

## The Apple of the Ruthless CEO's Eye: My Sweet Wife Is so Adorable - Chapter 6 - 10

### Chapter 6

“Qiao Mu, why are you wasting time? It's time to give my mother her gift!” Qiao Ya sounded rather pleased with herself to see Qiao Mu in such a flustered state. As a young mistress of a rich and powerful family, Qiao Ya had always put on a nice and polite front in front of other people. She only spoke fiercely and impatiently to Qiao Mu in private.

Qiao Mu was used to Qiao Ya's attitude. She hummed in acknowledgement and walked over with her “precious” gift.

Qiao Ya looked at Qiao Mu's gift box in disdain. She took the lead and gave her gift to Yu Tingyun.

She had chosen to give her mother a unique bracelet. Yu Tingyun opened the jewelry box. Illuminated by the chandelier, the diamonds sparkled. It was an elegant and expensive-looking bracelet.

Everyone was impressed by how exquisite the gift looked, and they were full of praises. Pleased with herself, Qiao Ya smiled. “Mum, this bracelet has just been launched, and I'm the first one who purchased it. Let me put it on for you.”

All the guests walked over to take a look at the bracelet. “Lady Qiao, this is such a beautiful bracelet. You have such a caring daughter.”

Yu Tingyun responded politely to the guests' praises, but it was difficult for her to hide the happiness inside her. She was smiling ear to ear. Of course her daughter was the best.

Qiao Mu twisted her lips. She then smiled and gave her stepmother her gift. She lowered her head a little shyly. “Aunt Yun, this is my birthday gift for you. I knitted you a scarf. It's my first time knitting something, so the scarf doesn't look that good. I hope that you won't mind.”

Yu Tingyun took the gift and opened the box. There was a red scarf inside the box, and it was not really well-made. The design was simple too, and it looked like one of those cheap scarves sold at roadside stalls.

Someone said, "Lady Qiao, you're really a lucky woman. Second Young Mistress Qiao really put a lot of effort into the gift. Such a filial daughter is hard to come by."

There was a smile on Yu Tingyun's face, and Qiao Mu was the only one who could tell the difference between her stepmother's smile when she received Qiao Ya's gift and her smile when she received Qiao Mu's gift.

Qiao Ya's expression changed. 'Maybe a filial daughter who gives her stepmother a handmade scarf is hard to come by, but is my expensive gift not worth mentioning!?'

Qiao Ya did not understand why someone would praise that ugly scarf!

This had been happening ever since they were young. Throughout the years, Qiao Mu had been giving Yu Tingyun cheap gifts on her birthday such as drawings she drew herself and clay animals she made. Even though they were cheap and ugly, other people would praise her for it.

Qiao Mu's head was lower, and she looked like an obedient young woman.

This knitted scarf was made by her roommate, Yao Shu, for the guy she liked. As it was Yao Shu's first time knitting something, she decided to knit a scarf for practice first. It looked a little unpolished, but it was not ugly. Yao Shu wanted to throw it away, but Qiao Mu asked Yao Shu to give it to her.

Qiao Mu was pleased with herself for being so clever when a cold voice suddenly rang out. "This scarf looks pretty good indeed."

Qiao Mu rose and saw that a figure clad in black was walking over to them.

There was a wild and playful smile on his face.

Qiao Mu froze. This charming devil was here for the birthday dinner!

Li Yan's lips were curled up into a smile. If he did not hear the conversation just now with his own ears, he would not have imagined that the young woman before her was merely pretending to be obedient.

Qiao Mu met eyes with Li Yan and immediately gave the other party a warning glare. Li Yan's smile became even wider, and he looked like he was interested to see how things would unfold.

Yu Tingyun and Qiao Jiannan froze when they saw him. They did not expect Li Yan to show up.

The Li family had migrated overseas ten years ago, and at that time, Li Yan was only eighteen years old. But ten years later, the young man had become a legendary and powerful man. Everyone knew about him.

The Li Corporation not only possessed assets and enterprises in the country, but also overseas. Globally, they were quite a force to be reckoned with. They could be said to be so powerful that they could control all the other enterprises in Beijing.

## Chapter 7

Li Yan walked forward. "Cousin, I came in a rush, so I did not manage to prepare any gifts. Unlike Second Young Mistress Qiao, I don't have an "invaluable" gift for you, and I apologize for that."

He emphasized the word "invaluable", and to Qiao Mu, the word was like a ticking time bomb.

'Cousin? So, he's Yu Tingyun's brother...'

Qiao Mu was utterly shocked. From what he could remember, Yu Tingyun did have a younger cousin.

Yu Tingyun felt extremely honoured that such a rich and powerful man was attending her birthday dinner. Naturally, she was tremendously happy about it. She smiled and said very politely, "Ah Yan, you don't have to be so courteous with me. The fact that you're here makes me very happy already. I wasn't even aware that you're back in the country."

'Li Yan...'

'How long has it been since I've heard this name?'

'It has been ten years!'

It felt so surreal to be hearing this name again after ten years. Qiao Mu had not thought about him for quite some time, to the point that she could not recognize him the first time she saw him earlier.

This young man was Yu Tingyun's cousin, which meant that he was Qiao Ya's uncle.

Qiao Mu gazed at the man's devilishly charming face and recalled what he looked like ten years ago. From what she could remember, he used to be extremely handsome too. The years away had given him a mature and polished aura, and he looked even more captivating than before.

Qiao Mu suddenly realized that she was in a dangerous situation. She had offended Tu Tingyun's cousin. He was Yu Tingyun's family member!

Qiao Ya said enthusiastically, "Uncle, it's really you! We've not seen each other for years. I'm Young Ya. You do remember me, don't you?"

Li Yan looked flatly at Qiao Ya and hummed in acknowledgement. There were no emotions in his voice.

Qiao Ya immediately felt embarrassed. To make the situation less awkward, she decided to drag Qiao Mu into the conversation. "Mu Mu, this is your uncle. Why aren't you coming over to greet him? So impolite! I remember that you used to follow him around all the time when you were young. Don't tell me that you've forgotten about him."

Qiao Mu took a step forward. Her head was lowered, and she looked obedient. "Hello, uncle."

'Hello?'

Li Yan lowered his head, and his gaze fell upon Qiao Mu's face. She looked like an obedient big baby who was politely greeting someone older than her.

Beneath her calm appearance, he could actually tell that she was shocked and anxious. Li Yan arched an eyebrow. 'Wasn't she very fierce just now?'

This little thing was drunk the first time they have met after ten years, and she tried to seduce him. When they met for the second time, she pointed at his

nose and threatened him. And now, she was putting on an obedient front, and she even called him “uncle”.

He did not like her to address him like this.

Li Yan had recognized Qiao Mu when he met her on the cruise ship. It had been ten years, but her face almost did not change at all. She was just a grown up version of the child she used to be. The only difference was that she was no longer as childlike and naive as she was before. She had become more ladylike.

She was eighteen, and even though she was not that mature yet, she had grown a lot compared to when she was eight. She had become more beautiful, and her body was starting to look like that of a woman's.

Li Yan flashed a slight smile and said slowly, “Second Young Mistress Qiao had already greeted me when we were outside just now.”

Qiao Ya became jealous when he heard this. She was related to him by blood, but he ignored him and decided to entertain an outsider!

Qiao Jiannan said with a smile, “Young Master Li, my younger daughter never liked meeting people, and she's shy. I hope you don't mind.”

The fact that an older person was calling him “Young Master Li” showed that Li Yan was indeed a force to be reckoned with.

Li Yan smiled playfully. Shy? He did not think that this young woman was a shy person.

## Chapter 8

Qiao Mu's head was lowered, and she said nothing. She could sense that Li Yan was looking at her, and this made her uncontrollably anxious.

Qiao Mu truly felt that it was an unlucky day for her. Yu Tingyun's cousin brother was aware of her lie, and she had even threatened her. She wondered if he would be petty and call her out on her lie.

Qiao Mu was nervous as she stood rooted to the spot, and she was thinking about what she should say if Li Yan ended up calling her out on her lie. But surprisingly, Li Yan said nothing else about the gift.

Soon, Li Yan had become the center of attention and was surrounded by many people. Qiao Mu took the opportunity to flee.

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The night sky was full of stars. Qiao Mu stood on a balcony upstairs. Even though the night breeze was blowing on her face, she was feeling very anxious.

For so many years, she had always been very careful when dealing with the members of the Qiao family. Her stepmother and stepsister did not like her, and she disliked them too. However, she always tried her best not to overstep her role so that she would not bring trouble to her father.

She knew that Yu Tingyun and her daughter had been trying to find fault with her so that they had a legitimate reason to destroy her relationship with her father. She had always handled things very well, and she never expected to slip up like this.

Qiao Mu balled up her fist. She must not let this happen!

Suddenly, someone opened the door. Qiao Mu immediately turned, and she saw Li Yan standing behind her.

The moment Qiao Mu saw Li Yan, she charged fiercely towards him and pressed him against the wall. She raised her leg and stepped on the chair beside him, and she looked like a gangster.

"I'm warning you. You better not spout nonsense and try to destroy my relationship with my stepmother. Even though you're my stepmother's cousin, they won't believe what you say. You better know your place and stay away from my family affairs!"

Qiao Mu thought that she was emanating a fierce aura that was enough to scare the man before her, but to Li Yan, she was nothing but an angry, powerless cat.

Li Yan lowered his gaze to look at her, and he finally could not hold himself back anymore and laughed out loud. “Little thing, you’re definitely full of surprises.”

This little thing had really exceeded his expectations.

Qiao Mu was dumbfounded when she saw him laughing. Was he panicking because he was frightened? But judging from how arrogant his laughter was, he did not seem scared at all.

Li Yan narrowed his dark orbs and stopped laughing. In the very next moment, he grabbed her wrist and pulled her over. This time, he pressed her against the wall instead.

“What... What are you doing?” She looked vigilant.

“Little thing, you’re mistaken. I have something on you, and I should be the one who’s threatening you. You have no right to act so arrogantly in front of me!”

Qiao Mu’s expression changed. She thought that she would be able to scare Li Yan into submission by being fierce, but this man did not buy it at all. He was as clever as a fox!

Qiao Mu took the opportunity to raise her leg and kick his crotch. There was only a small distance between them, and the attack would have been successful if it was not for the fact that the other party reacted quickly. He grabbed her leg and secured it beside him.

Qiao Mu froze. She was wearing a dress, and she did not even wear stockings. His large hand was wrapped around her thighs, and she could feel the scorching temperature of his skin.

Li Yan smiled. “Why? Since you weren’t able to threaten me successfully, you decided to seduce me instead?”

‘What a bastard!’

Qiao Mu gritted her teeth. Ignoring the flush on her face, she smiled seductively. “Uncle, you look like a decent man. Why would you resort to grabbing your niece’s thigh?”

“Uncle? Miss Qiao, why would a niece climb onto her uncle’s bed?”

“What nonsense are you...” Qiao Mu refuted subconsciously, but before she could finish speaking, she suddenly realized that something was not quite right.

## Chapter 9

Before she could recall anything, Li Yan had already removed his hand from her thigh. He said in a husky voice, “Your threat doesn’t work on me. What I’ll do about the information I have depends on my mood. I’m in a pretty good mood tonight, so I’ll let you off the hook for now.”

Qiao Mu immediately breathed a sigh of relief when she heard that. If he brought this up after tonight, he would not sound as convincing.

Li Yan turned and left. He stopped at the doorway of the balcony. His voice was cold with a hint of playfulness as he said slowly, “And, I remember saying that I’m not interested in girls with underage bodies.”

‘Underage bodies...’

Qiao Mu widened her eyes abruptly. She was about to ask Li Yan about it, but the latter had walked away without turning back.

A vague memory flashed past her mind, and Qiao Mu stood rooted to the spot in disbelief. The man she encountered on the cruise ship was Li Yan!

Not only did she toy with him when she was drunk, but she had also slept on his bed!

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That night, Qiao Mu had a very realistic dream.

She dreamed about the day she first joined the Qiao family. There was a fifteen-year-old teenage boy there, and she was five that year.

Everyone told Qiao Mu that that teenage boy was her uncle. But Qiao Mu did not listen to them and kept calling him “big brother”.

One day, when he was eight, Li Yan migrated overseas with his family, and she no longer got to see her big brother who lived next door.

Qiao Mu did not sleep well that night, and she looked tired when she got to campus. Amused, Chi Xia asked, “Mu Mu, why do you look so worn out? Could it be that things didn’t go well at your stepmother’s birthday party?”

Qiao Mu slapped the table forcefully and glared at Chi Xia. “You’re the one to talk! You didn’t watch your words yesterday, and someone overheard our conversation.”

“Oh, no! What happened after that?”

Qiao Mu sighed and rested her head on the table. “All is well for now, but I don’t know what’s going to happen next. Whatever it is, someone has something on me now.”

Qiao Mu paused for a moment and languidly gave Chi Xia a sidelong glance. “I wanted to treat the person who knitted the scarf to a meal if things went well at the birthday dinner. But now that you’ve ruined things, you should be the one paying for the meal instead.”

Chi Xia was rendered speechless. She was kind enough to deliver the birthday gift to Qiao Mu. Not only did she have to pay for the cab, but she ended up having to treat Yao Shu to a meal too.

What a friend!

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Qiao Mu was a first year university student, and she shared her dorm with two other people. Chi Xia was one of her roommates, and her other roommate was Yao Shu, the one who knitted the scarf.

As they sat in the cafeteria, Yao Shu showed the two young women the second scarf she knitted. It looked a lot better than the first one, and she had obviously put a lot of effort into it. “What do you guys think? This one looks a lot more exquisite, right? Do you think that he will like it?”

Qiao Mu said in exasperation, “We don’t even know which guy you’re referring to. Why would we know if he’ll like it?”

“I know right! Young Shu, who on earth is this guy you like?” Chi Xia asked out of curiosity.

Yao Shu flashed a mysterious smile. “It’s not time for me to tell you guys about it. I’m planning to confess to him, and I’ll tell you guys who it is if things go well.”

Qiao Mu did not ask anymore questions. Yao Shu was an introvert, and the fact that she decided to confess showed that she was very into this guy.

This was when Qiao Mu’s cell phone rang. Her expression changed when she saw the caller display. She rose and left the table. “Give me a moment. I need to pick up this call.”

The corridor was empty. Qiao Mu answered the call, and a female voice rang out from the other side of the line. “Mu Mu, I’m kind of short on cash right now. Can you send me some money?”

Qiao Mu’s expression became cold. She said in a low voice, “I have no money.”

“Stop pretending to be poor in front of me. I’m only asking you for help because I have no other way. I owe someone 300,000 RMB because I borrowed money to gamble, and they’re going to kill me if I can’t pay. Are you really so cruel that you don’t mind seeing me die?”

## Chapter 10

“Why the heck are you gambling again!? Didn’t you say the other time that you’ll never gamble again!? It’s only been a short while since then, and you managed to rack up 300,000 RMB in debt!”

Qiao Mu gritted her teeth, and her tone was extremely cold. “No matter what you say, it doesn’t change the fact that I have no money. I’m only a student. Why the heck would I have 300,000 RMB? I have already given you the money that I have saved throughout the years before this, and I had to borrow money from my friend to give you 50,000 RMB the other day. I haven’t even paid all the money back yet!”

When the other party heard this, she was embarrassed and furious. “You’re seriously heartless. How dare you tell me that you have no money! Since when are you so cruel? Or is it because after staying in the Qiao family for a few years, you’ve forgotten about me and think of that woman, Yu Tingyun as your mother instead?”

“Mum, you...”

“Stop calling me mum. No daughter would leave their mother to die like this. You’re enjoying life as the daughter of the rich man and ignoring your birth mother who brought you into this world. Do you think that you would get to live such a luxurious life without me? Qiao Jiannan is so rich, and you’re his birth daughter. What’s so difficult about asking for a few hundred thousand RMB from him as your pocket money?”

Qiao Mu’s heart slowly sank, and whatever pity she felt for her birth mother disappeared. “So, should I thank you for selling me back then?”

The person on the other end of line was her birth mother, and she was a selfish woman who sold off her daughter for the sake of money!

Qiao Mu suppressed the sadness in her heart, and she could hear her birth mother sobbing. “Mu Mu, I only did that for your sake, as you wouldn’t have been able to live such a luxurious life where you don’t have to worry about food and money now. I really have no other choice right now. I don’t want to do this to you either. Please, you must help me this time. You can’t just do nothing while those loan sharks beat me to death, can you? Your father likes you very much. As long as you ask him for money, he would definitely...”

This happened all the time, and Qiao Mu was already numb to her birth mother’s words.

Qiao Mu could not take it anymore and hung up. She leaned against the marble wall. The coldness of the wall seeped into her back, and her heart was cold too.

Ten years ago, her birth mother, Zhou Jieru, sold her to the Qiao family. Yes, that was correct. She sold Qiao Mu for 1,000,000 RMB.

Zhou Jieru was an avid gambler, and she used to ask for money from Qiao Jiannan again and again, saying that she needed it to raise her daughter.

Qiao Mu knew that to Zhou Jieru, she was nothing but a source of income. Since Zhou Jieru had Qiao Mu with her, she never had to worry about money.

That was until one day, when Zhou Jieru owed someone 600,000 RMB from gambling. At that point of time, her daughter had become nothing but a burden for her. Hence, she decided to negotiate with Qiao Jiannan. She offered to give Qiao Mu to Qiao Jiannan in exchange for 3,000,000 RMB. Qiao Jiannan did not agree to this sum. In the end, because of how much Zhou Jieru needed money, she decided to compromise and ask for 1,000,000 RMB. This was when she handed over custody of Qiao Mu to Qiao Jiannan.

Now that Qiao Mu thought about it, if her father did not buy over her custody from Zhou Jieru for 1,000,000 RMB, she did not know what kind of horrible life she would be leading now.

Because of Zhou Jieru's problematic personality, Qiao Jiannan did not allow Qiao Mu to keep in touch with her. However, Zhou Jieru always asked Qiao Mu for money behind Qiao Jiannan's back. Qiao Mu wanted to make up her mind to ignore Zhou Jieru, but that woman was after all, her birth mother.

Qiao Mu leaned against the wall helplessly. They were talking about 300,000 RMB, for God's sake. She was obviously not able to get this sum of money.

Zhou Jieru had always thought that Qiao Mu was living a luxurious life with tens of thousands of RMB of pocket money. Her birth mother had no idea that she was merely an outsider in the Qiao family, and that her status was completely different compared to that of Qiao Ya's.

Qiao Jiannan liked her very much, but she was after all, an illegitimate child. Yu Tingyun would get upset if Qiao Jiannan treated her too well, and he had no choice but to care about his wife's feelings. Qiao Mu totally understood where Qiao Jiannan was coming from, and she had always been very sensible about it since she was young. She tried her best not to trouble her father by playing her role as an outsider of the family well to avoid upsetting Yu Tingyun and Qiao Ya.