

The Apple 51

Chapter 51

They did not know that the young woman was always the one making the first move.

Regardless of whether it was her intentional or unintentional approach to him ten years ago, or her accidental approach ten years after, in short, she was always the one making the first move, every single time.

To top it all off, this little thing's greatest weapon was her ability to feign innocence in spite of being the main culprit.

Lu Jingzhi heard Li Yan's cryptic words and was somewhat stunned.

The man sat languidly on the couch, and his expression was cold as before, but from time to time, his gaze fell onto that figure in the crowd.

Apart from Qiao Mu, no one else could get such attention from this man.

Since he cared so much about her, then why...

"Big brother, why didn't you tell Qiao Mu that you were leaving when you went abroad that year?"

Upon hearing that, Li Yan's gaze darkened as he lifted a brow. He glanced indifferently at Lu Jingzhi. He did not speak a word, but his gaze was a question, in and of itself.

Lu Jingzhi crossed his legs, his expression masterfully neutral. "After you left, I went to your house to get something for you. Qiao Mu ran over and asked for you. She clearly was unaware about your departure."

Li Yan pursed his lips and an unknown emotion flashed across his eyes. Su Chen, who was sitting beside him, noticed that and silently dragged Lu Jingzhi with him to entertain the guests.

Lu Jingzhi was very reluctant as he followed behind Su Chen, "Big brother hasn't answered me yet. Why did you bring me away?"

Su Chen glared at him, "You didn't mention this back then, so why are you mentioning it now? Are you trying to get yourself into trouble?"

"Ahem... Didn't I forget about it back then?"

Moreover, he always felt that Li Yan only deliberately acted like he cared about Qiao Mu back then to put on a show in front of Yu Tingyun and her daughter. The fact that he did not notify Qiao Mu when he left further confirmed this, so Lu Jingzhi had not taken it to heart.

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The guests became aware of Li Yan's presence, and one by one, they came over to toast him.

Li Yan's gaze swept across the crowd from time to time to catch that figure in white as he dealt with those who came forward to toast him.

She went to find him after he left? Did she not already know that he was leaving?

Li Yan stared at Qiao Mu's side profile. Although she was a distance away from him, he could still clearly see that she was smiling politely. Suddenly, her expression changed, and then he saw the man and woman show up in front of her.

On the other end, Qiao Mu was accompanying Han Su as he greeted his acquaintances. Suddenly, a familiar voice said, "Mu Mu, why are you here?"

The voice sounded sweet and gentle, which was entirely unlike her usual sharp and unkind speaking style.

Qiao Mu smiled at the person who came forward, "Big sister, you're here too. I'm accompanying my friend to this banquet."

Qiao Ya had an appropriate smile on her face, but there was an unnoticeable hatred deep within her eyes. She smiled as she looked at Han Su, "Who is this? Is he your boyfriend?"

"This is my senior." Qiao Mu introduced as she raised her head to meet Han Su's gaze. She explained, "This is my big sister."

Ever since Han Su knew that Li Yan was Qiao Mu's uncle, he already knew that she was the daughter of the Qiao family. So he was not surprised when he met Qiao Ya.

Han Su nodded politely toward Qiao Ya, and then turned his gaze toward the man beside her and smiled, "Young Master Lin, long time no see."

Lin Xian smiled as his gaze shifted toward Qiao Mu, "Young Master Han is so lucky to have such a beautiful female companion! Young Ya, is this your biological younger sister? I didn't think that your younger sister would be on par with your beauty."

Lin Xian stared lustfully at Qiao Mu, and Qiao Mu was very disgusted by his gaze. She did not know where Qiao Ya met such a tacky man.

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Qiao Ya realized that Lin Xian's attention had shifted toward Qiao Mu. A hint of greed flashed across her eyes as she smiled, "Young Master Lin, my younger sister is still in university, so she rarely shows up for public events."

“No wonder! It’s such a shame for such a beautiful young woman to fall into the oblivion that is university. As her big sister, you should expose her to more events like this for knowledge and experience. I have a private party in two days’ time. If it’s convenient for you, you can bring your younger sister with you to my party.”

Qiao Ya’s eyes brightened and she immediately answered without caring about Qiao Mu’s opinion, “Of course we’re free to attend when Young Master Lin’s the one who invited us!”

Qiao Mu already guessed that the other person’s status must be extraordinary after she noticed Qiao Ya’s bootlicking attitude. Qiao Ya always acted aloof and highly. If the other person did not hold any value to her, she would never lower herself like this.

Han Su pulled Qiao Mu to the side and warned her, “Mu Mu, the person just now is the mayor’s son. He doesn’t have the best of personalities, so you have to watch your distance.”

Lin Xian was obviously interested in Qiao Mu judging from his behavior just now.

Lin Xian was well-known for being a playboy, and there was nothing that he would not do in his life of dissipation. Moreover, he was the son of an official, so he was fearless in his wrongdoings, as his father would clear up his mess every single time.

Qiao Mu nodded. The mayor’s son indeed had a powerful background!

At the same time, Li Yan walked toward Lin Xian. Qiao Mu was somewhat surprised as she looked at Han Su, “Senior, the mayor’s son is not the mayor, why does everyone need to give face to him?”

“You’re unaware about this, but recently there is a plot of land in the northern suburb that holds a huge development value, and a lot of companies have their eyes on it. The land directly belongs to the city hall, so the mayor’s official approval is needed to own the land. I believe it’s because of this matter that your uncle is taking the initiative to greet Lin Xian.” Han Su explained.

Qiao Mu did not understand business-related matters. She only knew that both Qiao Group and Li Group seemed like they wanted this business deal.

Qiao Mu watched Li Yan and Lin Xian as they clinked wine glasses, and Qiao Ya had an awkward expression on her face as she stood by their side. Qiao Mu wanted to laugh at the scene. Li Yan certainly was not giving face to Qiao Ya again.

Qiao Mu was somewhat tired, so she notified Han Su before she rested on the couch aside. She lowered her head to play on her cell phone to pass the time. A tall figure stood in front of her and the shadow loomed over her vision.

She raised her head and saw Li Yan's handsome face. Qiao Mu's eyes crinkled in smile as she shifted over to give Li Yan a space to sit.

"Uncle, have a seat."

Li Yan glanced lazily at her as he sat down conveniently.

He raised one of his long legs to cross over another leg, and his arm rested on the back of the couch behind her. His posture was extremely languid as he stared indifferently at her.

He just stared silently at her without uttering a word. Qiao Ya could not stand the silent treatment. He seemed even scarier when he was staring silently at her than when he was scolding her fiercely.

"Uncle..." In order to ease the tension, Qiao Mu thought for a while and said, "You see, most of the men here have female companions but you don't have one. No one would dare to get close to you when you're wearing a cold expression on your face."

Li Yan raised his brows indifferently as he spoke through his thin lips, "My female companion was snatched away by another person."

"Who's so fearless?!"

"Your senior." His voice sounded dull.

Qiao Mu was left speechless.

She immediately realized that she was the female companion he was talking about!

The man before her suddenly got closer to her. His languid expression had a hidden aura that was domineering and unruly, as his deep voice said one word after another, "Qiao Mu, my woman can only be used by me. Others don't have the rights to touch what's mine. Do you understand?"

His words implied another meaning.

Qiao Mu's heart stopped beating as she nodded subconsciously. This man was serious about it.

"Speak!"

Qiao Mu immediately straightened up and sat upright, as she said earnestly, "I understand!"

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Someone suddenly laughed behind them, breaking the atmosphere.

Lu Jingzhi slowly walked over with a smile on his face, "Big brother, are you lecturing a student? It's so rare to see such an obedient student nowadays!"

Qiao Mu's eyes were very hostile when she glanced at Lu Jingzhi. She ignored the other person and turned to the side to look at Li Yan as she continued, "Uncle, please don't be angry anymore."

Her voice sounded coy when she pleaded. Her big eyes blinked as she stared intently at him, and her actions made her seem extremely obedient and adorable.

The coldness on Li Yan's face slowly dissipated from her attitude. He glanced at Lu Jingzhi, who sat opposite them and showed no signs of leaving. It started to irk him.

But Lu Jingzhi remained unaware of Li Yan's ire. He continued regardless of the potential danger he was in, "Qiao Mu, he's not your biological uncle, yet you're so used to calling him uncle."

Qiao Mu stared at Lu Jingzhi in annoyance, "Mister Lu, I don't think you're in a position to educate me. Can't you see that we're having a conversation? Why do you interrupt us in such a rude manner? Don't you know that your actions are very annoying?"

Lu Jingzhi raised his brow nonchalantly. In front of Li Yan, Qiao Mu was as obedient and sensible as a child. But she was a completely different person when she was facing him and she acted like she was covered in thorns.

Lu Jingzhi crossed his legs, "Miss Qiao, your temperament is as arrogant as usual. You'll suffer losses in the future if you continue to act like this."

"Suffer what losses?"

A low voice said slowly. Li yan glanced indifferently at Lu Jingzhi, "Tell me, what losses will she suffer?"

His tone sounded extremely strong and arrogant.

Lu Jingzhi was stunned as he said helplessly, "Big brother, it's not good for you to indulge her."

Li Yan looked up, "Do you have any opinions?"

"...No!" How did he dare have any opinions?

Lu Jingzhi could only suffer in silence. Why did Li Yan take it so seriously when he was simply joking around?

His unrestrained act in protecting Qiao Mu now was just the same as back then!

Lu Jingzhi finally understood why Su Chen very tactfully did not come over to butt in. No one could simply take advantage of Qiao Mu!

Lu Jingzhi shook his head as he recalled those years. He had once believed that Li Yan would never really get together with Qiao Mu...

He also had moments where he made an error of judgement when he was younger.

Qiao Mu felt a ripple of emotion. She could sense that Li Yan was protecting her. This familiar nostalgia was somewhat saddening, but she did not know how to react to it.

But she could not hold back the warmth that oozed from the bottom of her heart. Although she did not want to admit it, she was extremely happy about this.

“Let’s go.”

The man beside her stood up. Qiao Mu raised her head to meet his gaze, and then got up obediently and followed behind him as he went out.

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It was extremely quiet in the car.

Qiao Mu lowered her head in silence. Some of her memories came back to her after she met his friends.

Qiao Mu did not like Lu Jingzhi, and she always disliked him.

When Li Yan went abroad, Qiao Mu was ill and bedridden. When she finally could get off her bed and ran to the Li family’s mansion, she only saw Lu Jingzhi as Li Yan had already left by then.

She remembered clearly when Lu Jingzhi stared disapprovingly at her, and very cruelly told her that she was unfit for Li Yan, that they were people of two worlds. He said that she was still young, and she would understand when she got older.

Usually Qiao Mu, who was always optimistic, would not mind these words. But slowly, Qiao Mu realized that Li Yan had truly disappeared from her life. After that, it was just as Lu Jingzhi said, Li Yan and her were indeed living in two different worlds.

As Qiao Mu was lost in her thoughts, a large hand ruffled her hair, "Your mind can still wander when you're beside me? What are you thinking?"

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Qiao Mu tilted her head as she stared at the face that had remained as handsome as it did ten years ago. She could not hold back the confusion within her as she asked, "Uncle, why did you go abroad without saying a word?"

Li Yan's eyes slightly darkened as his cold gaze fixed on her face.

This was her first time mentioning their past ever since their reunion. Twice even, she had failed to recognize him.

Just like how they met for the first time on the cruise, the relationship between them started because he had caught her doing something wrong.

She did not mention the past, so he had not mentioned it either. There were some bad memories that he was unwilling to recall.

His gaze fixed intently on her, and he sounded like he was questioning her, "You're only asking it now? Qiao Mu, do you even care?"

Qiao Mu clenched both hands into fists. She nervously waited for his answer, but she only got this in return.

Did she even care?

Just like what Lu Jingzhi said, she was just an insignificant child back then.

Her heart throbbed in pain as she smiled indifferently, "Just forget about it if uncle doesn't want to talk about it. After all, it's already in the past."

That pair of black eyes suddenly darkened, and a hint of anger flashed across his eyes. Her indifference had infuriated him beyond words.

When he left without saying goodbye back then, was she also this indifferent?

The atmosphere in the car turned glacial.

Qiao Mu lowered her head. She somewhat regretted plucking at the wrong string and ruining the atmosphere.

The man beside her suddenly got closer, and before Qiao Mu could realize what was happening, he had sealed her lips with a kiss.

Qiao Mu widened her eyes in shock. His kiss was overbearing and powerful, as his lips and tongue did what he wished without restraint in her mouth, and she quickly lost resistance.

The anger in Li Yan's heart would not dissipate, as the heat swarmed up in his chest, he found it difficult to breathe.

Kissing her fiercely with all his might seemed to remedy it.

He suddenly bit her tongue in a punitive manner.

“It hurts...”

“Get out of the car!” The low and hoarse voice sounded cold.

Qiao Mu was stunned, and then only was she aware that she had already reached her university.

She bit her lips and looked at him dejectedly. She saw the coldness in his eyes and forcefully wiped her red lips before storming out of the car.

She could get out of the car if she pleased! What was the big deal?

The car sped off the instant the door slammed.

Qiao Mu stomped her foot angrily!

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The next day Qiao Mu woke up in a daze, only to be greeted by rumors going around the university.

Someone had taken photos of her and Han Su yesterday when they attended the banquet and photos were uploaded onto the university's forum.

Han Su was the president of the student union, and though he had a lot of admirers, he always acted coldly toward those who confessed to him. Slowly, the number of people who were secretly in love with him increased. So naturally, the intimate photos of Qiao Mu and Han Su got the public's attention.

Yao Shu showed the photos to Qiao Mu on her cell phone and asked expressionlessly, “Qiao Mu, what's going on between you and Han Su?”

Qiao Mu glanced disapprovingly at the photos, “We just attended a banquet. It’s nothing. The people online are too bored.”

Yao Shu’s expression was somewhat twisted when she asked nonchalantly, “But your lips were red when you came back yesterday. What about that?”

Qiao Mu’s mood turned for the worse when she remembered what Li Yan did last night, so she simply replied, “Some bug bit my lips.”

After Qiao Mu said that, she saw that Yao Shu was standing motionless as she thought about something. Qiao Mu asked in confusion, “Young Shu, are you alright?”

Yao Shu clenched her fist tightly as she forced a smile. “Oh, I’m alright!”

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The gossip post regarding Qiao Mu and Han Su was taken down by the network administrator not long after.

Han Su gave Qiao Mu a call to apologise, and told her that he would handle this matter without causing her any trouble.

Qiao Mu was not particularly perturbed about the entire event. She just felt that something had gone wrong with Yao Shu since that night. But she also did not think too much about it.

However, on the next day, Qiao Mu was called to the office by the department head.

The department head was a middle-aged woman with old-fashioned glasses. Judging by her appearance, she was not someone to be trifled with.

Qiao Mu asked respectfully, "Madam, why did you call me here?"

The department head had a serious expression on her face, "Qiao Mu, you have had quite a lot of after class entertainment recently. Don't forget that studying is your main task. Don't be influenced by the society's climate! It's very easy for you to go astray when you look past your duties as a student now!"

Qiao Mu was confused, "Madam, I don't understand. Did I make any mistakes?"

She only got exposure from attending a banquet. It was unlikely for her to be called to the office because of that, right?

"This about your recent behaviors. Do you really not know what you did wrong? Have you ever thought about what would happen when the school finds out that you were spotted at nightclubs? Young people your age don't focus on your studies, but rely on your good looks to reap without sowing. I heard that you were extremely tight on cash recently, so you kept going to those indecent places. Don't be so vain as a young woman. Does that look like the right place to earn money?" The department head stared regretfully at Qiao Mu.

Qiao Mu was stunned, "Madam, who told you that?"

"You still have the nerves to ask? You were not exactly discreet, weren't you? A student's parent saw you at the nightclub and reported you to the university. The parent said that our university's morals are corrupted, and demanded that we deal with students like you in order to make an example for the other students! You're really in deep trouble this time!"

How was this possible? Qiao Mu only went to Shades of Darkness once, and not many people could have spotted her, let alone some students' parents?

Qiao Mu furrowed her brows pitifully, "Madam, you can't just go by conjecture and hearsay. I deny going to any nightclubs whatsoever. Besides, how can any random student's parent recognize me? It is either a case of mistaken identity, I am being set up! Madam, you can't simply jump to conclusions!"

The department head pushed her glasses and said with a cold expression, "You don't have to quibble anymore. Ask your parents to come tomorrow, I would like to have a word with them!"

Qiao Mu instantly felt a chill in her heart. She wanted to continue her pleas, but the department head did not give her any chance to do so at all.

Calling her parents over? It would be the end of her if her father knew about her wrongdoings! Her father did not have the time to come to the university, so her stepmother would come instead. It was obvious that the consequences would be even worse!

This single tip-off would open a barrel of worms! All her secrets and clandestine activities would be out in the open! If Yu Tingyun had the mind to find out, with a little investigation, she would discover that Qiao Mu was in contact with her birth mother.

Qiao Mu definitely could not let such things happen!

Right at that moment, Li Yan was the first person Qiao Mu could think of to ask for help. She hung her head dejectedly as she stared at her cell phone. She did not know Li Yan's phone number at all.

She had no means of contacting him even if she truly wanted to!

Li Yan never contacted her again ever since that night when he had furiously sent her out of his car. Obviously, it was very unlikely to ask him for help now.

Qiao Mu was extremely puzzled. Who was the person who reported her? Not many people knew about that. She did offend someone in Shades of Darkness, but it seemed like President Chen was very terrified of Li Yan. If he wanted to take revenge on her, he could straightaway do that to her. He did not need to use such a roundabout method.

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Qiao Mu had thought that she could deal with the matter easily. If she put on more pity-plays with her pleas she could have wiggled her way out yet..

But the department head was making things difficult. She said that the upper management of the university already knew about this. If she would not call her parents over, the university would.

Qiao Mu was truly scared. She was at the end of her rope, so she had no choice but to seek Li Yan for help.

Qiao Mu snuck into the Li family's mansion, but Li Yan was not at home.

The butler noticed that she was somewhat anxious, so he said, "Second Young Mistress Qiao, how about I give the young master a call. If we know when he returns, you don't have to wait in vain?"

"It's alright, Uncle Chen. I'm free anyway, so I can wait for a while longer. Don't worry about me, you can get on with your work."

The butler did not dare to just ignore this important guest, so he kept serving fruits and desserts to Qiao Mu. This treatment toward Qiao Mu was better than the one she received in the Qiao family.

Under regular circumstances Qiao Mu would have already dug in, but she was far too nervous at that moment. She was worried that Li Yan would not help her. After all, they had not parted with a happy note the last time.

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Inside Brilliant Dark Night's VVIP private room.

Li Yan was playing mahjong with Su Chen and the rest. Li Yan had spent several consecutive nights with them to pass his time. This made Lu Jingzhi think that the big brother was still himself. Who said that man would spend all of his effort and time on the woman once he was in a relationship? This was something only an undignified man would do!

Li Yan tossed out a mahjong tile and Lu Jingzhi laughed loudly, "I've won!"

“Big brother, I’m really sorry for winning twice. People always say if one will be unlucky at play when he’s lucky in love. That saying is indeed true.”

It was rare for them to win money from Big Brother Li, he was quite the formidable player. But they had won quite a number of times these past few nights.

Li Yan opened the drawer of the mahjong table expressionlessly and took out a wad of cash before tossing it to Lu Jingzhi, “Shut up and stop talking nonsense!”

This seemed to imply that he was not having luck in his love life.

Lu Jingzhi was somewhat puzzled as he asked, “Big brother, why don’t you go and accompany your niece? Your head isn’t in the game right now.”

Li Yan pursed his lips in silence. Who knew where that little thing was enjoying herself now. She seemed to enjoy the absence of his company.

Su Chen glanced at Li Yan and said indifferently, “Big brother, I heard that Qiao Mu did not have an easy life in the Qiao family in the past years.”

Li Yan’s gaze fell onto the mahjong tiles, as his long arm reached out to take a tile. His expression was indifferent and calm when he said slowly, “I know.”

Su Chen was stunned. He knew?

He was acting this indifferent when he actually knew about it?

This did not seem like his usual behavior!

Back then, Li Yan would make Qiao Ya suffer more losses on other matters when she had just bullied Qiao Mu with words. Li Yan could not stand Qiao Mu receiving any mistreatment. Although he was only

fifteen or sixteen years old back then with limited power, he still did everything he could to protect that young girl.

It was obvious that Qiao Mu was having a hard life during his ten years of absence. But there he was, standing by the sidelines with folded arms.

If Su Chen did not know Li Yan's character and the importance Qiao Mu still held in his heart, Li Yan's behavior would cause others to think that Qiao Mu was insignificant to him.

However, Su Chen did not voice up his confusion when Li Yan continued with his indifferent voice,

"This is the punishment for her."

Lu Jingzhi and Su Chen exchanged a glance, but both of them did not understand the meaning of Li Yan's words.

The three of them did not concentrate on playing mahjong, and Lei Yi, who was focused on playing mahjong won the round.

Li Yan toppled the mahjong tiles, then stood up and left, "I quit. I'm leaving now."

Lei Yi said, "Young master, you still haven't given me the money!"

Li Yan did not even look back, "You've won enough today. Don't be too greedy!"

Lei Yi thought to himself, 'Can't he just accept his loss and pay? It's not easy for me to win some.'

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Lei Yi followed Li Yan to send him home, but the man held him back. Li Yan then drove himself back home.

There were very little cars on the road at night, but Li Yan obeyed the speed limit.

Of course he knew that throughout the years, Qiao Mu had a hard life in the Qiao family. That woman, Yu Tingyun was not what she seemed on the surface, whereas Qiao Ya was a spoiled rich girl who bullied others without caring about any repercussions.

All of these were punishments for her.

Li Yan thought that everything would change after ten years, but when they reunited and he fell into her trap once again, he then only realized that he would never be able to escape from her trap.

He could write everything that happened back then off with one stroke.

Back then, she was still young, so she did not know any better. But from now on, if she continued to behave badly...

Li Yan tightened his hands on the steering wheel. The young girl who was once obedient had turned into a clever and sly little fox. If she wanted to gain benefits from scheming, she better schemed toward the right direction!

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Li Yan entered the mansion and took off his coat before passing it to the butler. The butler said with a low voice, "Young master, Second Young Mistress Qiao is here, and she has waited a very long time for you."

Li Yan paused in his action of changing his shoes. He slipped on his slippers and looked at the empty living room, and asked, "Where is she?"

“The Second Young Mistress Qiao has waited for a really long time, so she’s already fallen asleep on the couch now.”

That petite figure was completely covered by the back of the couch.

Li Yan walked over and then saw the figure who curled up on the couch. A blanket was covering her body which was almost curled up into a ball. Her posture gave off a sense of extreme insecurity to others.

Li Yan felt his heart throbbed in pain after he saw her appearance.

Qiao Mu was not sleeping soundly, and she had many dreams through the mist of her sleep. She dreamt that Li Yan had returned, and he was unwilling to help her after she expressed her intention. Not only that, he wanted to bring her to Yu Tingyun to expose her.

She suddenly jolted awake, and saw the man standing behind the couch after she raised her head. She was at a loss for quite a while before coming back to her senses.

She immediately leaped off the couch and straightaway threw herself into Li Yan’s arms. She cracked a wide smile with her eyes curved into half-moons, “Uncle, you’re back!”

“Yes.” Li Yan replied indifferently.

“I’ve waited for you for so long!” Her voice sounded like Li Yan had wronged her.

Li Yan sat down on the couch and raised his head to look at her cordial and fawning attitude. He straightaway exposed her facade, “Say, why are you looking for me?”

His cold attitude was just as she expected.

It had already been a few days. No matter how angry he was, he should have calmed down by now, right?

Qiao Mu did not dare sit down when Li Yan was sitting down. After all, she needed to ask for his help, so she could not be on the same level as him.

She stood obediently before him with her head hung low, and she appeared pitiful and upset, "Uncle, I'm in trouble. Please help me."

Li Yan gave her a side glance, "Hmm? What trouble?"

"I don't know who I had offended, but someone reported to the university that I was selling alcohol and beverages in Shades of Darkness. The university wants to have a talk with my parents about it."

"So?" Li Yan raised his brows without batting an eyelid.

Qiao Mu clenched her teeth fiercely as she was really angered by his indifferent attitude. She had already made it so clear to him, and he certainly understood her intention, but he was still pretending like he could not understand her!

She raised her head and looked at him pitifully. Her big eyes were filled with her pleas, "Uncle, can you please help me by going to the university and settle this matter for me?"

This young woman had already used honorific terms when she was begging him.

Li Yan crossed his legs and leaned languidly on the couch. He looked up and stared at her, "Qiao Mu, allow me to remind you that your parents are just next door. Did you enter the wrong house?"

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Qiao Mu was left speechless. This person was really pushing her buttons!

He was clearly protecting her from Lu Jingzhi before, and that familiar feeling only lasted for a while before he turned into the cold uncle in the blink of an eye!

Qiao Mu endured the annoyance in her heart as she mumbled with a soft voice, "I didn't come to the wrong house! I'm here for you!"

"To ask me to handle your terrible mess?"

"Mm-hmm!"

"But I was also there when it happened. I saw you making mistakes and almost letting others take advantage of you with my own eyes. The person who reported you didn't falsely accuse you. You did do something wrong, and it's right for the university to punish you."

Qiao Mu was left speechless. He was clearly the bastard who took advantage of her!

"Also, I'm not your guardian. Although I'm ten years older than you, do you think I'm old enough to be your parent?"

Qiao Mu was at a loss of words.

Qiao Mu was certain now that the man was picking faults with her!

He was absolutely doing this on purpose!

His taunting and arrogant attitude made her extremely furious, but she did not have the guts to just turn away and leave. Her rationality was telling her that if she just left in a huff, she would close the door on her last solution.

She did not have any other solutions apart from him.

Qiao Mu hung her head in silence as she pouted upsetly, and she appeared extremely pitiful.

She never made any mistakes since young not because she was naturally thoughtful and obedient, but because she did not want to taint her father's reputation. Her existence had already smeared her father's past. Her father had blatantly ignored her and left her with her birth mother to survive on their own. But he still brought her back to the Qiao family under pressure.

Regardless of how pleased Yu Tingyun and her daughter would be, how upset and disappointed her father would be if this incident was blown out of proportion?

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The young woman standing before him seemed like she had suffered an immense grievance. She appeared pitiful as she bit her lip in silence with tears welling up in her eyes.

Li Yan slightly squinted as his deep black eyes darkened a little. There was an undetectable emotion hidden deep within his eyes.

He sighed and he sounded less indifferent, "Why are you acting upset in front of me? Am I the one who bullied you?"

"You don't want to help me!" Her voice sounded like he was making a huge mistake by not helping her.

"Should I help when anyone just comes and asks for my help? If that's the case, I would have died of exhaustion now!"

"It's fine if you don't want to help me, but you're actually adding salt to my wound!"

"I'm just being truthful."

Qiao Mu was speechless. Alright, Qiao Mu did not want to argue with him any further. She definitely would not get the upper-hand in arguing with him anyway!

She took a step forward and sat down next to him, as she lightly stroked him, "Uncle, I'm not just a random person. I'm your woman."

Li Yan glanced at her, "You only remember that you're mine after you get yourself into trouble?"

"All the time!"

"Stop being upset and feigning pity in front of me!"

"But I'm truly upset!"

Li Yan's expression was cold as usual, and his voice sounded indifferent, "Qiao Mu, don't think that I'll help you unconditionally."

Qiao Mu was stunned as she suddenly felt a sadness in her heart. Back then, he used to treat her unconditionally well. He would always take her side and protect her.

But it was different now!

She nodded, "I know, so I'll give you whatever you want."

He instantly narrowed his black eyes, "You'll give? Apart from your body, what else can you give to me?"

"I'll give it to you!" She made the decision and nodded with her teeth clenched tightly together.

But just as she finished saying that, the handsome face before her darkened. It was as if the word "angry" was clearly written across his face.

Did she say something wrong again?

Qiao Mu thought for a second before saying, "I won't give it to you!"

But his expression was still very pissed.

Qiao Mu was somewhat at a loss. She did not know what to do anymore. It was wrong to give him what he wanted, but it was also wrong to withhold what he wanted from him. What was she going to do?

Chapter 59

Qiao Mu hung her head and felt somewhat discouraged as she mumbled, "Uncle, do you know that you're very hard to please?"

She was just asking him for a small favor! Why did he make things difficult for her like this?

Li Yan raised his brow and a hint of contemplation flashed across his cold eyes, "I'm very hard to please? Do you really remember who was actually pleasing the other person when you were lost in lust that night?"

Qiao Mu's face immediately turned boiling red as she glared embarrassedly at him, "Pervert!"

This bastard!

It was fine if he did not want to help her, but he was actually mocking her!

"Pervert? Qiao Mu, do you think it's suitable for a pervert to play the role as your guardian to your university? Aren't you afraid that the university will bring down the hammer?"

The meaning of his words was...

Qiao Mu's eyes brightened, "Uncle, you're willing to help me?"

Her eyes were twinkling brightly. She had been very upset a second ago, but she was bursting with life the next second.

Suddenly, an ill-timed rumble came out from Qiao Mu's stomach. She rubbed her stomach as her pretty face turned slightly red.

Li Yan remembered that the butler said that she had waited for him for a very long time. He slightly squinted his black eyes and asked, "You haven't had dinner?"

"Yes." Qiao Mu nodded. She did not have the mood to eat right at that moment.

Li Yan called the butler over and said, "Uncle Chen, ask the kitchen to prepare some food."

"Young master, the food is already prepared so you can eat at any time." The butler said with a smile.

Of course the butler knew that the young master would definitely instruct the kitchen to cook if he knew that Second Young Mistress Qiao had not eaten, so he had already asked the kitchen to prepare some food. Hence, they would be able to eat at any moment's notice.

Li Yan got up whereas Qiao Mu did not move from her seat. She started to act shamelessly, "You still haven't promised me to settle the matter yet, so I don't want to eat."

Li Yan lowered his gaze to glance at her, "So are you threatening me with your own health?"

"You won't be threatened by it. You don't care about me at all!" Qiao Mu mumbled angrily with a soft voice.

"What if I say that I care?"

The man's low voice sounded like a beautiful melody in Qiao Mu's ears.

She raised her head in shock as a hint of surprise flashed across her eyes. Then that tall figure walked toward the dining room after saying three words with a firm voice, "Eat your dinner!"

Qiao Mu grabbed the opportunity and followed smugly behind him, "Uncle, you've agreed to help me already, right? I know you're the best! You certainly can't bear to see others bullying me! The department head said that I'm a vain person who covet riches and honor! Your appearance will definitely give a good slap on the other person's face and the other person will be taken by surprise!"

Li Yan stared at the flatterer behind him and reminded her with a cold voice, "Qiao Mu, don't be so pleased so soon."

"Alright." Qiao Mu immediately shut her mouth obediently. She definitely could not get dizzy with pride!

.....

Qiao Mu was satisfied with a hearty meal after dinner, but she did not dare to leave because she had not received an affirmative promise from Li Yan.

She definitely could not return to Qiao family's mansion at that hour. She could only return to university, and she would naturally need Li Yan to send her back.

However, Li Yan was watching television on the couch without showing any sign of sending her back. She only sat aside and waited for him to voice up.

The television was showing a boring financial channel, and Qiao Mu was bored by the content. The incomprehensible news sounded like a lullaby to her as her eyelids started to droop.

Li Yan's attention was not on the television program at all. He turned his head sideways to look at her. She was feeling sleepy and she straightaway fell asleep with her head tilted to the side in just a short while.

She was like a piglet who could fall asleep at any time.

Li Yan switched off the television. He stood up and carried her in her arms with careful motions before carrying her upstairs.

Her body was very light, so light that he would only feel secure by holding her tightly in his embrace.

Chapter 60

The next morning.

Qiao Mu woke up in the guest bedroom. She actually fell asleep beside Li Yan last night. Was she a pig?

She remembered that she needed to call her parents to the office. It was the very last day. Qiao Mu quickly tidied herself up and rushed out of the bedroom.

However, Li Yan was not at home.

The butler said that Li Yan went to the company early in the morning. He also did not leave any messages to her, so Qiao Mu was unclear whether he was actually willing to help her.

Qiao Mu braced herself as she reached the university. If worse came to worst, she could plead and lie to the department head to extend the deadline for one more day.

But when Qiao Mu met the department head once again, a smile immediately spread across the department head's serious face. Qiao Mu was at a complete loss when she faced this drastic change.

The department head looked sorry when she said with a smile, "Qiao Mu, I'd misunderstood you, but why didn't you make yourself clear before? I'm sorry for saying such inappropriate words to you before."

Qiao Mu knew that Li Yan had definitely done something.

She finally felt relieved. Qiao Mu was extremely curious how Li Yan managed to do that.

Her cell phone started ringing and an unfamiliar number was showing on her cell phone's screen. Qiao Mu answered the call, and the familiar voice on the other end of the phone sounded cold and deep, "You're in university now?"

"Uncle!" Qiao Mu's voice sounded extremely happy. She thanked him sincerely, "Thank you for helping me to settle this matter!"

The man on the other end of the phone seemed to enjoy the gratitude very much. Through the phone, Qiao Mu could sense that his attitude was not as cold.

Qiao Mu immediately continued, "Uncle, you don't even know how good the attitude our department head was toward me. She kept apologizing to me. What did you do to her?"

"Nothing. I just said something to her."

"What did you say?" Qiao Mu was curious.

Li Yan smiled. He said with an indifferent tone to satisfy her curiosity, "I said, do I look like I can't afford anything that my child wants?"

Qiao Mu was stunned. The department head had said that she went to the nightclub because of money, but Li Yan's words could overthrow her argument entirely.

Why did she have to worry about money if she had such a rich uncle? So it was definitely impossible for her to earn money in a nightclub.

But who would have thought that such a rich man was actually very petty!

Qiao Mu grimaced, "Uncle, who is your child? Didn't you say that you're not old enough to be my parent?"

"That's because my dear niece likes to role play. So in order to satisfy your kink, I have no choice but to go along with you."

"... pervert!"

"My dear niece, if I really was a pervert, you wouldn't have been able to sleep soundly through the entire night." His words implied another meaning.

Qiao Mu was left speechless as the corners of her mouth started to twitch. Was he taking credit for his success?

"Save my number. If there's anything in the future, you can straightaway give me a call. Don't sneak into my house and wait for me again."

He continued to say after a slight pause, "I'm going to go on a business trip for a few days. You better be good and don't get into trouble when I'm not here."

"Uncle, you're overthinking. I'm still alive all these years without you. You're only gone for a few days, what can happen to me?"

"Oh? Little thing, why do you sound like you have a huge resentment?"

Qiao Mu was speechless. What resentment!

Li Yan chuckled, and his laugh made Qiao Mu feel even more ashamed and angry.

The voice on the other end of the phone suddenly became serious as he warned, “Qiao Mu, remember what I’ve said! Otherwise, I’ll double my punishment for you when I come back!”

Qiao Mu could sense the coldness coming from the man even through the cell phone. Everytime he called her by her name, it meant that this man was serious.