

## His Beloved 191

Chapter 191: Mrs. Mu is very attractive\_4

Feng Fanghua used to say everywhere that Jing Qing was their future daughter-in-law, claiming that no young man in Rongcheng was a match for Jing Qing, except for her son. But now...

The two women sat in the chairs next to each other and chatted for a while. Feng Fanghua, feeling tired and uninterested, stood up to find her granddaughter: "Huanhuan, we're leaving!"

Huanhuan was a bit reluctant, but she soon parted from the little boy.

Feng Fanghua thought to herself that she couldn't let her granddaughter hang out with such snobbish people in the future.

She couldn't expect that they would end up attending the same kindergarten in a year or two.

At lunch, this lady ran into Jing Qing and spiced up the conversation she had with Feng Fanghua before repeating it to her, which immediately made Jing Qing unhappy and her expression turn cold.

The effect of Qin Mu's advertisement was even better than she had expected, and now, hearing these things, Jing Qing's temper would flare up, even though she was normally not the most easygoing person.

In front of outsiders, she was patient and gracefully composed, but at home, she was quite bad-tempered.

That afternoon she went to look for Helian Hao, who involuntarily furrowed his brows upon seeing her: "What are you doing here?"

"I want you to break off your relationship with Qin Mu."

"What?"

"Otherwise, you can't marry into our Jing Family."

Jing Qing knew that Helian Hao was the only friend of Qin Mu in Rongcheng. She wanted to end the only friendship Qin Mu had in Rongcheng, to dishearten Qin Mu and have him hurt by Helian Hao.

There was nothing more painful than being hurt by one's best friend.

"Either you break it off with her, or you don't marry my brother. The choice is yours."

After entering, Jing Qing turned and said to her coldly.

"Who do you think you are? The person I'm marrying is your brother, not you. What right do you have to dictate who I befriend? You want me to break off my friendship with her just because you say so? I'm your sister-in-law, not a servant of your family."

"Hmph, what's the difference?"

Jing Qing laughed coldly without even looking her in the eye.

Helian Hao also laughed, and as he was about to close the door, he opened it again: "Get out."

Get out?

Jing Qing had never heard anyone speak to her like that, and feeling insulted, she immediately walked out. However, just before she reached the door, she turned back to say: "If you continue being friends with Qin Mu, even if you marry into the Jing Family, you won't have a good life, because everyone in the Jing Family hates her, and naturally, we hate her friends too."

"I can just not get married at all. Who are you threatening?"

"Hmph, that would be for the best!"

Jing Qing hadn't finished speaking when Helian Hao angrily slammed the door, almost deafening her with the loud bang, making her own words seem insignificant at that moment.

Soon after, Jing Feng called her: "You went to see Xiaohao? Are you sick?"

"What if I am sick? If she continues her association with Qin Mu, I'll make it hard for her once she joins our family."

"Get back to the set," Jing Feng said angrily, then hung up the phone.

And Jing Qing, having descended the stairs and seated herself back in her car, burst into large tears as she felt an icy chill at her fingertips from loathing.

Fuming, Helian Hao called Jing Feng and then Qin Mu: "I don't need the dress anymore, sell it to someone else."

Qin Mu's hand, holding the pen, slacked, and the pen made a 'snap' as it fell on the desk, followed by the sound of a woman's sobs on the other end.

"Are you at home? I'm coming to see you!"

"Hmm!"

The voice at the other end sounded even more aggrieved. Qin Mu immediately put down her work and rushed over, finding Helian Hao already in tears with her eyes red and swollen.

When she opened the door for her, she vigorously wiped away her tears, nearly swelling her eyes shut.

"She actually said that if I don't break off my friendship with you, I'm not allowed to marry into the Jing Family. Fine, I won't marry! I never really cared about it anyway. It's only because her brother was shamelessly begging me."

Helian Hao complained, all the while wiping her runny nose with a sense of injustice.

"You can't make such a rash decision about this matter, and you mustn't speak carelessly about not marrying Jing Feng, understand?"

Qin Mu could only admonish her.

"Why can't I say it? Are only their family members allowed to speak? I'm not trying to climb their social ladder; why shouldn't I speak my mind?"

"It's not about whether you dare to speak or not; this involves the relationship between two families, and if you say such things to Jing Feng, how hurtful do you think it would be to him?"

It was this last sentence that truly touched Helian Hao's heart.

Hurting Jing Feng was the last thing she wanted, but she just couldn't swallow her anger.

His sister bullied his bride-to-be like that. Why should his bride-to-be have to be so accommodating?

"Just pretend to break off the friendship with me. After all, once you're married, you'll be living alone with Jing Feng. What can she do to you then?"

"I don't want to!"

Suddenly, Helian Hao began to regret her decision, afraid that she would have to endure the displeasure of his family as soon as they got married.

That was not the life she wanted.

"Do you know? I feel like my values really don't align with his family's."

"What about Jing Feng?"

"He, of course, aligns with me, but a marriage without the blessing of the family won't be a happy one."

"But once, my mother-in-law asked me more than once to leave Mu Yichen, and what about now?"

"Hmph, that mother-in-law of yours, who knows when she might go crazy again and drive you away."

"At that time, unless my relationship with Mu Yichen fell apart, no one could make me leave."

Qin Mu laughed softly.

"Why?"

Helian Hao asked out of curiosity.

"Because, once you're family for a day, you're family for a lifetime. Besides, I never saw his parents as outsiders, it's just that they have the choice to see me as an outsider."

Helian Hao...

Jing Feng had been there for a while, listening to the two women chat. Fortunately, he didn't hear Qin Mu's advice to Helian Hao to break up with him. Knowing that Qin Mu was not extreme, he walked in through the door. As for Helian Hao, no matter what she said, he would not let go.

They had been together for so many years, and they would be for many more to come.

Qin Mu got up when she saw Jing Feng come in. Helian Hao pulled at her, not wanting her to leave, but Qin Mu let out a helpless sigh, gently patted her hand away, and then left.

Jing Feng escorted her to the corridor: "The grievances between you and Jing Qing are now settled, and as her brother, I naturally have to side with my own sister. You need to understand that."

"You don't need to say anymore to me, just don't get angry with Mu Yichen when he supports me. After all, you're both just protecting the people you should be protecting."

Chapter 192: Be serious\_1

"Alright!"

After Jing Feng agreed, Qin Mu went downstairs. Jing Feng stood in the corridor for a while before going back. Helian Hao watched him return from the doorway, "What did you say to Mumu?"

"Nothing much, let's go inside."

Helian Hao cast another glance at him before reluctantly entering.

"I plan to start working at the hospital this month."

"Hm?"

"Let's delay the wedding."

"Are you really going to leave me just because of a few angry words from Xiaoqing?"

"I truly can't afford you!" Helian Hao said stubbornly.

"Have you forgotten what you told me? You said you picked me out of thousands of choices. Are you really willing to give up so easily?"

Jing Feng was holding her hand, pleading for himself.

Helian Hao looked up at him and sighed helplessly, "What in the world did I owe your family in my past life? Also, your peculiar sister, can't she live like a normal person? It's so twisted; the man clearly never loved her from start to finish."

"She will understand one day."

"Yes, maybe she will come to her senses someday, but by the time she does, is she going to drive us all to the brink of collapse?"

Jing Feng held her in his arms, trying to comfort her, hoping that day would never come.

All the events and their consequences had already been explained to Jing Qing, but she was already too deeply involved.

In fact, later he thought, Jing Qing's feelings for Mu Yichen were probably like Mu Yichen's for Qin Mu — an obsession.

With or without the help of others, they were in love with that person, love that was inescapable, to the point where they would scheme and strive to secure that love.

Mu Yichen was lucky to have won Qin Mu's love, otherwise, he probably would have continued to torment each other for decades more.

But as a result, his poor sister suffered.

Yes, Jing Feng felt that Jing Qing was quite pitiable, loving someone she could not have. They were all young; who didn't understand that kind of pain?

They were all people with deep fixations, having endured the pain of not getting what they wanted, seeing the person they liked being pursued by others or pursuing someone else. At that moment, none of them could say their hearts felt at ease, could they?

If he hadn't sought Helian Hao's permission that time, if Helian Hao had really agreed to date another man, he wasn't sure he wouldn't have done something outrageous himself.

Qin Mu pulled over halfway because an advertisement featuring Jing Qing for a line of bags was playing on the large screen up ahead. Qin Mu watched the screen, seeing the bright and noble girl on it, and could hardly associate her with the Jing Qing of reality.

Or perhaps hate is easier than letting go.

So she chose to hate instead.

But Jing Qing's forcefulness towards Helian Hao was wrong, and Qin Mu truly despised this woman.

The car later continued on the road, heading towards the direction of the garment factory.

The machines hadn't arrived yet, but preparations were already underway inside.

It was that same male colleague there supervising the work, who immediately walked over to greet her upon seeing Qin Mu approaching.

The two entered the building together, Qin Mu thinking once the factory was completed, let's see who could stop her progress then.

However, she had hardly been there long when a group of plainly dressed men arrived together, each holding tools used for farming.



Qin Mu, hearing the noise, turned to look towards the door. Since they had just started setting up, the main entrance hadn't been installed yet, so those men easily barged in, all with hostile intentions.

The male colleague subconsciously glanced at Qin Mu, and seeing her standing there so composed, he mustered his courage to stand beside her, while those inside, busy with their work, upon hearing the commotion, put down what they were doing to look out through the windows.

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By the time Mu Yichen arrived at the hospital, she had already come out, with only minor abrasions on her arm.

The faces of the staff who were with her bore several injuries, and after giving him an account of the incident, they left.

Qin Mu, seeing the worried expression on Mu Yichen's face, unconsciously smiled, "I'm alright; the people working there shielded me from those men."

"What exactly happened?"

He bowed his head to support her, looking at the bandaged area with concern.

"I don't know who spread the rumor that our factory was making chemical products, which made the nearby residents cause a disturbance."

Luckily, at that time, the staff had run out to protect her from those people, preventing any harm to her. Qin Mu was frightened by the thought and also realized the importance of cooperation with her partners.

"Let's go back for now, I will look into this matter."

"Okay, but you should talk to the hospital. The medical expenses for the people who came with me today should be borne by us; anyone needing to be hospitalized should be placed in better wards, and we should cover all the hospitalization fees."

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"Hmm!"

Mu Yichen agreed as he wrapped his arms around her and walked outside while pulling out his cell phone to make a call; then, he gathered Qin Mu and Xiaomei to represent him in handling some matters.

When they returned, Feng Fanghua couldn't help but frown when she saw the disheveled state of Qin Mu: Besides your arm, are there any other injuries? How did you end up like this?

"I'll take her to change her clothes first, then we can talk."

The people in the living room all stood up, and Feng Fanghua hurriedly nodded upon seeing her condition: Good! Don't let her come down later, I'll go upstairs.

"Don't worry, it's just a superficial wound."

Before leaving, Qin Mu smiled and comforted her; she was a little unaccustomed to seeing her so worried but even more touched.

She knew in her heart that Feng Fanghua was definitely not the type to ignore others, but when Feng Fanghua truly showed concern for her, her heart warmed. A corner of her heart that hadn't been touched for many years became hot because of Feng Fanghua's words.

"Go get some rest."

Feng Fanghua said softly, for the first time without any criticism.

As Mu Yichen took her upstairs to their room, he lifted her into his arms and carried her straight to the bed.

"Take off all your clothes, I need to check."

Already feeling weak, Qin Mu couldn't help but laugh at his mention of a checkup.

"How are you going to check?"

"Be serious!"

President Mu was so seriously strict in telling her to be serious, Mrs. Mu felt under great pressure.

So she stayed silent, but as his slender fingertips touched her burning skin, Qin Mu still subconsciously flinched and raised her eyes to look at his serious face.

"Will you still help me investigate that matter?"

"What do you think?"

Mu Yichen's eyes were dark and particularly reassuring to Qin Mu.

She instinctively lifted her head, and as he was bending down to help her take off her clothes, she unexpectedly kissed him on the face, catching him off guard.

"Mu Yichen, you're really handsome!"

Mu Yichen...

Facing such an unanticipated confession, President Mu could only feel Mrs. Mu was feeling guilty.

After changing into a loose nightgown, only her skinny knees were a bright red. President Mu looked down at them, his brow furrowed deeply.

"I didn't realize you were hurt there too."

At that moment, his mind was full of thoughts about who was spreading the rumors.

"In two hours, I'll let you know the results."

She pretended to feel nothing, but he immediately turned and left the room.

Qin Mu watched his retreating figure hastily depart, her heart unconsciously tightening.

She believed he could bring results in two hours and couldn't help but sigh as she lay down on the bed.

Mu Yichen's concern for her made her feel a heavy heart.

She too must take good care of him; even if she cannot love, at least the care should be mutual.

But just as she lay there, lost in her thoughts for a few minutes, Feng Fanghua came in.

"Asleep yet?"

Qin Mu jolted upright from the bed: Mom! No!

"Look at you, can't you be quieter."

Feng Fanghua was exasperated by her nervousness.

"I'll be more careful in the future. Please sit down!"

Feng Fanghua sat down on the edge of her bed while the aunt placed the fruits on the nightstand and then stood behind Feng Fanghua: Madam, are you feeling better?

"It was all just superficial wounds, fortunately. At that time, some workers were laying cables nearby and saw a group of burly men bullying a woman, so they went to help."

Remembering a nearly fifty-year-old elderly brother with his head bleeding profusely from a hit by a resident, she couldn't help but feel distressed.

Why should someone take a hit for her? Therefore, she must find out who was spreading rumors, not only for herself but to seek justice for those people who risked their lives for her.

"It's good luck indeed, but you can't forget those people who have helped you."

Feng Fanghua nodded thoughtfully and spoke.

"Hmm!"

Qin Mu obediently agreed.

"Some people, no matter how modest their job seems, have a good heart. Just like some appear tall and mighty, but are actually scoundrels inside."

As Feng Fanghua spoke, she seemed somewhat annoyed; Qin Mu looked at her and couldn't help but smile: Mom, whom are you thinking of?

"Hmph, old stories." Feng Fanghua didn't want to talk about the past.

But the aunt standing aside said: Madam, are you thinking about what happened when Miss Qingxin was born?

"Qingxin? What happened to Qingxin?" Qin Mu curiously asked, her eyes wide as she looked at the two rather mysterious expressions.

"Back then, when Grandpa Huanhuan was still hanging a post in a government department, so they were not allowed to have a second child. But they accidentally had Miss Qingxin, and then she was severely troubled by the higher-ups."

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Upon hearing what Auntie said, Qin Mu finally had an epiphany and then stared at Feng Fanghua with a cold face again, "That was more than just a little trouble, they almost had me arrested."

Qin Mu...

"But if it weren't for that incident, Grandpa Huanhuan wouldn't have completely given up that so-called 'iron rice bowl' job," Auntie continued.

"Actually, he never coveted that position in the first place. It was your grandfather who insisted on your father taking that job. By that time, the pharmaceutical factory had already started up, and although it wasn't very big, it was quite promising, giving those people more excuses to torment us," she added.

But Mu Zihao was no pushover. When the family planning office made that scene, he had her brought back right after she was taken away, and within a few hours, those who wanted to bully her were handled first by Mu Zihao with his skills.

"Let's not talk about those old sesame seed and rotten millet matters. You, however, need to be more careful in the future."

Although the injuries weren't very serious this time, it would be too late to be cautious when you are seriously hurt.

"Mm!"

Qin Mu agreed, but deep inside she couldn't help but wonder. The factory hadn't even started up yet, and it was located in such a remote development zone. Logically, nobody should know about it, as she hadn't told anyone. So how could there suddenly be rumors about it?

Feng Fanghua thought of her as a little wretch but didn't feel it was right to say it out loud. She sat for a while, learned of the situation, and then went downstairs. Qin Mu was alone, hugging a fruit plate in bed and eating fruit. When the plate pressed against her knee and caused pain, she immediately moved it away, but her phone rang promptly afterward.

"Mumu, are you alright?"

"I'm fine. How did you find out?"

"Sweat, it's on the news now, and not just any news, but our city's news."

Qin Mu...

"You're fine, that's good. Jing Feng just called Mu Yichen, but I was still worried. Hearing it from you, I'm relieved. I won't disturb you any longer. If you need anything just reach out to me, bye!"

After saying this, Helian Hao hung up the phone, and Qin Mu helplessly smiled as she looked at her phone.

"Mu Yichen has already asked Qiao Yi to investigate that matter, and the police are involved too."

After putting down her phone, Helian Hao went to find Jing Feng, who then said to her.

"That's good. We have to catch the person spreading these rumors, we can't let such a person off; it's utterly despicable."

Jing Feng didn't respond, only thought for a while before saying, "I need to go out for a bit."

"Oh!"

Helian Hao agreed, but as she watched him leave, her heart followed him far away. She couldn't help but wonder where he was suddenly off to?

When she thought of someone, she immediately followed him out quietly.

Their cars weren't much different in timing. Helian Hao saw his car enter the Jing Family home and chose not to follow further, but she couldn't help wondering why he would return to the Jing Family at this time.

Suddenly, Jing Qing came to her mind, and she froze completely.

Qin Mu was on the phone with Xiaomei, listening to the situation at the hospital, when Helian Hao called again. She then told Xiaomei, "Let's leave it at that for now, call me if there's any update."

After hanging up with Xiaomei, she picked up Helian Hao's call. From the earpiece came Helian Hao's worried voice: "Mumu, I suspect this has something to do with the Jing Family; I'm not sure it's Jing Qing."

"Why?"

"Because Jing Feng suddenly went back to the Jing Family home," Helian Hao said before hanging up the phone, glancing around to make sure no one noticed her, then immediately headed back.

Qin Mu too set down her phone, her thoughts drifting elsewhere. If this had anything to do with Jing Qing, then she definitely couldn't let Jing Qing off the hook.

Jing Qing was at home, quietly playing chess with the old gentleman, and as the tranquil environment was interrupted by abrupt footsteps, it seemed rather hasty.



Jing Qing was still softly talking to the old gentleman, trying to keep him happy, not paying attention to Jing Feng's arrival, until Jing Feng walked in and immediately grabbed her wrist, pulling her up.

"Jing Feng, what are you doing?"

The chessboard was ruined, and the old gentleman looked up to see his grandson taking Jing Qing upstairs and called out.

The old-style European living room seemed ominously quiet at this moment. Jing Feng looked down at his grandfather once but didn't answer anything.

Taking Jing Qing upstairs, the old gentleman slowly rose from the sofa, his eyes narrowed, watching the backs of the siblings.

In the room, Jing Feng pushed Jing Qing inside, and she fell onto her pristine white bedding, instinctively turning to look at Jing Feng immediately.

"Did you do this?"

Jing Feng looked at the woman on the bed, his voice filled with annoyance as he demanded an answer.

"What are you talking about? I was playing chess with Grandpa. What's gotten into you?"

Jing Qing slowly got off the bed and stood up, brushing her slightly wrinkled dress as she looked back at Jing Feng with annoyance.

"The people who made trouble at Qin Mu's clothing factory, did you send them?"

Jing Feng's voice rose even higher than before, his expression more stern.

"What's that got to do with you?"

"Jing Qing, let me give you a piece of advice, if you hired those people, you should call Mu Yichen and apologize right now, no, call Qin Mu," Jing Feng said, his hands on his hips and gasping for breath, emphasizing each word.

"Apologize to that girl? Jing Feng, have you lost your mind or is it my ears that are the problem?"

"Do you still remember how Mu Yichen demolished your new house for her?"

Jing Feng laughed, knowing that no matter how much he said, it would be useless, his sister was just that stubborn.

Indeed, Jing Qing's heart skipped a beat after hearing his words, but her fear was quickly suppressed by her strong pride and the sense of superiority that had been ingrained in her from a young age.

"If you're smart, you'll know what to do. Otherwise, don't come to your brother if things get out of hand," Jing Feng said, looking at Jing Qing, who showed no sign of cooperating, and left the room after dropping his cold remark.

But Jing Qing stood there, watching him leave. Then she leaned back, nearly unable to catch her breath.

She knew Mu Yichen's tactics, but could he really trace it back to her?

And even if he could, what difference would it make?

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The police had already intervened, and she wasn't scared.

But somehow, she still felt a bit drained.

Hope rekindled in those somewhat blurry eyes shortly after, and Jing Qing immediately ran downstairs, "Grandpa!"

The old man had just wanted to stop Jing Feng and ask what had happened when he heard his granddaughter rushing down from upstairs and immediately turned around, his hands gripping his canes and poking the ground, his heart tightened when he saw his granddaughter crying pitifully.

Fifteen minutes later, the old man made a phone call, while Jing Qing sat next to him, too nervous to even take a deep breath.

At that moment, Qiao Yi happened to be on the phone with Mu Yichen when he noticed that the police officer who had been helping him deal with the ringleader of the troublemakers also took a call. Seeing his expression, Qiao Yi frowned and said into the phone, "Someone might have intervened."

"Tell their people to get lost."

"Yes!"

In his heart, Qiao Yi actually thought that Mu Yichen was somewhat ruthless, after all, Jing Qing was also one of their own, but as a subordinate, not resisting leadership was also his duty.

After hanging up the call, Qiao Yi walked over to the police officer, "What's going on?"

"We'll take him back for questioning, our boss just called. The matter isn't big or small, but we can't be coerced into confessing."

"Did you call our boss Mu?"

Qiao Yi lifted his eyes, his voice not loud, but his meaning was very clear.

The police officer immediately glanced at him, his serious face suddenly twitched, forcing a dry smile, "What does Boss Mu mean?"

"We'll sort it out ourselves!"

Of course, Qiao Yi wouldn't say out loud the dominating order from Mu Yichen to "get lost," but his intent was clear both in words and in his eyes.

The officer instinctively looked up at Qiao Yi, his gaze sharp, but Qiao Yi smiled faintly and patted the officer on the shoulder.

"If there's any trouble from above, just push it onto Boss Mu."

The officer didn't say anything else, laughed helplessly, nodded, and then gestured to his subordinates to leave one after another.

Meanwhile, the ringleader who had been sitting on the ground with a bruised and swollen face, looked up at Qiao Yi's back and instinctively stood up, thinking to sneak away unnoticed, but as soon as he tried to run, Qiao Yi, with quick reflexes, spotted him and kicked him in the waist just as he took a couple of steps, sending him diving into the dusty ground.

"Ah!"

The man's chin collided with the ground and he yelled out in pain.

"Kid, thinking you can run away in front of me is a dream."

Qiao Yi's foot was firmly planted in the middle of his back, and he coldly reminded him with a sneer, then looked at his subordinates, "Tie him up properly for me, and bring over the stuff we prepared earlier. If he doesn't spill the truth, shove the dirty stuff we've prepared into his intestines."

As Qiao Yi spoke, his tone shifted from nonchalant to deadly serious. The onlookers began to panic without seeing anything, yet they smelled something nauseating wafting in from outside.

Shortly thereafter, as the items were being brought in front of him, several of his cohorts were caught one by one.

It's more difficult to deal with one person, but a group is much easier to handle. The crowd watched as his pitiful appearance made the defiant attitude they had before disappear instantly.

Mu Yichen had given two hours, so Qiao Yi left his brothers to handle the inside while he smoked outside. When the time was almost up, he looked inside and then heard the door to the workshop open, his brother emerging from it.

"Brother Yi, it's about done!"

"Hmph!"

Qiao Yi snorted coldly, then went back in.

They were just a group of trouble-loving residents, nothing to worry about, so it didn't feel like a big accomplishment to Qiao Yi that it took so long to find out what was going on. As he entered, he glared at them with penetrating eyes, "Guys, speak up. Who exactly has been spreading rumors around you, or did you take someone's money?"

As Qiao Yi questioned them, he reached into his pocket for his mobile phone.

Twenty minutes later, Qiao Yi sent a video clip to Mu Yichen's phone.

Mu Yichen had returned to the bedroom and was sitting beside Qin Mu, handing her fruit, when he heard his phone ring and glanced at it.

He then turned and moved next to Qin Mu, embracing her shoulders and half lying back against the headboard as he opened the video on his phone.

Watching the video, Qin Mu became restless in his arms, straightening her back away from his chest to look at the screen, remembering the man who had tried to smash her head with a gardening tool, and how their staff had saved her.

Chapter 196: You must make a decision\_2

They didn't hear the name Jing Qing from any of these people, and they didn't even hear about a woman. Qin Mu leaned into his embrace after listening and asked in a low voice, "Do you know this Jian Da'an mentioned by the person?"

"I will know him very soon!"

He said.

That night, Qin Mu cuddled with Huanhuan in her own bed, trying to soothe Huanhuan to sleep, and then suffered from insomnia until after midnight.

Mu Yichen had not returned all evening.

It wasn't until after one or two in the morning that the door to the room was gently pushed open again.

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The man named Xian Da'an had left the city as soon as the incident occurred yesterday. Mu Yichen had people pursue him along several routes, chasing him for most of the night before finally managing to catch him in an ordinary hotel in Lin City.

When that man mentioned the Jing Family, Mu Yichen already knew who the person mentioned in the sentence Qiao Yi said yesterday was.

At breakfast, Mu Yichen shared the details with the whole family at the dining table. Mu Zihao and Feng Fanghua were incredulous: Why would the old master of the Jing Family get involved?

"For the sake of his own granddaughter."

Mu Yichen glanced at his mother who had asked the question.

"Ah, the old master's lifetime of renown, just ruined like this."

Mu Zihao sighed unconsciously and shook his head.

"So, what do you plan to do?"

Feng Fanghua asked another curious question.

"I plan to take the loss."

Mu Yichen and Qin Mu exchanged a glance, and Qin Mu gave a serious answer.

"What?"

Feng Fanghua looked at her in disbelief.

"It's not because I'm afraid, but because immediate revenge won't bring the result I most desire. If Jing Qing remains in the shadows, then I will always be at a disadvantage. This time, I'll take the loss."

Feng Fanghua listened but did not understand, frowning while staring at her.

"She must already know that we are aware of the origins of this affair and will expect immediate retaliation from me, especially since Yichen overturned their new house last time. So even if we let the police detain her for questioning today, the Jing Family must have already come up with a countermeasure. We can do nothing to her, therefore, I'll take this loss."

"Then won't she bully you even more in the future?"

"I have you all, and my head isn't so easily bullied by her. However she torments me, I'll make sure she gets back double in the future."

Feng Fanghua and Mu Zihao exchanged glances, not understanding a word of their daughter-in-law's plan.

But Mu Yichen, not asking a single question, ate his breakfast with the trusting look of someone who believes in her completely.

Before nine in the morning, she arrived at the studio and then knocked on Xiaomei's desk.

Xiaomei, who was buried in sorting files, looked up to see her.

"Did you keep the phone number of the actress from Jingshang Entertainment last week?"

"Yes!"

Xiaomei thought for a moment and answered half a beat slow.

"Call her and notify her that I will design her gown!"

"But didn't you say you wouldn't take orders from Jingshang Entertainment?"

"I'm taking them now!"

Qin Mu flashed a bright smile, then turned and went upstairs.



Xiaomei's curious eyes followed Qin Mu as she went upstairs, then instinctively glanced at her colleague beside her: What's gotten into her?

The colleague shrugged, and Xiaomei blinked, unable to make head or tail of the situation before resuming her search for the business card. But there were so many cards in the drawer that it took her quite a while to find the right one.

At noon, the actress came to their studio and took a seat in Qin Mu's office.

After serving up coffee, Xiaomei sat next to Qin Mu. Knowing that Xiaomei's curiosity got the better of her, Qin Mu didn't scold her, and instead spoke to the relatively elegant actress sitting across from her: "Our collaboration should be kept secret."

"That's exactly what I had in mind. I heard the last time you secretly designed a gown for another one of our actresses. Are you and Jing Qing sworn enemies?"

The woman was obviously too smart, but Qin Mu did not hide it: "Exactly."

The actress picked up her coffee, chuckled, and then sipped.

"The coffee at your studio is not bad."

"I heard Miss Wen is Jing Qing's biggest rival at Jingshang, is that true?"

Xiaomei had been following this actress's historical drama, so she was quite curious about her.

"I intend to compete with her, but with my abilities..."

Miss Wen intelligently didn't flatter herself, shaking her head involuntarily as she spoke: The difference between our backgrounds is not a negligible margin.

"She has the Jing Family, but don't you have President Zhang?"

Xiaomei immediately spoke up bluntly, and Qin Mu instinctively looked at her, realizing that this girl knew more than she did.

"Heh, I'm Miss Wen's thermometer."

Xiaomei immediately responded with a laugh when she noticed Qin Mu's gaze.

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Thermometer?

Qin Mu found it amusing inside, but on the surface, she appeared as nonchalant as if she was simply watching the clouds rolling in the sky.

"That's right, I have President Zhang, Miss Qin has President Mu, if we join forces, how many years could it possibly take to bring down the queen of the screen?"

Qin Mu's face bore a shallow smile, but internally she knew that this woman harboured grand ambitions.

"I'm only responsible for designing Miss Wen's gown."

Qin Mu responded with a light smile, ever more aware that if one isn't content with mediocrity, then ambition is essential.

There are so many hurdles in life; without a heart of great magnitude, how could one overcome the multitude of challenges and head towards the light?

Before every light, there is darkness!

"Understood!"

Miss Wen, seeing through Qin Mu's thoughts, didn't say any more, slowly sipping her coffee.

As soon as Qin Mu finished the design for the engagement banquet dress for Liu Jingyuan and his fiancée, she immediately began working on Miss Wen's gown.

Miss Wen was originally introduced by President Zhang. Qin Mu had wanted to avoid trouble, but now she understood that what was meant to happen would happen, and it was better to confront rather than to evade.

Having set her sights on a target, naturally she had to proceed with the plan.

The two nights she got home, she was searching through her computer, going through the gowns worn by all the major stars on the red carpet over the years, before delving into interviews with Miss Wen.

She remembered that a short while ago, a female artist from their company had come to her for a gown. At that time, she was considered a star with potential within their ranks, but was quickly overshadowed by this girl surnamed Wen. Qin Mu noticed that in interviews, Miss Wen always kept her head low and smiled faintly, giving fans the impression of being humble. However, a clever host could not fail to notice the ambition lurking behind her unconstrained composure – beneath those long lashes were dark eyes clear with the message that she had everything under control.

Qin Mu learned of her background, knew the painful experiences she had undergone, and also knew that she had been covertly kept by President Zhang for these two years; seeing this, Qin Mu couldn't help but laugh to herself.

When Mu Yichen returned home, he saw her on the bedroom sofa hugging a laptop, checking out interviews. He walked over, curious, and asked, "Why are you watching this kind of thing?"

"I'm preparing to design a gown for her."

"A female artist?"

Mu Yichen took another glance before remarking, however, with just one look he felt this woman was too cunning for his taste, and he didn't like her.

Then, looking up at his wife, he thought she was much more adorable.

"Yes! She's from the same company as Jing Qing, and she's President Zhang's person."

Mu Yichen looked back at Qin Mu, "Do you plan on promoting her?"

"How could I have such ability? But if President Mu would give up on Miss Jing and collaborate with President Zhang, wouldn't it be easy to send her skyrocketing?"

Qin Mu suddenly smiled at him.

"Is this why you said to give Jing Qing a temporary break?"

He couldn't help but ask again.

"Don't you see the astonishing similarities between this Miss Wen and myself? Both our fathers are renowned, both our mothers died early, afterwards both discarded, and then both... I am luckier than her."

As she spoke, she suddenly felt that her line of thought today had not been entirely correct.

Although at first, she considered herself merely a bedmate for President Mu, now she was living in the Mu Family home, addressing the elders of the Mu Family as Mom and Dad, which meant...

President Mu had given her a home.

Whereas President Zhang had merely kept Miss Wen, Qin Mu suddenly felt a sense of happiness so profound it startled her.

Mu Yichen knew what she was thinking, and involuntarily raised an eyebrow.

"So you intend to package her image, to have me collaborate with President Zhang, to raise her value and suppress Jing Qing's position in Jingshang."

"Yes!"

Qin Mu nodded her head, put down her laptop and stood up, turning to look at the man on the sofa, "Since she has already taken action for so long, waging a war of short-term gratification with her is utterly meaningless."

"I used to think Mrs. Mu would only be so ruthless towards President Mu."

He suddenly raised his brows, hands casually resting on the back of the couch.

"I've never been ruthless to you, okay? I am now legitimately Mrs. Mu."

Qin Mu retorted without thinking, her heart filled with affection for him; how could she afford to be ruthless towards him?

"Oh?"

"What 'oh'? Can't you see it?"

She wanted to kick him but was caught by him instead, and then she hopped on one foot towards him.

Mu Yichen still stared straight into her glittering eyes.

"Between Jing Qing and me, maybe we can only end up in a fight to the death, so you have to make a choice."

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"My decision is you!"

His voice sounded ordinary, but Qin Mu was deeply moved.

Qin Mu knew that he had chosen her, which was why she could be so honest with him.

"Mu Yichen, am I still the girl you once loved, even as calculating as I am?"

She couldn't help wanting to ask him, but in the end, she couldn't say it no matter what and could only search for the answer she desired with her eyes.

"Mu Yichen, after we get through this busy period, let's have another child," she said, cradling his face and looking into his eyes, unable to contain herself.

Qin Mu felt that maybe they should have another child. Who says it has to be just for him? It's for both of them.

"Don't you dare do it out of guilt, okay?"

Qin Mu's heart felt as if scalding water had been poured over it, looking at his somewhat angry eyes as she gently caressed his face.

"Qin Mu, I want you to bear a child for me because you love me."

Qin Mu couldn't help but laugh softly.

Qin Mu knew that returning would change her, but she hadn't expected it to be like this.

But she had to survive in Rongcheng, and no one could force her to leave when she was unwilling.

Later, after Mu Yichen fell asleep, she quietly returned to the sofa and continued to read her notebook, finishing that interview section.

That Miss Wen was actually a very delicate person. Her upbringing had made her appear low-key, yet she could reveal her sharpness at any moment.

Qin Mu felt that this woman harbored an immense power within her.

The wedding of Helian Hao and Jing Feng was indeed postponed, but it didn't seem to be because of Qin Mu. Rather it was because the two families couldn't agree on the wedding details.

Qin Mu still took care of storing her wedding dress, believing there would be a day she would wear it, and it would certainly be with Jing Feng.

Yet, looking at the woman who now sat on her bed, crying a river, Qin Mu couldn't help but feel pained and went over to gently embrace her: "Isn't Jing Feng's love for you enough?"

"Mumu, you may never understand, marriage isn't just about two people, it's really about two families!"

Qin Mu truly didn't understand; her marriage to Mu Yichen had somehow been a blur.

The more she thought about it, the more confused her mind became. Later, she stopped overthinking and made any decision she wanted based on her feelings at the moment.

But in the end, is marriage about two people, or is it about two families?

Or, perhaps it varies depending on the person!

Otherwise, how could there be so many couples who elope?

Otherwise, how could there be so many breakups and partings unto death.

"The Jing Family is too domineering. My parents can't stand the repression from the Jing family either. I'm their only daughter; even if I agree, my parents don't agree to let me suffer there," she said.

"Did Jing Qing come to make trouble with you again?"

"All she said was that she wouldn't bless us during the wedding detail discussions."

Recalling last night's dinner between the two families made Helian Hao feel disheartened. She had decided to get married on time no matter what, but last night Jing Qing dropped a sentence and suddenly left the table. And then the elders of the Jing Family said that she had to live in the Jing Family's old house for two years before the wedding, so the marriage was called off just like that.

It was still because of Jing Qing's meddling.

Qin Mu felt an itching hatred in her heart, but she didn't want to overpromise and could only gently soothe Helian Hao's back: "It's not worth it to make yourself so miserable for those people; stop crying!"

With a cool hand, she gently wiped the tears from under Helian Hao's eyes and then held her face: "Xiaohao, let's work hard together and live a life more splendid than anyone else, okay?"

Helian Hao looked up at her serious face and then laughed helplessly: "I just feel so pathetic. At first, I was the one who disagreed with getting married, but now it's their family that has so many issues."

"Don't rush; after all, we're still young!"



"Yeah!"

Jing Qing nodded, and after calming down for a while, she spoke to Qin Mu: "I'm going to work at the hospital these next few days."

"Not playing anymore?"

"After coming back, I decided to focus. I wanted to settle things with Jing Feng first, but since we can't, I might as well go to work."

"Great! So, should I start calling you 'Doctor Helian' from now on?"

"You should call me 'Beautiful Doctor,' and remember, if you need gynecology services, just come to me," she said while winking subconsciously at Qin Mu.

"Get out!"

Qin Mu turned and sat down on the sofa next to them.

"Haven't you two thought about having another one? I heard that the Mu Family really hopes you'll have another."

"Hmph, it's not that I don't want to bear another child now, but rather that President Mu won't let me."

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Qin Mu found himself amused whenever he thought of Mu Yichen's words from that night, life always seemed to be toying with him.

"Mu is quite the odd one, if I were in his shoes, once you agree to have a child, I wouldn't care about the specifics, just go ahead and have it,"

Qin Mu felt that Miss Helian was utterly devious, even more so than their Chairman Mu.

— —

At noon, Mu Yichen, Jing Feng, and Qiao Yi had lunch together; Mu Yichen's car had just parked when he spotted a red car pulling up behind.

It was Jing Qing's car.

Mu Yichen glanced over indifferently, then walked ahead with his hands in his pockets.

"Yichen!"

Jing Qing chased after him, striding alongside.

Mu Yichen remained silent. Although he was not pleased to see her, there was no changing the fact that she was there.

"Yichen!"

She called out to him again as she struggled to keep up, her steps turning into a slight run.

As the elevator doors opened, Mu Yichen entered and turned to the woman about to join him, simply saying, You can take the next one.

Jing Qing's eyes were fixed on his indifferent expression inside the elevator as the doors slowly closed between them, no longer able to feign happiness.

Sadness quietly spread in her heart.

Qiao Yi and Jiang Zhiyuan arrived a few steps later to see her standing there, looking lost: "What happened?"

"Has Yichen been busy with work lately?"

Jing Qing asked wearily, looking towards Qiao Yi.

"Not really, is something the matter?"

"If he has any business trips coming up, let me know,"

Jing Qing added.

Qiao Yi instinctively glanced at the man across from Jing Qing, and Jiang Zhiyuan raised his eyebrows. They both understood what Jing Qing meant.

Jing Feng arrived first and took his usual seat.

After Mu Yichen sat down, he followed suit in his usual spot, "Did you say to Jing Qing that we were having lunch together today?"

"Not at all!"

While others' words might not be trustworthy, Jing Feng's were reliable. Mu Yichen gave him an extra look before turning towards the door.

Qiao Yi, Jiang Zhiyuan, and Zhao Huai entered behind Jing Qing.

"The two of you arrived so early?"

It was unbelievable that the two young masters would actually be on time.

Upon seeing Jing Qing, Jing Feng instinctively glanced at her, then at Mu Yichen, who seemed not to notice Jing Qing as he lowered his head to pour himself a cup of tea.

Jing Qing tried to sit next to him, but he looked up at Qiao Yi who was about to sit opposite: "Qiao, come sit here, I have some work matters to discuss with you."

Just as Qiao Yi was about to sit down, he heard this and looked up at Mu Yichen before walking over.

The woman who wanted to sit next to him could only do so with disappointment, pulling out a chair and forcefully taking a seat.

Qiao Yi didn't know what to do, torn between his boss and the woman.

In this world, the two people he feared the most were making things difficult for him.

"We're all friends here, sit wherever you like!"

Jiang Zhiyuan, sensing the awkwardness, spoke up nonchalantly before pulling out a chair and taking a seat.

Zhao Huai was the junior, sitting at the furthest end, ready to fill his stomach and listen to gossip before going back to his driving duties.

"Let's talk work after we eat,"

Qiao Yi said awkwardly, sitting in the empty seat next to Jing Qing.

He then constantly regretted his choice of seat, later on, he really did not want to sit too close to Jing Qing because she didn't like him and was quite averse to him, and he wasn't one to be insensitive.

There are always people in this world who live life on a whim. If something isn't meant for you, why bother forcing it?

Some may be compelled, but others, even across numerous lifetimes, might never be attainable. So why make it so hard on yourself?

"I wonder when you guys started having meals without me. Has a group of boys finally grown up, learning to avoid girls when they talk about indescribable things?"

Jing Qing held a bowl as delicate as her own hands, but before sipping her soup, she looked around at the men at the table.

Their gazes all held a cautious, tentative air. Once upon a time, their relationship was not like this.

"Men, after all, never like to bring a woman along. You can always have meals and get-togethers with your girlfriends, like Xiaohao, Mingzhu, and what's her name, little sister Xiaomu, she's back now too. Nearly everyone from our courtyard is here,"

"Hmph, little sister Xiaomu? Do you see her as a sister, but does she see you as a brother?"

Jing Qing scoffed unconsciously and looked at Jiang Zhiyuan who had spoken.

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Jiang Zhiyuan looked at her disdainful eyes and instantly felt that the conversation couldn't go on, so he turned to look at Jing Feng and Mu Yichen, only to find that Mu Yichen was also ignoring him and Jing Feng acted as if he hadn't heard.

"Let me say something I probably shouldn't, but I actually think Qin Mu is a girl with endless power, don't underestimate her."

Zhao Huai thought of the few times he had met Qin Mu and couldn't help but blurt out that statement.

"Is it your turn to speak now?"

Jing Qing turned her head to question him. Although her voice was not loud, the disdain and derogation were clear.

Zhao Huai lifted his eyes to look at her, then nodded: Yes, I'll leave after I finish eating.

Mu Yichen then raised his eyes, looked at Zhao Huai then back at Jing Qing: If we're talking about family background at this dinner table, I'm afraid my seat isn't arranged properly either, Jing Feng, let's swap places.

Jing Qing immediately turned her head to look at the man sitting next to her, then explained anxiously: I'm not looking down on him because of his background, I'm just angry that you're all so protective of her, is that okay to say?

Mu Yichen didn't say a word, just stood up: Let's meet up less often in the future then!

After speaking, he prepared to leave.

"Let's talk after dinner."

Jing Feng lifted his hand to hold his shoulder and didn't let him leave, then looked at his little sister: Xiaoqing, if you're in a bad mood, just say less and eat more.

This time Jing Qing didn't argue, afraid that he might really run off.

Only after Qiao Yi left to go to the bathroom and came back, he switched to sitting on Jing Feng's side, no longer sitting with Jing Qing.

After finishing the meal, Jing Feng pulled Mu Yichen to the bathroom, and the two men chatted while using the restroom.

"I still don't know when my wedding with Xiaohao will be. It looks like we might really have a joint wedding."

"We cannot afford it! The Mu Family and the Jing Family are bound to end sooner or later."

They had played together since they were young, and never imagined there would be a day like this.

"So you're saying, no more brotherhood?"

Jing Feng asked him.

"Brotherhood is essential, as long as you're on the side of morals and the law."

Jing Feng didn't say anything more, and Mu Yichen was the first to turn around and leave.

Later, Jing Feng stood alone in the bathroom smoking. What could he say?

Because of his sister's meddling, his wedding couldn't be held as scheduled. Every time he got close to Xiaohao, to his shock, she would say she saw his sister's shadow and use that lousy excuse to stop him from going further.

Subsequently, everyone caught the first cold of autumn. As soon as Director Mu arrived at the studio and opened the door, he smelled the scent of cold medicine and unconsciously thought he had entered the wrong place.

Xiaomei came forward with a cup of cold medicine: Director Mu.

Qin Mu was meeting with Liu Jingyuan and his fiancée in the reception area.

After Mu Yichen walked over, he took his hands out of his pockets and sat down next to Qin Mu.

"Liu, are you here to give my woman some money?"

"Sort of!"

Liu Jingyuan helplessly smiled, truly not seeing Qin Mu as someone who liked to be pestered incessantly.

Liu Jingyuan's fiancée politely nodded at Mu Yichen without a verbal greeting, and Mu Yichen naturally didn't care about such an irrelevant woman, just lowering his gaze to look at his own woman: How much money did he give you?

"Go, be serious."

Qin Mu unconsciously wanted to shoo him away but worried about making him lose face, so she just mentioned it to him.

Mu Yichen looked fondly at her, possessively pulled her into his arms, and looked up at Liu Jingyuan again: I heard Liu is getting engaged soon, when the time comes, my wife and I will definitely come to celebrate.

"Of course, the wedding invitation will be sent to Director Mu's office straight away."

Liu Jingyuan tried to smile in response.

After Liu Jingyuan and his fiancée left with the wedding dress, Qin Mu and Mu Yichen stood at the door watching. When Mu Yichen tried to hold her again, Qin Mu lifted her elbow and jabbed back: Jealousy jar!

Then she turned and walked inside.



Jealousy jar?

He was the jealousy jar, hating all those men who had thoughts about his woman.

And Director Mu thought he was already being very polite. If it weren't for Liu Jingyuan getting engaged, he would have had the heart to kill him now. Remembering the scandal between Liu Jingyuan and Qin Mu, recalling how Liu Jingyuan held Qin Mu's hand at Jing Qing's birthday party, he wished he could chop off those hands to feed them to dogs.

He really didn't want her to be touched by any man...

Once Mu Yichen and she went upstairs, he saw a mannequin in her studio dressed in shiny black fabric.

"Are you doing the work yourself again?"

"Making a dress for Miss Wen, she will be attending the red carpet show with Jing Qing next month. As her designer, it's my responsibility to ensure her appearance surpasses Jing Qing's."

Qin Mu said as she walked over to the mannequin and gently touched the fabric, then turned to look at Mu Yichen: What do you think?