

## His Beloved 1111

Chapter 1111: Special Warmth\_5

Qin Mu...

She dared not complain about her mother-in-law, but thought to herself: When will you be more tactful?

Huanhuan quickly finished brushing her hair and eagerly ran downstairs. Mu Zihao and Chengcheng were already in the living room drinking water. Huanhuan watched her brother holding a bottle, drinking water, then ran to the coffee table to grab a cup and drink in big gulps. Her gaze towards her brother seemed to say, see, you still need a bottle to drink, but I'm using a cup just like an adult!

Huanhuan drank her water as fast as possible, then sprinted outside, knowing the old man and the butler were practicing Tai Chi and wanted to join in the fun.

Chengcheng watched his sister's departing figure with his big eyes, hurriedly took a couple more sips, then shoved the bottle into Grandpa's arms and followed his sister without looking back.

Despite his young age, he was already familiar with the house, easily finding mom, dad, and grandparents' rooms, and could effortlessly find his way to the door.

Just as Qin Mu was about to go downstairs, Mu Yichen emerged, and they walked down together.

"Mom just praised you!"

Qin Mu chatted casually, but this reminder sounded rather serious.

Mu Yichen thought he misheard and glanced at her.

"Praised your foresight."

Mu Yichen frowned as Qin Mu smiled mischievously and walked ahead.

Mu Yichen felt a bit played, but didn't get angry, and slowly followed her.

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The competition finally ended, and Bian Jingwen squeezed into the top three, becoming the third-place winner, while the champion was unsurprisingly Qiu Xiang from JY, with the runner-up being a handsome young man. He uniquely demonstrated his views on women's independence and was unanimously praised by the judges.

After the competition, Qiu Xiang celebrated backstage with Qin Mu and Xiaomei, while Bian Jingwen was with Luo Li and Rui Sen. Luo Li and Rui Sen came over to greet them, so Bian Jingwen reluctantly followed.

"Congratulations!"

Rui Sen congratulated Qiu Xiang in their native language.

"Thank you!"

Qiu Xiang shook hands with him lightly, feeling excited to have a handsome guy congratulating her.

"Congratulations!"

Luo Li also generously expressed her congratulations.

"If I also sought AD's help, the outcome of this competition might be a different story, right?"

Bian Jingwen lightly smiled, speaking softly in good Chinese to Qin Mu.

"AD was exactly who you brought from the United States, along with Rui Sen!—I've always said, the designers in our studio have been through many shows, so don't underestimate them!"

Qin Mu saw Bian Jingwen's poor complexion, finally smiled faintly, and seriously reminded her.

Bian Jingwen looked up at her, most annoyed when she brought up past matters at such times.

"Hmph! Whether she designed it herself, you know better than I do! This is just the beginning, we'll see!"

Bian Jingwen smiled slightly, saw Jian Yan and AD approaching, nodded politely to them, then turned and walked ahead.

"I'll leave first!"

Rui Sen greeted Qin Mu, and Qin Mu nodded slightly.

"Bye!"

Rui Sen saw her nod, then turned to chase after Bian Jingwen.

Luo Li stood at the side watching their departing figures: "Are these two together? They're inseparable every day."

"Sister Luo, haven't seen you lately, your fashion sense improved a lot!"

Qin Mu didn't care about Rui Sen and Bian Jingwen, she was just glad the competition was over and didn't want to mention Bian Jingwen anymore.

"Of course, I have to constantly improve my fashion sense, otherwise, if someone points out flaws someday and kicks me out, I'll have nowhere to cry."

Luo Li smiled lightly.

Qin Mu knew she was talking about her husband, but as an outsider, there was nothing to say, so she just smiled politely.

A woman always vigilant to please a man must be very tired, but the life she chose seems truly walked on while kneeling.

"Let's have dinner together tonight, after dinner AD and I will fly out!"

Jian Yan, after watching their greetings, finally spoke.

Xiaomei, Qin Mu, and Qiu Xiang all curiously looked at him: "Leaving tonight?"

"There's a lot going on in Paris, and for AD too, there's much awaiting her in the company."

"Then let's go over, dinner is already arranged!"

Although Qin Mu was somewhat hesitant, she nodded without delay.

Before leaving, Jian Yan told Qin Mu: "Tell Huanhuan, I'll send the gift I promised her over immediately."

"Hmm! Take good care of yourself in Paris, and call me if anything comes up."

Qin Mu nodded, obediently bidding him farewell.

AD was leaving a bit later and was waiting in the VIP lounge until Qin Mu went over to find her.

AD raised her head slightly, turned when she saw her coming in, indicating for her to sit beside her.

Qin Mu walked over and sat beside her, placing her bag aside.

Since AD and her mentor were friends, Qin Mu treated AD with respect as someone of her mentor's seniority, but didn't expect AD to say such things to her.

"If I were you, I'd let your mentor go!"

"He's been single for years for your sake, don't you as a disciple feel guilty?"

"If I were you, I'd sever the mentor-disciple relationship, letting him pursue the life he should have."

On the way back, Qin Mu kept thinking about what life Jian Yan wanted to pursue.

Sever the mentor-disciple relationship?

AD, upon leaving, told her to think it over carefully. AD was pragmatic, so perhaps she saw things more clearly?

Qin Mu looked at the roadside scenery, in the north during winter, it was hard to find a leaf on trees, but those leaves clinging stubbornly to branches were very tenacious.

Just like the weed in her heart, year after year, every time pulled out without removing the roots.

Year after year, she finally stopped bothering with the weed, letting it grow.

But one day someone suddenly emerged to tell her, what she was doing was wrong.

In the dark night, not a star to be seen, she slowly drove down that familiar road, how many years since she returned? She still remembered how alienated she felt when she first came back.

She asked her heart, what is the right thing to do?

When Qin Mu returned home, Mu Yichen was leaning against the door smoking, waiting for her. The wind outside was quite strong, blowing the silver mist from the cigarette between his fingers higher until it vanished.

Qin Mu parked the car, opened the door, got out, and walked toward the door with her bag.

He still leaned there, somewhat lazily.

Qin Mu looked at his tall figure, even such a casual action was endearing.

Mu Yichen listened to the sound of the car entering the gate, the sound of her opening the car door, the sound of her high heels gradually approaching.



Finally, he turned his eyes to her direction.

Qin Mu smiled softly, warmly courteous.

Seeing her, one couldn't help but feel as if drunk, seeing such a gentle little sweetheart.

"In such cold weather, having Mr. Mu wait at the door for a lady, the lady is truly flattered!"

She stood before him, turned, and smiled at him ingratiatingly, those clear eyes filled with gentle light, making him involuntarily lift his cigarette hand to take a deep puff.

The silver smoke emerged from his lips and nostrils, his dark eyes gazing through the smoke at the woman clinging to his chest.

Back then, she was still a stubborn little girl, humiliated as mere friends with benefits when he took her to register.

The cigarette-clasping fingers carried a special warmth in the dark night, lightly caressing Qin Mu's face, deep-set eyes seemed to slowly consume the woman before him.

Chapter 1112: How about we go next door

"Mu Yichen!"

She called him softly, withdrawing her hand from the pocket of her coat in the cold air, caressing the angular contours of his face.

Facing his dark eyes, she felt no fear, responding in kind.

Mu Yichen suddenly let out a light laugh, gazing at her shining expression, then bowed his head to domineeringly capture her soft lips.

Qin Mu took a deep breath but found it impossible to breathe properly, as his gentle touch gradually warmed the side of her face blown by the wind.

— —

"Coming back so late? Hmm?"

A few minutes later, after he had kissed enough, Mr. Mu casually released her face from his hands, holding a cigarette, finally willing to speak, though the low question carried undeniable authority.

Qin Mu feared his dark eyes then.

"I seem to have called?"

Qin Mu tentatively asked him, afraid he had forgotten!

"Hmm! You said on the phone you'd be back before ten."

Mu Yichen agreed, in this dark and cold night, his voice, though full of intimidation, still bore some warmth.

Qin Mu lowered her gaze, looking at his chest, her hand lightly tapping on the fabric.

"AD left later than Jian Yan, I stayed with her for a bit."

Mu Yichen looked at Qin Mu's expression as she spoke, tossed the cigarette into the yard to extinguish itself, then with his hands tainted with tobacco, tilted her chin to make her look up: "What were you discussing?"

"Topics between women!"

Qin Mu glanced at him, reluctant to delve further.

"Oh? What kind of topics between women?"

Mu Yichen's probing forced Qin Mu into a bit of resignation, making her change the subject: "Let's go inside quickly, it's freezing!"

Mu Yichen fell silent again, but his fiery gaze rests on her, filled with patience, awaiting her explanation.

In his mind, any women might discuss such topics, but she and AD?

She left it unsaid, as AD, such a person, always talks about design-related matters; expecting her to mention family?

"Darling, don't you know that you're not great at lying? You're banking on my trust in you."

Mu Yichen's deep, charming voice subtly ensnared the heart.

Qin Mu's heart quivered with fear: "Mu Yichen, have you always spoiled me like this?"

She lifted her head, searching for something within his deep eyes.

"Otherwise, with your skills, I would have dismembered you long ago."

Mu Yichen had to admit this fact.

"Since you're always spoiling me, why not spoil me once more?"

Qin Mu said with a blink, causing Mu Yichen to involuntarily frown.

"You owe me two trips to the woods."

Mu Yichen glanced outside at the dark ground, softly mentioned.

Qin Mu's heart quaked again, wasn't it one time?

"Wait till next summer, so you won't freeze."

Mu Yichen showed thoughtful consideration.

"But there are mosquitoes in summer!"

Qin Mu was resigned, mumbling as she kept her hands buried in his pockets, unwilling to take them out.

"Oh? Mrs. Mu seems to prefer winter, from what I hear?"

Mu Yichen suddenly changed the topic, frightening Qin Mu nearly to her wit's end.

"Whatever you want, I'm going back to the room."

Qin Mu pulled her hands out of his pockets, and with a lowered head, walked inside.

Mu Yichen remained leaning against the doorframe, not moving, just quietly watching her stubborn little figure.

It wasn't that Qin Mu didn't want to talk to Mu Yichen, just that some things, how does one even begin to say?

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The next morning!

Actually, Qin Mu thought she would perish in bed last night, but Mu Yichen did not pursue the matter any further, not even having relations with her.

When she woke up, she was in Mu Yichen's arms, but felt uneasy, because she didn't understand why Mu Yichen let her off last night.

Could it be that Mr. Mu was tired? Was Mr. Mu's body not up to it?

After both washed up and went downstairs, Feng Fanghua, reading the newspaper, called Qin Mu: "Xiaomu, come here quickly and look at this little article in the newspaper."

Qin Mu curiously lifted her head, then walked over to stand behind Feng Fanghua, who handed her the newspaper, yet couldn't resist glancing at it herself: "This one."

"The title is 'A Girl's Revenge'!"

Qin Mu glanced at it, her brow twitching slightly, then seriously read the text below, while Mu Yichen, tall and imposing, stood by her side reading along.

"Is this talking about you?"

Mu Yichen looked intently at the newspaper, his brow knitting tightly.

Chapter 1113: How about we go next door\_2

"But what does Zhang Rujia's death have to do with me?"

Qin Mu looked up at him. In one part, it mentioned how this girl caused her father's second wife to die in a bizarre car accident. Qin Mu thought, she didn't have any magic, how could she make someone die in a bizarre car accident?

"Who's writing nonsense here anyway?"

Feng Fanghua asked, frowning unhappily. If she knew who the writer was, she would definitely find that person and ask them properly, on what grounds did they write like that? Did they witness it personally?

After hearing this, Qin Mu and Mu Yichen instinctively went to check the pen name, which was anonymous.

Ha ha!

Qin Mu reflexively glanced at Mu Yichen, who didn't say anything, but just picked up the newspaper and flipped through it: "Let's look at tomorrow's installment first."

Qin Mu also felt that was best, just in case they were only writing it for fun.



After all, there are so many stepmother dramas these days; if they fit themselves into it, things would go wrong.

Qin Haiming read the newspaper first after going to work. He usually wouldn't read such serialized stories until he saw the striking headline, which caught his attention, leading him to call Qin Mu a few minutes later.

Qin Mu was on her way to the studio, glanced at her phone, and put it on speaker: "Hello?"

"Did you see today's newspaper?"

Qin Mu was startled, and then realized that this newspaper was one that citizens all over the city, including leaders, loved to read.

"Mm!"

"I just read it, do you have any thoughts?"

Qin Haiming asked her, and Qin Mu thought that Qin Haiming must have also thought about their family.

"I don't have any thoughts. Mu Yichen said we'd see what happens tomorrow, so let's leave it at that."

"I have a feeling it might be targeting you. Do you still have bodyguards following you recently?"

"Mm!"

Qin Mu glanced at her rearview mirror. A black Audi had been following her for a while.

"Let those people keep following you. Besides, I'm afraid this person came prepared. If they want to use public opinion to crush you, I'll make this farce end early."

"I understand! But you might not be suitable to intervene in this matter. I..."

"Mumu, I am your father!"

Qin Haiming said particularly seriously; after finishing, his eyes were full of guilt.

Doing something for you is only natural, especially since all of this is due to the mistakes I made back then! These words were heavy in his heart, but he didn't say them out loud; his daughter's repeated humiliations and harm after returning to the city brought him deep self-reproach for his incompetence and uselessness.

Qin Mu speculated about his worries but didn't say much more, although she hoped she could handle this matter herself if possible.

But if this article was indeed aimed at her, then who in Rongcheng was so displeased with her? And whose writing was so brilliant?

Qin Mu drove to the studio, where Zhao Huai happened to bring over a box of tiramisu. Qin Mu raised her eyes slightly to look at the exquisite box, Zhao Huai...

"For Xiaomei?"

"Mm!"

Zhao Huai smiled awkwardly but politely. Actually, he wanted to say it was for everyone, but seeing Qin Mu treating him like a family member, he immediately chose to be more reserved.

Qin Mu saw he wasn't planning to share with everyone but wasn't angry and went inside first.

Xiaomei timed it well to make her coffee, and just as she was going upstairs, Xiaomei followed: "Darling, your coffee is ready!"

"I don't want coffee today!"

"Huh?"

"I want to eat tiramisu!"

When going upstairs, Qin Mu said to her, sounding a bit like a domineering, unreasonable person.

Xiaomei's heart skipped a beat, then turned to look downstairs, sure enough, Zhao Huai had arrived.

"Bro! Bring it up so we can eat together!"

Xiaomei wanted to say, with the New Year approaching, for the sake of her year-end bonus, it's just a cake anyway.

Zhao Huai heard Xiaomei's sweet coaxing voice and knew Xiaomei didn't dare offend Qin Mu, nor did he, so he carried it upstairs.

In Qin Mu's office, once everyone sat down, it was Qin Mu who was the happiest; initially, the bad mood from the newspaper was greatly alleviated upon seeing this cake.

"You two still call each other brother and sister? Isn't it a bit cringe? A client called me a few days ago asking if Xiaomei had a boyfriend."

Qin Mu actively opened the box while speaking.

"How did you answer him?"

Zhao Huai sat nearby with his legs crossed, unintentionally furrowing his brows.

"I just told him no! Haven't you guys not made it public? Or is it that you're not actually saying you're dating?"

Chapter 1114: How about we go next door

Qin Mu served herself a small piece on a plate, then sat in a single sofa and started eating. Before eating, she asked them.

Zhao Huai suddenly fell silent.

Xiaomei was originally feeling sorry for her cake, but after hearing Qin Mu's question, she didn't have the mood to worry about the cake any longer. She turned to glance at Zhao Huai.

"We're dating!"

Zhao Huai thought for a moment, then with a bold heart, said these words.

Xiaomei immediately turned to look at him in shock, as if she'd swallowed an ostrich egg and was choking on it.

"From now on, if anyone asks whether she should find a boyfriend, you just tell him, Xiaomei already has a boyfriend."

As Zhao Huai firmly gave Qin Mu a clue, and Qin Mu pretended to listen attentively, Xiaomei lowered her head, trying hard to suppress her excited laughter, almost burying her face in her knees.

"Alright! Let's agree on that!"

After taking a bite, Qin Mu nodded, being very obedient, then glanced at Xiaomei again, thinking it's best if neither of you is in the mood to think about this cake, so I can eat it all.

As for gaining a few pounds after eating it all...

She couldn't be bothered, since her mood was not good today, a bit of sweets should make it better.

She felt like she was about to soar; the sweetness of the cake wasn't cloying, rather it gave a sense of happiness.

Yet Xiaomei was thinking, Zhao Huai actually admitted they were dating, and he admitted it to her closest friend Qin Mu, so snuggled up...

The fact that they are together is no longer a secret.

In the future, can she also tell others that Zhao Huai is her boyfriend, instead of her honorary big brother?

Does this mean she doesn't have to call him 'brother' anymore?

Xiaomei's heart grew more and more excited as she thought about it, having already forgotten the cake.

Zhao Huai was even more tense, actually he was pursuing Xiaomei, but Xiaomei acted oblivious. Now that it was out in the open, did Xiaomei agree?

He turned to look at her, finding her head down, unable to see her face, making his heart even heavier.

"Say something!"

He suddenly urged.

Xiaomei was dazed, still seemingly lost in her own thoughts, not raising her head.

Whereas, Qin Mu couldn't help but curiously look at the two sitting on the side couch.

"Could it be you two haven't made it clear yet?"

Qin Mu thought their pace was really too slow!

Zhao Huai didn't speak anymore, thinking he's been playing the messenger for quite a while now, but Xiaomei's lukewarm attitude... Sometimes Zhao Huai thought Xiaomei had sensed it, he had hinted, he even felt he'd been explicit, but Xiaomei...

"Huh?"

Xiaomei finally snapped back to reality.

Qin Mu twitched at the corners of her mouth, thinking she couldn't care less about them!



Finish one piece and move on to the next.

"Hey! You finished my cake!"

"You seemed in no mood to eat it!"

Qin Mu hummed in response.

Xiaomei was super angry, it had been hard for her to ask Zhao Huai to buy it for her. Actually, it was really difficult for her to ask him to buy things, but Qin Mu ate it up so quickly.

"Who said I wasn't in the mood to eat? How could you do this?"

Xiaomei immediately leaned over to grab the rest along with the box and got up to run out.

Qin Mu still had a spoon in her mouth, suddenly feeling she might have gone too far. After all, it was Xiaomei's beloved item.

No! It should be an item bought by her beloved person!

But she had already eaten so much.

"Why don't you go buy her another one?"

"No need, eating too much isn't good for the body! But Xiaomu, actually I'm curious, is the brain of designers different from others?"

Qin Mu...

"I always thought I had her figured out, but lately I've noticed she seems to have been avoiding me."

"Really?"

Qin Mu asked doubtfully, as far as she knew, Xiaomei was clearly eager to get married.

Zhao Huai shook his head, "I have something to do later, I'm leaving first!"

Qin Mu looked at the small piece of cake left in her plate, after Zhao Huai left, she slowly finished it, not wanting to waste it.

But as soon as Zhao Huai went downstairs, Rui Sen just happened to come over.

"Excuse me, is Qin Mu here?"

Rui Sen asked with accented Chinese.

"In the office upstairs, find her yourself!"

Xiaomei was standing inside the service counter, muttering while putting her beloved cake onto a plate, not even raising her head.

This moment, the words Qin Mu felt like her arch-enemy.

"Alright! Thank you!"

However, Rui Sen didn't get angry either, treating girls with particular gentlemanliness and tolerance.

Zhao Huai walked over, watching Rui Sen going upstairs while nodding as they passed each other, and couldn't help but laugh.

Chapter 1115: How about we go next door

Thinking how Rui Sen actually dared to come find Qin Mu, doesn't he know who Qin Mu belongs to now? That's Rongcheng's notorious "Jealous King".

But as a foreigner, it's normal not to know.

Zhao Huai walked to the service desk and saw Xiaomei with red eyes, bowed his head slightly, and said, "I'll buy you a new one tonight, and come pick you up to eat at my place!"

Xiaomei raised her big eyes, then immediately lowered them again.

It's particularly quiet at his place, just him alone...

"Got something to do, gotta go first!"

"Hmm!"

Xiaomei nodded, only daring to look up after he left, her face entirely flushed like a ripe red apple.

The girl next to her couldn't help but laugh, "Xiaomei, you're in love!"

Xiaomei instinctively held her face tightly, but her hands were hot too, unable to cool down her face,  
"Don't talk nonsense!"

"We've all known for a while now!"

The girl at the service desk spoke as if she had known all along.

Qin Mu heard a knock on the door and looked up, and when she saw the neatly dressed Rui Sen, her eyes lit up unconsciously, "Why are you here?"

"Came to see you and then I'll be heading back to Paris."

Rui Sen smiled politely and explained to her.

"You're leaving too?"

Qin Mu asked curiously.

Rui Sen nodded, "After going back, I have to set off to another place soon."

"I see!"

Qin Mu thought, just leave then, that's good! But suddenly realized she hadn't asked him to sit, so she stood up and gestured for him to sit on the sofa, and she went over too.

In fact, she had just sat behind the desk for less than a minute, and then went over to sit with him on the sofa, still sitting where she had just sat.

Rui Sen looked at the little bit of cake left on the table, "You still like to eat this!"

Qin Mu smiled, some habits even she didn't realize because she simply liked them.

"This competition is finally over, it really seems like you and Bian Jingwen had some feud, she has been locking herself in her room ever since the competition ended, it seems she's really angry."

Rui Sen spoke to Qin Mu in French.

"Room? How do you know she's locked herself in the room, you with her..."

Qin Mu caught the key point and indirectly asked the question she was curious about.

Rui Sen smiled again, clearly hiding something.

Qin Mu immediately got the definite answer.

She knew there was something up, but she didn't know Rui Sen had a taste for someone like Bian Jingwen.

Thinking about how he once proposed to her, she suddenly felt a sense of helplessness.

"Sometimes a man is with a woman not because of her character or beauty, or maybe just because he has a certain need."

It's a bit difficult to translate this into French, but Qin Mu understood it and felt quite disdainful.

Thinking if back then Mu Yichen was also like this, finding different women just to fulfill a need, they wouldn't be where they are today as a couple.

A man like Mu Yichen, it turns out, is truly hard to find in this world.

But still...

"Isn't Bian Jingwen your friend's girlfriend?"

"Things like this, if she doesn't say, I don't say, no one will know."

Rui Sen continued smiling, as if talking about something very common.

"But internally, the choice for a wife, for a lover, is still a girl like you, from when I was twenty until now, this hasn't changed at all."

"Rui Sen!"

Qin Mu was genuinely displeased with Rui Sen's sudden appearance.

She suddenly stood up, though still smiling.

"I just remembered, it seems I have to go to my daughter's school for an event at noon, can we reschedule lunch for another time? I wish you a pleasant journey!"

Qin Mu held her phone with both hands, not intending to shake hands with Rui Sen again, only hoping through her eyes that he would understand.



Rui Sen was a bit hurt, though still smiling, "Because of what I just said? Are you very concerned?"

"Yes, I care a lot!"

Qin Mu nodded, answering him in a very cooperative manner.

"But we're not lovers."

Rui Sen stood up, shrugging his hands in confusion.

"Rui Sen, there's a saying in China: 'People who have different paths should not make plans together.' Wishing you good luck in the future!"

And so, this meeting came to an end.

They parted peacefully, and Qin Mu stood by the window watching him leave before walking inside, standing in front of the desk but not sitting down.

Instinctively crossing her arms, she suddenly remembered Rui Sen had just said Bian Jingwen locked herself in the room.

Chapter 1116: How about we go next door\_5

But that kind of draft, no one would write it themselves, right?

Qin Mu couldn't figure it out, and without evidence, she didn't dare to say anything reckless. She could only put the matter aside for now and sat back at her desk to work.

At noon, snowflakes suddenly blew in from outside. It was like the snow was being swept over from the west and not falling from the sky, very fierce and intense!

It was like snow that didn't belong to this time of year, making even those who loved snow unable to smile.

Mu Yichen called Qin Mu in the afternoon: "I'll pick you up tonight!"

"Okay! What are you doing right now?"

"In a meeting!"

Mu Yichen said, then lifted his eyes to the conference room. It was empty except for him.

"See you later then!"

Qin Mu really thought he was still in a meeting, imagining a room full of people around him, very serious.

With Mu Yichen's personality, he might indeed call her about trivial things during a meeting.

After Qin Mu put down her phone, she continued drawing, but soon someone came to see her, it was Li Man.

"Did I disturb your work?"

Li Man saw she interrupted Qin Mu's drawing and couldn't help but ask apologetically.

"It's okay! Come in!"

Qin Mu thought about Jiang Zhiyuan's matter, guessing she might be here because of that.

Li Man walked in, a bit apologetic: "I didn't realize I had come here until I was already at the side, it's very abrupt, sorry, and I didn't bring a gift either."

"No problem! Have a seat!"

Qin Mu smiled slightly, letting her sit on the chair opposite.

Li Man moved the chair and sat down, then faced Qin Mu: "Seeing you so busy, I won't beat around the bush, I actually came this afternoon because there's something I want to consult with you."

After Li Man finished speaking, she awkwardly smiled. She had been thinking about that matter for a while, feeling very guilty. Because of her own impulsiveness, the person who helped her had to face trouble.

"Jiang Zhiyuan, right?"

Qin Mu was also very straightforward.

Li Man heard her mention Jiang Zhiyuan's name and knew she surely knew about it, immediately nodded: "Yes! That Mr. Jiang helped me stop that man's harassment that night because of you, and he sent me home after knowing that man had people outside to teach me a lesson. I didn't expect his girlfriend to misunderstand, of course, he probably didn't expect it either."

Li Man looked up talking for a while, then awkwardly lowered her head, she was genuinely extremely sorry.

"Jiang Zhiyuan has already told me about what happened that night, and his girlfriend now understands everything. You don't need to worry about it anymore."

"Really? But yesterday when I was out on a shoot, I saw the two of them leaving unhappily from that little square, was it because of something else?"

Li Man was a bit excited but then thought it might be something else.

"What's between them is not quite what you think; I can only tell you, they are not arguing because of you, Li Man. It could be anyone, but if someone was rescued by Jiang Zhiyuan that night, they would be the scapegoat. His girlfriend is worried about his character, not whether he has an improper relationship with another woman."

Qin Mu thought while speaking, but didn't dare to say too much, as she was just an observer after all.

"So, do you think I need to clear things up personally with his girlfriend? It's not because of anything else, I just don't want to be the homewrecker of their relationship, besides, you know best who I truly like."

"If I were you, I wouldn't go! But your actions are for you to decide."

Qin Mu pondered a bit, then honestly replied in a soft voice.

"You don't know, when I told Li Yu I had fallen for a young man, he actually told me to get along with him, Qin Mu, how can there be such a ruthless man in this world?"

Li Man thought for a long time after hearing her words and expressed her sadness to her before crying.

Qin Mu listened, but she didn't know what to say. In this world, love comes in so many forms, and every couple's journey is different.

"Sometimes I really want to find someone to pretend in front of him, to see if he really is that heartless, but I love him so much I don't want him to see me pretending."

Li Man spoke, turning her head else where, fiercely wiping the tears off her face with her hand, and blowing her nose hard.

Qin Mu didn't understand why so many people liked to confide in her, but what could she really help them with?

"Were you and Mu always like that too? Before knowing you loved each other."

Indeed! That seemed to be the easiest way to make someone anxious, to appear in front of them with another good-looking person.

Qin Mu suddenly thought of Jing Qing and then smiled helplessly: "Maybe!"

Perhaps saying this would make Li Man feel better?

Seeing her so composed, Li Man suddenly smiled, wiping away her tears: "Look at me, not serious at all!"

Qin Mu's serious demeanor made her seem distant. Li Man suddenly felt she was rash, having taken advantage of Qin Mu several times now finding her to talk about these things.

"Then I won't interrupt your work! It snowed for half an hour, maybe it was too fast, the grass even turned a bit white, I'm leaving, going to see it before it melts!"

Qin Mu stood up to see her off.

After work, Qin Mu waited upstairs for Mu Yichen's car. As usual, Zhao Huai's car came first, and lately, Xiaomei hasn't been using her small car much because Zhao Huai always came to pick her up, even though no one knew where they'd go.

Mu Yichen's car arrived a few minutes later, parked downstairs of the studio.

Qin Mu didn't hurry downstairs, suddenly feeling the quietness here and wanting to wait for him to come up.

So when Mu Yichen came up, he saw her hunched on the sofa, flipping through her phone, when just before, she was standing by the window.

Mu Yichen walked over, sat opposite her, leaning forward like she was, his dark eyes quietly watching her for a while.

"Don't want to go back?"

Mu Yichen finally broke the silence in the office.

"No! Just waiting for you to come up and get me!"

Qin Mu smiled, a little mischievous.

Mu Yichen squinted his eyes in resignation, appearing as if he had no way to handle her.

"You enjoy messing with me more and more, huh?"

"Yes! Who told you to be later than Zhao Huai again!"



Qin Mu lifted her eyebrows, a bit willful, then got up and went around to his side. As Mu Yichen straightened up, she just sat on his lap, lazily hanging one hand on his shoulder.

"Zhao Huai admitted to dating Xiaomei!"

Qin Mu said with a cheeky smile.

Mu Yichen also let out a helpless laugh, sighing: "Should have known sooner."

He slowly leaned back into the sofa, squinting at her: "But why are you so happy about them being together?"

"Of course, I'm happy! Our Xiaomei finally found her perfect match!"

Qin Mu said happily and was about to get up from him but was easily held by his hand on her waist, making her unable to move. Qin Mu lowered her eyes to look briefly, then hugged him, determined to stay on his lap.

"Last night you didn't do that thing, how about we go to the bedroom next door?"

Chapter 1117: This Time is Different

"What are you talking about?"

President Mu squinted his eyes, as if he was unaware of the situation.

"What are you talking about? Stop pretending to be confused!"

Qin Mu's voice unconsciously lowered a bit, but her eyes blazed like fire, burning her own heart as well as the heart of the man holding her.

"Your husband really is confused, Mrs. Mu, please explain in more detail!"

"Come to the next room, I'll explain it to you slowly!"

Qin Mu placed her other hand around his neck, then smiled and winked at him.

"Alright!"

President Mu, being very understanding, picked up the woman in his arms and started walking out.

Qin Mu couldn't help but gaze seductively at him. Seeing his pretentiously upright demeanor, she just wanted to strip him bare, tear him to pieces, and reveal his true nature.

Later, the classmate working overtime downstairs heard strange sounds from the upstairs couple, couldn't help but push up their glasses, cleaning up the desk in a hurry. They turned off the lights and locked the door before leaving with relative composure.

The two of them walked out of the studio side by side after seven o'clock, without any exceptionally affectionate behavior. However, if you looked at their faces, you would see that beneath their serious exteriors, both of their unique eyes had just shed a look of desire.

— —

The next day, the daily newspaper was still serializing that article. If yesterday's was about Qin Mu's past two years, then today's was about the past, even recounting the tragic scene where the girl's mother died in a car accident, with the girl watching her mother lie in a pool of blood.

It felt as if someone was standing next to her, reminding Qin Mu of the moment her mother died, and making her remember that there seemed to be no one standing beside her at that time, in that bitterly cold winter.

Qin Mu spent the morning at home drawing and didn't go out. When her phone rang and she saw it was a call from Qin Haiming, she guessed it was still about the newspaper report, and she answered it patiently.

"Hello?"

"Hello? Qin Mu, this lady is back again. Let's have lunch at AM at noon, you can bring your family!"

With the voice of Qin Mingzhu, Qin Mu instinctively pulled the phone away to check, confirming that it was indeed Qin Haiming's phone, which meant the young lady had returned.

"I'm not free at noon..."

"Don't say you're not free, or I'll go straight to your house and make a scene."

Qin Mu...

In the afternoon, Qin Mingzhu went to find her for lunch. When Qin Mu arrived, she saw Qin Mingzhu sitting in a corner, sharply staring at the diagonal opposite. Following her gaze, Qin Mu discovered Bian Jingwen was there, having lunch with her newly acquainted friends.

Bian Jingwen always appeared so gentle and especially graceful, leaving a very good impression on people.

But as Qin Mingzhu gazed at her, she gradually felt a little breathless, and her expression became more and more complex.

As Qin Mu walked over and sat down, Qin Mingzhu stood up angrily.

Qin Mu looked up at her curiously, only to hear her say wilfully: "Don't mind anything!"

Qin Mu didn't mind, just sat there quietly watching.

Qin Mingzhu walked over to that long table, right behind Bian Jingwen.

The few people happily chatting fell silent as they saw the cold-faced girl suddenly appear behind Bian Jingwen.

Bian Jingwen, who had been listening carefully, noticed the change and turned around, looking up.

At the same time, Qin Mingzhu picked up her wine glass and poured the wine over her face.

Bian Jingwen instinctively closed her eyes, held her breath, opened her mouth, extremely angry yet momentarily at a loss for how to react.

Qin Mingzhu slammed the wine glass back down forcefully, staring stubbornly with her big eyes at Bian Jingwen: "Slut, stop pretending!"

"What are you crazy about?"

A friend handed Bian Jingwen a tissue, she wiped her face and stood up, unable to help but shout at her, even though she was surprised to see Qin Mingzhu.

"I'm just going crazy, sister! Order some food, let's eat!"

Qin Mingzhu, glaring at Bian Jingwen, grew angrier the more she looked, then shouted over to Qin Mu, agreeing with Bian Jingwen's words, before turning away.

Qin Mu...

For those who didn't know, they might think it was Qin Mu who taught Qin Mingzhu to pour a glass of wine on Bian Jingwen.

But she did well!

Bian Jingwen, after hearing Qin Mingzhu shout, looked over to the corner and was shocked to see it was Qin Mu. Qin Mingzhu and Qin Mu...

Chapter 1118: This Time is Different

Haven't they always had a bad relationship?

Bian Jingwen thought, she had heard that Qin Mingzhu and Qin Mu had torn into each other multiple times, and Qin Mu exploited her father's guilt towards her, making her father drive Qin Mingzhu out of the house.

But now...

Qin Mingzhu actually calls Qin Mu sister?

"Sorry to interrupt your meal! Personal vendetta!"

Qin Mingzhu smiled, and after finishing her words, she turned and swayed her small figure away.

In this cold winter, her sweater dress seemed exceptionally warm.

After walking back and sitting down, Qin Mingzhu asked Qin Mu: "How did I do?"

"Why did you suddenly return?"

Qin Mu didn't answer, just curiously asked.

"Why else would I come back? I saw the article written in the newspaper! My in-laws said that if this matter truly relates to our family, neither dad nor you should step forward, especially dad, so I returned!"

Qin Mingzhu lowered her head, drinking the tea Qin Mu poured for her, explaining the reason for her return.

Qin Mu's eyes fell for a moment, then she looked up at her again: "You targeted Bian Jingwen as soon as you returned?"

"Who else would it be? Even if our family has many grudges, there shouldn't be many people who know so much about our family, right?"

Qin Mingzhu asked Qin Mu, and when the waiter came to serve the food, she put her phone aside.

Qin Mu slowly leaned back into the chair, then instinctively glanced over at Bian Jingwen, who was already heading towards the restroom with a tissue.

"No evidence!"

"Evidence? By the time evidence comes, it'll be too late, I'll stir things up to make her restless first."

Qin Mingzhu picked up her chopsticks and hummed before eating.



Qin Mu looked at Qin Mingzhu, suddenly unable to be angry with her, but instead slightly moved, thinking, once their enmity was deep as the sea, but now...

When Qin Mingzhu called her sister just now, she actually felt a real sense of being a sister.

"Dad always tells me to hold back, but when I see her face, how can I hold back? My mom never told me until she died that I had a sister!"

Qin Mingzhu looked towards that direction incredulously, the more she thought about it the more aggrieved she felt, for several nights she couldn't sleep from the grievance, more anxious than when Qin Mu returned to Rongcheng.

"What if she really wrote the article?"

Qin Mingzhu was very worried.

"If she wrote the article, then the account we settle with her won't be just about a few reports, do you understand?"

These repeated incidents, if all these articles were written by Bian Jingwen, then Bian Jingwen's purpose is already quite clear, it's aimed at their Qin Family members, then they as father and daughter naturally cannot let this girl continue gracefully.

"What should I do?"

"Aren't you good at stirring up a storm? Do what you're skilled at that won't violate the law."

Qin Mu looked up at her to remind her, then lowered her eyes again after speaking.

"However, if she really is your sister, you need to consider which side you're truly on."

Qin Mu worried that Qin Mingzhu might regret her actions someday, thought about it, and still had to remind her of this point.

"Of course I stand with you and dad, you're all helping me, she had better not be the culprit who killed my mom, otherwise, I won't just stir the waters, I'll do anything."

Qin Mingzhu said, then looked towards that place again.

Bian Jingwen had already walked back and sat down, and did so very gracefully.

"This woman can really pretend, so shameless!"

Qin Mingzhu whispered grumbly, luckily the food at the restaurant was good.

Qin Mingzhu hadn't returned for a long time, but found the house had changed greatly when she returned home today. She knew Qin Mu had been quietly taking care of their father during this time, so she thought and asked: "Are you and dad getting along well now?"

"It's okay!"

Qin Mu looked at her big eyes, actually seriously considering for a moment.

"Actually, dad loves you more! Alas, because I took your place when I was young!"

Qin Mingzhu's mouth twisted sadly, lowering her head, feeling a bit lost as she picked at her food.

"Actually you didn't take my place, you're his daughter, you have the position you deserve."

Qin Mu looked at her sensible demeanor, feeling a bit uncomfortable.

Qin Mingzhu lifted her eyes to look at her after hearing this, unable to suppress a smile: "Qin Mu, are you still the Qin Mu I know? Why don't you mock me? Why say things like this? I always felt what I

owned should have been mine, but you all said it was me who took something that was originally yours, now I've finally admitted it, and you deny it again."

Chapter 1119: This Time is Different

Qin Mingzhu felt a bit uncomfortable, even sensing the tolerance coming from her sister.

"It's like I'm not part of this, of you guys? We're no longer judging the matters of the elders; my mom and your mom have both been laid to rest, but between us, shouldn't all the grudges be over?"

Qin Mu asked her, probing.

Qin Mingzhu's eyes immediately welled up with tears, and as Qin Mu calmly analyzed everything between them, her eyes moistened and she nodded vigorously: "Mhm!"

"Sis!"

Qin Mingzhu suddenly dragged a chair and sat beside her, hugging her waist and calling her while sobbing.

Qin Mu still dared not acknowledge this call of sister, but she knew in her heart she could no longer do anything about this girl.

"I'll go apologize to Auntie, it was my immaturity back then that led to such a blunder."

"You also have to forgive me for all the things I did to wrong you! But from now on, I'll listen to whatever you say. Just give the command, and I'll do as you say!"

"If you keep being so clingy, I'll have to leave."

Qin Mu couldn't stand her crying incessantly and softly reminded her.

Only then did Qin Mingzhu get up from her body, but when it was time to eat, she sat next to her.

Mu Yichen was over there socializing, and halfway through his meal, he got bored and came downstairs, hearing that Qin Mu was there. Yet, he first encountered Bian Jingwen's table.

"Mr. Mu!"

Bian Jingwen saw him about to walk towards Qin Mu and stood up to greet him, very polite and poised, like a well-trained lady of noble birth.

Mu Yichen glanced sideways at her, then said nothing and intended to leave.

"Brother-in-law!"

Who knew he'd hear that familiar call again.

Even Qin Mu felt like she had returned to the first time she came to Rongcheng to make an appearance when Qin Mingzhu suddenly approached her, indifferently and sharply-tongued.

Past events seem like smoke!

And that call of brother-in-law, although Mu Yichen later explained it was because of her, at the time, Qin Mingzhu called him brother-in-law because of Jing Qing.

In the blink of an eye, so many years have passed.

Jing Qing is now living in another city, and they have their own lovely children and a warm family.

And Qin Mingzhu, she has already become a mother too!

Qin Mingzhu put down her chopsticks and ran over, hugging his arm just like before and greeting him playfully, calling him brother-in-law, then turned her head to glance coldly at the instantly embarrassed Bian Jingwen.

Mu Yichen could see her intention, so he didn't stop her and went with her to their table.

"When did you return?"

Mu Yichen asked Qin Mingzhu after sitting next to Qin Mu.

"This morning! After seeing Dad, I came straight to have a meal with my sister!"

Qin Mingzhu spoke happily, like a child.

Looking at it this way, everything was indeed developing according to Mu Yichen's expectations; one day, Qin Mingzhu truly called Qin Mu her sister, and he truly became a legitimate brother-in-law.

"Eat first, then have your sister pay for it."

Mu Yichen seemed to enjoy being called brother-in-law, so he quickly accepted that Qin Mingzhu found Qin Mu to treat her.

Yet Qin Mu thought she was the one being treated to a meal.

After all, she was the one called over, and it was Qin Mingzhu who made the call.

But, clearly, she was tricked by Qin Mingzhu again.

"Has brother-in-law eaten? If not, join us!"

Qin Mingzhu called him and asked thoughtfully.

Qin Mu felt as though there was something wrong with her ears; Qin Mingzhu was so good at pleasing people?

"No, you two eat, and after you're done, you go rest at home. This afternoon, your sister and I have more important things to do!"

"Uh! But I wanted to go to my sister's shop to pick out some clothes this afternoon."

"Choose whatever clothes you like and put them on your brother-in-law's tab. Your sister won't be going!"

Qin Mu sat beside them, feeling like an outsider being pushed around.



Qin Mingzhu was tempted, but she still wanted to be with Qin Mu, yet looking at Mu Yichen's face, she didn't dare ask for too much.

"Oh!"

"I also have to check on the store this afternoon, is it urgent?"

Qin Mu noticed Qin Mingzhu lowering her head in dissatisfaction, then casually asked Mu Yichen, as if they were having a casual chat.

"Does sleeping count as urgent?"

Mu Yichen leaned back in his chair, hands clasped on his legs, turning to look at Qin Mu, asking her very seriously.

Qin Mu...

Chapter 1120: This Time is Different

Qin Mingzhu...

What's the big deal about this?

So after lunch, Mu Yichen headed upstairs for a nap, while Qin Mu and Qin Mingzhu drove to the shop.

Once inside, they ran into the second daughter-in-law of the Shen Family, who was there to pick out clothes herself. Hearing the door open, she turned and saw Qin Mu, stopping in her tracks and smiling: "Mrs. Mu!"

"Mrs. Shen, long time no see!"

Qin Mu was surprised, noticing that Mrs. Shen had changed so much since their last encounter, of course, pleasantly surprised.

"Indeed! Just a few days ago, my husband mentioned you, saying the clothes you helped me pick last time were great! This lady is—"

Mrs. Shen glanced at Qin Mingzhu beside Qin Mu, asking curiously, her smile unwavering.

"This is the jewel of the Qin Family, Qin Mingzhu, and this is the second daughter-in-law of the Shen Family, Hu Xiaoyan!"

Qin Mu smiled, introducing them to each other.

"I've seen you before! You used to play often with Brother Shen."

Qin Mingzhu felt unfamiliar due to Hu Xiaoyan's changes over the years, but Qin Haiming still remembered the cheerful Hu Xiaoyan from before.

"I have some memory of you too, but you seem different from back then, and I'm no longer who I used to be."

Hu Xiaoyan said softly at the end, involuntarily lowering her head, a trace of sadness in her eyes.

"More graceful than before! And prettier!"

Qin Mingzhu noticed her mood and immediately complimented her with a bright smile.

Hu Xiaoyan couldn't help but smile again, her eyes nearly squinting into slits.

"Let's go! We'll pick out clothes for the two of you first, then have a coffee to chat!"

Qin Mu thought, it's truly a relief not having to accompany Mr. Mu for a nap.

"Won't it be too much trouble for you?" Hu Xiaoyan asked, a bit embarrassed.

"No worries! It's part of my job; customers are like gods!"

"Even though I'm a god, I don't pay from my pocket!"

"Dream on!"

Qin Mu glanced at her and then nudged her forward.

The second daughter-in-law of the Shen Family couldn't help but chuckle, curious about the strong bond between Qin Mu and Qin Mingzhu.

Later, she heard about the ups and downs between Qin Mingzhu and Qin Mu, but she honestly didn't know their relationship had become so good.

"Let's change the color today; how about white?"

Qin Mu recalled Hu Xiaoyan's previous blue cheongsam purchase, so this time she didn't want her to pick the same color for everyday clothes.

"I'll listen to your advice!"

Hu Xiaoyan looked at the clothes in her hand and agreed readily.

"I'll listen to your advice too!"

Qin Mingzhu whispered, having long admired Qin Mu's fashion sense, and finally shamelessly got Qin Mu to help pick clothes for her.

Qin Mu glanced at her and then sighed helplessly: "Xiaofei, help Miss Qin pick two outfits, and let her try light-colored ones."

Qin Mu couldn't deny that Qin Mingzhu was naturally beautiful. If the clothes were too bright, they would overshadow her, whereas lighter colors would highlight her strengths.

Hu Xiaoyan chose two sweaters, two coats, and also picked several items for elders, gaining quite a lot.

Of course, the store employee handling the bill was also thrilled; the commission...

Qin Mu watched Qin Mingzhu come out in a loose, white sweater and immediately frowned: "Change to a fitted one."

"It's comfortable!"

"Change to a fitted one!"

Qin Mu said firmly with just one sentence.

Qin Mingzhu wasn't as stubborn as her, and obediently went to change clothes.

Qin Mu and Hu Xiaoyan waited beside her as Qin Mingzhu changed into a fitted, light green sweater and came out.

"Hmm! This one fits better!"

Hu Xiaoyan nodded, praising.

"Really? I've never liked wearing this kind of clothes!"

Qin Mingzhu still disliked it, accustomed to loose-fitting clothes, or perhaps even she didn't know, such outfits made her feel secure. This short, fitted style couldn't hold her arms or cover her backside, making her feel exposed with no sense of security.

"Pick a coat to wear over it!"

Qin Mu realized her nervousness was related to something unclear and glanced at the coats hanging nearby.

"Which one?"

Qin Mingzhu suddenly became flustered, looking at the long row.

"Let me! Miss Qin is so beautiful with a great figure; she'll look good in any of them!"

The store employee quickly fetched a cream-colored coat, spreading it open behind her.

Once Qin Mingzhu wore the coat, the weight on her shoulders made her feel better, then she went to the mirror to check, gradually calming down.

"Seems okay! But I still like the larger one!"

"Pack that one for her too!"

Qin Mu instructed the store employee.

"I didn't bring any money!"

Qin Mingzhu, excited, blushed and reminded Qin Mu.

Qin Mu and Hu Xiaoyan couldn't help but laugh, then walked ahead.

Qin Mingzhu hurriedly followed them, turning to tell the store employee before heading to the office for coffee: "Pack the large blue one for me too."

The store employee obediently packed it, but evidently wasn't as thrilled packing for Qin Mingzhu as they were for Hu Xiaoyan.

In the evening, Qin Mu drove Qin Mingzhu back to the Qin Family for dinner, seeing a car slowly crossing theirs at the gate, Qin Mingzhu suddenly sensed something amiss: "What's up with that car?"