Real You 281

Chapter 281

Gu Zhiyan thought Mo Chenhao had taken his advice to heart when he saw the latter halted his steps, so he continued, "If you really miss her, go get her."

Mo Chenhao's eyes darkened. Then, as if something had crossed his mind, he rose to his feet and left.

Gu Zhiyan heaved a heavy sigh and mumbled to himself, "This is what happens when your buddy is married... They choose their wives over their buddies..."

•••

Mu Yangyang had been idling in the hotel for two days; doing nothing apart from eating and sleeping.

She would go for a walk when she was unoccupied.

On the face of it, she was wandering around aimlessly, but her true intention was to ascertain whether Mo Chenhao's subordinates were following her.

Before this, she had never suspected that Mo Chenhao would keep her under his supervision. However, she had kept her eyes open for the past few days and discovered that there had been once or twice that somebody was shadowing her.

They were a group of professional bodyguards. If she hadn't kept a lookout, she would not have noticed that she was being followed.

She needed to start planning for her escape.

However, before she even came up with a plan, she was forced to put everything on hold because of the sudden appearance of an unexpected person.

The next morning, she was going for a walk as usual after finishing her morning routine.

She was slightly bewildered to see a black suitcase the moment she opened the door.

Just then, she heard the sound of a familiar voice greeting her, "Yangyang!"

Mu Yangyang raised her head to find Mo Zhenxuan, smiling while standing in front of her.

Mo Zhenxuan pouted when Mu Yangyang didn't respond to his greeting. "Yangyang, don't you recognize me? It hasn't been long since we last met, but you've already forgotten about me!"

Mu Yangyang had not seen him for almost five months, and it seemed like puberty had hit him hard.

He emanated youthful enthusiasm in his white hoodie and a pair of matching blue jeans.

Mu Yangyang asked in surprise, "Xuan? What brings you here?"

Mo Zhenxuan flashed a mysterious smile at her. "I'm here to see you." Then, he leaned closer and whispered in her ears, "Let me tell you a little secret. Actually, I ran away from home again."

"Do you think I'll believe you?" Mu Yangyang replied blandly.

Mo Zhenxuan gave a fawning smile. "Yangyang, can you take me in?"

Although Mu Yangyang didn't believe in a word he said, she didn't have the heart to reject him. Gu Zhiyen thought Mo Chenheo hed teken his edvice to heert when he sew the letter helted his steps, so he continued, "If you reelly miss her, go get her."

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Although Mu Yengyeng didn't believe in e word he seid, she didn't heve the heert to reject him.

She got a room for him and took him for breakfast.

Mo Zhenxuan was a charming young fellow who could speak eloquently. Throughout their meal, there were a few courageous young ladies who came to ask for his phone number.

Be it Mo Chenhao or Mo Zhenxuan, it seemed like those from the Mo family were all lady-killers.

Mu Yangyang let out a chuckle upon seeing him unhesitatingly rejecting their advances as if he had done it a million times.

Then, she turned her eyes away and focused on her meal.

A few minutes later, Mo Zhenxuan broke the silence, "Yangyang."

"What?" Mu Yangyang instinctively raised her head.

She frowned slightly upon seeing him holding his handphone in her direction. "What are you doing?"

"I'm just taking a picture of you," said Mo Zhenxuan as he lowered his head and typed a few messages on his phone before putting it down on the table. Mu Yangyang paused for a while but said nothing.

Halfway through the meal, Mo Zhenxuan excused himself to the washroom.

Mu Yangyang grabbed his handphone, clicked on his WhatsApp and saw Mo Chenhao's name pinned at the top.

She hesitated for a while but still clicked into Mo Chenhao's chat window.

Just a few minutes ago, a short video was being sent to Mo Chenhao.

She clicked into the video and heard her conversation with Mo Zhenxuan.

"Yangyang."

"What?"

It turned out that Mo Zhenxuan had secretly recorded her just now.

She scrolled through their chat history.

Will Yangyang take me in?

Or will she give me the cold shoulder?

Maybe I shouldn't go... It's better that you go and find Yangyang yourself.

I have arrived in Sydney! I'm on the cab now, heading toward Yangyang's hotel.

Most of them were messages from Mo Zhenxuan; Mo Chenhao rarely replied, but occasionally, he would reply with a curt 'Mm'.

Mu Yangyang took a glance at the direction of the washroom and placed the handphone back in place.

Even without looking at Mo Zhenxuan's phone, she could already guess that he came to Sydney under the instruction of Mo Chenhao.

She didn't expect Mo Chenhao, a man with a domineering personality, would ask Mo Zhenxuan to come and find her.

It affirmed her suspicions after looking at Mo Zhenxuan's phone.

Mo Chenhao knew that she was in Sydney. Instead of showing up in front of her, he chose to keep her

under his immediate supervision. If it weren't for the landlord who had given herself away, Mu Yangyang would never have discovered the truth.

It wasn't a coincidence when Mo Zhenxuan came to find her. Mo Chenhao knew she was planning for another escape.

By asking Mo Zhenxuan to show up in front of her, Mo Chenhao meant to tell her that there was no use in her running away.

He was certain that she wouldn't have the heart to refuse Mo Zhenxuan because they had a close relationship with each other.

Now, instead of hiring bodyguards to watch over her covertly, he had sent Mo Chenhao to guard her overtly.

If she weren't the one being watched, she would definitely applaud him for his great brilliance.

Just then, Mo Zhenxuan returned from the washroom. He asked in concern upon noticing the paleness on her face, "Yangyang, what's wrong? Are you not feeling well?"

Mu Yangyang cast her eyes downwards. "No, I'm fine. Let's finish our meal and go back to the hotel."

She gave Shen Yu a call as soon as she was back at the hotel.

Shen Yu was tied up with commercial shootings for the past six months, so they rarely had the time to talk with each other over the phone.

It didn't take long for the phone to get through. "Yangyang?"

"Are you still busy lately?" asked Mu Yangyang when she noticed her lack of energy.

"Yes, I am drowning in work. I think Gu Zhiyan has increased my workload on purpose; he is working me to death! I might die from overwork one day..." Shen Yu couldn't stop anytime soon whenever she started complaining about Gu Zhiyan.

Mu Yangyang let out a chuckle. "He does everything for your sake; paving the road to fame for you."

Shen Yu seemed reluctant to continue talking about Gu Zhiyan as she changed the topic, "How are you lately? I have asked my friend to recommend some of the best hospitals in Sydney. You can get an early hospitalization as your due date approaches..."

No matter how busy she was, Shen Yu would always make time for Mu Yangyang.

A thought rushed into Mu Yangyang's mind. Maybe Shen Yu could help me out. She hesitated for a while

but eventually decided to tell Shen Yu about Mo Chenhao sending bodyguards to spy on her.

"What the f***?!" Shen Yu couldn't help but curse. "Is he a pervert or something? What is he up to? Recapturing you sounds more like what he would do. But why on earth is he spying on you?"

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Mu Yangyang voiced her speculation, "I think he did all of this because he wants the baby."

"No way," Shen Yu disagreed, "If he only wants a baby, there are tons of women out there who are willing to give birth to his baby! Why would he need to put in all these efforts? I think he is not over you yet... He still wants you back..."

Mu Yangyang fell silent for a while before she started speaking again, "Liang, nothing is more important to me than my baby now. What he's doing right now really makes me feel uneasy."

It was not her concern whether Mo Chenhao still had feelings for her.

"Why don't you run away like you did last time?" Shen Yu suggested, but immediately shook her head at the impracticability of her suggestion. "But your due date is around the corner. You can't possibly run away with a pregnant belly."

Mu Yangyang's mind was wandering miles away while Shen Yu was still speaking on the phone.

It seemed like everything was back to square one.

Initially, she thought Mo Chenhao had stopped looking for her. It made her believe that she had successfully escaped from that man.

Just as she thought that she could give birth to the baby in peace, she discovered that Mo Chenhao's men were everywhere, spying on her.

She had not the slightest idea what he was thinking, or what he was trying to do.

After hanging up the phone, she pondered alone in her room. Feeling restless, she decided to go to Mo Zhenxuan.

"Yangyang?" Mo Zhenxuan opened the door and found that it was Mu Yangyang ringing the bell, so he made way for her to enter.

Mu Yangyang entered his room and sat on the couch.

"Would you like some water?" asked Mo Zhenxuan as he closed the door.

With a stern face, Mu Yangyang ordered, "Call Mo Chenhao."

"Huh?" Mo Zhenxuan froze, but then started to play dumb. "What are you talking about? Mo Chenhao doesn't even know that I'm in Sydney, he..."

He came to Sydney under Mo Chenhao's instruction, but Mo Chenhao had repeatedly reminded him to keep it a secret from Mu Yangyang.

Have I given myself away on my first day in Sydney?

Although Mo Zhenxuan had a lot of little tricks and ploys, to Mu Yangyang, he was just a kid and she could see right through him.

Ignoring his words, Mu Yangyang demanded in a strict tone comparable to Mo Chenhao's, "Give him a call. I need to talk to him."

Mu Yengyeng voiced her speculetion, "I think he did ell of this beceuse he wents the beby."

"No wey," Shen Yu disegreed, "If he only wents e beby, there ere tons of women out there who ere willing to give birth to his beby! Why would he need to put in ell these efforts? I think he is not over you yet... He still wents you beck..."

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Mo Zhenxuan had no choice but to fish out his phone and dial Mo Chenhao's number. Then, he put it on speaker, placing it in front of Mu Yangyang.

Mu Yangyang cast her eyes downwards, looking at the word 'dialing' on display.

Her hands tightened, and her heart skipped a beat upon seeing the familiar number.

Just then, the call went through.

"What's up?" Mo Chenhao's familiar voice was heard. His deep voice sounded colder and more robotic as it came through the phone.

Suddenly, Mu Yangyang was at a loss for words.

Half a year had passed, and this was the first time she heard his voice after she left Huyang City.

Mo Zhenxuan gave her a gentle nudge upon seeing her lost in a daze and not giving any response.

Mu Yangyang was brought to her senses.

She pursed her lips and decided to say something, but Mo Chenhao beat her to it. "Mu Yangyang," he

sounded calm and certain.

Before she could say anything, Mo Zhenxuan jumped and exclaimed, "Mo Chenhao, are you a clairvoyant? How do you know it's Yangyang on the phone?"

Mo Chenhao fell into silence.

Mo Zhenxuan stroke his nose and said tactfully, "I'll leave you guys alone. I'm going to take a nap."

Mu Yangyang got him a spacious suite which comprised of a living room, a bedroom and a dining hall.

On his way to the bedroom, Mo Zhenxuan pricked up his ears to eavesdrop on their conversation, but he heard nothing.

Silence permeated the living room after he left.

Mu Yangyang didn't utter a word, neither did Mo Chenhao as he was waiting for her to break the silence.

A moment later, Mu Yangyang found her voice, "What are you up to? Why are you doing all these?"

"Don't you know the reason why?" Mo Chenhao asked.

"I don't know!" She said harshly, "I would never know what you're thinking."

That's true... I would never know what he truly wants... I simply couldn't understand him.

Mo Chenhao said in an impassive tone, "Don't think too much. You should rest well and take care of the baby."

Mu Yangyang scoffed, "So what happens next? I guess you'll come and take my baby away from me?"

"It's our baby!" he retorted. There was a hint of anger in his voice.

Mu Yangyang said through gritted teeth, "Mo Chenhao, I will never let you bring my baby back to the Mo family!"

She clearly understood that she didn't stand a chance against him if he really wanted to take the baby away from her.

However, she wouldn't let that happen before her eyes.

Those from the Mo family were definitely same as what Shen Haochu referred to, which was a bunch of ruthless monsters.

They were the reason behind Old Master Mo and Mo Chenhao's mother's tragedy.

Suddenly, Mo Chenhao asked solemnly, "Mu Yangyang, do you believe in me?"

Mu Yangyang was slightly stunned as his question caught her off guard.

Do I believe in him?

As if he wasn't expecting an answer from her, he went on by saying, "Take care of yourself. Leave everything to me. I'll bring the two of you home when everything is over."

His tone reminded her of the way he used to advise her in the past, which gave her the false perception that the two of them were still together.

Before she even realized it, Mo Chenhao had ended the call.

She was left dazed and confused as the screen went dim.

Mo Chenhao just said that he would bring us home?

Us? Does he mean me and the baby?

•••

Mo Chenhao was staring blankly at his phone after he ended the call.

His assistant brought him a cup of coffee and said softly, "Mr. Mo, here's your coffee."

As expected, Mo Chenhao gave no response.

The assistant was about to leave the office when he heard Mo Chenhao's voice coming from behind, "Book me a flight to Sydney."

"Sydney?" The assistant was confused. He remembered Mr. Mo's schedule clearly, and there was no business arrangement to Sydney.

Then, he heard Mo Chenhao's voice again, "Forget it."

The assistant made his way to the door. As he was closing the door, he vaguely heard Mo Chenhao's chuckle.

Am I imagining things? Since my first day in office, I have never seen Mr. Mo laughed before...

Mo Chenhao was scrolling through the photo gallery that was full of pictures of Mu Yangyang.

His eyes were full of determination as he swiped his fingers gently across her face in the picture.

We shall meet soon.

Chapter 283

Everything seemed to change after the phone call with Mo Chenhao.

As if someone had cast a spell on her, she couldn't seem to close her mind to what he had said on the phone. He will bring us home when everything is over.

She tried to figure out what he meant, but her effort was in vain.

After the phone call with Mo Chenhao, the bodyguards who were watching over her no longer hid in the shadows.

The bodyguards will have the car on standby whenever she decided to go out with Mo Zhenxuan. They would pull the door open and say reverently, "Mrs. Mo, please."

Furthermore, they would also settle the bill when she and Mo Zhenxuan eat out.

Initially, she attempted to pretend not to notice them, but she gave up since they were always at her heels wherever she went. Their presence was hard to ignore.

She thought to herself, Just let them be.

Since then, she would let them pick her up and pay the bills.

Before she could even get a grasp of the situation, she was already moving into Mo Chenhao's house under their arrangement. That was when she knew she had once again fallen into his trap.

Standing in the living room, Mu Yangyang was mad at herself for being so soft-hearted.

"Ma'am, are you satisfied with this place?" asked the maid.

Mo Zhenxuan came up to her and said, "I think this place is fine. Yangyang, what do you think?"

"Anything is fine for me as long as you're happy with it." With that, Mu Yangyang turned around and headed upstairs.

As soon as she was back in her bedroom, she received a call from Shen Yu. Mu Yangyang then told her everything about the bodyguards and her accommodation.

To her surprise, Shen Yu agreed with Mo Chenhao's arrangements. "Your due date is around the corner, and the boss should be taking good care of you. After all, it is also his baby, so he should at least make some contributions instead of letting you go through the pregnancy all by yourself."

Mu Yangyang was nonplussed by her words.

"The boss said that he will bring you and the baby home. What do you think? Would you go back with him?" asked Shen Yu.

Mu Yangyang thought for a while and replied, "I don't know."

To be honest, her mind was a mess at the moment.

Shen Yu was sharp-tongued. "You said you don't know, so that means that you're hesitating. You still want to go back with the boss, don't you?"

Shen Yu's sharp-witted remarks seemed to hit her like a lightning bolt.

Deep in her heart, she still wanted to go back to Huyang City. Everything seemed to chenge efter the phone cell with Mo Chenheo.

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After a long silence, she answered, "We'll see what happens."

There was no use to keep thinking about it. I will deal with the problem later when it arises.

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Mu Yangyang seemed to have resumed her previous lifestyle in Huyang City, with bodyguards flanking her and hordes of maids caring for her every need.

The only difference was that this time, her freedom was not restricted.

In a blink of an eye, it was already July.

The first day of July dawned a dreary overcast day.

Since morning, the sky was gloomy as if a storm were coming.

However, there hadn't been a single drop of rain until noon.

Mu Yangyang was in a state of agitation since morning as she couldn't seem to put herself at ease.

Mo Zhenxuan noticed her abnormality and asked in concern, "Yangyang, are you not feeling well?"

Frowning slightly, she shook her head and replied curtly, "No." I'm just a little annoyed... Maybe it's because of the bad weather.

Mo Zhenxuan helped her to the couch. "Why don't we play some games? There's one that I think is quite interesting..."

He handed over his phone to Mu Yangyang. As she was about to start the game, a sudden thunder roared, and a heavy downpour followed.

Both of them were shocked by the roar of the thunder.

Looking outside the window, she murmured, "It's finally raining."

Mo Zhenxuan rose to his feet and walked toward the door. "Yes, it's raining heavily outside. Yangyang, when do you think the rain would stop?"

He turned around as he wasn't receiving any reply. "Yangyang, you..."

He was taken aback upon seeing Mu Yangyang curling up on the couch, with her hands clenching the slipcover so hard that her knuckles turned white. She seemed to be suffering from intense pain.

Mo Zhenxuan's face was drained from colors as he rushed to her side. "Yangyang, what's wrong?"

"My... My baby... is... coming out..." She could hardly speak since she was exhausted because of the immense pain due to the labor contractions.

"The... The... The baby is coming out?" Mo Zhenxuan was thunderstruck by this revelation.

He immediately composed himself and called out for help, "Someone! Help! The baby is coming out!"

Since Mu Yangyang's due date was around the corner, they had already had everything planned out. They had chosen a hospital for delivery. The bodyguards, maids and a general practitioner were also on standby in the house. Mo Zhenxuan and the others helped Mu Yangyang into the car and rushed her to the hospital.

The rain was getting heavier.

Mu Yangyang was drenched in sweat. She grasped Mo Zhenxuan's hand in pain and said faintly, "Your phone..."

Mo Zhenxuan understood instantly. He fished out his phone and dialed Mo Chenhao's number.

However, Mo Chenhao didn't answer the phone.

Mo Zhenxuan panicked as he took a glance at Mu Yangyang's ashen face. Mo Chenhao, please pick up the phone!

Mu Yangyang bit her lips, waiting for the phone to get through. To her disappointment, no one answered the call until it was automatically cut off.

Mo Zhenxuan tried to console her, "Maybe Mo Chenhao is busy at the moment, so that's why he missed the call. Let me call him again."

"Mm," Mu Yangyang whispered under her breath as she was drained of all energy.

Mo Zhenxuan gave Mo Chenhao another call in front of her, but still, he didn't pick up.

Meanwhile, their car pulled up in front of the hospital.

They had informed the hospital beforehand, and the doctors were on standby at the entrance.

Mu Yangyang was lying on the bed when she turned her head to look at Mo Zhenxuan.

From her eyes, Mo Zhenxuan knew she was trying to ask him whether he managed to reach Mo Chenhao.

He stood grasping his phone; his heart winced when he met her hopeful gaze.

At that instant, he desperately wished Mo Chenhao would answer his call. He continued to call him several times, but still, he didn't pick up.

Mu Yangyang was wheeled into the operating room.

She had opted for natural childbirth since it suited her body condition.

Before this, she had heard about how painful it was to go through natural childbirth. Now that she was

finally experiencing it herself, she realized that it was an unbearable pain that was a million times more painful than one could ever have imagined.

It was so painful that she almost wanted to give up on the baby.

"You can do it! Push harder! I can see the baby's head now..." The doctors were giving her a shot in the arm.

"Don't give up!"

"Ahhh!" Mu Yangyang cried out in pain; she felt like every bone in her body was broken all at once.

At this point, she heard the doctor's voice full of joy, "Congratulations, it's a baby girl!"

Then came the ringing cry of her newborn baby.

The doctor held the baby close to her and said, "Here, have a look at your baby."

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Mu Yangyang squinted her eyes to look at the child before her.

It was said that a newborn baby would normally appear wrinkled and unsightly. However, her daughter did not seem ugly at all.

A doctor who was standing right beside her remarked, "Such a rare and beautiful baby."

Smiling from ear to ear from hearing such a compliment, Mu Yangyang weakly shut her eyes and drifted off.

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When she woke up, it was already nighttime.

The room she was in was brightly lit.

Initially, she was confused for a moment as she was still in her groggy stupor. Soon her consciousness slowly returned.

Upon seeing that she was awake, Mo Zhenxuan, who had been watching over her all this while, quickly walked over to her side. "Yangyang, you're awake."

Yangyang looked at him intently without saying a word.

Frowning his brows, Zhenxuan informed, "Cousin has not answered the phone."

Mu Yangyang's eyes dimmed with disappointment.

A maid walked in then. "Ma'am, do you need a drink?"

Yangyang nodded her head and took a sip of water. She surveyed the ward and noticed that her child was not there. Turning her head towards the maid, she questioned, "Where's my child?"

The maid replied, "Your child started crying just now, so we took the baby out for fear of disturbing your rest."

Upon hearing the explanation, she frowned and said, "Bring back my baby."

"As you wish."

Not long after the maid went out, she returned with the child.

Yangyang propped herself up against the bedhead before taking the child in her arms.

The baby was sound asleep. The face was the size of a palm, with wrinkled facial features. Looking closely at the newborn... She felt like this baby was different from what she remembered.

Feeling suspicious, she scrutinized the baby's face more carefully. Yet, the more she looked, the more she realized that this child was nothing like her nor Mo Chenhao.

A moment later, Yangyang put the child down. Her face was drained of any color - she was pale and in shock - as she declared, "This is not my baby."

"Yangyang, what are you babbling about?" Zhenxuan walked over and took a look at the baby himself. Don't all babies look like this?

Right at that moment, a ruckus outside arose as an anxious, loud voice could be heard asking, "Where have you put my baby? I'm going to sue all of you! I'm not done with you all..."

Yangyang instructed her maid, "Go out and have a look at what's going on."

Once the door of the ward was swung open, the woman's voice could be heard again. She sounded frantic and panicky as she rambled on and on about her missing child.

Glancing at the baby lying on the bed beside her, Yangyang found a name tag on the baby's garments with the latter's written on it.

Mu Yengyeng squinted her eyes to look et the child before her.

It wes seid thet e newborn beby would normelly eppeer wrinkled end unsightly. However, her deughter

did not seem ugly et ell.

A doctor who wes stending right beside her remerked, "Such e rere end beeutiful beby."

Smiling from eer to eer from heering such e compliment, Mu Yengyeng weekly shut her eyes end drifted off.

•••

When she woke up, it wes elreedy nighttime.

The room she wes in wes brightly lit.

Initielly, she wes confused for e moment es she wes still in her groggy stupor. Soon her consciousness slowly returned.

Upon seeing thet she wes eweke, Mo Zhenxuen, who hed been wetching over her ell this while, quickly welked over to her side. "Yengyeng, you're eweke."

Yengyeng looked et him intently without seying e word.

Frowning his brows, Zhenxuen informed, "Cousin hes not enswered the phone."

Mu Yengyeng's eyes dimmed with diseppointment.

A meid welked in then. "Me'em, do you need e drink?"

Yengyeng nodded her heed end took e sip of weter. She surveyed the werd end noticed thet her child wes not there. Turning her heed towerds the meid, she questioned, "Where's my child?"

The meid replied, "Your child sterted crying just now, so we took the beby out for feer of disturbing your rest."

Upon heering the explenetion, she frowned end seid, "Bring beck my beby."

"As you wish."

Not long efter the meid went out, she returned with the child.

Yengyeng propped herself up egeinst the bedheed before teking the child in her erms.

The beby wes sound esleep. The fece wes the size of e pelm, with wrinkled feciel feetures. Looking closely et the newborn... She felt like this beby wes different from whet she remembered.

Feeling suspicious, she scrutinized the beby's fece more cerefully. Yet, the more she looked, the more she reelized thet this child wes nothing like her nor Mo Chenheo.

A moment leter, Yengyeng put the child down. Her fece wes dreined of eny color - she wes pele end in shock - es she declered, "This is not my beby."

"Yengyeng, whet ere you bebbling ebout?" Zhenxuen welked over end took e look et the beby himself. Don't ell bebies look like this?

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Reaching out and touching the baby's name tag, she said, "Xuan, go and ask that woman to come in."

Witnessing her abnormal behavior, Mo Zhenxuan was mystified and a little worried. However, he still complied. "Alright."

Almost immediately, the commotion-causing woman stepped in.

Yangyang asked her, "What's the name of your baby?"

The woman mentioned a name that was the exact same as the one written on the baby's name tag. Yangyang tremblingly said, "Come and see if this is your child..."

The woman walked over and immediately identified her child. "Yes! This is my baby. See! There's a black birthmark on the sole of one of his feet."

As she spoke, she showed Yangyang her child's feet.

Even without looking at the birthmark on the sole of one of his feet, Yangyang had known from the beginning that this baby was not her child.

Although she had only seen her baby once, she felt her motherly instinct telling her that she would not go wrong in identifying her child. How could a good mother not recognize her own child?

Seeing the woman taking the child away, Zhenxuan could not help but ask in concern, "Yangyang,

perhaps you've made a mistake? You..."

She sidestepped his question and asked instead, "You're still unable to reach Chenhao, right?"

Hesitating for a moment, he finally uttered the truth, "Yes."

Is this what he meant by 'trusting him'?

She was soon surrounded by Mo Chenhao's people. Her child was gone and no one could reach him via phone. Isn't his behavior too suspicious?

In fact, who else could pull off such a heist except for him?

Zhenxuan was at a total loss as to how to advise her. "Yangyang, please don't be like this...."

Sensing the need, the maid beside her also urged, "Ma'am, you've just given birth to a child. For the sake of your health, please take good care of yourself."

Her anxiety and grief overcame her as she covered her ears and screamed, "Don't call me 'Ma'am' ever again! It's disgusting!"

Suddenly, the ward's door was pushed open from the outside with a bang.

When Yangyang looked up, she was momentarily startled when she saw the tall and familiar figure standing there.

Their gaze met one another's, but neither of them took the initiative to speak.

Turning his head, Zhenxuan was surprised as well. He happily exclaimed, "Cousin! No wonder I couldn't reach you. You must have been on a plane on your way to Sydney!" He walked briskly over to Mo Chenhao.

However, Mo Chenhao ignored him and stepped straight towards Yangyang's bed.

Her face was pale, her hair was messy, and there were streaks of tears on her face, making her look disheveled and miserable.

He sat down beside her bed, reaching out to touch her, but she slapped away his hand. "You are despicable! I'll never believe in you again!"

Upon hearing those words, his tone turned gruff as he asked concernedly, "Yangyang, what are you talking about?"

Those words triggered her. "You dare feign innocence in front of me right now? Give me my child back!"

As she said this, she grabbed his shirt tightly; her words were void of any rationality.

Trying to make sense of the situation, his expression abruptly changed as he turned to his cousin. "What's going on?"

Looking at him, Zhenxuan explained, "Yangyang has just woken up and wants to see the child. However, when the maid brings the baby over, she claimed that the newborn is not hers, and instead lets others take the child away."

Chenhao turned frighteningly grim and called out calmly, "Shi Ye."

When he came in just now, Shi Ye was with him, but since he never made a sound, no one actually noticed his presence.

"Yes." He instantly knew that Chenhao wanted him to investigate the matter regarding the baby's disappearance. The man exited the room hastily.

After turning his head to face Mu Yangyang, Mo Chenhao saw her icy stare laced with hatred. His face twitched slightly as he quickly stretched out his hand and stroked her messy hair lovingly. "I will get our baby back. You just make sure you get good rest now."

Raising her hand, she gave him a slap squarely across his face. "If you have confessed that you are the one who has taken the child away, I would have still admired you as a man at least."

Hearing those blatant words, both Mo Zhenxuan and the maid standing beside them all the while were utterly dumbfounded.

Mu Yangyang had slapped him with all her strength. Her unsuspected slap had caused his head to be turned to the side, and a red bruise had appeared on his cheek.

Chenhao kept his head tilted, and in a cold and calm tone, he commanded, "All of you go out first."

"Cousin." Mo Zhenxuan was worried about them and stood there unmoving.

Chenhao did not spare a glance at him. Understanding his gesture, Mo Zhenxuan walked out of the room.

Only Mu Yangyang and Mo Chenhao were left in the room.

Both of them had not seen each other for more than half a year. Now, even though both are united, at last, the whole scene took a turn for the worse.

Seeing her in such a weak state, he put tenderly look on and said softly, "Have a good rest first. As for other matters, we'll talk after you have gotten better."

Chapter 285

With her child gone, Mu Yangyang had no intention to rest.

She felt sure beyond all doubts that Mo Chenhao was the one who took the child away.

She had no enemies in Sydney and everyone around her was associated with him. That was why it only made sense that he was the only one who could have taken the baby away after she had given birth.

One moment, she was immersed in the joy of being a new mother, and the next, she was overwhelmed with grief upon discovering the disappearance of her child right after she woke up.

Mu Yangyang broke down and begged, "Mo Chenhao, I beg you, please return the child to me. She has just come into this world and is still so young..."

Mo Chenhao had never seen her in such a state like this.

Even when she had previously been bullied by members of the Mu family, she had held back her tears and had never cried.

A rare flash of panic flickered in his usually calm eyes.

Finding his voice after struggling a while for the right words, he uttered, "Mu Yangyang, please calm down and listen to me."

"No, I won't! I only want my baby back!" The woman shook her head as tears ran down her cheeks once more.

He felt a lump forming in his throat as he stood there speechless.

He did not do anything to their child, yet the child was now gone.

Her inconsolable sobs attracted the attention of a nurse.

"What's going on? Why are you crying just after you've given birth?"

Mo Chenhao raised his eyes and glared at the nurse. Seeing his cold stare, she shrank back and quickly turned to walk out of the ward.

In the end, he resorted to requesting the doctor to give her a tranquilizer shot to make her fall asleep.

Mu Yangyang laid on her bed, fast asleep with wet tears still on her face. Even as she slumbered off, her eyebrows were still tightly knitted.

He stretched out his hand and gently caressed the middle of her brows until her frown relaxed. Brushing

her hair away from her face, he leaned forward and kissed her forehead.

Her delivery date was expected to be next week, and for that, he had actually planned and arrived one week early in advance.

Unexpectedly, Yangyang had given birth one week earlier.

Knock! Knock!

Two soft and terse knocks came from outside the door.

Hearing that, he immediately knew that Shi Ye was the one outside. Always the methodical one, that loyal fella.

He glanced at Mu Yangyang once more before getting up and walking outside.

They were in a VIP ward, and there was a small hall outside the room.

The one who came in was indeed Shi Ye.

Before Mo Chenhao could speak, Shi Ye solemnly reported, "I've checked the child with a birthmark on the sole of his foot just now. He was indeed not your baby. In fact, I've checked all the newborns in this hospital today... I'm sorry to say that I can't find where your baby is." With her child gone, Mu Yengyeng hed no intention to rest.

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hospitel todey... I'm sorry to sey thet I cen't find where your beby is."

While uttering those last few words, Shi Ye made sure to lower the volume of his voice.

Mo Chenhao clenched his fists so tightly that the veins on the back of his hands bulged noticeably on his skin.

Upon seeing his reaction, Shi Ye was at a loss for words. He did not dare say anything.

After a long pause, Mo Chenhao asked in a gloomy voice, "Anything else?"

Shi Ye shot a glance at him, decided to bit the bullet, and revealed his best deduction, "I have checked the surveillance recording and could not find any suspicious hanky-panky. I suspect the baby was abducted from the operating room. In order words, someone has been eyeing ma'am since a long time ago."

He had checked everything he could, and in the end, he had deduced the only thing he could think of perhaps the baby was kidnapped from the operating room right after her delivery.

The perpetrator who had kidnapped the child and did the baby switcheroo clearly intended them to discover the deed - as a warning or even as a threat.

Once Shi Ye finished his deduction, he carefully paid attention to Mo Chenhao's reaction.

Slumping into a chair, Mo Chenhao sat there motionlessly. His whole body tensed up like a tightly wound string, ready to snap anytime. His strained face revealed a certain impending explosion ready to happen.

However, he did not smash anything, nor did he say anything.

The man merely stood up and walked out.

Shi Ye was worried about him, so he hurriedly followed him out.

Just as he was about to close the door behind, he heard a loud bang from the side.

Turning his head, he saw Mo Chenhao with his fist against the wall. Fresh blood was streaking out from his knuckles.

However, the man seemed like he could not care about the pain as he punched the wall again and again repeatedly with a self-destructive force.

"Mr. Mo," Shi Ye called out in an attempt to get him to stop.

However, it was futile.

The loyal Shi Ye tried again - this time physically - to stop his enraged boss from further self-harm. However, the moment his hand touched his boss, he was deftly flung to the floor.

Mo Chenhao was well-versed in self-defense, and due to his unexpected counteraction, the poor Shi Ye was sent sprawling on the floor. The pain was so overwhelming that he could not manage to get up.

Thoughts of the recent months came flowing into Shi Ye's mind. For the past half a year, Mo Chenhao had been working non-stop like a machine. As his butler, it was his duty to follow along to assist as much as he could and thus did not stop to rest as well.

I initially think that by following Chenhao to Sydney this time, I can witness him reconciling with Mu Yangyang and perhaps getting some good rest for a happier life.

Unexpectedly, not only was it not better, but the situation just got a whole lot worse.

•••

Mu Yangyang did not get to see her baby on the day she was discharged from the hospital.

She had lost her mind in the beginning but had now completely calmed down.

In the car.

"After you've finished your confinement, we will head back to Huyang City." Mo Chenhao's voice broke the awkward silence in the car.

Mu Yangyang leaned back against the car seat nonchalantly and did not even bother to look at him. "Is this part of your plan? Kidnap my child to force me to return to Huyang?"

Mo Chenhao did not utter a single word.

The woman then turned her head and glared at Mo Chenhao, who was looking as if he was holding back his anger. She curled her lips and snidely mocked, "Why? Did I hit the bullseye regarding your nefarious thoughts? Are you angry now?"

Having not met for the past half a year, Mo Chenhao's temper had not shown any improvement, yet his patience definitely had.

These days, no matter how much she provoked or incited his anger, he had not lost his temper.

This was totally unlike the Mo Chenhao she knew.

However, the more patient he was with her, the more she felt convinced that he was guilty.

She could not think of anyone else besides him who would want to take her newborn away.

After a long while, Mo Chenhao spoke up blankly, "If you don't return to Huyang City, I'm afraid you will not see your child for the rest of your life."

If manipulating this misunderstanding could make her willing to follow him back to Huyang, he was willing to continue with the lie.

He could read her mind - she regarded that baby to be more important than him.

If the baby had not been kidnapped, they might have reconciled by now.

Even if the reconciliation were not perfect, it would at least be better than their current frosty relationship.

However, he understood that if she found out the child was kidnapped by someone else, she would never return to Huyang City with him.

The baby had not been found, but at least he managed to get her to return with him.

Right now, he was regretting his choice back then - he should not have let her run away alone.

Mo Chenhao's tone sounded cold, almost inhuman.

Upon hearing those words, Mu Yangyang shook and quivered in anger. "So, are you finally willing to admit your vile deed?"

"Yes." He looked at her intently and heartlessly repeated, "You have no choice but to follow me back to Huyang City. Otherwise, you will never see your child again for the rest of your life."

Chapter 286

Mo Chenhao's words shook Mu Yangyang to the core. She was speechless, and her mind was blank.

A moment passed before she questioned him again, "Didn't you say that you did not take the child away?"

When she had first questioned him in the beginning, he had vehemently denied the action.

His fervid denial nearly convinced her of his supposed innocence, and she had wondered if she had made a wrong accusation.

However, if she factored out Mo Chenhao, she could not think of any other suspects who had the

motive to kidnap her child.

She still had some doubts in her heart, but she did not expect his candid confession. He had even used this matter to threaten her.

Still wearing an expressionless look, his eyes flashed sternly as he reaffirmed his confession, "Of course it was me. Who else would want to take her away except for me?"

Terribly angered by his revelation, she bit into her lips with such force that her lips started to bleed. With seething hatred, she managed to force a word out from her gritted teeth, "Despicable!"

"So, be good and just listen to me from now on," said Mo Chenhao as he reached out to touch her face.

She turned her head away and avoided his touch; her eyes were filled with utmost disgust.

•••

Mo Chenhao's threat seemed to be working well on Yangyang.

For the whole next month, she did not cry nor make a fuss. Instead, she just rested and recuperated peacefully.

Other than that, she did not say a word to him.

Although it was hard on Mo Chenhao, he never really lost his temper at her as he was offended by her distant attitude.

In fact, she started to harbor just a little admiration for his persistent patience.

Early the next morning, as they were having breakfast, Mo Chenhao suddenly announced, "The flight back to Huyang City will be tomorrow night."

Upon hearing this, Mu Yangyang finally broke the month-long silence and uttered her first sentence to him, "Will I get to see the child when I go back?"

Mo Chenhao shot her an ambiguous look and tried to evade the question, "You start to negotiate terms with me even though you have not returned yet."

Mu Yangyang immediately shouted his name angrily, "Mo Chenhao!"

Wishing to avoid another confrontation, he lowered his attention to his breakfast. Slicing his sunny-sideup eggs slowly, he dismissed her without any trace of emotion in his voice. "You are not qualified to negotiate terms with me yet." Clenching her fists and unable to say a single word, Mu Yangyang could only stare at him bitterly.

On the second night, both of them boarded the flight back to Huyang City.

Their airplane arrived at Huyang City International Airport in the early morning of the third day.

Even though both of them did not inform anyone of their return, they spotted Gu Zhiyan and Shen Yu as soon as they stepped out of the arrival hall at the airport.

Shen Yu had been busy for the past six months, and even though her face showed signs of fatigue, she perked up energetically upon seeing them.

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Shen Yu hed been busy for the pest six months, end even though her fece showed signs of fetigue, she perked up energeticelly upon seeing them.

"Yangyang, welcome back!" She walked over and gave the woman a warm, welcoming hug.

Mu Yangyang reached out and returned her hug, patting her on the back.

After Shen Yu let go of her embrace, she looked at Yangyang carefully and noted, "You look thinner."

She remembered that she had video-called her right before Mu Yangyang gave birth. Back then, Mu Yangyang had been in good spirits, and her complexion looked healthy.

Surely Chenhao sent someone to care for her during her birth-giving, right? Why in the world does she

look thinner instead?

Mu Yangyang pursed her lips and asked, "Really?"

How worrying. Shen Yu saw through her faked facial expression.

Something is definitely wrong. I don't see the joy of being a new mother in her eyes.

She recalled that she had recently video-called Yangyang and asked to see her baby through the video. However, the latter had vaguely brushed aside her request and made up some absent-minded excuses.

"What happened? Where's your kid?" Shen Yu decided to pursue the matter as she looked around curiously.

Mo Chenhao and Mu Yangyang were being trailed by a group of bodyguards - there was no sign of a baby.

No one paid attention to her. No one answered her question either.

That was because it was a question no one there could answer.

Mo Chenhao frowned at the prying question before he stretched out and grabbed Mu Yangyang, walking her out.

The woman tried to resist and tried to struggle free, but his vice-like grasp was too strong. The more she attempted to break free, the harder he gripped. She felt the bones inside her hand were cracking from his forceful grab.

He continued leading her away until she was forced into the car.

As soon as they got into the car, Mu Yangyang remarked sarcastically, "Mo Chenhao, why don't you dare tell Liang that you took my child away? Don't you feel any guilt or have any conscience at all?"

Mo Chenhao's deadpan expression did not betray his feelings. His impassive face looked neither sad nor joyful.

Mu Yangyang would have doubted whether he had heard her if it were not for the fact that he was sitting right next to her.

No matter what she said, he did not respond. He was purposely ignoring her.

In the end, she got tired of talking and fell silent.

The car soon meandered into a posh housing area in Huyang City.

All the residents who could afford to live there were either wealthy or powerful.

Mu Yangyang wanted nothing more than to see her baby. For that sole reason, she had to accept and endure Chenhao's arrangement.

He took her to his apartment. As she stepped through the door, she found herself in a sparsely furnished unit.

There was not much furniture in the apartment, except for the usual necessities like a sofa and a TV. There was not even a dining table in place; the whole place reeked of loneliness. The place had clearly not been inhabited for quite a while.

"Have a seat." He pushed her onto the sofa and poured her a glass of water.

She took a look at the glass of water. "When will you let me see my baby?"

Staring at her for a moment, Mo Chenhao challenged aloud, "If I don't let you near your child for the rest of your life, will you still talk to me in such a disrespectful manner for the rest of my life?"

"Yes." Without hesitating, Mu Yangyang matter-of-factly gave the immediate affirmative.

Hearing her answer, Mo Chenhao felt downcast and his countenance fell.

In her heart, a baby is more important than me?

With a sneer, Mo Chenhao sneered, "Then don't think about seeing her. Ever."

Although Mo Chenhao was very kind at times, there were more occasions when he was ruthlessly cruel. Mu Yangyang did not doubt the truthfulness of his words.

"Dear, don't be like this. Can we be rational about this?"

Mu Yangyang was so terrified that her voice became hoarse. "I've followed you back as promised. I will not run away. Please! The poor child is still too young. She's merely a month old, and she should be growing up by her birth mother's side. Let me see her. Let me take care of her. Please?"

As she spoke, her voice started cracking up with sobs, and her eyes reddened with tears.

She felt her heart hurting unbearably.

The moment she started thinking about how she did not know where her baby was and what kind of person holding her one-month-old daughter was, tears welled up in her eyes.

Will the abductors take good care of my baby like how I, her biological mother, would?

Would they be annoyed by my baby's constant crying and therefore neglect her? Or perhaps do something worse to her?

There was a saying that stated - 'Mothers are resilient'.

However, no matter how strong a person was, there were always vulnerabilities and weaknesses.

As long as she continuously thought about her baby, she could not help but feel sad and vulnerable.

My daughter is still so young...

Seeing Chenhao not saying anything, Yangyang held his hand and pleaded wholeheartedly. "Please?"

She was suppressing her tears in her reddened eyes; her eyelids were like the dam that held back her torrent of tears from overflowing.

Mo Chenhao merely took a look at her and quickly turned away.

There seemed to be a lump in his throat that kept moving up. He quickly swallowed it down along with the words that had nearly made it out of his mouth.

He had hoped that he could think of some solution for this predicament. After all, he had been able to come up with that despicable trick to force her to come back with him.

If only he had found the baby. At the very least, when she was down, he could have returned her baby to her and brighten her up.

But as of now, he could only watch her languishing in misery.

Chapter 287

Mo Chenhao kept his silence, and soon Mu Yangyang grew more and more distant from him.

The woman took a deep breath and covered her face with both her hands to hide her tear-soaked appearance.

Putting his arm around her, Mo Chenhao drew her close without uttering a word.

Mu Yangyang struggled, punching and kicking him, but he held on and did not let go.

Both of them had just returned from a long-distance flight - they were both tired. She had spent all her energy quarreling with him, and before long, she fell asleep where she was.

Mo Chenhao carried her into the bedroom and rested her gently on the bed.

He had been sleeping on this same bed in this same room in this same house alone for the past half a year. Finally, the rightful mistress was here.

He looked at her wistfully for a while, then got up to the bathroom to grab a towel to wipe her face.

She had cried her heart out previously, and now there were tears and snot stains on her beautiful face. He felt guilty if he did not wipe them off.

When he began wiping her face, his phone suddenly rang.

He frantically took out the phone from his pocket and switched it to silent mode.

Glancing at Mu Yangyang, he was relieved that she had not been woken up by the sudden ringing. He got up and treaded out of the room lightly to answer the call.

The call was from Shi Ye, who was bearing some news.

The man had been busy investigating the disappearance of the baby for the past one month, however, his efforts were to no avail.

After all, trying to find a newborn baby in a city as huge as Sydney was akin to finding a needle in a haystack.

Mo Chenhao paced to a nearby French window and answered the phone in a deep voice. "Any progress?"

Over the phone, Shi Ye reported, "I found a small clue, but I'm still uncertain. For now, I suspect that it has a direct connection to someone in the Mo family..." The man sounded like he was trying to explain something, yet he could not vocalize it clearly over the phone.

Mo Chenhao pondered for a moment, then commanded, "Come here. We'll discuss it in person."

Shi Ye arrived almost immediately.

As he entered the door, he respectfully greeted, "Mr. Mo."

Mo Chenhao nodded and motioned to him to quiet down and immediately told him, "You head to the study room first."

The ever obedient Shi Ye nodded and paced straight to the study room.

Mo Chenhao retreated to the bedroom. Seeing Mu Yangyang sleeping peacefully on the bed, he felt

relieved. He closed the door quietly and headed towards the study himself.

As soon as the bedroom door closed, Mu Yangyang, who was supposed to be sleeping soundly, suddenly opened her eyes.

She had actually woken up when Mo Chenhao was wiping her face; she had only pretended to sleep thereafter.

The fact that he adamantly would not let her see her baby puzzled her greatly.

Although Mo Chenhao could oftentimes be indifferent and cold, he had been quite good to her all the time. Hence when he was overly evasive of her questions and insisted on not letting her meet her newborn, she could sense something was weirdly amiss.

Mo Chenheo kept his silence, end soon Mu Yengyeng grew more end more distent from him.

The women took e deep breeth end covered her fece with both her hends to hide her teer-soeked eppeerence.

Putting his erm eround her, Mo Chenheo drew her close without uttering e word.

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She gently got up from the bed and quietly opened the bedroom door before she carefully tip-toed out.

She had heard the sound of a heavy door opening and closing from the bedroom before this. She recognized it as the main door of the apartment.

Walking down the hallway, she saw a pair of a man's leather shoes - they belonged to Mo Chenhao.

She deduced that aside from Gu Zhiyan, the only other person who had permission to come all the way to his home to find him was Shi Ye.

Besides, Gu Zhiyan was a loud and noisy man. He would not be this quiet if he were here.

Therefore, by the process of elimination, the person who had just come could only be Shi Ye.

Mu Yangyang took the opportunity to observe the entrance to the study room. Feeling safe, she leaned in lightly.

The door to the study was made of solid wood, and the sound of her turning the door handle was very slight.

Peeking through the slightly opened door, she saw Mo Chenhao and Shi Ye talking face to face.

Shi Ye was handing Chenhao a copy of the documents. He then reported, "Mr. Mo, this is the result of my latest investigation into the financial accounts of the Mo family members. Among them, your eldest cousin recently transferred a large sum of money to a foreign overseas account. I have a hunch this has some connection to the disappearance of the little lady."

Hearing this piece of news, Chenhao kept quiet for a while before asking, "What about the rest of the Mo family?"

Closing the documents in his hands, Shi Ye shook his head. "I have not yet found any abnormalities in the flow of funds of the others for the time being."

Both of them soon discussed other matters, something Mu Yangyang could not make heads or tails of.

She gently closed the door, her mind in a confused state.

She knew that the 'eldest cousin' whom Shi Ye referred to was Si Chengyu.

In that case, the 'little lady' that Shi Ye mentioned could only be both her and Mo Chenhao's newborn daughter.

So Mo Chenhao is not the one who secretly abducted my baby?

But why does the disappearance of my daughter have anything to do with Chengyu?

Upon discovering the disappearance of her child, her first reaction had been to suspect and blame Mo Chenhao. She could not think of anyone else who would and could have done so except for him. If my child was really taken away by Si Chengyu, what does he plan to do?

Was this just part of his plot to fight against Mo Chenhao?

If that's true, how will Si Chengyu treat my daughter?

She could feel a chill running down her spine and spreading throughout her whole body, causing her to shudder uncontrollably.

If Mo Chenhao had been the one who abducted her daughter, he could at least guarantee the child's safety.

However, if the culprit really was Chengyu...

Just a mere thought of that horrendous possibility caused her to stagger. She stretched her hand out to support herself against the wall, and even then, she could barely stand firm.

She could not and dared not imagine how Si Chengyu would deal with her beloved daughter...

Upon hearing the voice of the duo inside approaching her, she realized that she was still standing by the door. Quickly, she ran as fast as she could back into the bedroom.

Since feigning sleep would not be necessary, she plonked down on the bedside while holding her mobile phone. She pretended that she had just woken up and was now playing with her phone.

As Mo Chenhao opened the bedroom door and walked in, he saw Mu Yangyang by the bedside with her phone.

Sitting down by the bedside, he rhetorically asked, "You've woken up."

Without lifting her head, she replied, "Mmhm."

Although she had been seemingly engrossed with her phone, she had been observing his reaction from the corner of her eyes.

Mo Chenhao raised his hand slightly, wanting to touch her head. Something in him, however, was preventing him from doing that, so he put his hand down awkwardly.

She then heard his calm voice ring out, "Are you hungry? Want something to eat?"

Mu Yangyang raised her eyes to gaze at him. "You know how to cook?"

Mo Chenhao honestly did not expect her to ask this, nor did he expect her to talk in such a peaceful tone. For a while, he was taken aback before he faked a cough and sheepishly replied, "I don't. But I can

ask Jinding restaurant to deliver."

Mu Yangyang unexpectedly volunteered. "Do you have any ingredients left in the fridge? I'll cook."

Mo Chenhao shook his head.

"Let's go out and buy some together then." Mu Yangyang lifted the blanket and got out of bed at that.

Mo Chenhao stood up quickly as well, but he stayed on the same spot as he gaped at the sudden change in her attitude. His eyes stared questioningly at her.

Mu Yangyang suddenly wanted to go out with him to buy ingredients out of the blue.

To say that he was caught unaware was an understatement. Although buying groceries together was not a big deal in the past, after having been treated with icy indifference for what felt like the longest time, needless to say, Mo Chenhao was now pleasantly overwhelmed with a certain familiar, fuzzy feeling.

Mu Yangyang had put on her slippers when she looked back and saw him standing there in a daze. Feeling slightly amused, she asked aloud, "What's the matter? Cat got your tongue? I can't go out without you."

Without saying a single word, Mo Chenhao held her hand and led her outside.

He obediently drove her to a nearby grocery store.

Mu Yangyang knew his favorite food, so without needing to ask, she confidently took the lead, putting the needed groceries into the shopping cart.

Meanwhile, Mo Chenhao dutifully pushed the cart and followed her around in silence. He was obviously a towering and stern man to behold, however, he appeared more like a tamed, gentle lion at that moment.

Chapter 288

As Mo Chenhao and Mu Yangyang continued their shopping, they attracted curious glances tinged with a hint of envy from passers-by.

Both of them did not pay much heed to the attention they were getting.

One picked the vegetables and fruits while the other pushed the shopping cart.

Soon, this seemingly harmonious atmosphere was interjected by a voice coming from their backs.

"Yangyang?"

The familiar voice coming from a seemingly recognizable stranger carried a hint of surprise.

Hearing her name being called, she turned her head and saw a familiar face of a man.

As she slowly recognized the face, she unconsciously gasped loudly in surprise, "Si Chengyu?"

"Long time no see. Can't say I'm surprised that you barely recognize me." His tone was as gentle as ever as he ambled towards her.

Ever since she had overheard the conversation between Mo Chenhao and Shi Ye, to meet him here such coincidentally was something she was not glad of.

Her initial impression of him was already unfavorable. Added with her knowledge of him being involved with her child's kidnapping, she felt even worse.

Mu Yangyang scoffed. Before she could say anything, Mo Chenhao, who was following behind her with the shopping cart, stepped forward and got between them both, blocking Si Chengyu from reaching her.

"Ah, I see that Mo Chenhao is here too. Such a stroke of luck. Shopping for veggies?" He grinned broadly upon seeing Mo Chenhao's defensiveness.

Without bothering to say a word, Mo Chenhao pulled Mu Yangyang away, attempting to leave.

"Chengyu! I see that you're here. I've been looking for you for quite a while. Where have you been?"

Mu Yangyang, who was about to leave, could not help but stopped dead in her tracks when she heard the recognizable voice.

Turning around, she saw Mu Yumei cuddling up to Si Chengyu.

Upon sensing a piercing gaze being directed at her way, Mu Yumei shot a glare back at the source.

As their eyes met, Mu Yumei's eyes widened in profound surprise. She gasped and stuttered, "Mu Yangyang? I thought you were dead!"

Mu Yangyang curtly replied, "Sorry to disappoint you."

It must be such a small world for me to inevitably meet both Si Chengyu and Mu Yumei on the very first day of my return. The goddesses of fate must be working overtime.

Si Chengyu pretentiously glared at Mu Yumei and said, "Don't be rude. Never trust the tabloid media and their nonsense. Don't you know that at least?"

"True that. Such a trifling matter is not a big deal. After all, feigning death to escape one's crimes is not

unheard of. After all, back when I was in jail, you're the one who bailed me out." Mu Yumei smiled sweetly.

Such a sickening sneer!

Clenching her fists, Mu Yangyang took a deep breath to calm herself down.

Right then, Mo Chenhao, who had been quiet all the while, could not hold back his vexation any longer. He quietly uttered, "Si Chengyu, mind your own woman."

Sensing his silent ferociousness, Mu Yumei quickly hid behind Si Chengyu and softly mocked, "Chengyu, I'm so scared."

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Sneering evilly with an aura of murderous intent, Mo Chenhao spoke, "Do you know how much does it cost to make someone disappear forever? A mere few millions for one life. Such a cheap bargain."

When Mu Yumei heard those words, her arrogant attitude melted away instantly. She was taken aback as panic flashed across her eyes. Hiding behind Si Chengyu, she dared not to speak anymore.

She still remembered how Mo Chenhao had dealt with her in the past.

She knew how scary Mo Chenhao could be. If he said that he would do something, there was a high possibility that he would follow through with his words. His threat of "making her disappear" might not be an empty bluff after all!

What he did to her in the past had taken root in her heart, and whenever she thought about that experience, she would inevitably shudder like a frail child.

Seeing Mu Yumei shaking with fear, Mo Chenhao grinned and felt a certain satisfaction as he pulled Mu Yangyang away. The duo left immediately.

...

Both of them were silent on their journey back to their abode.

Mu Yangyang was deep in thought about the conversation she had overheard between Mo Chenhao and Shi Ye.

If her baby daughter was really kidnapped by Si Chengyu... Accompanied with the fact that Si Chengyu was entangled with Mu Yumei... With Mu Yumei hating her so much...

The whole chain of connecting facts drained the color from her face as she realized the potential horror.

Mo Chenhao, who was beside her, had been observing her keenly. He could tell something was amiss with her.

He immediately stopped the car on the curbside and asked her with utmost concern, "What's the matter? Your face looks troubled."

Turning her head towards him fiercely, she grabbed his sleeves desperately as if she were a drowning person who would do anything to clutch at a straw. "Tell me truthfully. Was my baby really taken away by Si Chengyu?"

Mo Chenhao remained stony-faced. It turns out that she heard the conversation between Shi Ye and I.

Holding her hand tightly, he tried to reassure her and thus said with absolute certainty, "It wasn't Si Chengyu."

She shook her head disbelievingly. "Don't lie to me anymore. I need to hear the truth now. I've been through so much, after all. What else can't I endure?"

In the beginning, she had suspected that Mo Chenhao was the one who had taken her newborn away.

Upon arriving in Huyang City, she found out that things were not as simple as she thought when she overheard him mentioning Si Chengyu.

She had steeled herself for the worst news, and the last thing she needed was for him to deceive her again. No! That's something I can't bear again!

"I'm telling the truth," explained Mo Chenhao earnestly. "Shi Ye only found that the funds transferred to an account abroad belonged to Si Chengyu. That alone doesn't prove anything. It doesn't mean he's the one who did it. Also, he doesn't have the capability nor the cunningness to carry out such an elaborate plan."

Yea... Si Chengyu definitely doesn't have the ability to abduct the child from right under our noses from the operating room so covertly without anyone noticing.

Mu Yangyang nodded her head, finally relenting and believing in Mo Chenhao's words.

Moreover, no matter how proficient Si Chengyu was, it was almost impossible for him to one-up Mo Chenhao.

She had complete conviction regarding this fact.

"So in the end, who really kidnapped our baby?" Mu Yangyang quietly and persistently prodded again.

However, Mo Chenhao had no answer to this question. His lips were jammed tight.

A month had flown by, but not a single clue to the baby's whereabouts had been found.

Instead, his investigation had led him to Si Chengyu.

Actually, Si Chengyu could be regarded as a part of the Mo family.

Since the clue pointed to him, that meant the Mo family was somehow involved in this as well.

For the past six months, he had unintentionally exposed his intent for the sake of a thorough investigation into a past matter that was related to his mother.

That must have drawn the attention and ire of someone with power. As he was investigating, he was hindered through multiple attempts from the shadows by some unknown force.

If the kidnapping incident had also been planned by the Mo family, there must be a connection to his mother as well.

This incident either served as a warning or a form of intimidation to him.

The one currently sitting beside him was not a fool either. Soon, Mu Yangyang reached the same conclusion as he did.

She observed his silence before she quietly asked, "It's related to the Mo family, isn't it?"

After all, the matter of his mother from years ago was related to the Mo family. Half a year ago, the same family was also involved with the case of Old Master Mo falling down the stairs. Consequently, she herself had been framed as the culprit who pushed the old man down the staircase. Even that, as she suspected, was plotted by the Mo family.

Mu Yangyang could not hold herself back and blurted out incredulously, "What are they trying to do?"

"It doesn't matter what they try to do, I will definitely not let them succeed. I will throw a monkey wrench into their works. I will make them pay. And most importantly, I will get our child back." Mo Chenhao turned and gazed at her with a firm, unyielding expression.

Touched by his resolve, Mu Yangyang released her grip on his sleeves. Looking at her man intently, she promised, "This battle is not yours alone. My child was part of the stake too. We're in this together."

When both of them reached their apartment, they decided to order takeout from Jinding restaurant instead since Mu Yangyang had lost her will to cook.

Both of them did not eat much. After all that had happened, neither of them had much appetite.

After their uneventful meal, it was already afternoon.

Mu Yangyang did not bring much in her luggage, so after she quickly sorted her belongings, she called for Mo Chenhao.

When he saw her packed luggage, his face filled with disappointment. "What are you doing?"

Chapter 289

Mu Yangyang pursed her lips and took a deep breath before saying, "Let's live separately for the time being."

Mo Chenhao narrowed his eyes. "What do you mean?"

Mu Yangyang was calmer than Mo Chenhao. "We don't have to live under the same roof since we aren't married by law. Right now, all I can think of is to find our baby."

She had waited desperately for a month, yet Mo Chenhao didn't manage to get any information about the baby.

All she could do was to suffer and wait endlessly. She couldn't take it anymore.

As for her complicated relationship with Mo Chenhao, she didn't have any mood to deal with it before

getting her baby back.

Mo Chenhao demanded stubbornly, "We can be lawfully wedded anytime."

Mu Yangyang refused to back down. "Either you let me go, or you summon your bodyguards to keep an eye on me just like you used to."

She felt useless for not being able to protect her daughter. Tired of being passive, she decided to take control this time.

Mo Chenhao was agitated. When Mu Yangyang saw his expression darken rapidly, she felt slightly worried.

Will he agree to my suggestion?

Mo Chenhao interrupted her thoughts and blurted, "Fine."

It didn't take long for Mu Yangyang's initial worry to fade away and replaced with a surprise when Mo Chenhao added, "But I have a condition."

"What condition?" Mu Yangyang asked cautiously.

Mo Chenhao seemed to be pleased with himself when he deliberately enunciated every word. "We have to get married."

"What?" Mu Yangyang widened her eyes in disbelief.

Am I not being clear enough or does he have problems understanding my words?

She didn't know how to react to that. "Say it again?"

Instead of following her request, Mo Chenhao retorted, "How are we going to register our child as a citizen if we aren't lawfully wedded?"

Stunned, Mu Yangyang couldn't think of anything else to say.

It never occurred to her that she would be marrying Mo Chenhao for such a reason.

After getting their marriage certificate, they registered their child on the same day.

Mu Yangyang was lost in her thoughts as she stared at the names on the household register.

Mo Chenhao, head of household.

Mu Yangyang, spouse.

Mo Mu, daughter.

She was brought back to reality by Mo Chenhao's voice. "I thought of the name before I knew our baby's gender. It's a name suitable for either a boy or a girl." Mu Yengyeng pursed her lips end took e deep breeth before seying, "Let's live seperetely for the time being."

Mo Chenheo nerrowed his eyes. "Whet do you meen?"

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Mu Yangyang touched her daughter's name on the paper affectionately.

Mo Mu, my daughter whom I've only seen once!

Something else struck her mind and she turned to look at Mo Chenhao.

Realizing that he was also staring at their daughter's name and lost in his own thoughts, Mu Yangyang said gently, "She is the most beautiful baby I've ever seen. She looks a lot like you too."

Although Mu Yangyang only had a glance at their daughter, Mo Chenhao didn't manage to see her at all after rushing all the way to them.

His cold demeanor was just a mask. Deep down, he was not as cold-hearted as people thought.

He must be suffering too all this time.

Mo Chenhao raised his head and looked at Mu Yangyang. He remained silent for a long time before

nodding his head and muttered in acknowledgment softly.

•••

Mu Yangyang moved out on the same day.

She rented a house in a district that was quite a distance from Mo Chenhao's residential area. Apart from the distance, the house was clean and the surroundings were peaceful.

At night, she invited Shen Yu to have dinner with her.

Mu Yangyang decided to tell Shen Yu about her daughter because the truth would be out sooner or later.

"What do you mean she is missing?" Shen Yu yelled agitatedly just as Mu Yangyang expected. "How could anyone be so beastly as to kidnap a young infant!"

Mu Yangyang didn't respond to that. After what happened to Mo Chenhao's mother and Old Master Mo, she had every reason to believe that the people behind the kidnapping were inhumane.

Mu Yangyang poured a glass of water and handed it to Shen Yu, who was on the verge of tears. "God will show mercy on my innocent daughter. We will definitely find her."

That didn't reassure Shen Yu in the least, but she could tell that Mu Yangyang was beyond heartbroken.

After gulping down the glass of water, Shen Yu asked, "What do you intend to do now?"

"I've separated with Mo Chenhao for now. We have to look for our daughter and carry on with our lives." Mu Yangyang was more desperate than anyone to get her daughter back, but even Mo Chenhao couldn't do anything to help.

However, the hardship she had endured since young taught her to stay strong. She would never allow herself to succumb to despair.

Shen Yu changed the topic because she couldn't find better words to console Mu Yangyang. "Has the movie that you signed with Qin Shuishan started filming?"

"We're still in the last stage of preparation. We will start filming soon." In fact, Mu Yangyang wasn't sure about it because she hadn't contacted Qin Shuishan after the last changes she made to the script.

Shen Yu reminded, "You should call her. By the time filming starts, you should also go to the shooting location in case they need your guidance..."

Mu Yangyang nodded gratefully. She needed something to distract her for the time being.

To her surprise, Qin Shuishan called her the next day when she was about to make the initiative.

Qin Shuishan went straight to the point. "I heard that you are back in Huyang City. Why didn't you call me? Have you forgotten all about me after getting the money?"

Mu Yangyang's mood lightened up and she joked, "Since you are aware of that, then why are you still calling me?"

Qin Shuishan scoffed, "That's very bold of you, Mu Yangyang!"

Mu Yangyang recollected herself and replied seriously, "I'm just joking. Shall we have coffee tomorrow? My treat."

"Sure," Qin Shuishan responded right away.

They agreed to meet at a relatively remote café which was hard to locate.

When Qin Shuishan finally reached the café, she huffed petulantly at Mu Yangyang, "Why on earth do you have to choose this place? I spent the last 30 minutes going round in circles!"

"I'll make it up to you. How about two cups of coffee for you then?" Mu Yangyang called the waitress.

She was speechless when Qin Shuishan actually ordered two cups of coffee just to spite her.

Qin Shuishan said while adding sugar to her coffee, "You came back just in time. "The Lost City" will start filming in two days. You should be there for the opening ceremony."

Mu Yangyang nodded, "Okay."

She was definitely going to witness her first script coming to life.

Qin Shuishan was slightly taken aback by Mu Yangyang's prompt reply. "You should be prepared for the onslaught of reporters. You were a hot topic back then, and I don't think it has died down at all."

Mu Yangyang put on a poker face. "Isn't that great? Media exposure is what we need to hype up "The Lost City" before the show's official broadcast."

"Geez!" Qin Shuishan glared at her disapprovingly, "Excellent work will always be at the center of everyone's attention. We certainly don't need to attract attention this way!"

Chapter 290

Mu Yangyang had known Qin Shuishan for a while now.

Being the only daughter of a prominent family, Qin Shuishan wasn't a spoilt kid as everyone would have thought. In fact, she was very responsible and serious in her job perhaps because she knew too well about the shady sides of the entertainment industry due to her early involvement in it.

Seeing that Qin Shuishan was serious, Mu Yangyang recovered her straight face and said, "It is inevitable for me to be criticized by the public. I've known that since I joined this industry."

"Alright, as long as you're prepared for it." Qin Shuishan didn't say anything more.

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Filming of "The Lost City" began on the 6th of August.

To ensure that her movements wouldn't be restricted, Mu Yangyang wore a simple white shirt and a pair of black trousers, but she didn't look any less attractive even when she was dressed in plain clothes.

Mu Yangyang and Qin Shuishan agreed to meet in town and go to the filming site together.

When Qin Shuishan saw Mu Yangyang's plain appearance, she shook her head. "I know you're not the young mistress of Mo family anymore, but really, can't you put in the effort to dress up? You didn't even put makeup on! Can you show some respect to the crew at least?"

"I already have light makeup on." Mu Yangyang explained as she got into the car.

To be precise, she only drew her eyebrows and put on some lipstick.

"Well, you certainly look more beautiful than the female lead even without your makeup on." Qin Shuishan continued teasing her.

Mu Yangyang smiled and did not comment on the remark.

The opening ceremony would be held at the first filming location, which was an abandoned high school building in an old district about an hour away from the city.

When they arrived, almost everyone was already waiting for Qin Shuishan, who was the producer and the person with the most authority on the set.

The female lead would be played by a student from a film academy, while the male lead would be played by a popular actor. Mu Yangyang couldn't remember the actor's name because he was only brought up once by Qin Shuishan.

Qin Shuishan asked, "Is Xu Muhan here?"

Mu Yangyang was shocked to hear the same name that caused Qin Shuishan to fight with Mo Enya when

the former disguised as a maid and got into Mo Chenhao's mansion a long time ago. Mu Yengyeng hed known Qin Shuishen for e while now.

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That was a terrible fight that rendered Qin Shuishan to leave the mansion.

Xu Muhan was renowned for his brilliant acting skills in the entertainment industry. He was popular among the audience and had a lot of loyal fans.

His works weren't always trending, but every film or drama he took part in was critically acclaimed. Considering that he was an A-list actor who had collaborated with many famous directors, he was one of the highest-paid actors in the country.

The way Qin Shuishan asked after Xu Muhan on the first day of the filming of "The Lost City" confused Mu Yangyang.

Isn't this just a web series?

The profits of a web series were purely dependent on the number of views, hence it did not require huge production. Web series often hired newcomers or actors that were not very famous.

Thinking of Xu Muhan's pay rate, Mu Yangyang pulled Qin Shuishan to the side and asked, "The male lead is Xu Muhan?"

"Ya," Qin Shuishan looked around and pulled Mu Yangyang to a corner as an awkward expression crept onto her face. "Don't let Xu Muhan know about the fight I had with Mo Enya."

Mu Yangyang froze briefly before replying, "Okay."

"Ms. Qin."

"Yes?"

Curious, Mu Yangyang wanted to ask Qin Shuishan about the investments she got for the series but she was summoned by someone else.

Meanwhile, Qin Shuishan's assistant poured a glass of water for Mu Yangyang. "Ms. Mu, here's a glass of water for you."

"Thank you." Mu Yangyang took the water.

Qin Shuishan went over to Mu Yangyang after settling her work.

"It's too hot here," Qin Shuishan gulped down a mouthful of water before turning to Mu Yangyang and continued, "But we must finish filming before winter if we want to broadcast the series during the winter holidays."

Mu Yangyang asked carefully, "How much investment do we have for this web series? What is the budget?"

"50 million," Qin Shuishan told her the truth directly.

"50 million?" Mu Yangyang was shocked by the amount, which was considered too high for the production of a web series.

"If 50 million isn't enough, I can get more investments for the series." Qin Shuishan made it sound easy.

Ruffling her hair frantically, Mu Yangyang dropped her voice to a whisper, "Aren't you afraid that we might not be able to earn enough money to cover the budget?"

Qin Shuishan pondered for a moment and said, "So what if we can't earn the money back? I can just stop collaborating with you. That will fix it."

She then patted Mu Yangyang on the shoulder. "I'm just kidding. We haven't even started filming yet! Don't you find it tiring if we keep thinking about the results before we even start doing anything?"

Mu Yangyang nodded, "You're right."

"Come on, let me introduce you to the crew." Qin Shuishan stood up and gestured for Mu Yangyang to follow her.

There were a lot of crew members on the filming site. She couldn't remember most of them after Qin Shuishan showed her around.

However, it was apparent that Qin Shuishan was someone of significant importance from the way the crew members treated Mu Yangyang politely when she was introduced by the producer.

Some of them were seemingly curious about Mu Yangyang when they heard her name, but they didn't ask much.

Xu Muhan arrived right after that.

Tall and built, Xu Muhan had a cropped haircut and kept a stubble beard. His attractive features and tanned skin emitted a masculine aura, which was quite different from the young idols who were popular at the time.

His only asset was his acting skills, and given his image, every role he played before was almost action-

related.

Upon his arrival, Qin Shuishan called out his name.

"Yes?" Xu Muhan walked towards them and glanced past Qin Shuishan.

Qin Shuishan laid her hand on Mu Yangyang's shoulder and said, "Let me introduce you to Mu Yangyang, the screenwriter of this web series."

When Xu Muhan saw Mu Yangyang, there was a hint of surprise flashing across his eyes, but he regained a calm expression soon enough and greeted her politely. "Hello, Ms. Mu."

Mu Yangyang smiled, "Hello! I've watched a few of your movies."

They only managed to chat for a few minutes then Xu Muhan was summoned by the director.

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The opening ceremony proceeded far smoother than Mu Yangyang imagined.

She wasn't even confronted by a single reporter the whole day.

Things seemed a little too smooth to be true.

After pondering the reason for a while, Mu Yangyang called Mo Chenhao.

From the speed of the call being picked up, it fairly seemed like he was waiting for her call.

"Mu Yangyang."