

The Apple of the Ruthless CEO's Eye: My Sweet Wife Is so Adorable - Chapter 21 - 25

Chapter 21

Qiao Mu replied, "I got lost when I was registering for courses in university, and he helped me out. That's how I met him. I've been facing financial problems lately, so I asked him to get me a job at his family's nightclub as a liquor promoter. Why?"

Yao Shu smiled and shook her head. "Nothing much. I was just thinking about how Han Su is a popular guy in our university, so I found it weird that he was giving you a call. So this is what's going on. I didn't expect Senior Han Su to be such a helpful person. Moreover, he's so handsome!"

"Is he as handsome as your boyfriend? By the way, you have not told me who your boyfriend is yet!" Yao Shu had liked the guy for a very long time, and Qiao Mu was starting to get curious.

Yao Shu flashed a mysterious smile. "It's not convenient for him to date openly in the university, so we have to keep our relationship a secret!"

'Why is he being so secretive with his relationship? They have already shared a room, for God's sake. Isn't this guy a little too unreliable?'

But when Qiao Mu saw the blissful expression on Yao Shu's face, she did not have the heart to comment. She could not even deal with her own problems, and she obviously did not have the time to stick her nose into someone else's business.

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After Qiao Mu boarded the bus, she received a call from Chi Xia.

The moment she answered the call, she could hear Chi Xia growling from the other end of the phone. "Qiao Mu, you're finally answering my call. You were missing in action all night, and I was so anxious! If it wasn't for the fact that I contacted Han Su and learned that you have left with your uncle, I would

probably have contacted the police so that they can search for you in “Shades of Darkness”. I thought that you encountered a pervert and was r*ped!”

Qiao Mu twitched her lips. “Can you stop jinxing me? Whenever you say something good, they never happen. But everytime you say something horrible, they come true!”

Chi Xia froze. “Don’t tell me that you were really...”

“Ugh... stop spouting nonsense!”

“Oh, by the way, since when do you have an uncle?”

“He’s my stepmother’s cousin.”

“Don’t tell me that he brought you home yesterday, and you got interrogated by your stepmother.”

“You’re thinking too much. Nothing happened at all. I’ll be staying at home this weekend. I’ll talk to you some other time.” Qiao Mu had not even come to terms with everything that had happened. She absolutely did not want Chi Xia to know about it, as she did not know how that woman would react to it.

Qiao Mu got off the bus and walked towards the Qiao family’s mansion. The Qiao family’s mansion was located in a wealthy suburb, and there were no bus stations around it. Hence, after getting off the bus, she had to walk for around twenty minutes to reach home.

Qiao Mu had been staying in the dorm ever since she was in high school, and she went home every weekend.

As she walked, a car behind her honked. Immediately after that, a white Mercedes-Benz stopped beside her.

The window was wound down, and Qiao Ya was wearing a pair of sunglasses as she looked at Qiao Mu. She looked like a high and mighty queen who was looking at a peasant. “Qiao Mu, how many times have I told you this before? Wear a cap and cover your face when you’re walking home. You’re the only person who would take a bus home in this area. If other people see you, it would be a disgrace for our family.

A hint of coldness flashed past Qiao Mu's eyes, but she flashed an innocent smile. "Big sister, I know that you're driving an expensive car, but how could you look down on people who take public buses? Dad had been telling us since we were young that we shouldn't be arrogant and judge other people."

Qiao Ya's expression changed, and even though she was wearing sunglasses, the disdain and hatred in her eyes could not be hidden. She had never seen anyone who was as shameless as Qiao Mu. She had always been infuriatingly shameless ever since she was young. No matter what mean words she spoke to Qiao Mu, Qiao Mu would always look at her with a harmless and innocent expression. This really pissed her off!

She was just an illegitimate child, but she never knew her place!

Qiao Ya stepped on the accelerator and drove away.

Qiao Mu watched as Qiao Ya's car disappeared into the distance, and as usual, there was a spring in her step as she walked. Qiao Ya was nothing but a woman with big boobs and no brains. Every single time, she tried to provoke Qiao Mu but ended up getting infuriated herself.

Chapter 22

The moment Qiao Ya entered the mansion, she tossed her branded handbag, which costs tens of thousands of RMB, aside. Her expression was dark as she sat on the couch.

Yu Tingyun was sitting on the couch and reading a fashion magazine. She raised her head to look at Qiao Ya. "What's wrong? Did anything unpleasant happen at work? Why are you throwing a tantrum at home? You've just started working at the company. You should take it slow."

"No, mum. I met Qiao Mu outside. I feel annoyed whenever I see her. Can you stop her from coming home?" Qiao Ya's eyebrows were furrowed. She really hated Qiao Mu.

The smile on Yu Tingyun's face faded, and she said flatly, "You shouldn't simply say things like this. What if your father hears it? He'll get angry. I've told you before not to make things difficult for that girl. You just need to

remember that you're the eldest daughter of the Qiao family, and that you won't be affected no matter what Qiao Mu achieves."

There was disdain on Qiao Ya's face. "What can she achieve? She's just a beautiful but foolish girl, a shameless one at that. I feel annoyed whenever I think of her!"

Yu Tingyun's expression turned cold. Things would have been easier if Qiao Mu was really a beautiful but foolish girl. Yu Tingyun despised Qiao Mu even more than Qiao Ya. Qiao Mu's existence was proof that her husband had cheated on her, and no woman would be able to withstand seeing her husband's illegitimate daughter every day. No matter how good her mindset was, she could not stop herself from feeling furious and disgusted every time she saw Qiao Mu. But she had no choice but to pretend to be a good-natured wife and stepmother who did not mind that her husband had made such a mistake.

Qiao Ya was still talking about Qiao Mu, and Yu Tingyun cut her off a little impatiently. "Stop talking about her. She only comes home once a week. Just live with it, and she'll be gone before you know it."

They could hear the sounds of the door being unlocked. Qiao Mu was back.

Qiao Mu greeted Yu Tingyun with a smile. "Aunt Yun, I'm back."

Yu Tingyun obviously did not treat Qiao Mu as kindly as she usually did whenever Qiao Jiannan was around. She nodded indifferently and continued reading the fashion magazine she was holding.

Qiao Mu did not mind. She said, not caring if Yu Tingyun was listening to her, "I'll head to my room first. We can eat dinner together when dad is back later."

Qiao Mu did not linger in the living room and went upstairs. Because of how tired she was after what happened the night before, she fell asleep the moment she lay down on her bed. It was already evening when she woke up.

After she went downstairs, she realized that her father was not back yet. Yu Tingyun's expression was cold as she said, "Your father has an emergency business trip. He won't be coming home tonight."

This was when Qiao Ya said, "Someone really doesn't know her place. She doesn't even know that she's not welcomed here."

“Young Ya!” Yu Tingyun called out, but her tone was not accusatory at all.

There was disdain on Qiao Ya’s face. “Mum, am I wrong? She doesn’t belong in our family, anyway. She pollutes the air at home every time she’s back.”

Qiao Mu clenched her fist, and a hint of anger flashed past her eyes. She said slowly, “Big sister, it’s not a problem for you to say something like this privately, but things won’t end well if dad ends up hearing it. Aunt Yun, don’t you think so?”

Qiao Mu could put up with a lot of things the members of the Qiao family did, but this was too much. She would be a pushover if she did not fight back!

“You!” Qiao Ya’s expression was dark.

Yu Tingyun said nothing as she looked at Qiao Mu. ‘Is she a so-called beautiful but foolish girl? If she is, she’s definitely being foolish at the right times!’

Qiao Mu grabbed her backpack. “Aunt Yun, I have a class tomorrow, so I’ll be heading back to campus first.”

Qiao Mu opened the door and saw that someone was standing outside the mansion.

The man outside the door was tall and muscular, and Qiao Mu could feel a slight breeze as she stood in front of the door. But the breeze was a little cold, and this made Qiao Mu stop in her tracks.

It was Li Yan!

Qiao Mu did not expect to see him again so soon. Did he not ask her to look for him on Monday?

She immediately became anxious. She lowered her head and said politely, “Uncle, why are you here?”

Chapter 23

Both of Li Yan's hands were in his pockets, and there was a languid expression on his face. "I'm just paying you guys a visit. Why? Second Young Mistress Qiao, am I not welcome here?"

'You know for a fact that you're not welcome. Why are you still shamelessly showing up here!?'

Qiao Mu chuckled dryly. "Uncle, you must be joking. The Qiao family welcomes you very much."

'Welcome my a*s.'

If Yu Tingyun and her daughter were not behind her, she would have closed the door and locked this devil out without hesitation!

Li Yan arched an eyebrow. "Oh? Is that so?"

She said that the Qiao family welcomed his presence, but it was obvious that she did not want him there!

This was when Yu Tingyun walked over and said with a smile, "Ah Yan, don't just stand there. There were too many people during my birthday dinner, and I didn't have the time to talk properly to you. Come in and take a seat."

Li Yan lowered his head and looked at the backpack Qiao Mu was holding. "Second Young Mistress Qiao, are you going somewhere?"

Qiao Ya walked over enthusiastically. "Uncle, just ignore her. She has something to do at campus, so she has to go back there tonight."

Qiao Mu stood rooted to the spot, and she had no intention of leaving. Qiao Mu's entire body had tensed up the moment Li Yan showed up. She did not remember him saying that he would keep what had happened between them a secret in the morning. She took advantage of him and asked for 300,000 RMB from him. Could it be that he regretted agreeing to it and was here to reveal what had happened to her stepmother?

He had more than one thing on her!

The next moment, Li Yan sauntered into the mansion and said coldly, "Cousin sister, I came over because I have something to tell you."

Qiao Mu panicked when she heard that.

Her face turned pale, and she saw that Li Yan was turning and glancing at her. She could not decipher the expression on Li Yan's face, but her heart sank.

She could feel that her heart was beating rapidly. She clenched her fists. She did not know what Li Yan would say to Yu Tingyun if she were to leave now. Even though she did not feel like dealing with Li Yan, she was too scared to leave just like this.

This was when Qiao Ya said impatiently, "Qiao Mu, aren't you leaving? Why are you still standing there?"

Qiao Mu put down her backpack. She then turned and returned into the living room. She smiled in embarrassment. "I suddenly feel really hungry. I'll have dinner at home first before leaving."

The moment she said that, Yu Tingyun and Qiao Ya's expressions turned dark. Meanwhile, there was a nonchalant and barely noticeable smile on Li Yan's cold face.

This little thing was truly the most shameless person he had ever met. The members of the Qiao family obviously did not welcome her presence, but she was able to endure staying with them, and she did it like it was the most natural thing in the world.

She was definitely a crafty young woman, or she would not have been able to survive peacefully in the Qiao household for more than ten years with Yu Tingyun around.

Yu Tingyun raised her hand and waved at the nanny. "Go to the kitchen to make some food so that the second young mistress can have an early dinner."

Qiao Mu quickly cut her off. "There's no need for that. There's a guest at home, so please don't give me special treatment. I don't mind waiting for a while."

After she finished speaking, Qiao Mu walked over to the couch and sat down opposite Li Yan. She ignored Yu Tingyun's dark expression altogether.

'Why does she have to make her dislike toward me so obvious? Shouldn't she at least put on an act? I don't remember my stepmother being such a bad actress. Now that dad isn't around, she can't even act properly anymore.

'Do they really think that I want to stay here and fake a smile in front of them? I'm only here because Li Yan, that troublemaker, suddenly showed up!'

Yu Tingyun's expression was as gentle as ever as she looked at Li Yan. "Ah Yan, why don't you stay here for dinner? We can talk as we eat."

Qiao Mu's heart skipped a beat, and she was really hoping that Li Yan would reject the offer. If she had to eat together with these people, she was afraid that she would throw up.

Chapter 24

Qiao Mu fixed her gaze on the man opposite her, and she tried to show her emotions using her eyes. She gave him a pleading look, hoping that he would have mercy on her and let her off the hook. She hoped that he would leave soon, as she would feel a lot less stressed that way.

However, the man opposite her ignored her altogether. He said flatly in a cold and husky voice, "Sure."

Qiao Mu's heart sank immediately.

'Damn it, this man is obviously deliberately making things difficult for me!'

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Yu Tingyun headed to the kitchen and enthusiastically instructed the nanny to prepare a feast. Qiao Ya sat beside Li Yan and tried to get close to him. She kept calling him "uncle", as if she knew him very well.

Qiao Mu was sitting opposite them, and she vigilantly observed Li Yan's every action.

All right, she had to admit that this man was tremendously handsome. His facial features were exquisite and prominent. He also emanated a cold as well

as noble aura from the inside out, and every single movement of his was elegant and kingly.

When Li Yan was younger, he was also so handsome that he looked like a prince from a fairytale. However, he did not use to be so manly and mature. He had also acquired a cold and indifferent aura over the years.

Even though there was always a faint hint of a smile on his face, there was a perpetual iciness in his dark orbs. Hence, Qiao Mu could not help but feel anxious every time she saw him.

Qiao Mu was enjoying the sight of the handsome man before him. This was when she realized that someone was looking at him, and she could barely ignore it. She raised her head and met eyes with Li Yan. His gaze was fixed on her!

Qiao Mu was shocked, and she immediately lowered her head to avoid his gaze.

Qiao Ya was acting so enthusiastically that her body was almost touching that of Li Yan's. Qiao Mu twisted her lips. 'So what if he's your uncle by blood?'

This was when Li Yan rose. Qiao Ya suddenly stopped speaking when she saw this. She raised her head dumbfoundedly. "Uncle?"

There was a cold expression on Li Yan's face as he said, "I don't like people getting too near to me. I'm a germaphobe."

Qiao Ya's face immediately turned red. No one had ever insulted her like this!

She was the eldest daughter of the Qiao household, and everyone had always doted on her. She had plenty of admirers at school, and many of her colleagues also tried to please her all the time. She did not expect her birth uncle to insult her like this.

This uncle of hers had never been fond of her ever since she was young. She did not mind if an ordinary person did not like her, but Li Yan had always been an outstanding person. Moreover, he was now one of the most renowned businessmen in Beijing. The Li family was a lot more powerful compared to the Qiao family. Of course she wanted to get close to Li Yan!

Qiao Mu burst out laughing, but she realized that it was not the right time to do so and stopped immediately. “Uncle, my older sister isn’t dirty at all! How can you think that she isn’t clean?”

The moment Qiao Mu said this, Qiao Ya’s expression became even darker. “Qiao Mu, you better shut up!”

Li Yan looked at the young woman’s countenance, which was arrogant and innocent at the same time, and thought about what a little fox she was.

Qiao Ya often bullied her when she was a little girl. When that happened, she would sadly tell Li Yan about it. However, she was now a cunning little fox who could easily defeat Qiao Ya.

Li Yan turned and left. Qiao Mu could not help but feel pleasantly surprised. “Uncle, are you leaving now?”

Li Yan turned and said something that disappointed Qiao Mu very much. “I’m heading to the bathroom to wash up.”

Qiao Mu twisted her lips and said, relishing in her stepsister’s misfortune, “Uncle, my older sister isn’t a germ carrier. You don’t have to do this.”

Qiao Ya’s expression changed, and she glared furiously at Qiao Mu. “Shut up. If you don’t want to stay here for dinner just leave now. Stop being an eyesore here!”

There was an innocent expression on Qiao Mu’s face. “Big sister, why are you so angry? I’m just helping you out! I need to go back to my room to wash up too. I’ll come downstairs for dinner later.”

Qiao Mu talked about how hungry she was as she headed upstairs. She was feeling pleased with herself.

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Qiao Mu did not return to her room. She headed sneakily to the bathroom and when she saw that there was no one around, she dashed into the bathroom.

Chapter 25

In the bathroom, Li Yan was standing with his back facing the door as he did his business. When he heard footsteps ringing out from behind, his expression immediately turned cold. When he turned and saw the person who had just come, his expression was no longer icy. Instead, he narrowed his eyes, and there was a hint of playfulness in his expression.

“My dear niece, did you specially come here to find me? Don’t you think that you’re being a little too eager?”

Qiao Mu was dumbfounded. She thought that Li Yan was only here to wash his hands. When she saw what he was doing, she quickly turned away, and there was a flush on her face.

Li Yan slowly buckled up his belt and flushed the toilet. He then turned on the faucet to wash his hands. His movements were elegant and natural, as if he did not mind Qiao Mu’s presence at all.

Only then did Qiao Mu turn back to face him. Even though it could be seen from the way she moved that she was angry, there was a smile on her face. She said with sincerity, “Uncle, I need to talk to you.”

“Hm? What kind of stuff do you need to talk to me about, to the point that you need to look for me in the bathroom so stealthily?”

Qiao Mu pouted. Was the thing that happened between them something that could be talked about out in the open?

Qiao Mu blinked her large eyes, and she cut a pitiful sight. “Uncle, you asked me to look for you on Monday. You must not go back on your words. You cannot deceive an innocent and naive teenage girl like me. Please be merciful and let me off the hook!”

An innocent and naive teenage girl? Li Yan smiled. This description did not fit her at all.

Qiao Mu could not decipher the expression on his face, and she said with an exaggerated tone, “If my stepmother finds out about what happened between us, I won’t be able to survive in the Qiao family anymore. They will beat me up. You can’t just watch while I’m abused to death like that, can you?”

“Oh? Will they treat you so cruelly?”

Qiao Mu nodded vigorously. "You have no idea. My stepmother is really horrible to me. She looks gentle on the surface, but she's actually evil. She abuses me all the time!"

"How does she abuse you?"

"She deprives me of food and drinks!"

"Oh, no wonder you look like an underage girl even though you're already eighteen. Puberty wasn't nice to you." As Li Yan said this, he shot a glance at Qiao Mu's breasts.

Qiao Mu was rendered speechless.

He was the one whom puberty was not nice to, okay? He was the one who looked underage. Was it fun for him to insult her again and again?

Qiao Mu suppressed the dissatisfaction in her heart and nodded reluctantly. "Yeah, that's why I couldn't grow up well. So, please have pity on me."

Li Yan rested a hand on the door behind Qiao Mu and leaned in toward her. "Did I say that I'm going to go back on my words? Why are you all worked up? Or are you just taking this opportunity to seduce me again?"

Qiao Mu pressed her back against the door and said in a hushed tone, "Uncle, you're thinking too much. By the way... can you stay a bit further from me? I haven't showered for two days, and my body is full of germs. You wouldn't want germs on your body, would you?"

Li Yan did not mind at all. Instead, his smile became even wider. His eyes wandered around her body. "So, you didn't shower this morning, and my scent is on your body even until now? Little thing, are you that reluctant to wash off my scent?"

"Li Yan!" Qiao Mu really could not take it anymore, and her face was bright red from his teasing. This was too much! He was such a shameless person!

Li Yan wrapped an arm around Qiao Mu's waist, and their bodies were pressed against each other's. He said behind her ear in a husky voice, "I won't shun someone who belongs to me."

Qiao Mu froze. Before she could ponder about the meaning behind his words, he suddenly brought his face closer to hers. In the very next moment, he kissed her!

He twirled his tongue around his mouth in a domineering and possessive manner, to the point that Qiao Mu was almost out of breath.

After a while, Li Yan slapped Qiao Mu's a*s and let out a low chuckle. "If we don't leave the bathroom now, even if I say nothing, people will find out about our affair.

'Affair!?'

How could he use this term!? He sounded like she willingly got into a sexual relationship with him!

Qiao Mu really wanted to choke this man to death. Why was he always able to infuriate her so much with his words!?