures done before you leave?"

"I can't. I have other matters to attend to later and the flight is in the evening." When he finished speaking, he turned around and started flipping through a big stack of documents at the desk.

Qin Muchen's attitude was rather indifferent, but since he had agreed, it was unlikely for him to go back

on his word. Although she kept having the feeling that he was unwilling, she was not silly enough to ask him about it.

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When she left the office, Su Ziyue saw An Xia and Nan Chuan so engrossed in a conversation that it was as if they regretted not meeting earlier.

"An Xia," Su Ziyue called out to her, striding over with her wet clothes in a bag.

Turning to look at her with a smile on her face, An Xia said, "You're out, Ziyue. Come take a seat here."

Shaking her head, Su Ziyue rejected, "No, thanks. I'm going to make a trip home."

"Then I—"

Su Ziyue cut her off by waving her hand. "Carry on your conversation with Mr. Nan. I'm fine." An Xia was free to befriend whoever she wanted. If she got along with Nan Chuan and wished to chat a little more with him, that was entirely up to her to decide.

After hearing her words, An Xia buoyantly went back to continue her chat with Nan Chuan. Chuckling, Su Ziyue shook her head. This was the way An Xia had been ever since she had known her, striking a conversation with people easily and directly saying no to the things she disliked. Her candid nature was more direct than a straight ruler.

Immediately after Su Ziyue left, Qin Muchen stepped out as well. When he saw Nan Chuan engrossed in a conversation with An Xia, he looked around, searching for something. However, he did not find the figure he was searching for. With a grim look, he walked over. "Nan Chuan."

"Mr. Qin." Nan Chuan, who was chatting with An Xia, stood up and addressed him instantly.

"Check the reports for this month again and then hand it to me. Also, book an evening flight to America." Qin Muchen returned to his office after giving his instructions briefly.

From behind him, he could hear Nan Chuan say to him, "Mr. Qin, the only tickets available for the flight to America tonight is at 1 a.m."

Stopping in his tracks, Qin Muchen glanced at him coldly. "I don't care about the timing. I have to get on a flight this evening, and you're coming with me." Since he already said he would be on a flight this evening, then by evening he must leave; he was a businessman who kept his word.

An Xia waited for Qin Muchen to go back in before asking Nan Chuan, "Why did you get such a pained look on your face when he said that you have to go with him?"

Expressionless, Nan Chuan replied, "Because I have airsickness."

"Doesn't your boss know that you have airsickness?" She felt a little sorry for this gorgeous blue-eyed man. The flight to America would take more than ten hours.

"He knows about it, which is why he asked me to go along."

Baffled by his reply, she asked, "Why?"

With a dry smile, he said, "A dissatisfied man always has a huge temper."

"Huh?"

Nan Chuan glanced at her with an unreadable look on his face and proceeded to book the tickets online. Seeing that he was busy, An Xia left.

After he booked the tickets, Nan Chuan brought the report to Qin Muchen's office. Handing him the report, Nan Chuan said, "Mr. Qin, this is the report for this month."

Qin Muchen took the report from him, glanced at it and raised his eyebrows when he realized that it was the report he had seen before. "Nan Chuan."

After years of working with him, Nan Chuan already knew what he was going to say just from his first words. He hesitated for a moment before deciding to tell the truth. "Yesterday was the fifteenth and this was the report you saw yesterday."

Qin Muchen froze, and his expression became weird. Lowering his head, Nan Chuan braced himself for the expected onslaught. If he had known earlier, he would not have been honest. It was only in Miss Su's presence would Mr. Qin appear to be in a good mood. But his temper toward him was not that good. Whenever Mr. Qin was in a bad mood, he would be the first to suffer. Obviously, Mr. Qin wanted to leave the country to attend to some private matters, but he just had to drag him along, even though he had airsickness!

After a while, Qin Muchen asked him a question which frightened him, "Nan Chuan, have you been married before?"

"N-No," he stammered. Why was Mr. Qin asking such a weird question?

As if something troubling came to his mind, Qin Muchen furrowed his brows and waved his hand at him. "Forget it, leave."

Nan Chuan turned around and took a couple of steps before asking, "Mr. Qin, if I can get a dinner date for you with Miss Su, can you go to America without me?"

Without hesitation, he replied, "Yes."

In that instant, Nan Chuan truly understood the sorrow of not being favored despite his years of service under him.

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After returning home, Su Ziyue dried her hair and fell asleep. Later, she was woken up by a call from An Xia. "What's up?" she asked, answering the call with her eyes closed.

An Xia's energetic voice boomed from the other end of the line. "What are you doing? Come out now for dinner!"

"Where?" The mention of dinner made her realize that she was indeed a little hungry.

After telling her an address, An Xia immediately hung up the call, and Su Ziyue left the house after changing into a set of clothes. The place which An Xia mentioned was actually a night market. In other words, it was all roadside stalls.

The Su family did not allow her to eat from roadside stalls. It was An Xia who brought her here a few times before, and she found that the food tasted good and was rather interesting. After parking her car at a good spot, she found An Xia as well as two other men with her.

Immediately, An Xia clarified, "I only asked Nan Chuan out. I swear I wasn't the one who asked Mr. Qin!"

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Looking at Qin Muchen with a serious face, Nan Chuan said, "Mr. Qin, I didn't know that Miss Su would be coming."

If Su Ziyue bought into the absurd words of these two people, that would make her the lunatic.

Without even taking a look at Su Ziyue, Qin Muchen said calmly, "That's alright."

Instantly, Nan Chuan eagerly poured a glass of water for Qin Muchen.

"Take a seat, Ziyue. What would you like to order? We haven't ordered because we were waiting for you." An Xia dragged her to a seat and passed her a menu as if to appease her.

Looking at her coldly, Su Ziyue merely smiled dryly as she had nowhere to release her temper when An Xia was all smiles at her while pouring her a drink.

Nan Chuan said beside them, "You can order anything. Don't worry about us. We can eat anything."

"You can eat anything?" Su Ziyue raised her head quizzically at Nan Chuan, and her gaze swept to Qin

Muchen unintentionally.

In his expensive suit, Qin Muchen looked out of place sitting here, although not a trace of discomfort was on his usual expressionless face.

Luckily, he never appeared in front of the media, nor did anyone recognize him.

Even so, compared with the other guests, their table seemed rather eye-catching.

Nodding, Nan Chuan replied, "Mr. Qin and I can eat anything. We're not picky eaters."

Su Ziyue nodded as she agreed to place the food order.

Besides recalling the last time when they had hot pot and Qin Muchen did not touch anything from the spicy soup, she also remembered that he rarely added anything spicy when he was cooking at home.

Gesturing for the stall owner to come take her order, she named her dishes, "One spicy hot pot, grilled fish, spicy beef..." Flipping through the menu, she added a few more dishes before finalizing her order. "That's all, thank you."

The stall owner left after jotting down the order, and she saw a strange look on Nan Chuan's face the moment she lifted her head.

It seemed like she had guessed correctly—Qin Muchen could not really take spicy food.

Although she had no idea how these people managed to get together, she knew it was not a coincidence at all that Qin Muchen had come along.

With a courteous smile on her face, she fixed her eyes on Qin Muchen. "Don't you have a flight this evening, Mr. Qin?"

"The flight departs at 1 a.m., so there's still time to finish dinner before I go."

His voice was a little low when he spoke, pleasant to the ears as it reverberated slowly in the air.

However, it was not pleasant to Su Ziyue's ears. After a sip of water, she stopped speaking, and the food was served a little while later.

Only bright red, flaming colors could be seen on the table. One glance and anyone could tell they were all spicy food.

Su Ziyue had deliberately ordered only spicy dishes since he was the one who started with the tricks!

Even though Nan Chuan was a foreigner, he had been living here for years and was great at eating spicy

food, and it was much more so for An Xia and herself.

Only Qin Muchen, who had lived abroad for more than a decade, narrowed his eyes when the food was served.

And then, as Su Ziyue and Nan Chuan stared in surprise, Qin Muchen picked up his chopsticks and started eating.

Startled, Su Ziyue thought that she had guessed wrongly. So he could actually handle spicy food?

When they were almost finished, An Xia stood up abruptly, announcing that she would like to buy milk tea. Nan Chuan then promptly stood up, saying, "I'll accompany her."

Afterward, there was only Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen left at the table.

With her head buried in food, Su Ziyue continued eating as if Qin Muchen was not around. But he called her name suddenly, "Su Ziyue."

She raised her head, and he continued, "Due to certain reasons, I can't appear in front of the media, and neither do I want to show up in front of Su Youcheng, but the LK branch has only been in China for a short while, so it needs to collaborate with a strong company."

Slowing down her chewing, she wondered why he was bringing this up at this time.

"So you chose me on purpose and refused to meet Su Yige because they've met you before, and you don't want them to know that you're the president of LK."

It was not because he wanted to help her retrieve her shares; it was because he already had his eyes on the Su Group.

Without showing his face and to prevent LK from losing the opportunity by being too proactive, he staged a front to make Su Youcheng and the rest believe that he was interested in Su Ziyue, specifically asking for her for negotiations and pretending he was not actually interested in cooperating with the Su Group.

Coldly, she asked, "Why the Su Group?"

Could it be that his motive since the beginning was that simple, that he just wanted to cooperate with the Su Group?

Despite that, Su Ziyue found this a little illogical. For this simple objective, it seemed a little far-fetched that he would go through the pain of living with her in that small apartment.

His reply was very simple. "The Su Group is the most suitable."

As a businessman, he meant business when speaking about it, so she believed what he said was true.

Soon, An Xia and Nan Chuan returned, each with two cups of milk tea in their hands.

"Miss Su, this is for you." Nan Chuan handed her a cup and inserted a straw into another cup before placing it in front of Qin Muchen.

Qin Muchen shot him an icy look, and Nan Chuan retracted his hand awkwardly, mumbling under his breath, "Except for the slightly strong flavoring, it doesn't taste that bad at all..."

His eyes got even colder, and Nan Chuan went silent, which immediately made Su Ziyue feel sorry for him.

Since Qin Muchen and Nan Chuan had to go to the airport, they all split up after the meal.

In the car.

Squinting his eyes as he sat in the backseat of the car, Qin Muchen appeared a little unwell, the back of his hand supporting his forehead.

Through the rearview mirror, Nan Chuan stole a glance at him but did not say anything. When he passed by a pharmacy, he stopped the car and got out.

Soon, he came back with a cup of warm water and a box of medication and passed it to Qin Muchen with knitted brows.

He took a look at it and swallowed two pills before saying, "Thank you."

"Hmph!" Nan Chuan grunted and ignored him.

As a person with gastric problems, he still ate so much spicy food. After working with him for so many years, it was the first time he realized how stubborn Qin Muchen could be.

Su Ziyue drove An Xia back home, and when they reached her place, An Xia got off with a smile. "I'm leaving now."

Su Ziyue shot her a look. "Get out quickly."

After she alighted, she bent over at the window and said in a cutesy tone, "See you tomorrow!"

A shiver went through Su Ziyue's body and goosebumps appeared on her skin. She smiled back at An Xia and suddenly averted her gaze to look behind her, her expression abruptly changing. "An Xia, behind you..."

An Xia's heart stopped. "What is it?"

Knowing that An Xia was a superstitious person, Su Ziyue burst into laughter when she saw her frightened face. "I'm just messing with you. I'm going home now."

Stepping on the pedal, she drove off and left An Xia behind, fuming.

It was Friday the next day, and there happened to be a summary meeting in the company.

Arriving on time at the company, Su Ziyue went to the meeting room when the meeting was about to begin.

When she arrived, she saw that Su Yige had also just come. Her face froze as the look in her eyes became cold.

Seeing Su Ziyue entering the room, an unreadable smile spread across Su Yige's face. "Ziyue is here."

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There were others present, so Su Ziyue smiled and greeted, "Good morning, Yige."

Su Yige scrutinized her expression and knitted her brows when she could not find anything unusual.

Soon enough, everyone arrived, including Su Youcheng, and they all took their seats.

With Su Ziyue's current position at the company, she actually had no right to attend this meeting. Despite that, she had some special privileges which she had negotiated with Su Youcheng when she first came back to the company.

After the meeting started, she listened and secretly noted what she heard. When Su Yige finished presenting the summary report, a round of applause sounded.

She had to admit; Su Yige was indeed capable in her work. After she finished, Su Yige turned her attention to her and asked, "Ziyue, how are the contract negotiations with LK going?"

No matter what, Su Yige was still her superior. Pursing her lips, she smiled as she had been waiting for her to bring this up.

Standing from her seat, she smiled graciously and handed the contract in her hand to Su Youcheng. "Living up to your expectations, the contract has been signed, Chairman."

Taking the contract from her, Su Youcheng glanced over it once and relaxed his furrowed brows, complimenting her generously, "Ziyue, you did well in this case. Any follow-up matters will be left in your hands as well. You can ask me directly if you have any questions."

In fact, Su Youcheng was thinking that since she was able to get the contract signed, it meant that she did have an extraordinary relationship with the president of LK.

His only concern was whether or not the contract could be signed, and nothing else. He stole a glance at Su Yige. He did not expect her tactic to work.

Hearing that the contract was signed, Su Yige was shocked, but when Su Youcheng turned to look at her, she could only force out a smile. "It's no wonder why the president of LK wanted to negotiate specifically with Ziyue; it must be because of her exceptional abilities. Within such a short period of time, she got the contract signed."

Although her smile appeared calm, her emotions were raging behind that smile. It never crossed her mind that Su Ziyue would be able to nail that contract. Could it be that the president of LK did not mind that she was once married?

If that was the case, then Su Ziyue had gotten herself a backing!

"I dare not take the credit. The president of LK must acknowledge the Su Group's strength, which was why he wanted to work with us. As for why he asked for me, it was merely to test the capabilities of the Su family members so that he could cooperate with us with peace of mind!"

Su Ziyue paused, and her gaze focused on Su Yige before she continued, "The president of LK said that only with integrity can one go far in the business world. Those on the sidelines who like to play small tricks can never make it onto the main stage. This is precisely why he wanted to work with the Su Group."

Everyone present nodded and discussed a little at her words, but only Su Youcheng and Su Yige understood what she truly meant in their hearts.

Su Youcheng could not help but blame Su Yige. How could a person who was a financial tycoon in Europe not see through their tricks? He felt that he must have been muddle-headed for agreeing to let her proceed with those plans.

Until the meeting was over, Su Yige did not utter another word. She trailed behind everyone with Su Yige when they had left the room.

Walking next to her, Su Ziyue spoke in a volume that could only be heard by her, "I'm really troubled by the fact that you're always up to these small tricks, Yige."

Fixing her gaze on her, Su Yige's face appeared good-natured, but her voice was cold when she replied, "I have no idea what you're talking about."

"Nothing happens more than thrice. I won't give you a third chance." A dark glimmer flashed across Su Ziyue's eyes.

At this moment, the senior management circled Su Youcheng to discuss something while the both of them were just about a meter away, and they happened to be in a walkway next to a work zone.

Standing with her back facing the work zone, Su Ziyue turned and looked at Su Yige provocatively. "Do you know who I met at the Lumiere Jade House yesterday?"

Looking calm, Su Yige kept walking forward, but Su Ziyue chuckled. "Zeyang has really good stamina. In fact..."

Yesterday afternoon, Lumiere Jade House, Zeyang...

When she connected all the dots, Su Yige could not maintain her composure, and it finally showed on her face.

Adding fuel to the fire, Su Ziyue continued, "I'm sorry, but it can't be helped. Still, you'll probably live a blissful life in the future." She lowered her head as if in embarrassment as she spoke.

Unable to keep her cool any longer, Su Yige raised her hand and swung it at Su Ziyue's face, screaming, "Shut up!"

Su Ziyue did not dodge but took the blow, and an eerie smirk appeared at the corner of her lips.

"Yige..." she said and pursed her lips, not saying another word while tears rolled in her eyes.

The commotion drew the attention of many people, including Su Youcheng. Su Ziyue tilted her head, deliberately revealing the side of her face that was slapped. The stubborn look she carried made her look all the more pitiable.

"Su Yige!" Su Youcheng came over angrily when he saw Su Ziyue's swollen face.

He was a person who cared most about reputation. Otherwise, he would not have given Su Ziyue a card and sent her abroad overnight for four years back then.

"Grandpa." It was then only Su Yige realized that Su Ziyue was provoking her on purpose.

She could bear anything, but when Gong Zeyang was mentioned, she could not hold back.

Since she was young, she had always liked him, but he was always nice to Su Ziyue. That was a feeling she could never forget in her life, which was why she spent all her effort in making things difficult for her.

She wanted her to be thrown out of the Su family and never get a chance at redemption.

“Both of you, come with me!” he said and turned toward the office. He could not let others make a joke out of his family affairs.

Swiftly, Su Yige and Su Ziyue followed behind him, and at the corner, Su Ziyue saw An Xia winking at her.

“What are you doing in front of so many staff?” It was obvious that Su Youcheng was hopping mad.

Taking one step closer to him, Su Yige began, “Grandpa...”

However, Su Ziyue would not allow her to have a chance to apologize and cut her off in order to strike first.

“Grandpa, I’m sorry. It was all my fault, I shouldn’t have said those things to Yige. Yesterday, I humiliated myself in front of the president of LK, but he was an upright person and kindly allowed me to take a breather. He almost didn’t want to work with us, and he even said...” she trailed off and lowered her head.

Although Su Ziyue’s face was still red and swollen, anger flashed across her face.

“What did he say?” Su Youcheng’s guts were telling him that it was not anything good.

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“He said that he was wrong about you and the Su Group, actually daring to use such dirty tricks...” Su Ziyue’s voice turned small and meek when she reached the end of her sentence.

Su Youcheng’s face became pale, and he turned to Su Yige, scolding her right in her face, “This was all your idea. Tell me, where did you get all these crooked ideas? Is this what our family taught you?”

“Grandpa, I merely wanted to get the contract signed as soon as possible. I didn’t think that things would turn out like this.” It was the first time in her life that he spoke so loudly to her, and it caught her off guard.

“You didn’t think? Do you only have water in your head? So you’re saying that after raising you for so

many years, the Su family has raised you to be an idiot?”

Su Youcheng was harsh with his words, and the more he spoke, the angrier he became, which was something out of Su Ziyue’s expectation.

“Grandpa!” Feeling wronged, Su Yige’s eyes turned red. When she made this request, he had obviously given his silent consent.

And now that the president of LK had guessed that it was them who schemed behind his back, he shifted all the blame on her.

“Grandpa, don’t be so angry. The president of LK still trusts you and your reputation will not suffer. Calm down now,” Su Ziyue said and went to help him take a seat. “How about I get the secretary to make you a cup of tea?”

At this point, there was nothing she did not understand anymore. Anything that Su Yige did, she always had her own plans in mind, and she would find ways to gain the approval of Su Youcheng before going ahead with it.

Even so, she miscalculated one point. In his lifetime, Su Youcheng was most proud of the Su Group and he wanted to keep growing it. Because of that, he was extremely conscious about what his business partners thought about him.

“Reflect on what you have done for a while. In the meantime, someone else will take over your position in the company. You can leave now.” Su Youcheng took the opportunity given by Su Ziyue to let the matter rest, but in his heart, he was still worried that she would know that he had given his silent consent on this matter. But looking at her now, she probably did not know about it.

Knowing that it would be pointless to say anything now, Su Yige turned and left. This was another time Su Ziyue had counter-attacked her, and her hatred for her deepened.

After she left, Su Ziyue stayed behind a little longer to console Su Youcheng before leaving herself.

When she returned to her office, she saw that An Xia was waiting for her inside.

Rushing over, An Xia glanced at her swollen face with a worried look on her face. “That woman didn’t hold back at all!”

“I didn’t think that your idea would work so well. She got so angry that she threw a slap at me straight away,” Su Ziyue said as she took out a pocket mirror from her handbag. Her face was indeed swollen rather badly.

“You must have not noticed it before. During schooling days, whenever Gong Zeyang smiled at you, the look in Su Yige’s eyes...” An Xia trailed off as she recalled the scene, and she felt a chill run down her

spine.

Not only were they classmates, An Xia and Su Ziyue were also good friends. So there were many opportunities for her to meet Su Yige and Gong Zeyang.

Slightly taken aback, Su Ziyue tried to remember, but she could not really recall anything. "Why does she still hate me so much even when Gong Zeyang is now her fiance? Is she addicted to bullying me?"

Puzzled, Su Ziyue could never understand what Su Yige was thinking about. She really did not know how and why her existence threatened Su Yige so much that she was constantly trying to go against her.

"If you want to understand what she's thinking, you must first become a person like her." An Xia's dislike for Su Yige began when they were still in school.

"Then I won't try to figure out what's on her mind, but this matter won't end so easily."

Recalling what had happened years ago, she could only say that she was still young then and had pinned her hopes on the Su family, which was the reason why she fell so hard.

Still, An Xia did not think that the incident this time would affect Su Yige too much. "Isn't she always loved by President Su?"

"A student who scores ninety percent once after always getting a perfect score would lead people to think that she regressed, but people would rain compliments on a student who scored sixty percent suddenly after always scoring fifty-nine percent before. Such is human nature," Su Ziyue said with a little excitement in her voice.

"You're naughty, Ziyue." An Xia chortled, and Su Ziyue stayed silent.

By the time it was time to leave work, rumors had started in the company.

And it was obviously about Su Yige slapping Su Ziyue out of jealousy at her success of signing the contract with LK.

There were also people defending Su Yige, saying that a person with an upbringing like her would not raise her hand at someone in public, so it must have been Su Ziyue who had overstepped her bounds.

But the two sayings turned into compliments for Su Ziyue in the end.

"I thought Su Ziyue was only good-looking, but I didn't expect her to be capable as well."

"What sort of capabilities could someone like her have? Maybe she used her body for... that."

“Hey, what sort of person do you take the president of LK for? By simply sending a beautiful woman to sleep with him, he will sign the contract and cooperate? How could the LK Group grow so big if that was the case?”

“That sounds somewhat reasonable. So it turns out that Su Ziyue is capable indeed.”

“In fact, I think Director Su is too pretentious. No matter what the reason was, she shouldn’t hit a person’s face in front of so many people. Moreover, it was her own cousin. Perhaps all that gentleness and elegance was just a front...”

Once the voices outside faded, only then did Su Ziyue step out of the toilet cubicle.

This was the effect which she wanted; a mix of good and bad, as too much goodness would have adverse effects. The situation now was just the perfect balance.

An Xia came in suddenly and blurted when she saw her, “I thought you fell in the toilet. Are you regretting your decision to buy me dinner?”

After waiting for a long while outside for Su Ziyue, she could hold it no more and came in to look for her.

Raising her eyebrow, Su Ziyue asked, “Would I care about that little bit of money?” Since she had some shares in her hands, she was one of the shareholders who would receive a share of dividends at the end of the year.

An Xia rolled her eyes. “Compared to Mr. Qin, that little bit of money of yours...” She trailed off on purpose at the end and merely chuckled so Su Ziyue would get the meaning herself.

Su Ziyue phased out at the mention of Qin Muchen. At the end of the day, she still had to thank him. Initially, she said that she was the one using him. As it turned out now, both of them were using each other. For their own purposes, they had to use each other.

On Saturday morning, Su Ziyue received a call from Su Youcheng.

“There’s a family gathering at the Lumiere Jade House tonight. Come on time.” He spoke without allowing her to put in her word. Obviously, Su Ziyue had to attend the gathering.

Recalling what had happened the last time she attended a family gathering, she became dreary.

“I’m afraid Grandma and Auntie wouldn’t want to see me. I’m not going, in case I dampen everybody’s spirits. I’ll remember your concern for me in my heart, Grandpa.” Speaking softly and gently, that hint of dreariness in her voice could only be heard if one listened intently.

Her polite words seemed to please Su Youcheng, and he softened his tone a little. "We're a family, so just come as I told you to. You shouldn't become a laughing stock for others."

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You shouldn't become a laughing stock for others...

Su Ziyue carefully replayed the words in her head before replying softly, "I understand, Grandpa. I'll arrive on time tonight."

After hanging up the call, Su Ziyue was in deep thought, her cellphone still in her hands. From the way Su Youcheng spoke, it sounded as if he had also invited other people.

Could it be Mu Ninghui again?

After giving it more thought, she did not think that it would be possible.

Now that the contract was signed with the LK Group and Su Youcheng thought that she was involved with its president, he would not be so silly as to send her off to the Mu family.

Whatever it was, she would find out if she attended tonight.

Ultimately, it was something she had to face.

Back then, she did nothing and still found herself "drenched in dirty water", which she still could not wash off until now.

Even if she did not attend the family gathering this time, whatever should happen would happen, regardless of when.

In the evening, Su Ziyue flipped through her wardrobe before finally deciding to put on her favourite red dress.

It was knee-length, made out of soft, comfortable material and had a ruffled hem.

Not only did it show off her figure, the design added a touch of elegance and was eye-catching because of its bright color.

After applying some simple makeup, she left her house.

When she reached Lumiere Jade House, she headed straight to the private room. The attendant opened the door of the private room for her and all she could see were the members of the Su family inside.

With a small glimmer in her eyes, she smiled and walked in, greeting Su Youcheng first, "Grandpa."

"Take a seat," Su Youcheng glanced once at her and turned his head back.

It was Su Yuanming, who was seated directly next to him, that spoke to her first. "I've been working in the branch office recently and heard that you came back to work in the company. Are you adjusting well?"

"I'm doing quite well. Thank you for your concern, Uncle Yuanming." She spoke with her head slightly lowered to shield the emotions in her eyes, appearing well-behaved and sensible.

However, Su Yige was the one who continued the conversation. "Dad, don't you know that Ziyue managed to clinch a big deal just when she returned to the company?"

"Really? Ziyue is all grown up now! If only my elder brother didn't—" Su Yuanming stopped himself mid-sentence as if he had said something inappropriate and turned to steal a look at Su Youcheng. Then he gave Su Ziyue an apologetic laugh and did not speak anymore.

Although he appeared as though he had brought up the topic unintentionally, the expression on Su Youcheng's face already changed at the mention of "elder brother".

Su Ziyue smiled softly. Su Yige appeared pure and innocent on the outside but actually had crooked values on the inside. It seemed like she had inherited this trait from her father.

Obviously, he had mentioned Su Ziyue's father on purpose to incite Su Youcheng's loathing for her, but he made it seem as if he had brought it up unintentionally.

It was only because of the collaboration with LK that Su Youcheng maintained a peaceful front with Su Ziyue, but that was enough to keep Su Yuanming on tenterhooks.

"Uncle Yuanming, of all topics, why would you bring that up on a day such as this," Su Ziyue said with a calm face and got up with a teapot in her hand. Striding to Su Youcheng, she poured him a cup of tea and said gently, "Don't get angry, Grandpa. Uncle Yuanming must be too tired recently, which is why he said that."

Was she acting innocent? She did not need to put up an act as she was the most innocent here.

Hearing her words, the knot on Su Youcheng's eyebrows relaxed. Thinking that she had matured quite a lot lately, he did not give her a hard time and merely said, "It must be difficult on you. Take a seat."

Following that, Liu Zipei, who was silent this whole time, snickered. "It indeed must have been difficult on Ziyue. With your reputation, are you able to adapt well in the company?"

As the second wife of Su Youcheng, Liu Zipei was much younger than him, and because she had his backing, she often made things difficult for Su Ziyue publicly.

Su Ziyue's grasp on the teapot tightened, but she relaxed her grip. When she lifted her head again, she appeared calm and unaffected. "Thank you for your concern, Grandma. I'm doing well in the company under Grandpa's care."

If provoking her was her intention, then she would not let Liu Zipei get her way.

Suddenly, Su Youcheng set down the teacup he was holding in his hand on the table with a loud bang.

Still searching for something else to say, Liu Zipei quickly retracted everything she wanted to say in surprise.

"Everyone, speak a little lesser!" Turning to look at Liu Zipei, he continued, "You're an elder, so you should watch what you're saying!"

"Youcheng..."

Usually, whenever she angered him, she could always get away by saying some soft words to him. It did not occur to her that she would be cut off by him so sternly.

"Shut up," Su Youcheng snapped.

"You..."

All this while, Liu Zipei had never looked forward to seeing Su Ziyue, and now that she was scolded by Su Youcheng in front of her, she could never live it down.

Since she did not dare to reprimand Su Ziyue in front of Su Youcheng, she shot a hateful look at her and said in a frustrated tone instead, "What's the point of telling me to shut up? You should tell her not to do those things!"

This time, Su Youcheng threw the teacup beside his hand onto the floor, and it broke with a loud smash.

Even Su Ziyue's eyelids twitched, startled by his sudden, unexpected move.

Now, Liu Zipei finally felt afraid and hung her head low, not uttering another word anymore.

"Did you not hear that I told you to shut up?" Su Youcheng appeared to be in anger, and he only stopped after saying a few more harsh things.

Su Ziyue was slightly taken aback. Back when she used to live with the Su family, Su Youcheng never spoke up for her no matter how often Liu Zipei made things difficult for her.

This was a first.

Could it be that Su Youcheng was acting this way because she nailed the contract with LK Group and was in charge of the follow-up later?

During dinner, the food seemed tasteless to her but she still ate a little. After the meal, she made an excuse to leave, and Su Youcheng did not try to make her stay.

However, she did not leave when she walked out the door. Instead, she held her cellphone in her hand right outside the door and eavesdropped on the people inside.

After about a minute, she heard Su Youcheng say, "She has the LK collaboration project in her hands. You should all be more aware and don't provoke her for no reason."

Immediately, Liu Zipei countered, "I didn't provoke her! She was the one who—"

Su Youcheng snorted. "How could I not know how you are?"

"I..."

There was no need to listen to anything else after that. Putting her cellphone away, she laughed at herself and left.

It was a good thing she was not blinded by Su Youcheng's act of kindness. That was the way the members of the Su family were; never trust them easily.

For their own gains, they would put on the most flawless and perfect mask, hiding their evil, rotten hearts.

--

Stepping out of Lumiere Jade House, Su Ziyue felt that the air was much fresher outside.

Throwing back her head, she took a deep breath, swung her handbag to the side and started walking on the side of the road. After a couple of steps, she sensed someone watching her. Turning her head around suddenly, she caught Qin Muchen not far off, staring at her.

Shock washed over her face. Didn't he say that he would be away on a business trip for a week? Why did he return so quickly?

"Su Ziyue," he called out to her as he put out the cigarette in his hand and threw it away in the bin in his car behind him.

Since she was young, Su Ziyue had never liked her own name because she did not like the sound of it. But everytime he called her name, she found it surprisingly pleasant to the ears.

CHAPTER 66

Seeing that she was dilly dallying and did not make a move toward him, Qin Muchen lost his patience and took big steps to her before dragging her into the car by her hand.

“What are you doing?” Su Ziyue jerked her hand a couple of times, but it did not release her from his grip.

Not giving her a chance to retaliate, he pushed her into the car, and after he got in from the other side of the car, he said, “Let’s find a place to eat.”

Pointing a finger at Lumiere Jade House, she asked, “Why can’t we eat here? Where do you want to eat?”

After a few moments of silence, he said, “The food outside is unhygienic.”

Su Ziyue was speechless. So he meant that the restaurant at his own club was unhygienic?

Seeing that she was silent, he reminded her, “Seatbelt.”

Instinctively, she immediately put on her seatbelt, but then it suddenly hit her that something was off. “Hang on, why are you bringing me to dinner? How did you know I was at the Lumiere Jade House?”

This was ridiculous. Why would he drag her along to have his dinner when she just finished hers?

With his eyes fixed ahead, he only answered her last question. Opening his lips slightly, he uttered two words, “Nan Chuan.”

After that, no matter what she asked him, he would just ignore her.

Half an hour later, the car finally stopped. It was Su Ziyue who opened the door and hopped out first. The moment she stepped out, she could see a beautiful night view of Yunzhou City, and when she turned around, she found a luxurious villa behind her.

Surprised, she asked Qin Muchen, “This is Cloud Bay?”

Cloud Bay was the most luxurious villa locality in Yunzhou City. The trademarks of Cloud Bay were secure, private, natural and comfort.

“Yes,” he replied. “Come over.”

Hearing his last two words, she cautiously took a step back. "Didn't you say that we're going to a place for dinner?"

Pulling up one corner of his lips, he said, "I also mentioned that the food outside is unhygienic."

So he wanted to prepare dinner at home; this dumbfounded Su Ziyue.

He could tell that she was unwilling, but he did not grab her like he did earlier. Calmly, he said to her, "I went looking for you the moment I touched down and didn't eat anything during my flight."

In the end, Su Ziyue still followed Qin Muchen into the villa, which was huge and empty.

"Don't you need servants?" Su Ziyue had wanted to ask this since a long time ago.

Although there were only a few people in the Su family, they still hired a dozen servants.

With his wealth, even if he did not live in a house, it should at least have a housekeeper or something.

"What can a servant do for me?" he asked as he took off his coat and took out some fresh meat and vegetables from the refrigerator. "The laundry is handled by a special dry cleaner who comes to pick it up. I'm usually busy and don't stay home much."

Out of the blue, he lifted his head and stared at her.

His stare made her feel uncomfortable, and to ease this discomfort, she ran her fingers through her hair around her ears and did not say anything.

"The villa doesn't need servants. It's only missing a mistress of the house." Finishing his sentence calmly, he turned around and placed the meat on a plate before starting to clean the vegetables.

Su Ziyue was left rooted there, feeling at a loss.

She recalled that Thursday night, when they were eating at a simple roadside stall, and how he slowly explained to her why he specifically asked for her to negotiate the contract.

Qin Muchen was a man who was an expert in psychological games.

From the moment he got close to her and chased the reporters away for her to when he agreed to marry her and made breakfast for her every morning...

Everything was what she extremely needed.

If she had not discovered that he was the shadow owner of Lumiere Jade House, she would still have been kept in the dark by him and would not know anything about his background at all until now.

Even though he was cutting vegetables, Qin Muchen was actually listening intently to the activity behind his back. As a smart woman, Su Ziyue would understand what he meant.

Until Qin Muchen was done preparing the meal, Su Ziyue still did not say a single thing.

He filled two bowls of rice and set one down in front of her.

The moment he sat down, he heard her saying, "I just ate."

"You're not full."

"Is my stomach attached to your body? How would you know if I'm full or not?"

Qin Muchen placed some vegetables into her bowl. "You don't have the appetite to eat when you're seated at a table with the Su family."

The words which she wanted to say were stuck at the tip of her tongue, and she swallowed them back.

His words hit a soft spot in the depths of her heart, and slowly, it began to crumble.

As if he had expected that she would not rebut what he just said, he filled a bowl of soup for her and gently pushed it in front of her. "Eat up."

She lowered her head and started eating without saying another word.

Lifting his gaze, he took a glance at her, and his smile spread from his mouth to his entire face.

After the meal, her mood seemed to have calmed down a little. She pushed the bowls to the side with her hands, looking at him. "I'm done eating. I want to go home now, President Qin."

The reason she called him 'President Qin' was a reminder to him that they were in a cooperative relationship. As for anything else, she currently did not have any thoughts about it.

Qin Muchen glanced once at her before he gathered the dishes and brought them into the kitchen and placed them into the dishwasher.

Following behind him, Su Ziyue asked, "Are you asking me to go home by myself? My car is still at Lumiere Jade House."

It was close to 11 p.m. now. Seeing how the location of this villa was at the top of the mountain, there was not even a soul outside, let alone a cab.

Still maintaining his silence, he slowly turned on the tap, washed his hands and dried them with a towel.

All his movements were extremely slow.

“You... Woah!”

Caught off-guard by him, he swept her off her feet into his arms, and she unconsciously wrapped her arms around his neck as he carried her upstairs, straight toward the master bedroom.

“Qin Muchen, what are you doing?!”

With a kick, the door to the master bedroom swung open and he threw her on the bed. As he loosened his tie, he answered her previous question, emphasizing each word, “Screw. You.”

Falling onto the bed with a plop, she was still feeling a little dizzy and thought that she had heard him wrongly. How could Qin Muchen say something like... that!

Turning around, she wanted to get off the bed, but she was pinned back by Qin Muchen, who was watching her every move.

Only his tie was removed, but his shirt was still on with three or four buttons undone, revealing his toned chest.

The way he looked now was incredibly sexy.

Shifting her gaze, Su Ziyue met his dark eyes.

There was a bright flash in his dark eyes; just like a leopard which had been laying low for a long time in the forest, he was now ready to pounce at the sight of a prey which satisfied him.

Feeling a little fearful of him right now, her voice was shaking as she said, “Don’t do this, Qin Muchen. We can talk over everything nicely.”

“I wanted to speak nicely with you earlier, but you refused to listen.”

He buried his head next to her ear and left a hot trail along the soft outline of her ear with his thin lips.

Her heart was beating so fast it almost skipped out from her throat. The strength that he had was terrifying.

When her struggles were rendered useless, she pleaded softly instead, "I'll listen. Tell me anything you want to say now..."

"It's late. I don't want to say it. I want to do it."

CHAPTER 67

Accompanying his voice, which was getting hoarser, was the sound of her clothes being ripped apart.

Along with the sound of the rip, the red dress which she loved was now reduced to shreds in Qin Muchen's hands.

From his words to his actions, it was clear that he would not stop until he got what he wanted tonight.

However, Su Ziyue was not a person who could be easily controlled by others.

His eyes were terrifyingly dark as he threw aside the clothes in his hand. This was what he had wanted to do when he saw her at the entrance of Lumiere Jade House.

When she was in her red dress, she looked like a fairy that had emerged from the mountains; pure and charming. He wanted so much to tear apart her clothes, and then fiercely...

So, initially, he was planning to drive to her place, simply make dinner and leave after eating. But his plans took a turn at the last minute, and he brought her directly to his villa.

It was only a matter of time before she became the mistress of this place, anyway.

His lips moved away from her ear and was now on her juicy lips. Kissing her eagerly, there was no tenderness in it at all.

It was more like a wolf who had been hungry for a long time. Finally running into a delicious meal, it could not be bothered to chew and merely wanted to gobble everything up whole. Filling its stomach was most important and other matters could wait.

Out of breath from the kisses, Su Ziyue hit him on his back with her fists but to no avail as he remained in the same position.

When she wanted to move her legs, she realized that he had spread her legs apart without her knowing and placed himself right between them, one hand on her back and another at the back of her head.

She could not move at all now.

Until she felt a stinging sensation in her lips, only then did he lift his head.

With his fingertips, he stroked her swollen lips and said in a low voice, "Try calling me President Qin

again.”

His voice was extraordinarily hoarse and low, like a whisper as well as a spell.

Her heart tingled at the sound of his voice and she jerked her head to the side, refusing to look at him. That stubborn look of hers made him want to chew her up and swallow her.

“Why are you not calling me that now?” he asked as he went back to her ear and bit her.

Feeling a small shiver from her as he did so, Qin Muchen laughed softly.

Su Ziyue’s body was turned soft by him, and with him pressed on top of her body like a mountain, she could not move at all. When she heard his laugh, the mix of embarrassment and anger she felt made her bite his neck.

The man on top of her stiffened at her bite, and the arms that were holding her tensed.

When she released her bite, he pulled her up into a sitting position and bit her on her chest.

“It hurts...”

Hearing that, he loosened his teeth and kissed the spot gently before lifting his head and capturing her lips in his again.

One of his hands had already gone on a southbound exploration quietly. Although they had only done it once before, their bodies remembered each other.

After peeling off the last layer of restraint, Qin Muchen kissed her lips and stopped. "Call me Dear."

With gritted teeth, Su Ziyue spat out a single word, "Scram."

Momentarily stunned by her reply, he then leaned forward and rubbed his body against hers. "I can scram, but he wants to get in."

Before she could say anything, the ringing of a phone sounded and stopped Qin Muchen in his tracks.

The ringing went on urgently without any signs of stopping.

Taking advantage of his momentary distraction, Su Ziyue abruptly pushed him aside and rolled to the side, wrapping herself snugly with the blanket as she did so.

The reason Qin Muchen was distracted for a moment was because the cellphone that rang was his private cellphone.

With the matter at hand now, Nan Chuan and Bai Jingshu would not call him just because they were bored.

Su Ziyue fixed her eyes on him, and when she saw him getting up to look for his cellphone, her heart fell, but she could not tell if it was due to disappointment or because she was relieved.

From the pile of clothes on the floor, he found his cellphone and brought it into the bathroom.

As she watched the bathroom door close, astonishment washed over her face, and she sneered.

Earlier, she almost believed what he said was true.

Just a moment ago, he was entangled with her on the bed and all ready to strike with his manhood. But now, he had calmed down and was taking a phone call in the bathroom. How could she trust him?

Her look turned cold as she rolled off the bed.

She could not wear her own clothes anymore, but she found Qin Muchen's walk-in wardrobe filled with his suits and shirts. Luckily, there was also some sports wear.

Quickly putting on a shirt she found, she then put on a pair of track pants hurriedly.

Tiptoeing out of the wardrobe, she saw that the lights in the bathroom were still on, so she went out cautiously.

When she got downstairs, she grabbed her purse and bolted for the door. Recalling that Qin Muchen had placed his car keys by the door, she quickly found it after ransacking the area.

The lights in the yard were off and she did not even put on her shoes when she left.

After all that effort and finally reaching the main door, she opened it and drove away in his car.

When Qin Muchen got out of the bathroom, he heard the sound of a car engine coming from downstairs.

Turning to look at the bed to find that Su Ziyue was no longer there, he saw that only her clothes, which were ripped by him, and her high heels remained.

After thinking for a while, he called Nan Chuan. "Drive over," he said briefly and turned toward the wardrobe.

The walk-in wardrobe which was usually neat and tidy now looked as if it had been raided through by

robbers; clothes were strewn everywhere.

In his mind, he could picture a naked Su Ziyue running in here anxiously to look for something to wear, and the smile froze on his lips.

Very quickly, he found a set of clothes and went downstairs.

Su Ziyue sped straight home.

Luckily, it was already late at night so no one could see how embarrassing she looked right now.

After she got into the elevator, someone else came in as well.

She turned and saw that it was her neighbor who lived across from her.

Su Ziyue did not know her name and the both of them had nothing to do with each other, so she merely ignored her.

Even if she chose to ignore Li Jingqi, it did not mean that Li Jingqi would not pick a fight with her.

Holding takeaway food in her hand, Li Jingqi scanned her from head-to-toe and said, "It's the middle of the night. Is someone having an affair? That explains the stench I was smelling even before I stepped into the elevator."

Su Ziyue answered her with disdain, "It's not as bad as the stench from your mouth."

"Hey!" Li Jingqi glared at her and leaned against the elevator wall lazily. "I know how the world is now. All the good men are wasted on pigs."

It came to Su Ziyue's mind that Li Jingqi had seen Qin Muchen the last time he came over. So, she looked at her and said with a fake smile, "So it's my fault that good men would rather waste themselves on pigs rather than be with you?"

"You!" Raising her hand, Li Jingqi wanted to throw the takeaway in her direction.

"I dare you to throw that at me." With her arms crossed, Su Ziyue gave her an indifferent look. Although she looked like a drab in oversized men's clothes, her domineering aura was not diminished by it.

As she stood there under that cold look, Li Jingqi still did not dare to throw the takeaway in her hand at her.

CHAPTER 68

The elevator finally stopped at the level where Su Ziyue's unit was located.

Li Jingqi and her walked out of the elevator one after another and went back to their respective units.

The moment Su Ziyue stepped into her unit, she could no longer control her facial expression.

As she had walked barefoot all the way from Qin Muchen's mansion, it seemed like she had stepped on something along the way which had caused a mild piercing pain on the soles of her feet.

After taking a quick shower in the bathroom, she slumped on her bed right away. Amidst her drowsiness, she dreamt of things in her childhood, and it was only until almost dawn did she manage to fall asleep.

She woke up with a start when the doorbell of her unit started ringing.

Flipping over, she sat upright and draped a jacket over herself before going to answer the door.

As soon as she opened the door, she was greeted by the sight of Nan Chuan, who was all smiles. "Miss Su, good morning," he greeted.

As humans tended to be emotional, Su Ziyue couldn't help but feel annoyed with Nan Chuan too because he was Qin Muchen's assistant.

Yet, it was common courtesy that one shouldn't be rude to another who was smiling. Therefore, she tried hard to suppress her displeasure and greeted him back coldly before she got ready to close the door.

Quickly and accurately, Nan Chuan managed to squeeze a carrier bag inside through the crack of the door. Obviously, he had already foreseen that Su Ziyue would react in this way.

Su Ziyue looked up at him, rage in her eyes.

Smiling brightly, Nan Chuan said, "Mr. Qin was busy with work for the whole night yesterday, but he still went to the shopping mall himself to get this for you at first light. Please do check it out..."

Check it out...

As a foreigner, it was really impressive of him to be able to speak the language so well.

Su Ziyue took a look at the logo printed on the bag—it was the logo of the clothing brand she had worn yesterday which she had bought when she first returned to the country.

She only needed a brief moment of thinking to realize what was inside the carrier bag.

“Mr. Nan, thanks for making this trip over.” Suddenly, Su Ziyue put on a gentle smile. Her slender and fair fingers rested on the shopping bag and pushed it slowly back to him. “Goodbye,” she said.

Nan Chuan, who had only ever seen Su Ziyue’s frigid face, had never come across such a gentle smile on her face. Su Ziyue made use of the several seconds he was stumped to shove the bag back to him.

Then, she closed the door.

“Miss Su! Please open the door! Before I came, I pledged to Mr. Qin that I’d pass this to you by hook or by crook, or I’ll end up very miserably when I go back...”

He knocked on the door and sounded woeful.

Why was he always on the receiving end of all the bad things that happened ever since Mr. Qin started a relationship?

Su Ziyue, who was listening to Nan Chuan with her back leaning against the door, smiled unsympathetically. Because she was in a foul mood, she decided that it was only fair that everyone should share a bit of her misery.

...

At last, Nan Chuan had no choice but to carry the untouched carrier bag back to his boss.

Qin Muchen was standing before the aquarium, holding a handful of fish food which he slowly sprinkled bit by bit into the water.

He knew Nan Chuan was back as soon as he heard light footsteps coming from behind him.

Nan Chuan waited for Qin Muchen to speak first, but he did not seem to notice his presence as he continued feeding the fishes without giving him a glance.

Finally, Nan Chuan could not bear the silence and spoke dejectedly, “Miss Su refused to take this.”

Qin Muchen kept his eyes on a surgeonfish in the aquarium, and he did not turn around to face Nan Chuan as he asked in a rather icy tone, “Did she open the door?”

“Yes.” Nan Chuan had no idea why he asked that, but despite his curiosity, he decided to answer him honestly.

After pouring the remaining fish food in his hand back into the container, Qin Muchen turned around to face Nan Chuan. “Did she speak to you?”

“She said two sentences.”

The expression on Qin Muchen's face froze slightly before he walked away to wash his hands. "Okay."

With that, he made his way back to his desk and started dealing with work.

Nan Chuan was left alone, puzzled.

Is that all? Where's the shouting?

Why didn't he lash out at me?

Is Mr. Qin a changed man?

Nan Chuan returned to Qin Muchen's office from Su Ziyue's place, feeling uneasy, but now, he walked out of the office, feeling bewildered.

Although Qin Muchen had his eyes on the document which he was flipping through as he sat before his desk, his mind was absent.

Since Su Ziyue had opened the door and spoken with Nan Chuan, it was better than what he had expected, and he reckoned that she was not very angry.

...

Su Ziyue did not feel sleepy anymore after being disturbed by Nan Chuan.

She was just getting ready to head out to have a meal after washing up when she received a call from An Xia, who wanted to invite her out for a meal.

When she reached the agreed place, An Xia had already started looking at the menu.

An Xia pushed the menu to her as soon as she sat down.

The moment she caught sight of her face, she went wide-eyed with shock. "You look pale and you have dark circles under your eyes, and you didn't bother with makeup. Since when have you allowed yourself to look like such a mess?"

"I didn't see the need for it." Su Ziyue looked weary because she did not sleep well last night.

After taking the menu, she chose two dishes without thinking much before leaning back against the chair, looking weak and frail.

"What did you do last night?" An Xia eyed her suspiciously.

“I didn’t do anything.” Su Ziyue’s eyes turned dodgy under her stare.

Technically, she had basically done everything with Qin Muchen except the most important part.

At that thought, she couldn’t help but feel guilty.

Knowing that something was fishy judging from the guiltiness on her face, An Xia decided to bombard her with a deluge of questions, to which Su Ziyue succumbed and spilled everything about last night to her.

After listening to her, An Xia raised her eyebrows. “After getting almost naked and even doing it before such a nice view in a luxurious mansion, he actually went to pick up a call, and you actually ran away?”

Su Ziyue clarified, “That’s not the point...”

“I know. The point is, you guys didn’t get to do it.”

Su Ziyue was speechless. She clapped a hand to her forehead, having no idea how to explain to her what was really on her mind.

...

Su Ziyue went to the office early Monday morning.

After joining the morning meeting, she returned to her office and started preparing some documents.

There were plenty of things she needed to learn about the follow-ups subsequent to the signing of an agreement.

At that juncture, An Xia pushed open the door to her office and walked inside before placing a huge stack of documents on the table right in front of her. “These documents are going to be used today. You may want to have a look at them first.”

“Okay, just leave them here.” Su Ziyue looked up and flashed her a smile.

An Xia seemed to have something more to say because she did not leave the office right away.

“Anything else?” Su Ziyue asked.

“LK Group called. They want us to arrange a meeting with them in the afternoon to talk about the collaboration.”

Su Ziyue’s eyes flickered as soon as she heard her. “Okay, I’ve got it,” she said nonchalantly.

“They gave us the number of their person in charge of the agreement and you probably should contact the person personally. After all, this is our first time working together, and it’s better for us to take the initiative to call to show our sincerity.”

With that, An Xia placed a note on which a phone number was written in front of her.

Stunned for a second, Su Ziyue took the note and gave it a fleeting glance before telling An Xia with a smile, “I’ve got it. You should get back to work because things will get very busy after this.”

After looking at her and seeing that she was unruffled, An Xia had no choice but to walk out of her office.

As soon as An Xia left, the smile on Su Ziyue’s face vanished in the blink of an eye and was replaced by a look of iciness while she examined the phone number.

Usually, it was not necessary for the president of the company to attend such a meeting personally, or he would not need all those employees he had hired.

She had been trying her best to make sure she had nothing to do with Qin Muchen, but when Qin Muchen really started treating her like a work partner, she actually did not feel relieved at all.

On the contrary, she felt indescribably depressed because of it.

CHAPTER 69

This time, it was a middle-aged man who represented LK Group to discuss the collaboration with Su Ziyue.

The man, who was dressed in an immaculate, ironed black suit, looked stern and rigid.

Su Ziyue instinctively straightened her back when she knew she was going to deal with a man like him.

“Mr. Sun, it’s nice to meet you. My name is Su Ziyue.”

As his junior, it was only appropriate of her to take the initiative to greet him.

“Miss Su.” Mr. Sun too stood up and shook her hand politely before quickly retracting his hand.

Then, they started to talk business right away.

As expected, Mr. Sun was a serious, rigid and detail-oriented man.

Therefore, they did not manage to make much progress after the entire afternoon.

On their way back, An Xia too couldn’t help but complain, “Why does their representative have to be a

rigid middle-aged man? Talking with him was so tiring, and I didn't even dare to smile."

"I think it's alright."

In Su Ziyue's opinion, dealing with Mr. Sun was good because at least, she could accept his opposing opinions, and she could learn a lot from him.

But, if she was dealing with Qin Muchen...

Perhaps it was because the two of them were not purely work partners in the first place and because Qin Muchen had always been very tolerant of her back then, so she found it hard to accept his suggestions even though they might make a lot of sense.

...

After getting off from work, An Xia and her grabbed a bite at a random restaurant for dinner.

The slow rate at which her work progressed enlightened Su Ziyue of her many shortcomings. Therefore, she decided to bring home some documents to read.

Her phone started ringing minutes before ten at night.

The caller ID on the screen left her dumbfounded.

It was from Qin Muchen.

After hesitating, she tossed her phone aside and carried on with her work.

Yet, her phone rang on relentlessly as though it was defying her.

She picked up the phone and wanted to switch it off but decided against it when she suddenly remembered the fact that she was currently working on a collaboration with LK Group. Since they were only work partners, she wondered whether she had been oversensitive in reaction to his phone call.

But, it was after working hours now...

At last, she decided to pick up the call.

Once the call was connected, a man's voice which sounded unfamiliar sounded, "Mrs. Qin, please come and pick President Qin up because he's drunk."

"Where's President Bai?"

"He's wasted too."

Then, the man gave her an address before hanging up.

Su Ziyue had yet to register the conversation in her mind.

She supposed that man was from Yunteng because he had addressed her as Mrs. Qin.

Qin Muchen must have a hectic life, having to juggle between being the boss behind Lumiere Jade House and looking after both LK Group and Yunteng.

Su Ziyue then gave a call to Nan Chuan.

“Miss Su, I’m really tied up now. My sister has just been admitted to the hospital because she suffered from motion sickness during her flight from America...”

He did not sound like he was lying judging from the trace of concern in his tone.

Therefore, she had no choice but to drive to the address given by that man to pick Qin Muchen up.

It was a restaurant she had never been to before.

Just as she reached the entrance after getting out of her car, a man greeted her while he was walking toward her, “Mrs. Qin.”

“Hi.”

“President Qin is still inside the private room.”

While the man was leading her inside, he told her, “We were invited by the company to join the celebration here for the anniversary of the company. Everyone got excited and drank like a fish.”

He sounded like he was trying to explain to her why Qin Muchen got drunk.

Yet, she was not interested at all.

Once she stepped into the private room, she found that almost half of the people inside were hammered.

Only some were still drinking, glasses of alcohol in their hands, while some were chit-chatting while taking a puff.

The stench inside was a mixture of food, alcohol and smoke; it was unbearable.

With a frown, Su Ziyue followed the man inside.

“President Qin, Mrs. Qin is here to pick you up.” The man who brought her inside approached Qin Muchen and gave him a soft nudge.

Qin Muchen sat alone on the sofa with his back leaning against it, looking no different to how he looked usually.

His necktie, which had been loosened, hung loosely around his neck. He rested one of his hands on his abdomen and was pressing the fingers of his other hand to his temples. His eyes half shut, a slight crease on his forehead, he seemed like he was feeling unwell.

He did not react to the man’s voice.

Then, Su Ziyue walked over and asked, “How much did he drink?”

“I have no idea, but when we proposed a toast to him just now, he didn’t reject any of us.”

“How many of you proposed a toast to him?”

“All of us.”

Su Ziyue was speechless. Pursing her lips, she felt a driving urge to curse at someone.

There were around thirty to forty people in the room. They clearly did not treat Qin Muchen like a human being since they all proposed a toast to him.

Forget it, he was not a normal human being in the first place.

Having no idea how to describe her feelings now, Si Ziyue walked over to him and called his name, “Qin Muchen.”

But she got no response from him.

She then reached out to give his cheeks a pat, only for her hand to suddenly be grabbed by Qin Muchen who groaned in a deep and hoarse voice, “Don’t mess with me...”

Seeing his reaction, the man who brought Su Ziyue there quickly cleared his throat and offered, “Mrs. Qin, let me help you carry President Qin to your car.”

“Thanks a lot.” Su Ziyue nodded at him.

With much effort, she retrieved her hand from Qin Muchen and let the man carry him to her car.

After stuffing Qin Muchen into the car, the man then handed her a phone. “This is President Qin’s

phone.”

“Thanks.” Su Ziyue took it, glanced at it and was prepared to toss it aside.

But, an idea struck her, prompting her to unlock his phone.

She clicked open his contacts to find only three names there: Dear, Nan Chuan and Jingshu.

According to the call logs, it showed that the number of ‘Dear’ was dialed within an hour ago.

It was the call made by the man to her just now.

Su Ziyue placed the phone aside and turned to look at Qin Muchen whose head was tilted to one side, looking unwell.

After staring at him for a long while, she bent over to help him fasten his seat belt.

Just as she was about to move away from him after buckling his seat belt, his hands wrapped around her waist. “Su Ziyue...”

Startled, Su Ziyue met his glassy eyes as soon as she looked up.

It seemed like he was really drunk.

Although she could still vividly remember the incident which had taken place that night, she was suddenly not so angry and frustrated anymore. She urged softly, “Get your hands off me. I have to drive.”

Nonetheless, Qin Muchen did not seem to hear her. Not only did he not loosen his hold, he even buried his head into her shoulder and brushed his face against her skin like a puppy.

It was indecent for them to behave in this way because her car was parked by the roadside, and there were many pedestrians walking to and fro.

Su Ziyue snapped in a tone much icier than before, “Qin Muchen, if you don’t let go of me now, I’ll leave you behind.”

As soon as she said that, he really did take his hands off her obediently. Leaning lazily back against the seat and watching her with his half-open, glassy eyes, he did not look as intimidating as usual.

Su Ziyue did not give him another glance.

She drove all the way to a hotel because she had no intention of bringing him back home.

“I’d like to book a room, and could one of you help me carry the man inside my car to the room?”

Su Ziyue led some of the hotel staff to her car to have them carry Qin Muchen up to his room.

To her surprise, Qin Muchen opened his eyes all of a sudden the moment their hands touched him. He shoved them all away and yelled, “Get away from me, all of you. I only want my wife.”

CHAPTER 70

The two hotel staff members nearly stumbled to the ground after being pushed away by Qin Muchen.

He first gave his surroundings a scan before he suddenly glued his eyes in Su Ziyue’s direction. “Dearrrrrr...” he drawled.

Startled, Su Ziyue then turned around to glance at the two hotel staff members who were wide-eyed and open-mouthed in shock.

Apologetically, she said, “Sorry about that. He’s in a drunken fit.”

One of the female hotel staff members looked at Su Ziyue and said somewhat enviously, “Madam, it’s very impressive that your husband still thinks about you and stops others from getting near him even when he’s drunk. Please stop being angry with him and take him back home.”

She assumed Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen were a married couple who had had an argument, and Su Ziyue refused to take him back home because she was throwing a tantrum.

It was such a pity that she did not have such a nice husband herself.

Under the stare of the girl wearing a green-eyed expression, Su Ziyue failed to come up with anything to say.

Qin Muchen and her were indeed married and they indeed had a row, but still, they were different from normal married couples.

“Sorry for the trouble then.” Su Ziyue did not see the need to explain their relationship to strangers.

Yet, the girl was extremely helpful. She helped her cancel the booking of the room and gave her back her money. “Do head home as soon as possible because it’s getting late. He must feel uncomfortable since he drank so much.”

She even gave her a wink after that.

Su Ziyue couldn’t help but chuckle. “Thanks.”

The two hotel staff members then returned to the hotel.

Su Ziyue turned around to glance at Qin Muchen who was sitting in the front passenger seat, still looking lost. Just as she was about to make her way back to her car, Qin Muchen suddenly got out of the car unsteadily.

As he could not even walk properly, she walked over and tried to help him.

But he waved her away as he staggered his way forward and stopped right in front of a lamp post, which he wrapped his arms around before he shouted, "Dear, Su Ziyue..."

Gaping at him in consternation, Su Ziyue called his name, "Q-Qin Muchen?"

"Yesssss..." Qin Muchen drawled. Because he was intoxicated, he spoke extremely slowly.

After hugging the lamp post for a while, he asked in confusion, "Su Ziyue, why does your skin feel so hard?"

With that, he reached out and groped the lamp post.

Su Ziyue felt an irresistible urge to take a video of him behaving in this way so that she could use it to mock him when he sobered up.

But at last, she thought better of it because he was calling her name while hugging the lamp post.

Based on her understanding of his personality and how shameless he could be, even if she did take a video of him, she reckoned he would say something along the lines of, "See, everything in my world looks like you even though I'm drunk..."

She then walked over and separated him from the lamp post after much effort.

Qin Muchen, who was forced to be separated from the lamp post, squealed like he was throwing a tantrum, "What're you doing... I want... my wife, my wife..."

"Your wife will leave you if you don't get into the car right now!" Su Ziyue threatened him with a serious face.

To her surprise, her threat worked immediately as Qin Muchen teetered back to the car as soon as her voice trailed off.

Finally, she let out a lengthy sigh of relief.

...

She had no choice but to bring him back home because she did not have the keys to his mansion.

As soon as Su Ziyue closed the door after stepping into her unit, Qin Muchen pounced on her.

“Dear, dear...”

She was not in the mood to argue with a drunk man.

With his body attached to hers, she dragged him to the bathroom and splashed icy water directly on his body.

She was not patient and good-tempered enough to tolerate him messing with her even when he was drunk.

The icy water gushing down on his body felt piercing cold because it was autumn, and the heater in her room was not turned on.

Qin Muchen leaned against the wall, his jet-black hair soaking wet. Looking at her with his eyes half-open, he mumbled miserably, “Dear, I’m very cold...”

Just as Su Ziyue’s hands paused, he stretched out his hands to get rid of the showerhead in her hand before hauling her toward him and claiming her lips.

She had no idea that a drunken man could still be so strong.

Unable to wiggle away from his hold, she had no choice but to allow him to take advantage of her.

After a while, the man, who was hugging her, suddenly slipped downward to the floor.

Fortunately, Su Ziyue reacted fast enough and stopped him from falling. It was only when she looked down at him did she realize that he had actually fallen asleep.

Did he just... doze off?

Because his clothes were soaked, she could not allow him to get in bed in such a state.

With much effort, she dragged him to the side of the bed and hesitated before deciding to remove his wet clothes with gritted teeth.

He’ll catch a cold if he doesn’t remove his clothes before going to bed. That was the excuse Su Ziyue kept using to convince herself to strip him of his clothes. Besides, she could not just leave him like this and do nothing.

It was fine when she dealt with his shirt, but she started regretting her earlier decision to haul him to the

bathroom and rinse him with water when she got to his bottoms.

He did not wake up even after being rinsed with cold water...

...

When she woke up the next morning, her surroundings felt warm and cozy like an oven.

She flipped to the other side and opened her eyes to find that she was lying on her bed.

But, she clearly remembered that she had taken her blanket to sleep on the couch last night.

Immediately, she sat bolt upright and saw Qin Muchen sleeping beside her.

At that moment, he was still fast asleep. There was a red blush on his face which did not seem right.

Alarmed by the sight of it, she reached out to feel his forehead, only to find it burning.

“Qin Muchen.” She gave his shoulders a nudge.

Slowly, he opened his eyes and smiled at the sight of her. “Good morning.”

Su Ziyue couldn't help but curse seeing how unperturbed he looked. “Don't say sh*t like that. You're having fever!”

In response to what she said, he placed a hand over his forehead. “It does seem like that's the case.”

Then, he moved and struggled to sit upright.

“Let's go to the hospital.”

Su Ziyue hopped off the bed and went to her wardrobe to get some clothes to change, only to find him staring at her with a mysterious and unreadable expression on his face.

Slowly, he uttered, “I'm not going.”

“Are you trying to die at my place so that you can blame me for your death?” Su Ziyue turned around to shoot him a glare before fetching a fresh set of clothes for herself to change in the bathroom.

His feeble voice floated over, “What about mine?”

What does he need?

While he was leaning his back against the head of the bed, the blanket had slipped off his body and piled

at his waist, revealing his well-toned chest.

The sight reminded Su Ziyue at once that she had stripped him last night.

Her face alternated between different shades of red at once.

“Your clothes were soaked last night.” That was why she had removed his clothes.

“Oh.” He acknowledged with a deep voice and was lost in thought before he added, “It was you who got me wet.”

Why did that statement sound so weird? Did he mean that she had deliberately wet his clothes so that she could take them off?

As she could not come up with a good retort, she slammed the door of the bathroom shut.

By the time she changed and walked out of the bathroom, she found him still leaning against the head of the bed with his eyes shut.

She was not too worried since he could still produce scornful remarks about her. That meant that his condition was probably not too serious.

After spotting his phone, she tossed it to him and said, “Call Nan Chuan and get him to fetch you some clothes.”

He did not respond to what she said.

“Qin Muchen.” She walked over to him and called his name before touching his forehead again to find that it was scalding.

Obviously, he was so sick that he was not fully sober judging from his glassy eyes which were only slightly open.