

Real You 301

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Checking in?

Mu Yangyang needed a few seconds before she could comprehend what Shen Haochu meant.

“Why didn’t you tell me earlier?” she asked as she turned to look at him.

Shen Haochu innocently blinked his eyes at her. “I only just found out too.”

Mu Yangyang scoffed. As if I’d believe that.

She turned to look in the direction of the entrance - there was no sight of Mo Chenhao.

After Mo Chenhao officially took the reigns at Mo Corporation, he had been attending many events and dinners.

However, because the events and dinners he attended were usually rather upscale, Mu Yangyang hadn’t expected him to attend one that Shen Haochu also attended.

Moreover, the Shen family and the Mo family had no business dealings; or any other kind of dealings really.

That why was never in a million years did she think that Mo Chenhao would attend such a dinner party.

She had a strong suspicion that Shen Haochu was doing this on purpose.

“You’re my date for tonight, so your mission is to stay beside me.” Shen Haochu’s smile deepened as he signaled Mu Yangyang to follow him.

Mu Yangyang was feeling a little torn.

Who knew how angry Mo Chenhao would be once he found out that she had come to the party with Shen Haochu.

Mu Yangyang quickly browsed through her options in her mind before deciding that coming clean was likely her best bet.

She took a few steps forward and pressed her hand to her stomach. “My tummy is hurting. I need to go to the washroom.”

Shen Haochu stopped in his tracks and curled his lips into an amused smile.

That was when Mu Yangyang realized her words sounded rather familiar.

It was the same excuse she had used when she ditched Shen Haochu and left the country by herself earlier this year.

Her eyes darted around self-consciously. "It's real this time..." she insisted before proceeding to give another excuse. "My tummy hasn't been feeling well these days. I've been having diarrhea..."

Shen Haochu nodded. "I'll go with you then."

Huh?

Mu Yangyang didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. She finally settled on taking a deep breath and allowing him to walk her to the washroom.

After Mu Yangyang entered the women's bathroom, she hid in a stall and gave Mo Chenhao a call.

He answered his phone rather promptly.

"Mu Yangyang."

Mo Chenhao's voice always sounded deep, and he always called her by her full name. After a while, she actually found that it sounded rather endearing.

Mu Yangyang hurriedly gathered her thoughts and asked, "Will you be attending a dinner party tonight?"

"What? Are you checking in?" There was a hint of laughter in his voice. "Don't worry; I'm not bringing a date. I'm bringing Shi Ye instead."

Uh oh.

Mu Yangyang didn't know how to continue the conversation anymore.

Noticing that Mu Yangyang had gone silent, Mo Chenghao asked, "What's wrong?"

"I..." Mu Yangyang really didn't know how to bring up — or was rather afraid to bring up — that she had come to the dinner with Shen Haochu.

Alas, Mo Chenhao was still waiting very patiently for her to finish her sentence.

She hesitated for a little before saying, "No date? That's good then."

The mirth in his voice became more pronounced. "I'm heading to the party right now. I'll call you a little

later.”

“Okay.”

After she hung up the call, Mu Yangyang began to pace around in circles.

Mo Chenhao is really coming to the dinner party! If I go out now, I'll definitely see him!

Mu Yangyang threw her hands up in the air and plonked herself down onto the toilet seat.

That's it! I'm not going out. I'm just going to hide out here until the party is over.

There's no way Shen Haochu will come in here to look for me!

Meanwhile, Shen Haochu was outside waiting for Mu Yangyang.

After not seeing her for a while, he decided to give her a call.

However, the phone kept ringing - no one was answering. He was honestly worried that something had happened to her at that point.

It wasn't until the call nearly went to voicemail when Mu Yangyang finally answered. “Hello?”

Shen Haochu breathed a sigh of relief. “Why aren't you coming out?”

The person on the other end fell silent before answering weakly, “I'm still seated on the toilet. You head back to the party first. Let me stay here for a while.”

Shen Haochu was rendered speechless.

He knew Mu Yangyang didn't want to come to the party with him, but he really didn't think she'd resort to such a terrible excuse.

Sounding a little exasperated, he said, “Yangyang, did you forget about our agreement? You stay by my side during the dinner party, and I'll tell you everything I know.”

Though Mu Yangyang was keen on wanting to hear more about the Mo family from Shen Haochu, her fear of pissing Mo Chenhao trumped everything.

“Don't tell me anything then. Alright, bye!”

Beep... Beep...

Shen Haochu froze when the call was suddenly disconnected. He stood there for a while with an odd

expression on his face before he turned around and left.

At that moment, a tall man walked into view.

Shen Haochu narrowed his eyes slightly and stopped in his tracks. He waited until the man got nearer before he purposely walked into his path. "Hello, Mr. Mo. It's been a while."

Mo Chenhao stopped as well. "You're that keen on seeing me?" he asked indifferently.

After Shen Haochu helped Mu Yangyang escape, Mo Chenhao promptly put the Shen family through the wringer. However, he didn't completely bankrupt them in the end.

He had no intention of showing mercy to a man who constantly coveted his woman, but he also knew that if he were to destroy the Shen family, Mu Yangyang would undoubtedly blame herself.

Apparently, Shen Haochu also recalled what the man in front of him had done to his family. His expression visibly stiffened. However, he quickly regained his composure and smiled. "No, no. I was just waiting here for Yangyang. What a coincidence to run into you here."

Shen Haochu grinned especially wide as he spoke.

As expected, Mo Chenhao's expression instantly darkened when he heard Shen Haochu refer to Mu Yangyang as 'Yangyang'.

Mo Chenhao narrowed his eyes at him. "Who?"

"Your ex-wife, Mu Yangyang." Shen Haochu made sure to intonate each syllable, giving special emphasis to the word 'ex-wife.'

Shen Haochu saw how dark Mo Chenhao's expression had turned, so he continued to add fuel to the fire. "She came with me to the dinner party. Do you want to say 'hello' to her later? You were once married after all."

Mo Chenhao scoffed at Shen Haochu before striding right towards the women's washroom.

"What are you doing?" Shen Haochu couldn't believe his eyes.

The dinner party had just started, so there were barely any people in the washrooms.

Mo Chenhao thought back to Mu Yangyang's call to him, and his sneer became even more visible.

How very bold of you, Mu Yangyang.

He started from the entrance of the washroom and knocked on each stall as he walked past them.

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Mu Yangyang was sitting on the toilet seat when she heard someone knocking on the doors of all the stalls. A very bad feeling washed over her.

That's not Shen Haochu, is it?

After considering Shen Haochu's personality, she came to the conclusion that he wasn't a likely candidate.

Even though he had changed a lot, he was still someone who cared a lot about what other people thought of him.

It couldn't be him.

In that case, who is it?

Right then, the person who was knocking had reached her very stall.

Knock knock knock!

The person gave three consecutive knocks. It was very rhythmic and even exuded an aura of sophistication if that was even possible.

Mu Yangyang's heart plummeted.

Is it... Mo Chenhao?

That was how astounding a person's sixth sense could be.

The two of them were on opposite sides of the door, so they couldn't see each other. Neither of them was speaking. Yet, Mu Yangyang instinctively knew that the person outside was Mo Chenhao.

Mu Yangyang pinched her nose and intentionally altered her voice. "Who is it? I'm not done yet."

The next second, Mo Chenhao's deep voice traveled through the door. "Do you need help?"

It is him!

Mu Yangyang smacked herself on the head a few times.

How did he find me?

He didn't plant a GPS device or something on me, did he?

Mu Yangyang wasn't ready to give in just yet. "This is the women's toilet. What is a man doing in here? If you don't leave right away, I'll call the police! I..."

"Either you come out, or I'm going to kick the door in. You choose," Mo Chenhao interrupted.

His tone sounded especially icy, and it gave Mu Yangyang the shivers.

Can I choose door number three?...

However, her body responded faster than her brain.

Next thing she knew, she had unlatched the door and opened it.

Mo Chenhao's stormy face appeared in front of her.

He was staring straight at Mu Yangyang, with one of his eyebrows slightly perked.

Mu Yangyang swallowed hard and tried to make herself sound as casual as possible. "What are you doing here? What a... coincidence..."

"Mu Yangyang," he growled.

Goosebumps broke out all over her skin. She straightened her posture and looked like a little kid who knew she was in trouble with the teacher.

Mo Chenhao scoffed. "Now you're feeling guilty?"

Mu Yangyang lowered her head. "I've been feeling guilty for a while now."

"And yet you came to the dinner party with that man?" At this point, Mo Chenhao didn't even want to mention Shen Haochu's name in front of her.

Mu Yangyang has never even accompanied me to a dinner party or an event before. Yet, Shen Haochu wants to beat me to the punch?

Nice try!

"I have a good reason." Mu Yangyang tried to explain.

"Reason? You're doing this because you're grateful he helped you escape overseas before?" Mo Chenhao chuckled coldly. "I've already shown enough mercy by not completely decimating Shen Corporation. He still wants you to return the favor?"

Mu Yangyang pursed her lips. "You shouldn't think about decimating other people's companies so

blithely..."

"You're at a dinner party with another man. Tell me why can't I decimate Shen Corporation?" Mo Chenhao had his eyebrow raised, and his tone was curt. It was clear that he was angry and even a bit jealous too.

A jealous Mo Chenhao was a very rare sight. Mu Yangyang was strangely fascinated by this, and she tried hard to suppress her chuckle.

Mo Chenhao noticed the change in her expression. He reached his hand out and ruffled her hair.

"You're messing up my hair!" Mu Yangyang frowned as she swatted his arm away.

Mo Chenhao had been too focused on being angry earlier, so it wasn't until now did he realize that she had spent extra effort to style her hair.

Mu Yangyang noticed Mo Chenhao's expression darkening again, so she hurriedly dragged him out of the washroom. "Let's get out of here first. It's too weird for you to be in here."

Mo Chenhao didn't say anything and allowed her to pull him outside.

Once back out in the hallway, Mu Yangyang noticed that Shen Haochu was still standing there.

The moment he saw her, he immediately called out, "Yangyang."

Mu Yangyang only responded with an awkward smile.

Mo Chenhao completely ignored Shen Haochu. Instead, he looked at Mu Yangyang and said, "I'll have someone send you back."

Mu Yangyang recalled what those women had said when she first entered the banquet hall, and so she didn't immediately say yes to him.

Mo Chenhao didn't want her to be with Shen Haochu during the dinner party, but he himself was attracting a lot of attention too. A lot of female attention.

Besides, she hadn't been able to see much of Mo Chenhao lately. Now that she finally had a chance to see him out in the open - how could she just leave?

Upon not hearing an answer from Mu Yangyang, Mo Chenhao correctly deduced that she wasn't keen on leaving.

He lowered his head to look at her before he caressed her face. "Be a good girl."

Mu Yangyang was feeling a little agitated. "I'm already here. It'll be such a pity if I go back now..."

Mo Chenhao frowned but didn't utter another word.

Mu Yangyang snuck a glance at him, then sidestepped him and strode towards the banquet hall.

Shen Haochu had been closely watching Mo Chenhao and Mu Yangyang while they were talking, so now he couldn't help but study Mo Chenhao a little more carefully.

Previously, the media had reported that the two had gotten divorced.

However, when he saw how furious Mo Chenhao had gotten after Mu Yangyang had run away, he had the strongest suspicion that the news was wrong.

And now, it appeared that his suspicions were confirmed.

Just as Shen Haochu was studying Mo Chenhao, the latter turned to stare at him.

"I believe that you are a smart person," spoke Mo Chenhao.

Shen Haochu's eyes fluttered. "What do you mean?"

"What can or cannot be said; what can or cannot be touched... I'm sure Mr. Shen is well aware of these."

While Mo Chenhao was speaking, his eyes never left Shen Haochu. So he easily caught the crack in the latter's expression.

He scoffed at this, then turned and walked away.

Trying to steal Mu Yangyang away from me? Think again.

Mu Yangyang ran into Shi Ye the moment she returned to the banquet hall.

Shi Ye had come to the dinner party with Mo Chenhao. Thus, people naturally flocked to him now that his boss was nowhere to be found.

He was Mo Chenhao's right-hand man, after all.

A woman was talking to Shi Ye at that very moment. "Has Mr. Mo been seeing anyone new recently?"

She didn't beat around the bush with her question, and frankly, it was what everyone else wanted to know too.

However, Shi Ye wasn't just any employee. He had been shadowing Mo Chenhao for so long that he had picked up quite a few of his boss' traits. "That is Mr. Mo's personal business, so I'm not aware."

As soon as he finished giving his answer, he raised his head and coincidentally met Mu Yangyang's eyes.

Mu Yangyang had just taken a glass of champagne from a waiter. Seeing Shi Ye, she gave him a little nod.

Shi Ye froze. He hadn't expected to see her there.

No wonder Mr. Mo disappeared after heading to the washrooms — the Mrs. is here.

One of the women followed Shi Ye's line of sight and noticed Mu Yangyang too.

She asked the person next to her, "Who's that woman?"

She felt like she had seen the woman before, but she couldn't quite place her finger on where and who the lady was.

"That's Mu Yangyang, Mr. Mo's ex-wife," the person beside her answered. "I did, however, hear that she used to be very ugly. It looks like she got some plastic surgery."

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Shi Ye heard every word between the women.

He pretended to cough as to interrupt their conversation.

Hearing his cough, the woman suddenly remembered Shi Ye's relationship with Mo Chenhao and realized what she had said was rather inappropriate.

She mentally slapped herself in the head. She still needed Shi Ye to say a few good things about her in front of Mo Chenhao.

Just as she was about to say something else to him, Shi Ye politely said, "Excuse me."

The woman had no choice but to step aside. With that, Shi Ye strode right up to Mu Yangyang.

"Ma... Ms. Mu."

He very nearly addressed her as 'ma'am' out of pure habit.

After being briefly startled, Mu Yangyang quickly regained her composure. "Mr. Shi."

Shi Ye discreetly checked his surroundings. When he made sure that no one was looking in their

direction, he whispered to her, "You've seen Mr. Mo?"

"Yes," Mu Yangyang answered. As if right on cue, she then saw Mo Chenhao walking in their direction. "He's heading over here."

When Shi Ye turned around and saw Mo Chenhao, he inwardly breathed a sigh of relief.

Frankly, he had had enough of the women swarming him.

He hurried over to Mo Chenhao. "Mr. Mo."

Mo Chenhao nodded to him, but his eyes flickered over to Mu Yangyang.

After Shi Ye walked off, Mu Yangyang swiftly turned around and headed in a different direction.

Of all the people at the party, Mu Yangyang only knew Mo Chenhao, Shi Ye, and Shen Haochu.

Thus it was only natural that no one would come up and make small talk with her. So, she walked over to an inconspicuous corner and sat herself down there.

From her little corner, she was able to have a complete view of the banquet hall.

Mo Chenhao was very tall, and he had an aloof air about him. This made him particularly eye-catching in the crowd.

Mu Yangyang had barely sat down for a few minutes, yet she had already seen countless women walk up to Mo Chenhao.

He stiffly dismissed each of them, but that didn't stop other women from trying their luck.

Previously, Mo Chenhao had never attended events or dinners like this, so those women never had a chance to get close to him. Now that he made public appearances, combined with the news that he was now 'single,' the women naturally weren't going to pass the chance up.

Logically, Mu Yangyang could understand what was happening.

But when she saw how the women looked at Mo Chenhao - as if they wanted to devour him right there and then - she felt her heart tightening.

"It's only just started, and you already can't handle it?"

Shen Haochu's voice sounded from next to her.

Mu Yangyang looked to her right. She saw that Shen Haochu, with a glass of champagne in his hand as

well, had sat down next to her.

Mu Yangyang pursed her lips. "It's none of your business."

"Yangyang, it's for your own good." His expression turned stern. "Mo Chenhao is cunning and manipulative. His family is a force to be reckoned with too. You are no match for them."

"Then tell me. What do you mean by 'a force to be reckoned with'?" It was obvious that Mu Yangyang was trying to dig information from him.

Shen Haochu shook his head. "I'm being serious. I know you might not end up with me even if you aren't with Mo Chenhao. I just think you should choose someone more suitable for you."

Mu Yangyang's expression darkened. "I myself know whether someone is suitable or not."

Shen Haochu fell silent for a while before he lowered his voice and asked, "Do you really think that a person who can't even protect a child is suitable for you?"

Mu Yangyang's grip on her champagne glass tightened.

Only a few people knew about the child, and they were all close confidants. No one else could've known.

She placed the champagne glass down and looked at Shen Haochu grimly. "How do you about that?"

"Looks like my speculation was correct," sighed Shen Haochu.

Mu Yangyang stayed silent, waiting for him to continue.

Shen Haochu glanced in Mo Chenhao's direction. "I know you well. If you had the child, you would keep them around you so you could take care of them. But you're living alone right now with no child. If Mo Chenhao insisted on keeping the child with him, you wouldn't have split up with him for the child's sake..."

Shen Haochu studied Mu Yangyang's expression before continuing, "Since the child isn't with you or with Mo Chenhao, that would mean..."

Mu Yangyang looked at him expressionlessly. "So... where do you think our child is?"

The phrase 'our child' seemingly triggered something in Shen Haochu, and he narrowed his eyes in response.

"You won't be happy with Mo Chenhao. He may look successful and powerful, but he still has to answer to the Mo family."

“Enough,” interrupted Mu Yangyang. “Whatever happens between Mo Chenhao and I is my business.”

Upon hearing her so adamant, Shen Haochu decided not to push the matter any further, and the two of them sat there in silence.

“It’s the one wearing the black dress...”

“Her? She doesn’t look all that impressive...”

“I know, right? It was pure luck that she managed to marry into the Mo family.”

“That’s exactly why. They finally realized she wasn’t worthy of him, so they got divorced.”

“I bet she purposely came tonight because she heard that Mr. Mo would be attending.”

“Of course! Who wouldn’t like a man like Mo Chenhao. I’m sure she’s here to try and win him back.”

“Well, she’s dreaming then! Look at all these women who are far more superior to her...”

You can never underestimate the power of gossip. Someone had recognized her earlier, and soon enough, nearly everyone at the dinner had heard that Mr. Mo’s ex-wife was also in attendance.

Many of the women were gossiping about Mu Yangyang.

Those that were more low-key only stole glances at her from afar.

There were the more shameless ones who sashayed right up to Mu Yangyang and made their feelings about her very clear. Exactly like the two women who were bad-mouthing her from a few seats away.

If it were any other time, Mu Yangyang would have likely just ignored them.

But right then, she was feeling rather annoyed thanks to what Shen Haochu had said.

Mu Yangyang hopped off her stool and walked up to the two women. “At least I can dream. That’s more than I can say for the two of you.”

One of the women jumped up from her seat. “What are you talking about?”

“Do you have trouble understanding?” sneered Mu Yangyang. “I suggest you crack open a dictionary when you get home.”

“You...” The woman shoved her finger in Mu Yangyang’s face. “How dare you be so arrogant? Do you think you’re still Mrs. Mo?”

"I'm not now, but I was before." Mu Yangyang saw how the woman was so angry that she was at a loss for words. That was when she found herself losing interest in arguing with them further.

Why am I even arguing with these idiots?

She grabbed her purse and walked off. She hadn't gone far when she sensed that someone was following her.

She spun around and saw that it was Shen Haochu.

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Mu Yangyang put her hand on her forehead, annoyed. "Why are you still following me around?"

Shen Haochu didn't mind Mu Yangyang's attitude towards him at all. He smiled at her instead and said, "Don't you want to know the Mo family's secret?"

"You're willing to tell me?" Mu Yangyang found it hard to believe.

Shen Haochu said sternly, "Am I such a scum to you?"

Mu Yangyang didn't even need to think about this question.

However, Mu Yumei recalled some old memories.

"Why are you still with Mu Yumei after her lewd video was leaked? Did she blackmail you?" Mu Yangyang asked with mild interest.

She didn't believe that Shen Haochu would tell her everything he knew about the Mo family.

So she thought that it would be better to ask him something she had been curious about, even though he might not spill the beans.

Shen Haochu was silent for a while before he finally spoke, "You want to know?"

"Yes," Mu Yangyang headed towards the elevator as she replied. "I wouldn't have asked if I didn't want to."

"I'll tell you if you treat me to a meal," Mu Yangyang heard Shen Haochu say when she reached the elevator.

Mu Yangyang merely smiled and kept quiet.

"You don't believe me?" Shen Haochu said.

As Mu Yangyang entered the elevator, she responded, "Why are you still asking me that when you already know the answer?"

Turning around, Mu Yangyang noticed that Shen Haochu was still standing outside the elevator. She arched a brow and asked, "You're not coming?"

Shen Haochu forced a smile. "Nah, you go ahead."

Only then did Mu Yangyang realize that she might have hurt him with her words just now.

However, she was telling the truth.

Hence, she didn't feel apologetic towards Shen Haochu, nor did she feel the need to accommodate him.

Shen Haochu had been talking about how she and Mo Chenhao were not fit for each other for the entire night, and she had had enough of him.

Even Shen Yu hasn't said anything about Mo Chenhao and me. How dare Shen Haochu comment on our relationship?

Was it because he helped me escape before?

Even so, he shouldn't have done that.

...

While hailing for a cab outside the hotel, it suddenly occurred to Mu Yangyang that she had yet to inform Mo Chenhao she had left.

She took out her phone and was about to give Mo Chenhao a call when a car suddenly stopped in front of her.

The car backdoor opened when she lifted her head to take a look. Following that, a hand reached out and dragged her into the car.

After being stunned momentarily, she was about to scream for help when she heard a familiar, low voice. "It's me."

Mu Yangyang said dubiously, "Mo Chenhao?"

"Yes," the man who was embracing her replied.

Although Mu Yangyang was relieved, she also felt a little mad. She reached out and punched him lightly.

“Don’t do this again in the future. It’s freaking scary.”

Mo Chenhao replied half-heartedly, “Okay.”

The car already started moving as they were talking.

After parking at a secluded spot, Shi Ye got out of the car.

Now that he and Mu Yangyang were the only ones left in the car, Mo Chenhao couldn’t keep his hands to himself anymore.

He sat Mu Yangyang on his lap as his scalding lips descended onto her neck and slowly moved up to her lips.

Mu Yangyang felt rather hot even though the air conditioner was running.

With one hand on her waist, Mo Chenhao moved his other hand all over her soft and fair thighs. His intention couldn’t get any more obvious.

“Mo Chenhao,” Mu Yangyang stopped him in a low voice.

Mo Chenhao ignored her as his other hand found her dress’s zipper.

He pulled the zipper down and peeled her dress off with ease.

Mu Yangyang was flustered as she tried to grab hold of his hands. “Stop it...”

Mo Chenhao’s breathing grew heavier. While interlocking his fingers with Mu Yangyang’s, he placed his lips on hers and said in a low voice, “No one will see.”

“Shi Ye...”

Mo Chenhao was slightly out of breath, but he still spoke in a clear voice, “He left.”

“That’s still a no.” After all, they were in a car...

Mo Chenhao didn’t force himself on her since Mu Yangyang wasn’t willing. All he did was kiss her hard for a long while before dressing her up again. Then, he quietly held her in his arms.

Mu Yangyang asked, “When did you leave?”

She remembered that he was still talking to someone else when she left.

However, Mo Chenhao and Shi Ye were already out of the hotel when she reached the side of the road.

“I followed you out when I saw you leave.”

Tenderness laced his voice as an aftermath of their intimacy.

Upon hearing that, Mu Yangyang grinned without saying a word.

“Do you want to know Shen Haochu’s secret?” Mo Chenhao suddenly asked.

“What?” Mu Yangyang didn’t know why he mentioned Shen Haochu all of a sudden.

“Shen Haochu isn’t part of the Shen family. His father is infertile, so his mother had him with someone else to ensure that their family would have an heir and to save face.”

She felt goosebumps all over as Mo Chenhao whispered in her ear in a hushed tone.

Mu Yangyang was dumbstruck. “So that’s why... Now I know how Mu Yumei blackmailed him...” She continued after pausing briefly, “Did Shen Haochu know about it? What happened to his childhood...”

Mo Chenhao chuckled. “His father was wary of him since he wasn’t his biological son, and Shen Haochu was aware of this fact too. Hence, he always feigned ignorance in order to survive in the family.”

Mu Yangyang nodded. However, she was quickly hit by another realization. “You’ve been eavesdropping!”

“Heh.” Mo Chenhao chuckled as he thrust his lower body at her. He spoke in a hoarse voice, “Let’s do something else since you’re so full of energy!”

Mu Yangyang was speechless.

...

Mo Chenhao sent Mu Yangyang back after spending some alone time with her in the car.

Nevertheless, he didn’t drive the car back after he sent her home.

“This is for you.” Mo Chenhao handed Mu Yangyang the keys.

He couldn’t chauffeur her around all the time like he used to, so he bought her a car.

It was then that Mu Yangyang realized the car she rode back in was white in color.

The design was slick and beautiful. Moreover, it was only priced between twenty thousand and thirty thousand, which was right within Mu Yangyang’s budget.

Mo Chenhao instructed, "I've settled the paperwork. Just drive carefully."

Mu Yangyang held his face after taking a step forward. Then she kissed him on the lips and said with a smile, "Thank you."

Under the dim lighting, Mo Chenhao's gaze darkened. "Can I stay for the night then?"

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Mu Yangyang was taken aback by surprise. Glaring at him, she replied curtly, "No way." She didn't know what to do with him.

Hearing that, Mo Chenhao didn't say anything else. He simply caressed her face and left.

Mu Yangyang watched as he disappeared from her line of sight before she entered her room with the car keys.

...

The next day.

Mu Yangyang scrolled through Weibo habitually after she woke up, only to find herself trending on it.

Young Master Mo's Ex-wife Trying to Get Back Together With Him.

What the hell is this?

Mu Yangyang clicked on the article.

Young Master Mo and his ex-wife were spotted together at a dinner party held at a five-star hotel. It is speculated that this was his ex-wife's attempt to get back together with him...

There was a detailed explanation in the article.

There were even a few blurry photos attached at the end of the article.

The photo was indeed taken at the dinner party. The blogger even circled Mu Yangyang's and Mo Chenhao's figures and filled in the blanks with his rich imagination, such was the power of the media.

Meeting Mo Chenhao at the dinner party was a pure coincidence.

However, the media twisted the story to make it seem like she wanted to get back with Mo Chenhao after they caught them together in a photo.

Mu Yangyang continued to scroll down.

This is nothing out of the ordinary. No woman would want to let a man like Mo Chenhao go.

Does this mean they're divorced?

I feel like I have a chance now.

This ex-wife of his is so shameless. Why is she still pestering him when they're already divorced?

It was just a bunch of comments from netizens, and Mu Yangyang was used to it.

She received a call from Qin Shuishan the moment she stepped out of the bathroom.

Qin Shuishan mocked, "Impressive. You seem like a hot topic these days. Our drama will surely be a success."

Mu Yangyang laughed. "I cannot control what the media wants to write."

Qin Shuishan brought up the topic again. "Sigh, I'm curious. Are you and Mo Chenhao divorced?"

Mu Yangyang replied with another question, "What do you think?"

"I don't think so," Qin Shuishan said with certainty. She then continued, "He wouldn't have wanted to be seen with you in public if you guys are really divorced."

Qin Shuishan was so sharp that Mu Yangyang started to suspect whether she really did sneak into Mo Chenhao's villa as a maid back then.

Mu Yangyang said, "He just couldn't be bothered with such trivial matters."

"Really?" Qin Shuishan didn't buy it.

At that moment, another call came in.

Mu Yangyang took a look at the caller ID and saw that it was Mo Chenhao.

"Sorry, but I have an incoming call. Talk to you later."

After hanging up, Mu Yangyang picked up Mo Chenhao's call.

Mo Chenhao asked, "Have you seen the trending topic?"

"Yes." Mu Yangyang sighed. "I never thought there would be paparazzi at the dinner party yesterday."

"I did it on purpose." Mo Chenhao pondered for a few moments before saying, "I wanted to create some publicity for your new drama. But I'll get someone to delete it in a bit."

Mu Yangyang laughed. "You didn't have to. It's just a web drama. The marketing team will come up with promotional activities and plans when the time comes."

She heard Shi Ye's voice at the other end of the line the moment she finished speaking.

"Sir..."

"I'm hanging up now." With that, Mu Yangyang ended the call.

...

Most of the filming was done in the movie studio recently.

Since Mu Yangyang had a car now, she drove to the set. They were filming a fight scene when she arrived.

Qin Shuishan was absent on that day.

Since Mu Yangyang rarely visited, she wandered around the set after watching the fight scene for a while.

However, it wasn't long before she heard a familiar voice.

"Yangyang? Is that you?"

The person behind Mu Yangyang quickly walked up to her the moment she stopped in her tracks.

Xiao Chuhe looked at her in surprise. "I thought I saw a familiar figure just now, but I never expected that I'd meet you here."

Mu Yangyang stared at her coldly without saying a word.

"How have you been for the last six months?" Xiao Chuhe felt rather awkward when Mu Yangyang remained silent.

"I'm good." Mu Yangyang sized her up. She noticed that Xiao Chuhe hadn't changed one bit, still looking like the high maintenance lady she was.

Back then, the media had reported that she was dead. But it seemed like she wasn't affected by the matter at all.

Xiao Chuhe was still the glamorous Mrs. Mu.

Mu Yangyang looked at her watch and said impatiently, "Is there anything else, Mrs. Mu?"

Xiao Chuhe's face fell slightly when she heard how Mu Yangyang addressed her. "Yangyang, you..."

"I'm leaving if there's nothing else." Having said that, Mu Yangyang left without giving her a chance to speak.

"Yangyang, wait." Xiao Chuhe quickly grabbed her arm. "You should be able to understand why we did that under those circumstances. We just..."

"I fully understand," Mu Yangyang said. They severed all ties with me and even published it in the news for fear that I would drag them down. How resolute and wise of them.

It was as if Xiao Chuhe really believed her words as she breathed a sigh of relief. "I'm here to visit Yumei since she's filming here. Do you want to come along? Have you met her ever since your return?"

Mu Yangyang frowned. "Mu Yumei is filming here?"

Mu Yangyang knew she wanted to enter the entertainment industry.

But she didn't expect her to be filming already.

"Yeah. It's a huge production this time, so it should be a big hit." Xiao Chuhe was over the moon when she mentioned Mu Yumei. It was obvious that she was happy for her.

Mu Yangyang's smile didn't reach her eyes as she said, "Really? Then I must congratulate the both of you in advance."

At that moment, her phone started ringing.

It was Qin Shuishan.

She gave Xiao Chuhe a look before picking up the call. "Hello? I'll be right over."

Then she hung up the phone. "Mrs. Mu, I'm leaving now since I still have matters to attend to."

"Hey, Yangyang..."

Mu Yangyang pretended not to hear her and left.

When Mu Yangyang reached the set, she asked Qin Shuishan about Mu Yumei.

“You mean your sister, Mu Yumei?” Qin Shuishan sneered, “Just like you, she’s a hot topic. However, she paid for the publicity herself. She also filmed a few dramas, but the ratings were not that good.”

During her time away from Huyang City, Mu Yangyang wouldn’t visit domestic websites unless there was news concerning Mo Chenhao. Hence, she was oblivious to matters related to Mu Yumei.

She knew Mu Yumei wanted to enter the entertainment industry, but she never thought Mu Yumei was serious about it.

“I forgot to mention something. Mu Yumei also auditioned for this drama back then. She was even prepared to sleep with the director to get the role when she wasn’t selected.”

Mu Yangyang was at a loss for words.

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Mu Yumei must have auditioned for this drama because she wasn’t aware that I’m the screenwriter.

However, she should be aware of it by now after what happened in the past two days.

...

A white MPV stopped in front of Mu Yangyang the moment she stepped out of the set.

Whoosh! The car door was opened, and Mu Yumei, who was wearing a pair of sunglasses, got out of the vehicle.

In order to look good, Mu Yumei went all out and wore a leather jacket even during the hot month of August.

Crossing her arms, Mu Yumei walked towards Mu Yangyang with her head held high. “I heard your mother mention you’re here as well.”

But Mu Yangyang merely stared at Mu Yumei in silence.

Mu Yumei was irritated by Mu Yangyang’s attitude, but she suppressed her rage at the thought of her goal. “You’re the screenwriter for ‘The Lost City’?”

“Yes.” Mu Yangyang wanted to see what she was getting at.

Mu Yumei removed her sunglasses. “I assume you get along well with the producer, right? I really like the script, so I’ll call it even if you can get me in. It doesn’t necessarily have to be the female lead. The second female lead role is fine. You can also return to the Mu family if you promise to help me.”

Call it even?

Mu Yangyang sneered, "What do you mean by calling it even? What did I ever do to you? As for returning to the Mu family, I wouldn't want to even if you beg me."

Mu Yumei never expected Mu Yangyang to turn her down.

She flew into a rage instantly. "This is your last chance. I'm only allowing you to return to the Mu family because I didn't want you to suffer alone out there. How dare you be so ungrateful?"

Of course Mu Yangyang knew what Mu Yumei was thinking.

What Mu Yumei meant by allowing her to return to the Mu family was that she was expected to act like a fool, just like how she used to, and let Mu Yumei order her around.

Mu Yumei had everything planned out perfectly, but Mu Yangyang wasn't about to be fooled.

"I think you'd better give this chance to someone else because I don't want it."

"You..."

Without waiting for her to finish, Mu Yangyang bypassed Mu Yumei and left.

...

Mu Yangyang knew that her family wouldn't let this matter slide easily.

As expected, she received a call from Mu Liyan the next morning.

The only good quality Mu Liyan had was probably his unrequited love for his children.

But of course, that did not apply to Mu Yangyang.

"Why didn't you return home since you're already back in Huyang City?" Mu Liyan pretended nothing had happened between them as if he had amnesia.

However, Mu Yangyang wasn't planning on letting Mu Liyan off the hook so easily. She retorted, "I will remind you again since you've forgotten, Mr. Mu. You've severed all ties with me."

Mu Liyan disregarded Mu Yangyang and said, "I will let bygones be bygones if you're willing to return to the Mu family."

Mu Yangyang found his words laughable.

“Why would you need to do so when I didn’t do you wrong?”

Mu Yangyang felt like she would never understand what her family was thinking in this lifetime.

They were the ones who abandoned and used her all this while.

However, her family made it sound like she was the one at fault. And now they’re forgiving her and allowing her to return to the Mu family?

Mu Liyan’s tone turned icy. “You should know better than anyone what you did. Since we provided for you, you are still indebted to us no matter what, so it’s about time you return the favor.”

“Mr. Mu, I think you’d better pay the neurology department a visit to check if there’s anything wrong with your head.” With that, Mu Yangyang hung up the phone.

After pouring herself a cup of water, she breathed a long sigh of relief and sat on the couch.

Realizing that she was running out of food at home, she decided to do some grocery shopping.

With that, Mu Yangyang drove to the nearest supermarket. She noticed a luxurious car parked at the entrance of her apartment when she returned.

Although the car couldn’t be compared with what Mo Chenhao owned, it still stuck out like a sore thumb in the district.

Just then, she received a text.

Mu Yangyang took a glance at her phone and saw that it was Shen Haochu.

“Get in the car. I have something for you.”

After reading the message, Mu Yangyang strode towards the car. Upon opening the car door, she found Shen Haochu smoking in the car.

“What are you doing here?” Mu Yangyang frowned.

Shen Haochu put away his cigarette. “I need to talk to you.”

The smoke made Mu Yangyang uncomfortable, so she tried to fan it away with her hand while giving Shen Haochu a suspicious look.

It was then that she noticed something was amiss about Shen Haochu.

Apart from the fact that the ashtray was full of cigarette butts, Shen Haochu looked wasted and

haggard.

Mu Yangyang asked, "What's wrong?"

"Are you worried about me?" Shen Haochu turned to face her.

The moment Mu Yangyang whipped around to leave, Shen Haochu called out to her, "Yangyang, I have something for you."

He then continued when Mu Yangyang looked back, "It's what you've always wanted."

She said, "Let's talk about it over coffee."

"Let's just talk about it in the car," Shen Haochu rolled down the window.

The cool evening breeze blew past them.

As Mu Yangyang sat down beside Shen Haochu, he took out a folder and handed it to her. "Have a look."

After shooting him a glance, Mu Yangyang opened the folder and took out some papers.

It was a DNA report.

The report confirmed the parent-child relationship between two people, but there weren't any names stated in the report.

Mu Yangyang's heart raced. "Whom does this DNA report belong to?"

Shen Haochu took out a cigarette, intending to have another smoke. "One of them is Si Chengyu."

Having said that, he reached for a lighter. But when he saw Mu Yangyang place her hand over her nose, he put the lighter back and toyed with the cigarette instead.

"Si Chengyu?" Mu Yangyang was dumbfounded.

Shen Haochu explained, "Si Chengyu requested for this DNA report. It was probably around the time when you were involved in the scandal last year."

After doing a quick calculation, Mu Yangyang deduced that Si Chengyu was the one who deliberately spread rumors about her.

It was especially obvious when he directed the public opinion towards Sheng Ding Media. He was already showing signs of falling out with Mo Chenhao at that time.

Did Si Chengyu's sudden change in temperament and his fallout with Mo Chenhao have anything to do with this DNA report?

Mu Yangyang asked, "So who is the other person in this DNA report?"

Shen Haochu smiled. "Si Chengyu had been careful not to leave their names on the report, but it's not hard to guess."

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As soon as Mu Yangyang registered Shen Haochu's words, his heart sank miserably.

Si Chengyu had started giving Mo Chenhao the cold shoulder after the result of the DNA test came back.

Mu Yangyang had a hunch about who Si Chengyu's real father was.

However, she couldn't help but think that it made no sense at all.

Seeing her perplexed expression, Shen Haochu ventured to say, "See, I told you it wouldn't be that difficult to guess who the father is. I bet you already have the answer."

As though she was in a trance, Mu Yangyang murmured to herself, "How's that possible?"

Shen Haochu merely looked at her and didn't say a word.

A sudden realization dawned on Mu Yangyang. Turning to Shen Haochu, she asked, "How did you manage to get your hands on the DNA test result?"

"The truth always gets out. If you don't want your evil deeds to be discovered by other people, then it's better not to commit them." As Shen Haochu said this, his expression was frosty.

Mu Yangyang recalled that Mo Chenhao had once told her about Shen Haochu's family background.

Nobody could choose the family they were born into.

Mu Yangyang couldn't help but think of Si Chengyu.

In the past, Si Chengyu's relationship with Mo Chenhao had been very amicable. However, after finding out that they were biological brothers rather than cousins like they had believed, Si Chengyu had grown much more aloof towards Mo Chenhao.

Mu Yangyang had speculated that the other name on the DNA test report was Mo Qingfeng.

Whenever the truth came to light, it would set off a series of revelations about incidents that had happened in the past.

The last time they had all gone back to their childhood home for a visit, Mo Qingfeng had ordered Si Chengyu to take up employment at Mo Corporation. Turning to address Mo Chenhao as well, he had instructed both boys to take good care of each other.

Before that incident, when rumors of Si Chengyu's unsavory behavior were swirling online, Mo Qingfeng had dropped by to visit Mo Chenhao.

At that time, Mu Yangyang had sensed that the level of care and attention that Mo Qingfeng extended towards Si Chengyu exceeded that which he gave his own son.

If Si Chengyu was truly Mo Qingfeng's illegitimate son, then everything made sense.

The more Mu Yangyang thought about it, the more she was convinced that her hunch was right.

Shen Haochu's voice startled Mu Yangyang out of her reverie. "It's getting dark. Why don't you treat me to dinner?"

Mu Yangyang stepped out of the car. "Oh, alright. Let's have dinner outside. We'll go there in separate cars."

However, Shen Haochu said, "Why can't we go to your house for dinner?"

Mu Yangyang wasn't a fool. She knew that Shen Haochu had feelings for her, so she wasn't going to give him a chance to do anything funny by inviting him over to her house.

Shen Haochu could sense her reluctance when she remained silent.

In a self-deprecating manner, he laughed and said, "I messed up once, and now I just can't seem to stop messing up."

Mu Yangyang had no idea what he meant by that.

...

To make up for his disappointment, Mu Yangyang took Shen Haochu to a very high-class restaurant for dinner.

Jokingly, Shen Haochu said, "Wow, you're so generous tonight! I feel quite overwhelmed."

Mu Yangyang smiled. "Don't eat then."

As she ordered their food, Mu Yangyang could sense Shen Haochu's lingering gaze on her.

Feeling a little uneasy, she quickly ordered before whipping out her phone to play mobile games with.

“Has Mo Chenhao ever told you about me?”

Hearing Shen Haochu’s words, Mu Yangyang couldn’t help but look up at him.

“Well, he was right. I was the product of an affair between my mother and a man whose name I still don’t know to this day. My adoptive father only kept me around to hide the fact that he was impotent and couldn’t reproduce.”

Although Mo Chenhao had told her all this before, hearing the words straight from Shen Haochu himself made Mu Yangyang feel a little conflicted.

Mu Yangyang smiled weakly. “Aren’t we just having dinner? Why are you telling me about this?”

Shen Haochu’s eyes bored into hers. “Let me finish.”

Mu Yangyang fell silent. If Shen Haochu wanted to narrate his life story to her, then so be it.

“Due to my father’s impotence, my mother had sexual relations with many other men. To everyone else, my parents were the perfect image of a devoted couple, but they fought at home all the time. It didn’t take me long before I realized that my adoptive father wasn’t my biological father at all...”

Shen Haochu had learned the truth about his background at a very young age. From the moment he found out that he was a bastard child, he knew that he would never receive a share of the Shen family’s inheritance, and the Shen family would never accept or love him.

Hence, he had acted the part of a scholarly gentleman in order to gain the public’s approval and attention.

At the same time, he had hoped that his facade would gain him a wife with prestigious family background.

Shen Haochu was quite certain about the fact that Mu Yangyang liked him.

He enjoyed the attention Mu Yangyang showered on him. Thus, he deigned to reciprocate her love occasionally so that she would continue loving him.

Unfortunately, she had gotten married to Mo Chenhao in the end.

Like Shen Haochu’s adoptive father, Mo Chenhao was both ugly and impotent.

He had promptly been reminded of his own wayward mother, which caused him to start harboring a strong sense of contempt towards Mu Yangyang.

Of all the families of the girls who had a crush on him, the Mu family was among the most prestigious ones. Given that Mu Yumei was the favorite daughter of Mu Liyan, the latter would definitely pay Shen Haochu a huge dowry if he married her.

However, Shen Haochu hadn't expected that Mu Yumei would have such a tumultuous private life.

Back in his school days, Shen Haochu had been the object of desire for many girls. However, among all the girls who liked him, Mu Yangyang had stood out the most.

Although she liked him wholeheartedly, she had been so scared of being found out that she kept her feelings to herself.

Shen Haochu was a smart man, and he knew exactly what he wanted in life. Hence, he had vowed to himself from the onset that he would never choose a woman like Mu Yangyang as his bride.

This was life, wasn't it? All it took was one misstep to lose the entire game. Reminiscing about events in the past only made people realize how regretful they were.

Shen Haochu clasped his fingers around the glass of water before him. Solemnly, he said, "Yangyang, I love you. I just realized it way too late in life."

The most aloof individuals were often the ones who were touched by the smallest of gestures.

For the last few years, Shen Haochu had done many things and befriended many people for the sole purpose of extracting some sort of business advantage from them.

However, Mu Yangyang was the only exception. He had been deliberately keeping a distance from her in hopes that she would continue liking him.

Hearing Shen Haochu confess his feelings to her again after so many years made Mu Yangyang feel a little flustered.

Mu Yangyang had no wish to reminisce about the past with him, however. With a deep sigh, she said, "That's all in the past now. Let's just continue to be friends after this, alright?"

What was the point in bemoaning their past? They couldn't go back and change anything.

In life, it was best to continue looking ahead to one's future.

In fact, the best way to come to terms with one's past was to make peace with it.

"Yes, it's all in the past now." Shen Haochu paused for a while before continuing, "But I'll have you know this, Yangyang—I loved you in the past, and I'll continue to love you in the future."

Mu Yangyang was about to reach for her glass of water but froze when she heard Shen Haochu's words.

"Mo Chenhao came to me once. He offered to help me bring down Shen Corporation, but on one condition—that I could never look for you again."

As he spoke, Shen Haochu observed Mu Yangyang's expression carefully. "However, I refused his proposal. Although it was extremely tempting, I wouldn't be able to confess my love for you right now if I had accepted his help. It took me a while, but now I finally understand that there are certain things in life more precious than money and power."

Mu Yangyang had realized since just now that there was something quite amiss about Shen Haochu's behavior.

The mystery was solved when he said those words. He had finally summoned up the courage to confess to her today.

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Mu Yangyang no longer felt anything towards Shen Haochu, but she could tell from his words that his feelings for her were real.

When Shen Haochu finished speaking, she said plainly, "I wish you all the best in your future. As for me, I'm happy to spend the rest of my life with Mo Chenhao."

"Are you sure your relationship with Mo Chenhao will last?" Shen Haochu had never understood why a girl like Mu Yangyang would go for a man like Mo Chenhao.

Mu Yangyang mulled over his question for a while before replying seriously, "Anyway, I've never imagined a life with anyone besides him."

This was truly what she had in mind.

She couldn't imagine living with anyone else, so she had to continue her life with Mo Chenhao no matter how difficult things got.

Rather self-deprecatingly, Shen Haochu laughed. "I get it now."

For the rest of dinner, they made small talk and steered clear of more serious topics.

The bulk of their conversation revolved around things that had happened in the past. Shen Haochu did most of the talking, while Mu Yangyang listened quietly, occasionally making a comment or two.

After dinner, the two of them left the restaurant.

Just as they were leaving, they bumped into Si Chengyu and Mu Yumei at the door.

Mu Yumei still harbored a grudge against Mu Yangyang for turning her request down, so she would never pass up a chance to mock her sister if she could help it.

With her gaze darting rapidly between Mu Yangyang and Shen Haochu, Mu Yumei raised her voice and said triumphantly, "Look what we have here! Mo Chenhao wasn't interested in you, so now you're going after your old flame Shen Haochu?"

Mu Yangyang had just received the DNA test result from Shen Haochu. Now that they bumped into the man coincidentally, her eyes were naturally drawn towards Si Chengyu.

Noticing her sister's lingering gaze on Si Chengyu, Mu Yumei jumped in front of him and snapped, "What do you think you're looking at? Are you coming after my man, now that you're through with yours? Have some shame!"

However, Si Chengyu didn't seem to mind. Greeting Mu Yangyang politely, he said, "Hello, Yangyang."

Rather distantly, she replied, "Hello, Mr. Si."

On the other hand, Shen Haochu was staring at Si Chengyu with fascination.

Due to the differences in their status and social circles, Shen Haochu had few opportunities to meet Si Chengyu.

It had taken Shen Haochu a lot of effort to get his hands on the DNA test result. Thus, he was very curious about Si Chengyu as a person.

Apparently, Si Chengyu was Mo Qingfeng's illegitimate son.

But were things really as simple as that?

"Chengyu!" Seeing how Si Chengyu had gone against her and talked to Mu Yangyang, Mu Yumei couldn't help but protest his disobedience.

Si Chengyu turned to look at Mu Yumei with a gentle smile on his face. "No matter what, Yangyang is still your sister. You might not be working with her on this film, but there may be other opportunities for the two of you to work together in the future."

Si Chengyu's words had the effect of a caressing hand on a cat. Upon hearing his words, Mu Yumei calmed down immediately.

Mu Yangyang narrowed her eyes. So it was Si Chengyu's idea for Mu Yumei to audition for a role in her film.

In his heyday, Si Chengyu had acted in a few suspense films himself, so he could tell which films were good just by glancing through their scripts.

But why had Si Chengyu gotten Mu Yumei to audition? Was it because he liked the script or simply because he wanted to send Mu Yumei to the set to make things difficult for Mu Yangyang?

Mu Yangyang knew how malicious Si Chengyu could be at times.

Hence, she had no intention to continue talking to them. Turning to Shen Haochu, she said softly, "Let's go."

With that, she turned on her heels and left.

...

Mu Yangyang didn't return home after that. Instead, she drove directly to Mo Chenhao's house.

She had the keys to his apartment.

The house was pitch-black when she stepped through the door. Evidently, Mo Chenhao wasn't back yet.

Mu Yangyang turned on the lights and went to take a look at the rooms.

A thin layer of dust had already settled on the kitchen countertop, indicating Mo Chenhao never cooked at home.

He didn't know how to cook anyway.

Aside from a few bottles of mineral water and alcohol, there was nothing else in the fridge.

Was anyone actually living in this house?

Eleven o'clock rolled around, but there was still no sign of Mo Chenhao.

Mu Yangyang decided that she might as well take a shower. After turning off the lights, she jumped into Mo Chenhao's bed and fell asleep.

When it was slightly past one o'clock, Mo Chenhao finally returned home.

He walked into the house and turned on the lights, immediately noticing the pair of women's shoes that had been placed neatly by the door.

Mo Chenhao knew exactly who they belonged to. Aside from Mu Yangyang, there wasn't another

woman who could enter and leave his house as she pleased.

Without him even realizing it, his lips curved into a smile. Instantly, his fatigue vanished. After taking his suit jacket off his arm and flinging it haphazardly into a corner, he made his way to his bedroom, undoing his tie as he went.

It was completely dark in his room, but Mo Chenhao was quite familiar with its furniture layout. Quietly, he made his way over to the bed and switched on the bedside lamp.

A fast-asleep Mu Yangyang was snuggled up under his blanket, and her long black hair was fanned out across his pillow.

It felt like a scene out of his dreams to return home from work and see Mu Yangyang fast asleep in his bed.

Swallowing his urge to cry, Mo Chenhao bent down and brushed away the loose strands of hair on Mu Yangyang's face before planting a kiss on her cheek.

Ever since she returned to Huyang City, Mu Yangyang had become a very light sleeper.

Hence, although Mo Chenhao had tried being as quiet as he possibly could, she still woke up anyway.

Mu Yangyang opened her eyes to find herself staring at the splendidly handsome face of Mo Chenhao.

"Oh, you're back." Her voice was raspy from sleep, and there was a childlike quality to it.

Mo Chenhao sat down on the bed and caressed her face. Gently, he said, "Yes. Did you wait up?"

Mu Yangyang nodded and reached for the watch she had placed on the bedside table.

Trying to save her the unnecessary trouble, Mo Chenhao grabbed Mu Yangyang's arm to stop her. "It's almost two o'clock," he said soothingly.

Mu Yangyang sat up in bed and said, "Do you usually work overtime until the wee hours of the morning?"

Mo Chenhao supported her elbow as she adjusted herself into a more comfortable position. "Not really."

Hearing his hasty reply, Mu Yangyang knew immediately that he was telling a lie.

However, she wasn't going to let him get away with it. Cocking her head as she looked at him, Mu Yangyang said, "I'm not buying that. I'm going to ask Shi Ye."

Realizing that she saw through him, Mo Chenhao laughed helplessly. "It's been a little busier at work these few weeks." The soft light of the bedside lamp illuminated Mu Yangyang's face, making her look more beautiful than ever. Seeing this, Mo Chenhao couldn't help but lean over and give her a peck on the lips.

It was a very light kiss that barely lasted a few seconds. "Go to sleep first. I'm going to wash up."

"I'll wait up for you. There's something I need to talk to you about." Mu Yangyang couldn't get her mind off the DNA test result. It would be best if she told Mo Chenhao about it as soon as she could.

Mo Chenhao stared at her for a split second before nodding. "Alright."

Mu Yangyang had brought along the DNA test result that Shen Haochu gave her, and it was now sitting in one of the drawers of Mo Chenhao's bedside table.

When Mo Chenhao came out of the shower, she handed the document over to him.

He took it from her and made a face. "What's this?" As he glanced through it, his brows knitted into a frown.

Mo Chenhao sat on the bed and read through the entire document carefully.

When Mu Yangyang first got her hands on the DNA test result, she had skipped through the rest of the pages and gone straight to the outcome on the last page.

However, Mo Chenhao was much more level-headed about the matter. After a long silence which he spent flipping through the pages placidly, he finally looked up at Mu Yangyang and asked solemnly, "Who gave this to you?"

Although there were no names on the DNA report, he seemed to instinctively know who the test subjects were.

Truthfully, Mu Yangyang replied, "Shen Haochu gave it to me."

Hearing this, Mo Chenhao's eyes narrowed with a hint of hostility in them. In a low, frightening voice, he asked, "Did you meet up with him again?"

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He's totally missing the point.

Isn't the DNA test result the most important matter at hand?

Reluctantly, Mu Yangyang replied, "Yes."

“Do my words not mean anything to you?” Putting the DNA test report aside, Mo Chenhao looked at her with an indecipherable expression.

“Let’s talk about this later.” Right now, Mu Yangyang wanted nothing more than to know if the subjects in the DNA test report were Si Chengyu and Mo Qingfeng.

However, Mo Chenhao was uncharacteristically stubborn that day. “Either we talk about this right now, or we both go to sleep immediately.”

“Yes, I met up with Shen Haochu today, but it was for an important matter,” Mu Yangyang explained patiently. “All we did was chat for a bit and have dinner together. I swear we didn’t do anything else...”

Mo Chenhao’s face clouded over at her reply. “You even ate together with him?”

Mu Yangyang immediately regretted her honesty. She shouldn’t have told him every detail about their little meet-up.

“Yes, but that’s all we did.” Mu Yangyang bit her lip, holding her breath as she awaited Mo Chenhao’s response.

“Oh,” Mo Chenhao laughed tersely. “You accompanied him to a banquet the last time, and now the both of you are having dinner together? What are you going to do next time, then?”

Mu Yangyang felt that Mo Chenhao’s words were uncalled for.

I only treated Shen Haochu to dinner because he told me secrets about the Mo family. What’s wrong with that?

“We didn’t do anything! We...”

Mo Chenhao cut her off before she could finish speaking. “Wow, so it’s ‘we’ now? Your relationship with him has certainly progressed by leaps and bounds!”

“Mo Chenhao, if you continue being like this, I’m going to get really mad!” Mu Yangyang hated Mo Chenhao’s sudden bouts of jealousy.

With a frosty expression, Mo Chenhao replied, “Well, I’m already mad.”

Mu Yangyang was speechless.

Sometimes, she couldn’t help but think that Mo Chenhao behaved like an impetuous child.

She reached for his hand. “Alright, let’s talk about the DNA report then.”

However, the moment she grabbed hold of his arm, Mo Chenhao gripped her hand tightly in his fist.

Feeling the ball of warmth in his palm, Mo Chenhao's expression gradually softened.

Turning to look directly at Mu Yangyang, he asked gravely, "Have you ever wondered how Shen Haochu found out about my biological relationship with Si Chengyu?"

The fact that Mo Chenhao and Si Chengyu were half-siblings was a family secret that had never been revealed to the public.

By right, Shen Haochu could not have known about this at all.

But for some reason or another, he had discovered the truth about Si Chengyu's relationship with the Mo family.

Mu Yangyang mulled over his question before venturing hesitatingly, "Perhaps he found out about it coincidentally?"

Mo Chenhao raised an eyebrow. "Wow, he must be the luckiest person on earth then! Maybe if he went and bought a lottery ticket, he might even hit the jackpot."

Mo Chenhao could be very sarcastic at times.

"Well, how do you think he found out then?" Mu Yangyang asked, her curiosity getting the better of her.

Mo Chenhao said emotionlessly, "Clearly, someone incited Shen Haochu to hand this DNA test report over to us."

Mu Yangyang felt that there was some logic behind his theory.

"Who could that be?" She had thought that the matter would be settled after they got their hands on the DNA test report. Unfortunately, it seemed like things were only getting more confusing.

Mo Chenhao frowned but didn't say a word in reply.

Mu Yangyang read through the DNA test report again. When she finished perusing it, she looked up and said, "Is the test result reliable? Is Si Chengyu really one of the test subjects?"

Mo Chenhao looked down at the DNA test report but didn't answer her immediately.

When they returned home during Chinese New Year, Mo Zhenxuan had overheard his conversation with Si Chengyu and informed him that Si Chengyu had been dropping by the hospital with alarming frequency recently.

Later on, Mo Chenhao had sent someone to investigate the matter. It turned out that Si Chengyu had indeed asked for a DNA test to be carried out, but he had been careful enough to erase all traces of himself at the hospital.

Si Chengyu had always been a cautious man. He had taken care of the matter so meticulously that there were barely any leads left behind.

Even if Shen Haochu hadn't passed them the DNA test report, Mo Chenhao already had his own suspicions.

Unfortunately, he never got the chance to confirm them because Mu Yangyang's kidnapping case had erupted around the same time.

A moment later, Mo Chenhao said in a low voice, "To verify if the test subjects are him and Si Chengyu, all we need to do is to run another DNA test."

From his words, Mu Yangyang could tell that Mo Chenhao had been harboring some suspicions of his own for a long time.

After thinking for a bit, she said, "I can get some samples of Si Chengyu's hair. Since I'm always on set with the rest of the filming crew these days, I'll probably be seeing him quite often."

Mu Yangyang knew that Mo Chenhao would oppose her suggestion before he even spoke.

Thus, she said hurriedly before he could reply, "Alright, that's how we're going to do it. No arguments! Let's go to sleep now."

As soon as she finished speaking, she lay back down on the bed and pulled the covers over her head, burrowing herself under the blankets.

Seeing the large bump that had formed in the middle of the bed, Mo Chenhao tugged at the blankets. "Don't cover yourself up like that."

Mu Yangyang wriggled upwards slightly until half her forehead was showing.

As Mo Chenhao burst into laughter, he flung the blankets to the side and lay down next to Mu Yangyang, enveloping her in a hug.

In order to make room for him, Mu Yangyang had no choice but to wriggle over to the other side of the bed.

However, the more she tried to create space between them, the more Mo Chenhao persisted in snuggling up to her. He was like a piece of gum that refused to unstick himself from her.

“Don’t come so near to come. It’s stuffy.”

Although they had turned on the air conditioner, it was still summer outside. Mo Chenhao’s body was unusually warm like a furnace as he cuddled up against her.

However, one sentence from Mo Chenhao silenced Mu Yangyang into obedience immediately.

“I have to go to work at seven in the morning.”

It was already slightly past two o’clock. In order to get to work at seven o’clock, Mo Chenhao had to wake up even earlier, which meant that he wouldn’t even be able to squeeze in five hours of sleep.

Nowadays, it was already rare enough that both of them could sleep next to each other at night.

Mu Yangyang had not gotten a good night’s rest since the switcheroo happened to Mo Mu.

She kept waking up in the middle of the night, causing her sleep to be very fragmented.

When dawn was just about to break, Mo Chenhao roused himself from sleep and unwittingly woke Mu Yangyang up in the process.

Realizing that Mu Yangyang was awake, he planted a kiss on her cheek. “Don’t worry about me. You should get more sleep.”

However, now that she was already up, Mu Yangyang refused to go back to sleep.

When Mo Chenhao took out his tie from the cupboard, she crawled down to the foot of the bed and grabbed hold of it.

As she helped him put on the tie, she said gently, “Don’t overwork yourself. Health always comes first.”

Although he had barely slept for five hours, Mo Chenhao didn’t look exhausted at all. In fact, he seemed as though he was bubbling with energy.

Mu Yangyang was reminded once again of Mo Chenhao’s gunshot wound.

Although she sometimes wondered if his body was made of iron, she was quite clear on the fact that Mo Chenhao was merely a mortal man.

The only difference between Mo Chenhao and the average man was that he was much more gritty.

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He needed to repay the Mo family for the status and prestige that they bestowed him.

There was no absolute fairness or injustice in the world. But one thing was for sure—the more you received, the more you had to pay in return.

Mo Chenhao bent over slightly to match Mu Yangyang's height with his black eyes fixated on her face. Jokingly, he asked, "Why do you suddenly care about me so much?"

Mu Yangyang did not answer him immediately. Instead, she carefully tied his tie and adjusted it. With that done, she looked up and said matter-of-factly, "I have always cared about you, so you must take care of yourself."

"Yeah," Mo Chenhao said with a nod.

Afterward, he pointed at his lips and gestured for Mu Yangyang to give him a goodbye kiss.

Mu Yangyang shook her head as she had not brushed her teeth and did not wish to kiss him.

But Mo Chenhao could not care less as he reached over and kissed her.

When he let go of her, a hint of mischief flashed across his eyes as he said, "That was a stinky kiss." This resulted in Mu Yangyang balling up her small fist and punching him.

Instead of dodging her punches, he smiled and let her hit him twice to relieve her annoyance. Then, he went off to work.

Mu Yangyang walked to the window to watch his car leave. When she was about to go to the bathroom and wash up, she suddenly remembered that Mo Chenhao had not eaten breakfast.

When they lived in a villa halfway up the hill, he only left the house after having breakfast at home.

But now that he lived alone without a single maid in his apartment, she could not even tell if he ate breakfast before going to work in the morning.

Mu Yangyang pondered briefly and sent a text to Shi Ye asking him to buy breakfast for Mo Chenhao.

Since he had gone to the office, it was time for her to freshen up and get ready to go to the set.

After Mu Yangyang finished washing up, she drove back to her residence.

She made a simple breakfast for herself. While eating, she scanned through Si Chengyu's Weibo feed to see if she could find out his itinerary. She had not checked out his feed in a long time.

In the past, any random post mentioning Si Chengyu would be full of praises.

But as Mu Yangyang casually glanced at a Weibo post, she noticed that the comments were mostly

netizens condemning him.

Since the termination of the contract between Si Chengyu and Sheng ding Media, he had not stopped trending, nor did his popularity decline. However, he did gain a mixed reputation.

The main reason most of his fans turned against him was the relationship between him and Mu Yumei.

Si Chengyu had too many fans, and Sheng ding Media had maintained his personal image too well all these years. But earlier on, he was involved in many scandals and even got entangled with Mu Yumei. Without Sheng ding Media managing public relations for him, it was only natural that many fans became his haters.

Even Mu Yangyang, strictly speaking from a fan's perspective, had sufficient reasons to hate Si Chengyu.

The Si Chengyu of old used to have a really successful career, but now, all he had was a tarnished reputation. Nevertheless, he was still popular.

Si Chengyu's recent Weibo posts were all advertising endorsements, and he was also promoting a new drama. Judging by the photos, it looked like a period drama.

Mu Yangyang opened the comment section and found that someone had left a comment. I saw Si Chengyu at the film studio today. I secretly took a photo that is not very clear, but I'm so happy!

There were many follow-up comments below.

Is it the studio in Huyang City?

Yeah, I'm not sure how long the filming will take, looking forward to meeting him again next time!

How lucky! I want to see him in person too.

What's so interesting about a piece of trash?

Imagine picking up someone else's scraps!

Mu Yangyang did not bother to go through the continuous barrage of comments condemning Si Chengyu but saved the photo in the post to her phone.

On the way to the studio, she showed Qin Shuishan the photo and asked, "Can you tell where this is?"

The Huyang City film studio was huge, and Mu Yangyang had to ask Qin Shuishan for directions since she was unfamiliar with the place.

Qin Shuishan naturally recognized the person as Si Chengyu and asked, "Are you going to look for Si

Chengyu?”

“No, I have something else to do there,” lied Mu Yangyang.

“Oh, this place,” said Qin Shuishan before she told Mu Yangyang an approximate location.

After thanking Qin Shuishan, she hung up the phone and went to Si Chengyu’s filming location.

When she found the place, Mu Yangyang realized that it would be nearly impossible to meet Si Chengyu because there were just too many people.

Given the scenario, it would have been easier to go to Mu Yumei directly.

Mu Yangyang waited outside for some time but did not see Si Chengyu at all. It seemed like this wasn’t going to work, and she really had to go to Mu Yumei to get to him.

As Mu Yangyang headed in the opposite direction, she brainstormed on ways to look for Mu Yumei.

Just then, she remembered running into Mu Yumei at the restaurant yesterday. Why don’t I take a look there first?

As she thought of this, Mu Yangyang drove there right away.

She found an empty table not far from the entrance and sat down. After ordering a meal, she watched the door closely.

Coincidentally, in walked Si Chengyu and Mu Yumei, the two people she had been waiting for.

Mu Yumei’s style had not changed. The dress she wore was low-cut and revealing, and her body was glued to Si Chengyu as she said something to him daintily.

Meanwhile, Si Chengyu wore his usual calm expression and allowed Mu Yumei to hover over him. Neither impatient nor disgusted by her behavior, he even smiled from time to time.

Every time he curled his lips into a smile, Mu Yumei would be mesmerized by him, her eyes lighting up with admiration.

In the past, it was difficult for Mu Yangyang to imagine what Mu Yumei would be like when she really fell in love with a man.

But she now realized that no matter how vicious Mu Yumei was, she was still a woman nonetheless.

When women fall in love, they all act the same way.

The two then headed towards a private room.

Mu Yumei took the lead and entered the room first. Just as Si Chengyu was about to follow her into the room, he suddenly turned his head and looked in Mu Yangyang's direction.

Mu Yangyang quickly turned away. As she used her arm to block her face from view, she pretended she was looking at her phone.

After a while, when Mu Yangyang looked back, she saw that Si Chengyu had entered the room.

He probably noticed me just now.

It doesn't matter, as long as I get my hands on Si Chengyu's hair.

When Mu Yangyang's food arrived, she deliberately ate very slowly.

Finally, Si Chengyu came out of the private room and headed for the bathroom. Mu Yangyang quickly got up and followed him.

Afraid of losing him, she scuttled along faster to keep up with him.

However, when she turned into a corner, she saw no trace of Si Chengyu.

At this moment, someone tapped her on the shoulder from behind.

Turning her head abruptly, she saw Si Chengyu there, holding a cigarette in his mouth.

He looked at her teasingly and asked in a casual tone, "Were you looking for me?"

Mu Yangyang froze momentarily but quickly regained composure. "No, I wanted to use the restroom," came her reply.