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"Gu Mingchen, we should let go of each other." Bai Rong said softly.

The man parked his car by the roadside. Feeling irritated, he said, "You are the one who wanted to get married but you are also the one who wants us to let each other off. What exactly do you want?"

"Will you agree to anything that I want?" She threw the question back to him.

The man was losing his patience and said resolutely, "Yes, we will do whatever you want!"

"Then let's let each other off."

"Sure." He replied decisively and looked ahead, before starting the car engine and drove off again.

Bai Rong knew that he meant it.

But she had no regrets as she saw his furrowed brows. It was not with complete conviction and sincerity when he said that he wanted to marry her. So, they should just let it be.

Gu Mingchen sent her to the train station and as he watched the woman walk in, his eyes darkened.

He took out a cigarette from the glove compartment and lit it. As he inhaled and exhaled, the thick smoke surrounded his masculine features.

Half an hour later, he made a call to Lieutenant Song. "Make a formal request to the Research Institute of Psychology for a psychologist to carry out a detailed assessment on the emotional qualities of the soldiers; specifically request for Bai Rong."

"Yes, chief. I will handle that immediately."

Gu Mingchen threw his phone onto the passenger seat after he hung up and drove away from the train station.

Bai Rong was going to have a good sleep in the hotel room after returning to A City when Liu Yan called. "Rong, when are you coming back? I miss you so much!"

The woman smiled and replied, "I think we can read each other's minds. I just came back and I'm staying in the hotel now."

"That's great! Let's have dinner together tonight. You know, that man I was dating was also a jerk. He dumped me. Am I really that bad that no one is willing to date me?" Liu Yan felt dispirited.

"Let me give you a treat tonight to cheer you up. Shall we go to the seafood restaurant that we used to go to last time?"

"That restaurant has already closed down for two years."

"Oh, is it?" For some unknown reason, Bai Rong felt sad when she heard that.

From what she recalled, that seafood restaurant had good business. The owner was very welcoming and the food was good.

"Yeah, takeaway has grown to become the norm these two years. More and more people are choosing to order delivery from home. That restaurant occupied a big storefront and the rental was too high for the owner to sustain the business. I know of another restaurant that is not bad. There is a ladies' club in that area that I have been wanting to go but couldn't find anyone to go with. You can accompany me there tonight, it's my treat." Liu Yan explained.

"Ladies' club?" Bai Rong thought of Su Wanning and said, "The men there are not clean. Don't try your luck."

"I'm not that rich and stupid enough to pay to get men. I just want to take a look and maybe go for a spa treatment."

"Oh, then that's OK. I am staying at the Sheraton near A University. Call me when you reach."

Liu Yan reached the hotel half an hour later.

"It would take at least one hour for you to travel here from the military base. How did you get here so fast?" Bai Rong was quite shocked.

"Heh. When the cat's away, the mice will play. I wasn't very busy today and it's my off day tomorrow, so I knocked off earlier. When I called you just now, I was already in the car. Come, I'll bring you to eat some seafood." Liu Yan chuckled as she said.

Bai Rong got into her friend's car and put on her seat belt.

"What kind of person is Mu Xiaosheng from your institute?" Liu Yan inquired.

"He's very charismatic and unworldly, popular among women and fancies many women too. He had a brief marriage and is currently an eligible bachelor who is unlikely to settle down any time before forty. Why are you asking? Don't tell me you have taken an interest in him?" Bai Rong looked at Liu Yan worriedly.

"I must be getting desperate. If it was four years ago when I was still at the prime of my youth, I would ask all men to scram to one side. But I'm approaching thirty soon. Even if I'm not worried, my parents nag at me every time I go home. It's getting on my nerves." Liu Yan let out a sigh.

"You are only twenty-seven; there are still three more years to reaching thirty. You don't have to be in such a rush." Bai Rong gave her two cents.

"That was the kind of mindset I used to have—to date someone for two years, then settle down and get married. But judging from the number of times I am getting dumped, I predict that I'll still be single even when I reach thirty. What kind of women are men interested in these days? I'm getting so speechless." Liu Yan said, feeling irritated.

"I think you are the type of girl men would like. You're cheerful, optimistic, bright, beautiful, gracious, filial, kind and have a good figure. By right, there should be a line of men going after you." Bai Rong was also quite perplexed.

"I think so too! I'm also financially independent and don't need their money. We can even finance a house together. Men these days must be blind." Liu Yan shrugged and said, "I should just sign up for one of those dating shows to cast my net wider and increase my chances of finding someone."

"I'm sure you will find someone. Oh! I think I saw Shen Yiyan at the singles party the other time." Bai Rong was not able to remember clearly.

"Why was he there? Was he thinking of hitting on the babes in the military base?" Liu Yan was annoyed at the mention of him.

"Have you guys been in contact ever since that incident?" Bai Rong asked casually.

"For what? My first time was ruined by him. He was so reckless and forceful that I had such a bad time. I would never have let him off if he was not drugged. If I'm still a virgin, I might be of higher value now. Urgh, let's not talk about him. It's so annoying." Liu Yan sped up and they reached their destination in around half an hour.

When they reached the restaurant, it was already past dinner time. The restaurant was closed for the day as it did not serve supper.

"Let's just eat at the ladies' club. They have food there too." Liu Yan dragged Bai Rong towards the direction of the club.

Entry to the ladies' club was exclusive to members only.

While Liu Yan was filling up the registration form, Bai Rong went to the restroom.

"Have you all heard? Tony is dead. His corpse was hacked into eight parts. The vicious killer even chopped off his d*ck and stuffed it into his mouth, before abandoning him at the public toilet." One woman said.

"OMG! that's so scary. It's a pity though. Tony was fit and good-looking. I heard that his skills were really good too. Only diamond-level members could request for his service." Another woman added.

"Do you guys know Mu Xiaosheng?"

Bai Rong was about to leave the restroom when someone mentioned Mu Xiaosheng's name. She looked towards the woman who was talking.

"He was guessing that the woman who requested for Tony's service last night could be the killer. Before the killer was caught, Mu Xiaosheng was already taken away by a group of people. When those people took him away, I happened to be there too."

Bai Rong creased her brows tightly. "Is the Mu Xiaosheng you are referring to the psychologist?"

"Yes, that's him. If it was done by a diamond-level member, the person must be of a certain status. Besides, the information of diamond-level members is strictly confidential. It does not bode well for him."

Bai Rong immediately gave Gu Mingchen a call.

She was well aware of those people's methods and Mu Xiaosheng had offended them.

When Gu Mingchen answered, he spoke in a strange tone. "You've changed your mind about letting yourself off so quickly?"

The woman was speechless.

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She had an urge to hang up the phone immediately but she kept silent for a moment instead.

Out of everyone she knew, Gu Mingchen had the most power and was the only person who could help her.

Mu Xiaosheng was her benefactor. He had lent her a helping hand when she was in dire states. This reason alone was enough for Bai Rong to do everything she could to save him.

"I need a favor from you." Bai Rong said softly, as she felt bad about asking him for help.

"Sure, tell me what is it?" The man sounded quite civil.

"I just heard that Mu Xiaosheng, the director of the research institute, was abducted by some people. Can you get those people to release him?"

"Do you know who those people are?" Gu Mingchen asked her.

"A man named Tony was killed in a ladies' club and Mu Xiaosheng speculated that the last person who requested for Tony's service might be the killer. He was abducted right after that. Only diamond-level club members are able to request for Tony's service, so I suspect that it could be that diamond-level member who took him away. I'm worried they may harm him." Bai Rong summarized the situation for him.

"OK, I'm clear. Where are you now?"

The woman did not want him to know her whereabouts and replied, "Why?"

"I am sending the chief of the Public Security Bureau of A City to that ladies' club. He will assist you to find out information about that diamond-level club member. Those people will definitely release him after I get involved." Gu Mingchen said in a deep voice.

"I see. I'm at Qing Feng Xu Lai." Bai Rong replied in a barely audible voice.

There was a moment of silence at the other end of the phone before the man questioned her with an unhappy tone. "You went to the ladies' club? Bai Rong, you rejected me when I wanted you, but you are OK with doing it

with a stranger. Are you just self-demeaning or am I not able to satisfy you? Do you know how dirty they are?"

The man was exploding with rage and his choice of words grew increasingly unkind.

Bai Rong was thin-skinned. "It's not what you are thinking. I accompanied Liu Yan here. We did not request for that kind of service. We just came here for spa treatment and to sing." She replied.

"There are so many places to sing. Why do you have to go there?" He said sharply.

"I told you I am only accompanying Liu Yan." The woman frowned slightly.

"Your legs are yours. If you don't want to go, no one could have forced you to. Aren't you very good at talking? Liu Yan is not an opinionated person. If you don't want to go, she wouldn't have insisted on going." Gu Mingchen said with conviction.

Bai Rong was unable to outargue him and hung up the phone in frustration.

But she immediately regretted after that.

Her purpose of calling was to ask for his help. They had already made things clear earlier and no relationship existed between them. Why did she still feel so diffident?

However, as she had so abruptly ended the call, she was worried that the man would change his mind about helping her.

Bai Rong decided to be thick-skinned and dialed Gu Mingchen's number again, but his phone was engaged.

She sighed, feeling unsettled. After waiting for one minute, she tried to call him again.

"I have already informed the director. He will be there within an hour. You should wait for him somewhere." The man said coolly.

Bai Rong felt a warm surge in her heart.

Although Gu Mingchen appeared to be cold and tough that made him seem unapproachable, he was very adept at handling matters.

"Thank you." She said gently.

"Actions speak louder than words. How are you going to thank me?" The man said in a deep voice. From his tone, she could tell that he was still angry.

"I'll buy you a meal when you get back." The woman hurriedly added.

"OK. That's more like it. I still have some things to settle here."

"Sorry to trouble you, Chief Gu." Bai Rong said politely.

Chief Gu. She was using honorifics with him that made them seem distant. That roused his anger again. "Bai Rong, you are so forgetful."

The women did not know what Gu Mingchen was referring to.

Before she could clarify what he meant, the phone line went dead.

"Rong, I have been searching all over the place for you. Who were you on the phone with? My calls couldn't get through." Liu Yan grumbled as she walked over and waved the card that was in her hand. "I am done with the registration and went inside to take a look just now. They even cater buffet."

"I... "Bai Rong hesitated for a moment as she remembered Gu Mingchen's words.

If he found out that she actually entered the club, he would definitely flip out.

"What about you? What are you waiting for? I have already booked a private room for us to sing. There will be food in the room too. C'mon babe." Liu Yan said, as she put her arms around her friend's shoulders.

"You didn't request for any gigolos, right?" Bai Rong wanted to be sure.

"Even the cheapest ones cost five hundred. I found it too expensive. So, tonight we will only have each other." Liu Yan said as she ushered Bai Rong into the room.

Bai Rong stopped overthinking and followed her friend in.

Anyway, she had a clear conscience and was not planning to do any of those things Gu Mingchen mentioned.

Inside the private room, a sumptuous buffet spread was laid out.

Liu Yan's eyes sparkled as she looked at the food and started digging in. Her stomach had been growling in hunger for some time.

After they were full, they started singing.

Half an hour later, someone knocked on the door.

Liu Yan guessed that it was the club promoting gigolo services and opened the door. She was spot on. Standing at the door was a mamasan followed by two men wearing extravagant masquerade masks.

"Hey beautiful, today is our club's giveaway day. You are entitled to receive free services from our boys today. I hope that you will have an enjoyable time." The mamasan announced joyfully.

"Oh, free?" Liu Yan was not keen at first. But once she heard that it was free, she thought that it would be a waste if they did not accept it. "Alright, come in."

Bai Rong was speechless.

Didn't they agree that it would just be the two of them tonight?

"Yan, I don't think it's a good idea. What if they have some kind of..." Disease. Bai Rong couldn't bring herself to say the word as she found it too hurtful.

"Miss, you don't have to worry. We are all certified healthy, organic and carry no harmful substances." The man in the wolf mask said jokingly. He sounded quite young from his voice.

"We are just going to ask them to sing and drink with us. Rong, what else were you thinking of doing huh?" Liu Yan teased.

"You two can both accompany her. I don't need your service." Bai Rong was still very resistant.

The man in wolf mask sat on Liu Yan's right while the man in dragon mask sat on her left. She looked at the man on her left and asked, "Can you sing?"

The man shook his head.

"No wonder you are free. You guys must be only second-rate. And why are you wearing masks? Are you ugly?" Liu Yan was being her usual blunt and outspoken self.

The man in the dragon mask was speechless.

"Miss, we are not ugly. Because you don't need to pay for anything, that's why you cannot gain access to our looks. But the free service does include drinking and singing. That guy on your left, Not only is he not talkative, he hates singing even more." The man in the wolf mask explained.

Liu Yan looked at the dragon mask man as her curiosity sparked. "You can't even sing. Business must be bad for you."

She left the man speechless again.

He lowered his head and whispered something in the woman's ear. A blush spread across her cheeks as she looked at him in shock.

The corners of the man's mouth curved into a bewitching smile as he poured some red wine in Liu Yan's glass in a seductive manner.

Liu Yan took over the glass awkwardly. Without drinking, she dragged Bai Rong out of the room.

"Young master." Said the man in the wolf mask worriedly.

Shen Yiyan raised up one hand as a signal for the man to stop talking.

When the two women were outside, Liu Yan said, "Rong, the man in the dragon mask said that he provides those 'extra' services and was telling me how good his skills are."

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"There's no such thing as a free lunch in this world. Maybe it's part of their marketing strategy. They let you try the product out for free first, and then when you get hooked onto it, they start charging you a fee." Bai Rong guessed.

"That's what I think too. Why don't we chase them away?" The girls discussed in low voices.

Bai Rong nodded. "That would be for the best."

"Let's go back then." Liu Yan pushed open the door and called, "Hey, you over there! Please leave, we don't need your service."

"Did we do something wrong?" The man with the wolf mask asked whiningly.

"I think you talk too much." Liu Yan said roughly.

Shen Yiyan, who was wearing the dragon mask, seemed nonchalant. He stood up and dusted off his clothes, then dipped his head in an elegant nod to Bai Rong and Liu Yan before walking out.

Since Shen Yiyan had left, the man in the wolf mask hurried after him.

Seeing how compliant they were, Liu Yan heaved a sigh of relief. She lifted a glass of wine to her lips and took a sip. It tasted pretty good.

Right then, Bai Rong's mobile phone started ringing.

Gu Mingchen was calling her. She picked up the call immediately.

Hearing the faint music in the background, Gu Mingchen asked, "Did you go in?"

Bai Rong felt a little angry at herself. She had been in such a hurry to pick up her phone that she had completely forgotten to turn off the music first. "I only came here to sing, really."

"Go to the entrance right now. If you go in again, I promise I'll break one of your legs." Gu Mingchen said angrily.

"Got it."

"You know that the men outside are all mine, right? Don't try and gamble with luck." Gu Mingchen reminded her sternly.

"Yup." Bai Rong hung up the call.

"What's going on?" Liu Yan looked at her quizzically.

"I have to step out for a while and I might not be able to come back inside though. Why don't you leave with me?" Bai Rong was quite worried for Liu Yan.

"I booked a three-hour session. This karaoke room lets you have the room for the entire night if you book it for three hours. I'm not going to work tomorrow, so I'm going to sing as much as I want." Liu Yan didn't want to leave.

"It's too dangerous for you to be alone here."

"What danger can there be? Sexual assault? I wish, ha ha! Nothing will happen to me. Go do your thing. If you still want to sing later on, come back to this room to find me." Liu Yan hurried Bai Rong out of the room.

Bai Rong felt very apologetic.

She was supposed to accompany Liu Yan the entire night. But she had never expected that something would happen to Mu Xiaosheng.

"Call me if there are any problems. I'll accompany you to a karaoke room for the whole day next time."

"Sure! After you leave, I'll have the microphone all to myself. I'm going to have a blast, ha ha!" Liu Yan said cheerfully.

Bai Rong's phone started to ring again. It was an unknown number. Guessing that the call was from the director, Bai Rong picked up.

"Um, Miss Bai Rong, I'm Zhang Donglai from the Public Security Bureau. Someone has informed us that we have to go inside and look for you if you don't come out yourself in five minutes."

"I'm coming out now." Bai Rong explained.

That 'someone' Zhang Donglai had referred to must be Gu Mingchen.

She had already broken up with Gu Mingchen, but he still insisted on keeping her on a tight leash.

It wasn't as if she was his girlfriend.

Bai Rong was too tired to complain. However, if he continued being like this, she would never be able to escape from the cage he had built around her.

As she exited the room, she was in too much of a hurry to notice that someone was watching her.

"Young master, the girl has left the room. We don't have to lure her away anymore, do we?" The man in the wolf mask asked.

Shen Yiyan's lips curled into a smile. "This was meant to be, after all. After Liu Yan finishes her drink, take her away."

[&]quot;Yes. sir."

When Bai Rong arrived at the gate, there were two police cars waiting for her.

A fit, middle-aged male was waiting by the two cars. He looked very suave indeed in his police uniform.

He stretched out his hand to greet Bai Rong and spoke very politely, "A pleasure to meet you. I'm Zhang Donglai. What do you need me to do for you?"

"Hello, I'm Bai Rong." After she had introduced herself, Bai Rong cut to the chase. "Find out who Tony's guests yesterday were. I want all of their detailed personal information."

"Alright. Someone asked you to wait in the car. I'll get back to you in about ten minutes." Zhang Donglai replied.

Bai Rong was rather speechless.

Zhang Donglai took a few men and went into the club.

A policeman opened the door of the car and gestured for Bai Rong to get into the vehicle.

Bai Rong had a rather strange feeling. As she sat in the backseat of the car, she shot nervous glances out of the window.

Her phone pinged. Someone had sent her a text message.

Seeing that it was from Liu Yan, she opened it to take a look. Bai, I found a guy to have fun with. Don't bother looking for me later!

Worried, Bai Rong called Liu Yan immediately but her friend didn't pick up.

Are you crazy? Which room are you in? Yan, don't do something you'll regret later. Bai Rong hurriedly texted her.

Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. I'm an adult, aren't I? I'm going to turn off my phone and take a shower now, xoxo. Don't disturb me! You should show me some support as a friend.

Bai Rong noted Liu Yan's tone.

Although Bai Rong disapproved very strongly, there was some truth in Liu Yan's words. She was an adult after all and knew what she was doing.

If she went and dragged Liu Yan away by force, her friend would be very displeased.

She didn't call again, but deep inside she felt that something was amiss.

After Shen Yiyan sent the text message, he switched off Liu Yan's phone. Then, he placed the phone onto the bedside table and looked coldly at Liu Yan, who was passed out on the bed.

How dared her to sleep around with gigolos now? He had given her a little too much freedom.

Shen Yiyan yanked off his tie and flung it aside onto the sofa. Then, he started to take off his clothes.

Liu Yan's eye twitched. She felt really hot, as though her body was crawling with insects. "I feel uncomfortable."

The man jumped onto her. Trapping her between the bed and his body, he took hold of her chin. "You deserve it. How dare you go around seducing other men when you're my woman?"

Liu Yan slapped his hand aside. Opening her eyes, her vision was very blurry. She couldn't really see anything.

After downing one glass, she passed out unconscious. It was as though her head was spinning now.

"I'm thirsty. Give me water." Liu Yan demanded hoarsely.

"Here." Shen Yiyan pressed his lips against hers.

Liu Yan sucked with all her might. She still felt rather thirsty, but less so than she had before.

Shen Yiyan's tongue had been sucked swollen. Feeling the pain, he backed off a little.

Liu Yan wasn't satisfied however. She hooked her arms around his neck.

Shen Yiyan smiled, and leaned forward to close the distance between their lips again.

Liu Yan was acting like a baby. However, the fire within Shen Yiyan was only burning more strongly by the second.

"I feel really uncomfortable." Liu Yan looked pitifully at Shen Yiyan.

"Can you wait half a year more?" Shen Yiyan said. His words had a rather suggestive undertone.

In half a year, he would have risen up in life enough that he could dictate his own marriage.

"No. I feel uncomfortable right now." Liu Yan shoved him aside, trying to make her way into the bathroom to take a cold shower.

Shen Yiyan pulled her back onto the bed. Liu Yan was no match for his strength. The woman collapsed back onto the bed; her body completely soft.

Shen Yiyan looked at her. "Don't bother looking for a boyfriend anymore. I'll marry you."

Liu Yan could see that his mouth was moving and she seemed to hear something come out of his mouth too. However, she simply couldn't understand what he was saying.

She was feeling warmer and more uncomfortable by the second.

"Send me to the hospital. I think I'm going to die." Liu Yan stood up drowsily.

Shen Yiyan held her to his chest and said rather wickedly, "Shall I cure it for you?"

Liu Yan froze for a few seconds.

Shen Yiyan placed her onto the bed. His hands wandered down the length of her body and towards the hem of her skirt.

The drug he had put into her drink was the newest one and its effect was the strongest. She had long been prepared for this. As Shen Yiyan kissed her on the lips, he pulled up the hem of her skirt...

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Liu Yan didn't know what she wanted, but the uncomfortable feeling eventually subsided. After the deed was done, she rolled over and fell asleep.

Shen Yiyan stared at her with an infatuated look on his face. He gently swept her bangs to one side.

Three years ago, when they had first done it, he had started to love her with a fierce obsession.

He had never given up on chasing her all these while, and he wasn't intending to. No matter how many suitors she had, he dealt with them one by one.

She could either die alone or be with him for the rest of her life...

Bai Rong finally received the personal details of Tony's last customer that day. She was a Diamond Member.

As she scanned through the details, she had to admit that she felt rather stunned.

Su Wanning.

Tony's last customer had been Su Wanning. Thus, Mu Xiaosheng had probably been taken away by Su Zheng.

It was worse than what she had imagined.

If it was only a normal high-ranking official, one word from Gu Mingchen would resolve the entire issue.

However, Su Zheng's rank was higher than Gu Mingchen's, and he was a hot favorite for the position of the new commander-in-chief.

This wasn't going to be easy.

Bai Rong didn't dare to act impulsively so she dialed Gu Mingchen's number.

He picked up the phone on the first ring.

"Um, Gu Mingchen, I have a suspicion that Su Wanning's father Su Zheng was the one who took Mu Xiaosheng away. What are we going to do now?"

"I've already guessed that it's him when you mentioned Tony, Qing Feng Xu Lai and the ladies' club. Don't worry, I've already settled the matter and Mu Xiaosheng has already been released. Keep out of this matter from now on. Mu Xiaosheng will be fully in charge."

Bai Rong was speechless.

"Since you already knew, why did you still ask Chief Zhang and I to investigate the matter?"

"I was only guessing. There was no harm in a second opinion. I'll ask someone to fetch you home now. Have a good rest. See you tomorrow." As soon as he finished speaking, Gu Mingchen hung up immediately, leaving her no room to protest.

See you tomorrow?

Is he coming back tomorrow?

They had agreed not to bother each other anymore, but she did owe him a meal after all. It wouldn't be good to just ignore him.

Gu Mingchen had brought up Mu Xiaosheng's release so blandly. It led her to imagine all sorts of horrible possibilities about what had happened in between.

She should treat Gu Mingchen to a meal.

Bai Rong went home. In order to wake up bright and early the next morning, she took some pills and went to sleep immediately.

In the morning, she woke up naturally. When she opened her eyes, Gu Mingchen was lying next to her with his face facing hers. His hand was encircling her waist quite naturally.

Bai Rong was shocked. "What are you doing here?"

Gu Mingchen didn't open his eyes. His Adam's apple bobbed up and down in a rather provocative manner. "Sleep with me for a while more."

Bai Rong took a close look at him and saw that he did in fact look quite tired.

It was nearly 9 p.m. when she called him on the phone. If he had gotten onto the train at 9 p.m., he would have arrived in A City at around 4 a.m..

Deducing that, she didn't say anything and kept completely silent.

She didn't think that she would fall asleep again. After all, her sleep quality had never been good and she had only been able to sleep at night all along because of the sleeping pills. However, after a while, she slowly nodded off to sleep again.

After a long while, Bai Rong was woken up again by Gu Mingchen's movement. She opened her eyes and asked, "What time is it?"

Glancing at his phone, Gu Mingchen replied, "It's 12 p.m.."

Bai Rong couldn't believe that she had slept for that long.

Sitting up, she said, "Let's go, I'll treat you to lunch."

Gu Mingchen pressed her back down onto the bed. "Let's do something else before we get lunch."

Seeing his lips get closer and closer to hers, Bai Rong held up a hand to cover her mouth.

Gu Mingchen frowned. "Bai Rong, don't make me angry."

"I haven't brushed my teeth yet." Bai Rong said haplessly.

Gu Mingchen froze for a while. Then he let go of her and headed into the toilet to wash up.

Bai Rong joined him in the toilet too. As she squeezed out the toothpaste, she saw Gu Mingchen walk right into the glass shower cubicle and start showering in front of her.

She accidentally caught a glimpse of his crotch area. It was standing at attention.

Flushing with embarrassment, Bai Rong tried to finish brushing her teeth. She patted a few drops of facial cleansing milk onto her face and ran some water over it.

After he had finished showering, Gu Mingchen came and stood behind her. Wearing only a bath towel around his waist, he looked at her, his eyes glittering smugly. "Do you want to shower, too?"

Returning his gaze, Bai Rong stared into his dark eyes. Seeing the lust within them, she felt a little shaken.

Had they gone back into the past?

She shook her head. "I showered last night. I still have to report to the research institute later. I'm already late for work."

Gu Mingchen looked at her with a rather annoyed look in his eyes and asked, "Aren't you an external staff? Mu Xiaosheng said that you don't have to go into the office at all. He told me that you work alone."

Bai Rong was speechless again.

How did Gu Mingchen know everything?

She felt as though she had shot herself in the foot.

"Do you not want to do it?" Gu Mingchen had correctly guessed what she was thinking.

Bai Rong lowered her head in embarrassment. "I'm hungry. I didn't eat lunch yesterday, dinner was bad, and I skipped breakfast today too. I'm so hungry that my stomach hurts."

"Oh. It's my fault for forgetting. Let's go have lunch first then. You don't mind helping me wash the clothes I'm going to change out of, do you?" Gu Mingchen asked.

Bai Rong scanned him warily.

He was talking about his underwear. It would have to be dry-cleaned.

As though she was in a trance, she nodded.

Gu Mingchen smiled, rather satisfied with her answer. He turned and left the bathroom.

Bai Rong followed him out. It was then she realized that he had brought his suitcase along too.

"Don't you have to report to the military base these few days?" Bai Rong asked, rather surprised.

"I'll be going back soon. I still have a lot of things to do at the base." Gu Mingchen said in a low voice.

Bai Rong breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

Her reaction had been caught by Gu Mingchen. He didn't say anything, but his eyes grew colder by a few degrees.

He changed his clothes right in front of her, as though they were a couple who had been married for a long time. Bai Rong wasn't so comfortable with it, however, and she escaped into the bathroom to change.

Then, they headed to the nearby Shuiyue International to eat at the restaurant.

Bai Rong remembered how they had come here to eat three years ago. She should have simply cut off their relationship then.

"Do you want some ice cream?" Gu Mingchen asked her.

Bai Rong saw the ice cream store and smiled.

It was still the same ice cream store. Even the owner hadn't changed. "On our first date, you asked if I wanted to eat ice cream and I said no. But you bought three of them and told me to hold on to them for you. In the end, I ate the ice-cream, and you gave your share to the other kids."

"That sounds like something I would do." Gu Mingchen didn't acknowledge if he had done it.

"Two-faced?" Bai Rong commented.

"If I had really done that, then it means that I liked you back then." Gu Mingchen said in a low voice.

Bai Rong's eyes quivered slightly. She looked askance at Gu Mingchen and matched his gaze.

Gu Mingchen considered her. "You don't believe that?"

Bai Rong didn't want to continue this guessing game with him. She wanted them to finally come to a decision about their relationship instead of wasting each other's time. "Gu Mingchen, the girl that you're truly in love with is Zhou Hailan."

Gu Mingchen looked very peaceful. His expression hadn't changed at all.

She didn't understand him, nor could she ever see through his intentions.

"Bai Rong, have you ever loved Su Xuyan?" Gu Mingchen replied with a question of his own.

"Our situations aren't the same."

"But both of our relationships ended up the same way, didn't they?" Gu Mingchen retorted.

"I don't care a bit for Su Xuyan anymore, but you still love Zhou Hailan, don't you?" Bai Rong asked.

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"She's already dead." Gu Mingchen said in a low voice. His expression was completely blank.

Bai Rong's eyes reddened with tears.

She knew many married couples who had faced some problems in their marriage. Although they had initially gotten married because of their love for each other, the mundaneness of daily life had turned each other's strengths into weaknesses. From there, arguments had arisen, causing freedoms to be restricted.

The couples had fought with each other and tried to hurt each other, until the conflicts got too much and destroyed any remaining love they shared. In the end, the marriages came crashing down and the couples had separated.

The lucky ones parted amicably, though most would just continue on as strangers.

However, there were those who henceforth treated each other like archenemies.

Because they had once loved each other, those memories were all the more grating now. Even if their relationship had been happy once, both recalled those times with nothing but bitterness.

Hence, the living Bai Rong could never win against a dead girl who was hidden away in Gu Mingchen's memories.

When Zhou Hailan died, she had left in his memory the most beautiful impression of her.

She was sunny, outgoing, brilliant, beautiful and carefree.

Zhou Hailan had even died because of him. In his heart, she was a memory nobody would be able to erase. She would always be a girl that he could never have no matter how hard he tried.

On the other hand, Bai Rong was full of flaws. The longer Gu Mingchen spent with her, the better he would think of his ex-girlfriend.

Bai Rong didn't want to get married to Gu Mingchen and then have to see their marriage head down a path of self-destruction.

More importantly, she couldn't stand it if the man she loved had another woman in his heart.

She would much rather give up on a man like this.

"Let's eat." Bai Rong dodged the subject and walked into a French restaurant.

Her phone started to ring. She looked down and saw that Liu Yan was calling her.

"Rong, I'm in trouble." Liu Yan said, sobbing.

Bai Rong's heart skipped a beat and she asked worriedly, "What happened to you?"

"Yesterday, I...I..." Liu Yan didn't know how to explain. "Where are you now? I'm at your hotel. Let's talk when we meet."

"Alright, I'm coming back now." Bai Rong said in a panicked tone.

She hung up the phone and turned to Gu Mingchen. "Something has happened to Yan. I have to go back now. I'll treat you to a meal another day."

Without waiting for Gu Mingchen to respond, Bai Rong picked up her handbag and dashed out of the restaurant.

Gu Mingchen's eyes followed her as she left. Thinking deeply, he took out his phone and started deleting all his photos of Zhou Hailan, one by one.

Bai Rong found Liu Yan in the hotel lobby.

Liu Yan's eyes were red. She was still wearing her clothes from yesterday and didn't look very well.

"Yan, what happened?" Bai Rong asked worriedly.

"Bai, do you know what happened to me yesterday? Who took me away?" Liu Yan asked agitatedly.

"You texted me that you were going to have fun with a male escort and told me not to look for you." Bai Rong looked anxiously at Liu Yan. "What exactly happened to you?"

"I wasn't with a male escort! I somehow fell asleep in the karaoke room yesterday. When I woke up, I was in a hotel room. I was forced by someone

to, well, you know... The point is, he took some rather compromising videos of me." Liu Yan said, her face white as sheet.

"Can you tell who the man is from the videos?"

"No. The hotel was also booked under my name. I wanted to check the CCTV, but the staff told me that their CCTV was broken down yesterday." Liu Yan said heavily.

Liu Yan was very loud sometimes and looked as though she was quite a liberal person.

However, she was actually very traditional in her thinking.

Otherwise, she wouldn't still be single now.

"Let's go for a check-up in the hospital first to ensure that you didn't catch anything from him. Then you can decide whether or not you want to call the police." Bai Rong said, thinking logically.

"Let's go to a private hospital. I'm scared I'll get recognized if I go to a public one. Also, I don't want to go to the police. It's very easy for this sort of stuff to make it onto the news these days." Liu Yan felt very upset.

Bai Rong felt very guilty as well. If she hadn't left Liu Yan alone in the room, nothing would have happened. "Did the man leave behind... that thing?"

Liu Yan didn't know how to say it. Flushing red, she said, "He used seven condoms. I have one of them with me. Aren't you working for the police now? Could you help me see if you can get a fingerprint off this and match it with someone's?"

"That needs to go through strict procedures. I'm afraid I don't have the authority to do that. However..."

Power was a brilliant thing. All procedures melted away before it.

Gu Mingchen could probably help.

"I'll try." Bai Rong said uncertainly.

"Then I'll trouble you to help me out." Liu Yan produced a sealed package from her bag.

As Bai Rong received the package from her, she felt a little embarrassed.

She accompanied Liu Yan to the private hospital for a check-up.

Since Bai Rong couldn't follow her friend into the check-up room, she walked to the window at the end of the corridor, then took out her phone to dial Gu Mingchen's number.

She had already asked for his help regarding Mu Xiaosheng case yesterday and she was asking him for help again today. The woman was feeling apologetic.

Telling herself to grow a thicker skin, Bai Rong called Gu Mingchen.

His phone had been turned off.

She wondered if he was busy as she texted him, "I have something to talk to you about. Please call me when you're free."

She placed her phone back into her bag and continued waiting for Liu Yan.

Half an hour later, Liu Yan came out with the results of the check-up in hand.

"There's no problem, right?" Bai Rong asked worriedly.

Liu Yan shook her head. "No, he did use protection after all. But I'm getting angrier the more I think about it. Is that guy a pervert? Why did he have to film me while he was doing those horrible things to me? He's sick in the head."

"If he wasn't sick in the head, he wouldn't have done something like this." Bai Rong said, agreeing. She draped an arm around Liu Yan's shoulders. "Have you eaten?"

Liu Yan shook her head. "Let's go and eat then. Once I find that person, I'm going to sue him and make sure he spends the rest of his life in jail."

"Let's see if we can catch him first."

After they had finished eating, it was already 3 p.m..

Bai Rong had to go to the research institute and Liu Yan decided to tag along.

Just as they stepped out of the elevator, they bumped into Su Wanning.

The latter was extremely shocked when she saw Bai Rong. "What are you doing here?"

"Rong is a specially hired psychologist here. Do you have a problem with that?" Liu Yan asked smugly.

"A specially hired psychologist? Have you switched fields?" Su Wanning's face clouded over even more.

Bai Rong smiled, but she didn't say anything.

Su Wanning's family was very powerful, so she didn't want to antagonize her.

She grabbed hold of Liu Yan and continued walking away.

Watching Bai Rong walk further and further away, Su Wanning called after her, "Can I speak with you privately?"

"Why do you have to do it privately? Rong's time is very precious. She charges ten thousand per hour. Do you want to see her for medical reasons? She'll give you one hour then." Liu Yan stood in front of Bai Rong and said.

"Alright, I'll give you ten thousand for an hour of your time, for consultation!" Su Wanning placed heavy emphasis on her last sentence.

Bai Rong frowned. "Come with me then."

"Rong, you can just ignore her." Liu Yan said worriedly.

"I can, but that doesn't mean she will stop bothering me in the future. It's better if we talk things out now. Wait for me in the reception room. There's a computer there if you get bored." Bai Rong said to Liu Yan.

"Alright, then. We're good friends, so whatever you choose to do, I'll support you." Liu Yan punched a fist into the air.

Bai Rong walked into her office. As soon as she sat down in her chair, Su Wanning flung her handphone onto Bai Rong's desk.

"Take a look. Everything you want to know is in the gallery." Su Wanning said coldly. Her eyes were full of hostility.