

The Apple 35

Chapter 35

Qiao Mu was dejected when she returned to school. She had departed with her heart filled with hope in the morning. She had initially thought that everything would go smoothly. Being in a most unflattering position was not the conclusion she had in mind.

The cell phone started ringing. Qiao Mu's brows furrowed together when she saw the incoming call. She hesitated for a moment before she answered the call.

She really could not afford the money — she did not even have three thousand RMB on her now, let alone three hundred thousand RMB. Qiao Mu wanted to make it clear to Zhou Jieru.

The call had just connected when a hysterical voice screeched into her ear. "You wicked girl, it has been so many days now. Where is the money? Are you messing with me? You're asking me to wait for death if you don't give me money! How is it this difficult for you to give me some money? Isn't this just an easy task for you? Are you deliberately being unfilial to your mother?!"

Qiao Mu bit her lip and her fingers tightened around the cell phone, "I've already done my best. I'm unable to give you three hundred thousand RMB."

"It's only three hundred thousand RMB. Why are you being so stingy? I saw on the newspapers that Qiao Group had just sealed a business worth a few million RMB a few days ago. You're really becoming more and more unfilial now. Did you use all the money that Qiao Jiannan gave you to buy those luxury items? You shouldn't be so materialistic as a young woman. Think about me, your mother, who you need to support!" Zhou Jieru sounded unkind, as if she was a creditor demanding for debt money. She was upsetting Qiao Mu with her every word.

Qiao Mu thought she had a very strong mental capacity, but she could not bear the pain of such a verbal assault from her own birth mother.

Although Qiao Ya also always provoked Qiao Mu with various scornful words at home, Qiao Mu bore it quietly. However, this was unbearable. That woman on the other end of the phone was not a stranger, but her birth mother!

Qiao Mu had a lot of things she wanted to say to refute this woman, but what was the point of it? This woman had always assumed that she was rich, and her retort would be regarded as playing self-pity!

When Zhou Jieru did not get Qiao Mu's answer, she continued to say impatiently, "Why do you stop talking? Did I get it right? The loan shark has given me a few more days. You better quickly think of an idea, just give me one or two hundred thousand RMB for emergency purposes. Otherwise, you'll have to collect my dead body!"

Zhou Jieru said that and directly hung up the phone.

Qiao Mu's complexion turned pale. Zhou Jieru firmly believed that Qiao Mu would care about her, that was why she acted this way. In Qiao Mu's memory, she had received very little maternal love, which was why she was unwilling to let go.

Actually, Zhou Jieru was not this outrageous in the past. When Qiao Mu was still in high school, Zhou Jieru had already gotten in touch with her. At that time, Zhou Jieru had restrained herself. She would care a little about Qiao Mu's life and study. Slowly afterwards, Zhou Jieru started to mention money. She would describe herself as pitiful, and Qiao Mu would give her money that she saved from her living expenses out of pity.

In the recent year, Zhou Jieru started to become greedier. It started with a few thousand RMB, racking all the up to the three hundred thousand RMB now!

Qiao Mu's heart was throbbing in pain. Suddenly, someone interrupted her from behind, "Qiao Mu?"

Qiao Mu turned around and saw Han Su standing behind her.

Han Su raised an eyebrow as he stared at her, "Why do you look like you're going through a break up?"

Qiao Mu hid her emotions and smiled with difficulty, "Senior, how am I going through a breakup when you didn't dump me?"

Han Su laughed, and his handsome face was extremely flamboyant, "You're still able to joke, that means you're fine."

"By the way, last time at 'Shades of Darkness', I thought you were drunk and simply left with someone else, so I told Li Yan that I'm your boyfriend. Did I cause you any trouble afterwards?"

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Qiao Mu was stunned. Li Yan had not mentioned that to her.

He was not her uncle, surely he was not interested in her matters, right?

Qiao Mu lowered her gaze and smiled nonchalantly, "My family members have already lectured me. Thank you, senior, for your help at the time!"

The two of them were chatting when Yao Shu ran over, "What boyfriend? Mu Mu, senior, what are you two talking about? Both of you look so happy!"

Han Su glanced at Yao Shu and then asked Qiao Mu, "Is this your classmate?"

Qiao Mu nodded, "Senior, she's Yao Shu,"

Yao Shu was relatively reserved, so Qiao Mu thought that she knew Han Su when she nonchalantly interrupted their conversation.

Yao Shu was very puzzled when she asked, "Senior, why does your voice sound a little different? What's wrong with your throat?"

Han Su was confused, "I'm sorry I don't understand what you're saying."

Yao Shu smiled as she gestured with her hand, "It's alright. Senior, don't be so cold!"

Han Su shifted his gaze away from Yao Shu. He bade goodbye to Qiao Mu before he left.

Yao Shu watched Han Su leave, her gaze was somewhat filled with disappointment. She then dragged Qiao Mu back to the dorm, and all she talked about was Han Su.

Qiao Mu felt there was something wrong with Yao Shu. Qiao Mu would have thought that Yao Shu liked Han Su if Qiao Mu did not know that Yao Shu was already in a relationship, and that her boyfriend could not be Han Su.

"Mu Mu, you seem like you're really in need of money recently. Do you need me to lend you some?" Yao Shu asked.

"It's alright. I can still handle it."

Qiao Mu did not like to be in the debt of another. She could not just go around and borrow money. Yao Shu was different from Chi Xia. She did not know this woman well enough to comfortably discuss financial matters with her.

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Chi Xia was talking on the phone when Qiao Mu returned to the dorm. Chi Xia only hung up her phone after a while.

Qiao Mu teased, "You can't seem to stop smiling after you made an overseas call to Gu Cheng."

Chi Xia rolled her eyes at Qiao Mu, "We're maintaining a long-distance relationship now. It's so hard to even make a phone call, and you're still teasing me!"

Gu Cheng was Chi Xia's boyfriend, and he was currently studying abroad. The two of them got together back in high school. Qiao Mu had witnessed the start of their relationship — of course she knew how strong their relationship was.

After that, Gu Cheng did not attend local university, but chose to study abroad. When Chi Xia learned about his decision, she had not made a scene over it. Although she was really reluctant to part with him, she did not hold him back.

At that time, Chi Xia had said very calmly, "Just leave, I'll wait for you. If we break up midway, it only means that our love's not strong enough! If we're still in love when you return, let's just directly get married!"

Chi Xia was really calm and pragmatic sometimes. Her rational treatment of her romance was further evidence.

Qiao Mu did not know if four years' time would change both of them — she only knew that the relationship between Li Yan and her had changed completely after ten years.

Big brother...

Once, someone had treated her as treasure.

But that was in the past.

Qiao Mu remembered when she was younger, Qiao Ya would always compare and fight over everything with her, including Li Yan's presence.

At that time, Qiao Mu was extremely close with Li Yan. She always trailed behind Li Yan, but Li Yan who was always cold and aloof did not reject her.

Qiao Ya had been jealous and barked at Qiao Mu, "Qiao Mu, you better don't think he's your biological uncle. Remember, you're just an outsider! He's my biological uncle!"

In the face of Qiao Ya's anger, Qiao Mu only flashed an innocent smile. "I know he's not my uncle, he's my big brother."

Then Qiao Ya would complain angrily to Li Yan, "Uncle, look at Qiao Mu! Her skin's thicker than a tree bark! It's so annoying that she's always bothering you!"

But Li Yan replied disapprovingly, "Just don't stare at her if you think she's annoying. Qiao Ya, you're always bullying your own younger sister. Don't you think that you're being silly?"

Qiao Ya ran away crying, while Qiao Mu laughed happily.