

His Beloved 391

Chapter 391: Miss is together with the son-in-law?

Mu Yichen's movements, as he kissed her, suddenly stopped, his dark eyes fixed on her.

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After a few snowflakes fell on the night of New Year's Eve, it truly began to snow heavily on the evening of the first day of the lunar new year.

As the two were discussing the issue of having children while intertwined in bed, the biggest snowfall of the year began to fall quietly outside.

The entire city seemed particularly quiet over these two days because fireworks were banned within the city limits, so any occasional fireworks heard were from the beach or the distant outskirts.

The snowflakes gently settled on the withered grassland, quietly covering it with a layer of white cotton blanket.

Later, the couple stood at the window, sharing the same blanket tightly embraced, watching the beautiful snowy night together.

The second day of the new year was the day for daughters-in-law to visit their maternal homes. The elder summoned Mu Yichen to his room to ask him in private, "Are you two planning to visit the Qin Family today? Traditionally, today is the day to visit the maternal home."

As soon as Mu Yichen entered, the elder asked him this question. Mu Yichen gently closed the door, leaned against the wall near the entrance, hands in pockets, and quietly pondered his grandfather's words.

A cold light gradually emerged in his dark eyes, ending in a scoff.

"Grandpa, my mother-in-law has been dead for many years!"

His voice was so low when he spoke, as if it was pressed into his throat.

In the warm room where silence was so profound that the drop of a feather seemed audible, the elder looked up at his grandson, whom he understood very well, and couldn't help but sigh unconsciously.

"Why did you bring her back here to endure so much for nothing?"

The elder saw how his grandson cherished his granddaughter-in-law, but he didn't understand; if he cherished her so much, why didn't he hide and pamper her instead of bringing her back to Rongcheng, a place full of disputes.

"This is her home, why shouldn't she be allowed to come back? As for the experiences—everyone has things they must go through; such is her life."

In previous years, she had been on a different path, and he had simply pulled her back onto the right path that she was meant to walk.

Moreover, he would always be by her side, no matter what she went through—he would be there to experience it with her.

He was determined to reclaim for her everything that she was supposed to have, one by one.

"So this second day of the new year, are you taking her to the Qin Family or not?"

The elder's keen gaze fixed on his grandson, asking pointedly.

"I will consult her!"

Mu Yichen's sharp gaze softened, and with a faint murmur, his tall figure straightened from leaning against the wall. One hand remained in his trouser pocket while the other reached out to open the door and walk out.

The elder sighed again, knowing the resentment in his grandson's heart for his granddaughter-in-law's sake. He even understood why his grandson insisted on having his granddaughter-in-law return, but the long road ahead was probably not an easy one to travel; all he could do was wish the young couple well.

When Mu Yichen returned to the room, he saw Qin Mu standing by the bed, braiding Huanhuan's hair, who was sitting at the edge of the bed. After closing the door, he approached and said, "Today is the second day of the new year."

Qin Mu turned to look at him with a smile, "You're not reminding me that I should make a trip to the Qin Family, are you?"

Her eyes, too, were sharp, the suppressed emotions of this time seemed to have found some release after last night's heavy snow.

"There's no need to go!"

Mu Yichen told her.

Qin Mu smiled, continuing to braid her daughter's hair, "Why not go? I want to make a trip there today."

Mu Yichen gave her a puzzled look, but thinking of the matter of the tombstone, he did not ask further, guessing it was probably for this reason.

"If I don't remind him, he might think that my words were just casual talk."

Qin Mu finished the braid with a beautiful elastic band and then patted the little girl sitting down, "All set!"

Huanhuan, vain as ever, played with the makeup mirror, then cheerfully slid off the bed and ran to her father's side.

Mu Yichen's hand, which had been in his trouser pocket, immediately came out to support Huanhuan's shoulders, afraid she might hurt herself bumping into him.

Qin Mu put away the comb in the bathroom, and when she came out, Huanhuan was no longer in the room. Qin Mu approached the man who stood in front of the wardrobe fiddling with his phone, "How about we go over this afternoon?"

"This afternoon? And there's no need to call ahead?"

"Why call? Doesn't he want a surprise? I'll give him a surprise."

Qin Mu said, her eyebrows arching playfully.

All of a sudden, Mu Yichen laughed, "My wife has become more and more thoughtful recently."

He wrapped an arm around her shoulders as she came to stand close to him by the wardrobe.

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"Be careful, or one day my scheming might land right on your head,"

Qin Mu warned him, winking.

Mu Yichen, with an arm wrapped around her shoulders, slightly tightened his grip, his eyes devilishly fixated on her, "Mrs. Mu, actually, I am your master, you know?"

"You mean my master in bed?"

After saying this, Qin Mu struggled to hold back her laughter, her face feeling a bit hot.

"Admitting to that is no easy feat!"

Mu Yichen wasn't angry. Instead, he hugged her and teasingly praised her with a jest.

Qin Mu...

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Noon!

The Qin Family!

Qin Haiming was sitting on the living room couch watching a live news broadcast on Channel 13, a hint of annoyance between his brows.

Zhang Rujia sat by his side, glued to her mobile phone. Her clothing counters hadn't been doing well during the New Year period, and a new fashion store called JY had opened opposite her stand in the mall. It seemed like all the sales from the past couple of days since New Year had been diverted there. Zhang Rujia frowned unconsciously as she looked at the WeChat messages and pictures sent by her manager, letting out a troubled sigh.

When they heard the door, the cleaning lady hurriedly put down her tools to answer it, while the two sitting in the living room shifted their gaze from what they had been focusing on.

"Miss, Young Master,"

The maid felt flustered upon seeing the two of them standing at the door with their belongings, and after a pause, she squeezed out those words.

"Is the Mayor of Qin City home?"

Qin Mu simply asked, for it's not the servant's fault, and she had no intention of implicating them.

"Yes, he's watching the news with the madam!"

The maid nodded and stepped aside to make way, meanwhile calling into the house: "The young lady and the young master have arrived."

For Qin Hai, such an introduction was certainly pleasing, but hearing this made Zhang Rujia uncomfortable. In truth, it immediately ignited a fire inside her, though she couldn't make a scene. However, her gaze toward the maid was filled with daggers.

Qin Mu and Mu Yichen walked in, Qin Hai and Zhang Rujia also got up from the sofa. Qin Hai, visibly thrilled at the sight of them but holding it back, managed a shallow smile and greeted them with a trace of relief: "Good, you're here."

Qin Mu could see his excitement but kept her eyes downcast without saying much.

"Has the Mayor of Qin City had a good New Year? We heard you visited our house yesterday afternoon. We both happened not to be there, so grandfather specifically asked us to come over today,"

Mu Yichen spoke with his cool voice, his eyes smiling, but the chilliness was unmistakable.

"Please thank the old master for his concerns, and don't be strangers, you too. Sit down!"

The maid came over to take the gifts in Qin Mu's hand, and the two sat down together on the nearby sofa.

Qin Hai's expression was visibly warmer than when he was at home alone with Zhang Rujia earlier. He was actually just waiting.

This was the first time in many years that Qin Mu spent New Year's in Rongcheng, and at her in-law's house, no less. Qin Hai had been looking forward to Qin Mu returning on the second day of the New Year.

"Go get our best tea leaves,"

Qin Hai instructed the woman who had just taken a seat.

Zhang Rujia glanced at him reflexively. Though her heart wasn't happy, she smiled obligingly and said, "Sure, sure! I'll go get them!"

Zhang Rujia adopted a complaisant demeanor, rose, and went to fetch the tea leaves for him.

Qin Mu instinctively glanced at Zhang Rujia, perfectly meeting her venomous look, then piled on a perfect smile in return.

Zhang Rujia felt so angry inside it was as if she was about to hemorrhage.

Once in the kitchen, she immediately reprimanded the maid who was fetching the tea leaves: "Are you ill? Or has your brain gone soggy? If she's the miss, then what is Mingzhu?"

The maid expected to be scolded for her earlier remark but hadn't thought she would be reprimanded while the guests were still there, and if she couldn't call her the miss, then what should she call her?

Call her Miss Qin?

"Madam, then what should I call her? If I call her Miss Qin, then the Mayor..."

"Do you care if he's happy or not? Don't you know who has the final say in this house?"

Zhang Rujia glared at her fiercely as she asked.

The maid didn't dare to speak anymore, merely bowing her head deeply.

Thankfully, the kitchen was well insulated because if this spread outside...

Although Zhang Rujia was reluctant, she still had to fetch the best tea leaves. After all, Qin Hai was a tea connoisseur, and he'd notice if it was even slightly inferior.

And now, the last person she dared to upset was Qin Hai.

Even though her insides churned with agitation, she had to act perfectly composed on the surface.

"The tea is here!"

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After a good while, Zhang Rujia personally brought over some freshly brewed tea, and with a cheerful smile said, "This was brought by the Secretary-General from the capital a few days ago for your father, he said he was saving it, and I thought he just didn't want to drink it, but it turns out he was waiting for you two."

Qin Haiming listened and gave a faint smile, "I really was saving it for the two of them. Yichen has tasted all sorts of fine teas out there, and besides, they say a son-in-law is half a son, I can't serve him anything less than the best, can I?"

Qin Mu struggled to suppress a laugh upon hearing the phrase "a son-in-law is half a son," but just stared at him with her jet-black eyes.

Qin Haiming sure knew how to reap the benefits, just like that he got himself a good son-in-law, without even asking if his daughter agreed to it.

But Qin Mu didn't care about these matters anymore. What mattered to her was the destruction of her mother's tombstone. Even Mu Yichen, who learned of it later, had already uncovered some information. If Qin Haiming hadn't investigated, or if he had and was hiding it...

With sharp eyes, Qin Mu glanced at Zhang Rujia sitting next to Qin Haiming, then turned to Qin Haiming and asked softly, "I want to talk about my mother's tombstone."

Qin Haiming had just been chatting happily and was about to take a sip of tea when his beloved daughter brought up this matter.

Qin Haiming looked up at her and then said with a smile, "Can we talk about that later?"

After saying this, he was about to drink his tea, and Qin Mu just quietly watched him finish that sip.

Zhang Rujia's gaze lingered on the faces of the father and daughter, actually hoping in her heart that they would have a big fight right now, which would undoubtedly be the most delightful thing for her this New Year.

"This has been going on for three days, and you promised to give me an explanation. Surely you're not going to tell me that my mother's shattered tombstone is still lying there like a corpse, unattended, and you haven't even sent someone to investigate who destroyed it?"

After he finished the tea, Qin Mu brought up the issue again. She felt that she didn't need to be too composed when raising this subject, nor did she feel the need to consider how he might feel about it.

If he was full of regret and sorrow, apologies and shame, if he blamed himself so much, what was there for her to consider about how happy he would be?

However, as she articulated her sharp words, the man sitting across from her, holding a teacup, inevitably looked a bit uncomfortable.

Qin Haiming slowly put down the teacup.

"These past few days every department has been on holiday, how do you expect them to investigate? As for your mother's tombstone, it has been taken away."

"Taken away where?"

Qin Mu asked.

"The tombstone is already broken in half, if we don't throw it away, where else can we take it?"

Qin Haiming, seeing Qin Mu's relentless manner, also became irritated and questioned.

Qin Mu abruptly stood up from the couch, looking at him with extreme grief and indignation, her eyes brimming with hot tears as she glared at him.

"You threw away my mother's tombstone? Even if that tombstone broke and fell apart, it still bore my mother's portrait, it had..."

Qin Mu looked incredulously at the man sitting on the couch, he so casually uttered those words about throwing away the tombstone.

Was it that he had no feelings for that tombstone, or no feelings for the person whose name was inscribed on it?

At that moment, Qin Mu deeply felt whether his actions were insincere or genuine.

Mu Yichen frowned slightly, at that moment patiently watching Qin Mu's tears fall one by one, watching her loudly question Qin Haiming, and then turned his gaze towards Qin Haiming.

"Mumu, that gravestone is no longer usable. What else can be done with it if not discarded?"

Qin Haiming called her name, trying to inquire while suppressing his temper because he saw Mu Yichen glaring at him. Taking a deep breath, he looked seriously at his daughter again.

"You had it thrown away; now go and have it brought back from wherever that was. Additionally, if you're not going to deal with this matter, I will handle it myself. When that time comes, don't blame me for turning my back on you."

Qin Mu glared down at the man on the sofa with hatred. She thought this should be the best outcome.

She was about to leave when Qin Haiming could no longer consider Mu Yichen. After all, his authority as both a father and a mayor had been ignored; he stood up from the sofa: "You stop right there!"

Qin Mu straightened her back, turning her icy gaze toward him.

"Mumu, I'm more heartbroken than anyone about your mother's gravestone being destroyed, but broken is broken. We can erect a new, better one for her. You need to calm down, alright?"

Qin Haiming was still trying to control his temper, his eyes filled with patience.

"Erect a new, better one? Is that how it is?"

Qin Mu suddenly let out a cold laugh, looking mockingly at the woman sitting next to him.

Zhang Rujia, pointed at without reason, was taken aback and unconsciously looked a bit unwell.

Qin Mu swallowed hard, nodding her head: "I should never have had any illusions about you. Talk of guilt? Apologies? In your cozy new family, what are my deceased mother and I? Just memories to indulge in after a full meal. Remorse? If you had truly felt any, you wouldn't have brushed me off like this."

After saying this, Qin Mu turned and left.

Qin Haiming suddenly felt a pang of pain in his heart.

"Stop her..."

Qin Haiming, clutching his chest, spoke to the auntie at the door, who stood there, hesitant to intervene.

Because Qin Mu's gaze was terrifying, her frosty aura forbidding anyone to come close.

"According to traffic surveillance footage, a red sports car was seen near the cemetery early in the morning around five o'clock the day before the gravestone was destroyed. The flashy car belongs to a male classmate of Qin Mingzhu."

At that moment, Mu Yichen stood up gracefully, hands casually tucked into his pockets, his dark eyes carrying an imposing presence as he looked at the man diagonally across from him and recounted what he had found out.

The living room suddenly fell silent.

Qin Haiming frowned at Mu Yichen, while Zhang Rujia's complexion turned as white as paper.

"That's impossible. Even if it was her classmate's car, that doesn't prove she was in it at the time, right? What's more, what if her classmate was just passing by?"

Zhang Rujia asked while supporting Qin Haiming.

"Passing by? Passing by a cemetery at five in the morning? And on the cusp of the New Year? Mrs. Qin, that's a bit too much of a joke."

Mu Yichen let out a light chuckle, his mischievous eyes looking at the woman diagonally opposite, and then coldly turning to the man beside her: "Whether as friend or foe, you've always been the one to decide. This matter seems to be a family affair, of course. However, if you wish to make it public, then my wife and I will, of course, comply."

Chapter 394: Time has come_1

"Let's go!"

Mu Yichen gave a cold glance at the self-righteous woman who spoke without thinking and, turning, wrapped his arm around Qin Mu and headed outside.

At this moment, Qin Haiming no longer tried to keep them. He had hoped that their visit on the second day of the New Year would pass without incident, but he had still harbored a sliver of hope until that moment, when he realized just how rare such luck was.

Zhang Rujia helped him sit down on the sofa and asked worriedly, "What evidence do they actually have to prove it was Mingzhu's classmate? I've asked Mingzhu, and she assured me she didn't do it."

"Do you really trust your daughter that much?"

Qin Haiming frowned and asked her, a touch of annoyance in his voice.

"If I don't trust my own daughter, should I trust someone else's daughter?"

Zhang Rujia stubbornly retorted, letting go of his arm and turning her face away, refusing to look at him.

"This matter most likely involves Mingzhu, Ru Jia. If I cover for her again and Qin Mu doesn't act, Mu Yichen will not let Mingzhu off the hook," Qin Haiming reasoned, his gaze dropping and hand moving from his chest to his knee, entreating Zhang Rujia earnestly.

Zhang Rujia listened quietly, then turned back to look at him, compelled to ask, "What does that mean? There has to be evidence for accusations, right? Just because they say it was our daughter, does that mean it really was? I don't know about others, but I know my own daughter. She wouldn't dare sneak out before dawn, let alone to a graveyard."

"I'm afraid Mu Yichen already has some evidence, and if it really was Mingzhu who did this, then what she did was indeed too much. If I don't punish her now, she will certainly make even more grave mistakes in the future."

Qin Haiming understood this in his heart and, looking at Zhang Rujia, said, "If you trust me, leave this issue to me. Just remember, Mingzhu is our daughter. I wouldn't harm her, and everything I'm doing is for her own good."

Zhang Rujia looked at him, hesitating to agree.

Qin Haiming continued to watch her, knowing all too well how fiercely Zhang Rujia protected their daughter, but being blind to the reality now would only hurt Qin Mingzhu.

"Call Mingzhu and tell her to come home."

Qin Haiming instructed wearily.

"Husband, have you checked? Are you sure it was Mingzhu who did it?"

"She went out again that night, what else could she have been doing if not that? Just because I prepared a guest room for Mumu, just because Mumu came over for dinner, just because I scolded her a few words. You know what our daughter is like, or do you think I don't?"

After Qin Mu had asked him that morning, he had instinctively thought of Qin Mingzhu's demeanor before she left that night. He should not have argued with Qin Mingzhu, maybe then the desecration of Mumu's mother's tombstone would not have happened, nor today's misfortune.

"But... she personally assured me, she said she didn't."

"Ru Jia!"

Qin Haiming called out to her again.

Zhang Rujia stopped making excuses, as her heart also sensed something. Moreover, at this point, it was probably no longer about admitting or denying it.

Halfway there, Mu Yichen received a phone call and then drove straight towards the direction of the graveyard with Qin Mu.

Qin Mu looked back at him with surprise as they headed toward the graveyard, "We're going there now?"

"Yeah! The gravestone I ordered a few days ago has been delivered!"

Qin Mu looked at him incredulously, having thought she would need to handle this herself.

But then...

Mu Yichen turned to glance at her, pressed down on her head as her eyes welled with tears, then focused back on driving, saying nonchalantly, "Don't be too moved."

Qin Mu looked at him, then sighed helplessly, leaning against his shoulder and embracing his arm: "Qin Haiming probably has an idea in mind; he just wants to protect Qin Mingzhu."

"So what do you plan to do?" Mu Yichen asked.

Leaning on his shoulder and enjoying the moment, Qin Mu looked at the somewhat harsh light outside: "Since Qin Haiming wants to protect his calf, I insist that Qin Mingzhu pay a price."

Inside her, a stubborn thread pulled at all her weaknesses, turning them into the greatest anger.

"Yeah! It's been a year since your return; it's time to show your hand."

"I'm thinking of revealing my identity to the whole city, what do you think?"

"You mean the matter of being Mrs. Mu? I'm all for it."

Qin Mu...

Mu Yichen saw her sudden panic and unconsciously smiled, shaking his head: "Let Wen Runuan help you!"

Upon hearing this, Qin Mu understood his intention and immediately nodded: "Alright!"

Chapter 395: Time has come_2

Together, they helped erect the tombstone again. After the others left, Qin Mu stood in front of it and gazed at the portrait on the tombstone with an involuntary, small smile.

"Where did you find this photo?"

"On an abandoned cellphone."

Qin Mu turned to look at him, and Mu Yichen sighed, "Remember that cellphone you smashed that year?"

"Didn't you say you threw it away?"

"Actually, I just secretly kept it."

Qin Mu...

"Liar!"

She couldn't help but rebuke him, yet her heart felt warm.

"I'm going to continue deceiving you until you willingly call me 'husband' in public."

Qin Mu, drawn to the expression in his eyes that contrasted with his defiant gaze as he looked up at the blue sky, unconsciously moved closer and nudged him with her shoulder: Let's go back!

That gentle nudge seemed to touch his very heart.

Mu Yichen looked down at her, then boldly wrapped an arm around her shoulder and spoke to the portrait on the tombstone: "Mother-in-law, I promise to take good care of Mumu and bring her to visit you often."

Qin Mu thought, why does it sound like you're my mother's biological son? I feel like a little daughter-in-law.

Yet she didn't say a word, simply letting him tug her away from the graveyard.

She had thought that Qin Haiming might immediately have someone make a new tombstone or repair the broken one, but instead, he had the broken pieces thrown away, and then...

Qin Mu's heart ached unbearably; she planned to find that broken piece of the tombstone and bury it somewhere in her mother's grave.

She wasn't sure if it was the right thing to do but was reluctant to discard it, the tombstone holding too many memories.

Perhaps she was too attached, Qin Mu thought.

The most important thing now was to catch the person who vandalized the tombstone and teach them a severe lesson.

She couldn't stand it anymore, couldn't pretend to be indifferent. People had bullied her to this point; if she didn't fight back, would she even be human?

Later, when the two of them returned home, in the living room sofa, Mu Qingxin was holding the old man's hand, reading his palm, and saying, "Grandpa, your palm reading shows you have romantic prospects this year."

The old man's face flushed red: "You little wretch, you better not be fooling your grandpa."

"Really, look how clear your love line is! But you see here, this implies you'll have a flourishing love life this year."

"So is grandpa's romantic interest in the city or the countryside? Aunt Zhang and the others really do like me, but I've been hesitant. Take a look and see which one of them is more suitable for me."

The old man became interested and started to banter with his granddaughter.

Mu Qingxin smiled for a long while, thinking where had she ever seen those old ladies? Besides, she was just talking nonsense, wasn't she?

"Grandpa, why don't you just take them all? You could form a powerful Harem Group."

Mu Yichen casually mentioned as he sat down.

"I think brother's idea is brilliant!"

Mu Qingxin, initially unsure of how to praise those old ladies, immediately found an out and agreed with her brother's words when she heard them.

"Humph! Mumu, aren't these siblings just two peas in a pod?"

"Yes!"

Qin Mu responded with a mischievous laugh.

The old man happily slapped his leg: "Don't think I'm alone!"

Mu Qingxin and Mu Yichen both turned towards Qin Mu, who had just taken a seat, trying to hold back her laughter as she looked at them.

"Grandpa, this woman is definitely not on your side."

Mu Yichen said to the old man, glancing at Qin Mu.

"I am on grandpa's side!"

Qin Mu promptly sat down on the other side of her grandfather and wrapped her arm around his.

Mu Yichen squinted his eyes in sorrow.

Mu Qingxin placed her hand over her mouth, dramatically widening her eyes in shock.

"Traitor!"

Mu Qingxin childishly accused her.

"How could I stand by while you two bully an old man? As someone as caring as I am, of course I have to stand up for grandpa."

Qin Mu playfully bantered with the siblings, her radiant lips and bright teeth complimenting her fair complexion, delighting a certain onlooker.

However, when Qin Mu caught Mu Yichen's ravenous gaze, she immediately subdued her own, her face turning slightly red and she hid it against her grandfather's shoulder.

"You come here!"

To Mu Yichen's dismay, he became jealous when he saw her bury her face in the old man's shoulder and immediately commanded her in annoyance.

Qin Mu...

Mu Qingxin shook her head helplessly: "Grandpa, just play with your granddaughter. As for your granddaughter-in-law, you're not so lucky. Look at how sour your grandson is being?"

Chapter 396: Time has come_3

Mu Qingxin turned her head and looked at the man sitting in the solo armchair.

The elder raised his eyes, examined his grandson's expression, and carefully pondered his granddaughter's words, yet he still didn't understand.

"Did you hear what was said?"

Chairman Mu commanded once more.

"Heard it, heard it!"

Qin Mu dared not argue and obediently went to his side.

Yet as soon as he stood properly, he was grabbed by the wrist and with a slight tug found himself falling onto his lap and embraced in a full hug.

Qin Mu's face turned shades of red and white in fright.

Mu Yichen's piercing gaze fixed on the woman in his arms, wishing he could bite her right then and taste her!

"Aiyo, go to your room if you want to be affectionate, can't you hold back a bit in front of me and grandpa! If our Ayan were here, hmph, I wouldn't be like this!"

As Mu Qingxin spoke, her grievances grew.

That man, for no reason at all, told her not to contact him before the sixth day.

Every day, apart from being on edge, was spent keeping the old man company, having her palm read to keep her mind off of other things.

Listening to his sister, Mu Yichen also thought of Jiang Yan and comforted her with a few words, "He won't be in trouble, you just rest assured and wait for him to come for you."

"Really?"

"I promise he will come to see you alive before you turn eighteen."

Mu Qingxin, recalling the day Jiang Yan had sought out Mu Yichen for a private conversation, now began to suspect that Jiang Yan had asked Mu Yichen for help behind the scenes. She became excited, yet the excitement almost brought her to tears.

"Big brother, I'm really worried about him!"

As soon as she finished, she indeed began to cry out of worry.

Qin Mu immediately broke free from Mu Yichen's arms and went to her side, "Don't you trust what your brother says? When you're pregnant, you should avoid crying the most, quickly wipe away the tears, and don't cry anymore, okay?"

"Okay!"

Mu Qingxin nodded vigorously, and, with the tissue Qin Mu handed her, wiped away her tears forcefully before taking a few deep breaths to somewhat calm down.

The elder sighed helplessly, "Look at you, all entangled in affairs of the heart. Isn't everything fine as long as you're alive?"

"Grandpa is right, as long as Ayan comes for me, even if he has lost arms or legs, I'll bear with it."

"What nonsense are you talking? If he were injured, would he still want to see you?"

Mu Yichen snorted coldly, thinking to himself: Not a chance!

Not to mention Feng Fanghua would never agree, and as her brother, he would even less so.

"If he wants to see me, he'll see me. If you and mom oppose, I'll just sneak off to find him because..."

"Because you're already willing to leave this family for him?"

Mu Yichen looked at her and asked, and knowing she was at fault, Mu Qingxin closed her mouth again.

"Alright, alright, don't just blame her. It's not new that a grown daughter is hard to keep at home; sooner or later she has to marry anyway."

Seeing his granddaughter aggrieved and his grandson domineering, the elder spoke in defense of his granddaughter.

"Exactly!"

Little did he know Mu Qingxin would immediately nod in agreement, offering a cunning justification.

Mu Yichen stared at her intensely, thinking that if it were their childhood, he should have spanked her.

But now...

Hmm, actually, even in childhood, he never really had the heart to hit her, at most just a scolding.

Moreover, he had spent so many years abroad and felt a bit guilty towards her, so he did not continue to press the matter further.

While everyone remained silent, Mu Yichen's phone suddenly rang. Seeing that it was Yang Bo's number, Mu Yichen glanced at Qin Mu, "There's news!"

Qin Mu couldn't help but tense up.

The grandfather and Mu Qingxin didn't know what was happening, but they kept quiet as Mu Yichen answered the phone.

"Understood, I found her classmate, I want to go and question him myself."

"Okay!"

Yang Bo was standing in the police surveillance room, and the staff were still at work. He thought for a moment, gave a few more instructions, then left the room to have someone look for Qin Mingzhu's classmate.

"Keep tracking that car, there's surveillance footage of Qin Mingzhu getting on board."

"Really?"

Qin Mu became somewhat excited after hearing what Mu Yichen said.

"Yes! I've already asked Yang Bo to contact Qin Mingzhu's classmate."

"I want to go too."

Mu Yichen had planned to go alone, but seeing how agitated Qin Mu was as he stood up, he nodded in agreement, "Then let's go together."

"What's—happening?"

Completely in the dark, Mu Qingxin asked curiously, her voice somewhat tense.

"We'll talk about this later, we need to step out for a bit, you stay here with Grandpa."

Mu Yichen instructed.

"You have important things to attend to, go ahead, we'll be just fine here," the old man urged quickly, not wanting to hold them up.

So, Mu Yichen left with Qin Mu.

That afternoon, they rushed to the police station together and met Qin Mingzhu's classmate along with Yang Bo.

The kid obviously caved when he saw the police badge, but thinking of certain things, he kept his mouth shut.

Mu Yichen and Yang Bo stood outside that room, watching the interrogation room, as Qin Mu walked in.

The boy was startled to see Qin Mu, but then relaxed a lot.

"Why are you here?" he asked.

"It's been a long time, wasn't it you who tried to pick on me last time at AM?" Qin Mu looked at him and laughed, unconsciously licking his dry lips. He suddenly felt that this winter was damn dry, but thankfully there was a humidifier at home.

The boy, however, started to feel nervous at Qin Mu's sharp gaze.

Suddenly remembering that she was Qin Mingzhu's half-sister and also the most favored woman of the Mu Family's Yichen, he unconsciously felt his throat go dry too.

"I apologize again seriously for that matter."

The boy lowered his eyes, not daring to meet Qin Mu's piercing look.

"Lift your head up!"

Qin Mu didn't comply, but stared at him coldly, forcing him to look up at her.

The two sat across a table from each other, Qin Mu with her hands in her pant pockets, her eyes narrowed as she looked down at him: "Tell me, what did Qin Mingzhu tell you, what benefits did she give you, that led you to help her do such a heinous act?"

The boy was taken aback. Although they were about the same age and not very familiar, he had heard of her reputation. The usually carefree and fearless young masters also had their fears.

"You talk as if we did the deed, but it really has nothing to do with us. We were just playing a game that day."

"Oh?"

Qin Mu laughed softly, stepped in front of him, leaned against the side of the table, staring at him with anticipation for what he would say next.

Chapter 397: Cut off Relationship_1

The man unconsciously swallowed, the sight of the plainly dressed woman in front of him, yet tall and with piercing eyes, truly made him gasp in astonishment.

He didn't understand how she could possess such an imposing aura; she was unmistakably a half-sister to Qin Mingzhu, both sharing the same delicate appearance. Yet, Qin Mingzhu had no such presence, whereas this girl, who had been cast out since childhood, exuded an aura so powerful that it even intimidated him, a man.

She leaned quietly against the side of the table, eyes downcast in thought for a moment, then lifted her gaze and smiled faintly at him, "What benefit did Qin Mingzhu offer you?"

"What benefit?"

The man frowned, clearly not following her train of thought.

"If there's no benefit, why would a man as tall as one meter eighty follow the commands of a petite woman? Is it because of her family's power? Or perhaps you're secret lovers deeply in love?"

Qin Mu speculated casually, composed and patient.

The man laughed at her latter suggestion, "She only promised to sleep with me once it was done!"

Qin Mu...

Her bright almond eyes flickered interestingly, and she chuckled lightly.

The man was obviously shocked, surprised by his own words.

How could he have blurted that out?

He looked up subconsciously at the woman in front of him, both nervous and on guard.

"Thanks for cooperating!"

Qin Mu said softly, then straightened up and turned to leave.

In another room, watching the scene through the large glass screen, were two people. One barely lifted their eyes and didn't seem too surprised, while the other's facial features seemed to magnify in shock several times.

"Yichen, you tell me how this woman got that man to spill those words? Our people interrogated him for half a day and he didn't react at all."

Yang Bo unconsciously furrowed his brow, his team was always known as the iron fist team of the police station, yet they were outperformed by a woman?

And this woman, had merely entered for a few minutes and chatted casually like a bystander.

"Thanks!"

Qin Mu didn't know Yang Bo well; she was merely being polite.

"Ha-ha! No need for formalities among our own!"

Yang Bo said, glancing at Mu Yichen before speaking to her.

Qin Mu didn't say anything further, just smiled. Mu Yichen reached up to drape an arm around her shoulder, "Let's go."

"Hey, hey, hey, aren't you two taking the record?"

Yang Bo followed them with a question as they were leaving.

"No need!"

Mu Yichen didn't even turn back, casually waving a hand and wrapping his arm around Qin Mu's shoulder as they walked out, leaving Yang Bo...

Qin Mu had already started recording on her phone before she went in, so of course, there was no need for additional evidence.

Besides, an act like this wouldn't lead to a prison sentence; they were just trying to get a hold on Qin Mingzhu's weaknesses.

After leaving the police station, the two headed straight home. Feng Fanghua and others had also heard about the tombstone incident and were very angry. Feng Fanghua was always quick to speak and asked furiously: "This girl seems lively and proud on a daily basis, but I never saw her as someone who would do such an immoral act. How on earth did her father educate her? Still ignorant at her age aside, but to dare damage an elder's gravestone, since ancient times, there probably hasn't been a second child so unruly."

"If someone had destroyed our ancestral tombstone..."

Mu Qingxin asked slowly, sucking on her lips.

"You must not tolerate or nurture the wicked, you must punish them severely!"

Feng Fanghua immediately replied, whether in response to her daughter or to Qin Mingzhu's issue.

But no matter the reason, Qin Mu decided to follow through with Feng Fanghua's sentiment. She had never planned to let Qin Mingzhu off the hook, and now with evidence at hand, even if Qin Mingzhu wanted to hide, even if that man wanted to protect her, Qin Mu would not let it go.

"Does your father know about this?"

Feng Fanghua asked again.

Meanwhile, the old man and Mu Zihao sat quietly on the couch listening without saying a word.

"He's probably feigning ignorance!"

Qin Mu murmured softly.

"That's your father's biggest problem; why is Qin Mingzhu still idling around and playing in various places to this day? Because he and Zhang Rujia dote on her too much. If he still indulges and protects her in this case, I will look down on him," Feng Fanghua finished and shook her head as though she was quite despairing of Qin Haiming.

But why had the elders suddenly gone to the cemetery?

Qin Mu didn't know that today Feng Fanghua's young good sister had returned to Rongcheng to visit her maternal home because she had also been close to Qin Mu's mother. She went to the cemetery to pay respects together, only to find the gravestone replaced. She later heard about it from Helian Hao's mother.

Chapter 398: Cut off Relationship_2

"You too, you don't even say a word about such a big thing to your family; you keep everything to yourself, but what's the point?"

Feng Fanghua thought about it and then angrily questioned Qin Mu.

Qin Mu had been touched, but it wasn't until after Feng Fanghua had finished her lecture that she came back to her senses...

Mu Yichen coughed lightly, and Feng Fanghua immediately looked at him, "What? Can't I say it?"

Mu Yichen didn't speak, but just chuckled, then looked back at Qin Mu, who had no idea what was going on because she hadn't heard anything.

"Hahaha, this woman is so funny!"

Mu Qingxin covered her face, trying to hold back her laughter.

"What do you mean 'this woman'? Can't you call her sister-in-law?"

Yichen immediately got angry.

"We're the same age, so why should I call her sister-in-law? I'll just call her Qin Mu, Qin Mu, Qin Mu!"

"Actually, calling her Qin Mu is pretty good!"

Much better than some people calling her 'little bitch' or something, and besides, although Mu Qingxin was resistant to her, she had no ill intentions.

Qin Mu felt this was a very normal sister-in-law relationship.

The old man watched his granddaughter being so mischievous and smiled helplessly, "This girl is still so tricky, what will she do when she gets to her husband's family?"

"Ayan's mother has long passed away, Ayan and his father are at odds, so after I marry him, it will just be me and Ayan at home, oh right, and our little baby."

Mu Qingxin said, touching her own belly.

"Look at her, not a single worry, still thinking there are benefits to not having in-laws."

Feng Fanghua was worried about not having an elder in the family to plan for her daughter, unaware that her daughter was naively clueless about it all.

"What's the big deal? Having in-laws means dealing with in-law relations. Just like Qin Mu, being taught a lesson by you every day, it's better to be without them."

Mu Qingxin said quite freely.

"That's not right to say, though. Elders love to educate you, but it's mostly from a good place. You're saying that after you give birth, with no mother-in-law, just the childcare alone will be enough to tire you out."

Mu Zihao analytically discussed with her.

"Ayan will help me take care of things, and we can also hire a maternity matron. Ayan told me I just need to focus on giving birth, he'll handle the support, so I don't need to worry about anything."

Who knew that Mu Qingxin would say it so casually, rendering the whole family speechless.

But Qin Mu was the most believing, firmly trusting that Jiang Yan wouldn't let Mu Qingxin suffer. Whether a man loves a woman or not is clearly visible just from his gaze.

She subconsciously looked towards Mu Yichen, noticing that he was also looking at her.

Qin Mu thought, surely Mu Yichen also believed, or else he wouldn't have agreed to help Jiang Yan.

The elder, because of the unexpected addition to the family, had decided to stay in the city a bit longer, and he also wanted to see what kind of man his granddaughter's husband was, charming her as if she had no brain. Thus, Mu Yichen and Qin Mu had no choice but to stay a few more days as well.

The next day, Mu Yichen went to deal with official matters, and Qin Mu went to the Qin Family on her own.

The maid, upon seeing her, was still so formally calling her 'Miss Qin', and Qin Mu nodded slightly, "Is Mayor Qin in?"

"Yes, they're all in!"

The maid nodded and quietly told her.

Qin Mu didn't know why the maid seemed so happy to see her but thanked her instinctively, "Thank you!"

The maid didn't speak further, just announced to those inside, "Miss Qin has come!"

Qin Mu went around to the living room and discovered that Qin Haiming and Zhang Rujia were on the sofa, thinking about the maid's words, guessing that Qin Mingzhu was in her own room. She approached and asked, "Can I get an answer today?"

Qin Haiming glanced at her, somewhat distressed, and gestured to the adjacent sofa, "Sit down first before we talk."

Qin Mu looked at him and sat in the single seat sofa next to him.

Qin Haiming looked at her and said, "I heard her classmate was arrested, is this related to you?"

"You could say that!"

Qin Mu, with downcast eyes, thought for a moment before seriously responding.

"Do you have to sever ties?"

Qin Haiming asked again.

Zhang Rujia sat beside him all this time without speaking, her eyes downcast as if she was suppressing some inappropriate emotion within herself.

"You could say that!"

Qin Mu's nature, not good at expressing herself, was fully demonstrated in that moment.

Yet, Qin Haiming was pained by her few words.

"What do you want me to do?"

Qin Haiming asked her.

Qin Mu looked up, saw Qin Haiming's reluctance, and couldn't help but laugh, "What do I want you to do? Wasn't it you who promised to give me and my mother an explanation?"

"Qin Mu, don't be too aggressive. Your father has been giving ground step by step, what more do you want? You're his daughter, isn't Mingzhu one as well?"

Chapter 399: Cut off Relationship_3

"I'm indeed his daughter, but whether your daughter is, I can't be sure of that," Qin Mu said slowly and deliberately, looking at Zhang Rujia, who seemed angry enough to devour her.

"You... Husband, did you hear what she said?" Zhang Rujia turned and asked Qin Haiming with a look of aggrievement.

"Mumu, you and Mingzhu are both my daughters, don't say such things from now on," Qin Haiming said, feeling relieved that Qin Mu had acknowledged him as her father, even though she hadn't called him "dad" for a long time.

"Isn't it funny? You say you want to give me and my mom an explanation, then ask me what I plan to do next. And this woman, can't the irrelevant people please get as far away as possible when father and daughter are talking?" Qin Mu scoffed in irritation, trying to keep her patience, even though her later words were indeed harsh.

Zhang Rujia turned pale with anger: "You, you dare tell me to get lost? This is my home, you..."

"Your home? Do you not remember how you got into this house? Have you forgotten the means you used? You caused my family to fall apart, and yet you dare to flaunt your power over me? Do you really think I'm a pushover for you to bully?" Qin Mu stood up, licking her dry lips and furiously rebutted her.

Zhang Rujia had never heard Qin Mu say so much in one go, and each sentence left her unable to make a reckless rebuttal.

Qin Haiming frowned as he listened until Zhang Rujia looked at him. Then he stood up: "Come with me to the study."

"Husband..."

"You stay here!" Qin Haiming commanded coldly, then walked ahead leading Qin Mu to the study.

Qin Mu cast a contemptuous glance at Zhang Rujia and followed Qin Haiming without a second look.

Zhang Rujia got up to watch them enter the study one after the other and had to sit down again.

The aide in the corner felt a sense of satisfaction, while another room upstairs was eerily quiet.

Qin Mingzhu opened her door a crack and eavesdropped quietly; she couldn't make out the voices from below, but quietly closed the door when she heard footsteps. Later, hearing the door to the study close, she opened her door again and tiptoed out: "Mom, Mom..."

After a moment's thought, Zhang Rujia also got up and went upstairs. Mother and daughter exchanged glances and then quietly moved to eavesdrop at the study door.

"You're not happy with me asking for your opinion, so how about I give you an explanation?"

"Fine!"

Qin Haiming thought for a while by the window, then turned to ask Qin Mu.

Qin Mu nodded in response to his words. She also wanted to hear what explanation Qin Haiming had in mind.

She had no intention of letting him get away with a simple brush-off.

If she tolerated this matter, Qin Mingzhu and Zhang Rujia would never take her seriously again and would even trample on her further.

And such a thing could never happen a second time.

Qin Mu was no longer that seven-year-old child, nor was she the helpless person who allowed others to desecrate her mother's tombstone without taking action.

"I asked Mingzhu to kowtow and apologize at your mother's grave, then sent her overseas to study, forbidding her from returning to the country for three years. What do you think?"

Qin Haiming pondered for a long time before he proposed his idea to Qin Mu.

When Qin Mu looked at him speaking these words with utmost seriousness, she felt as if he was making a completely pointless joke with her.

"She's going to kowtow to my mom? You'd first have to ask my mom under the ground if she agrees! She is absolutely not worthy, okay?"

Qin Mu couldn't help but let out a scoff, mocking her own naivety!

Indeed, she could never again hold any unrealistic hopes or fantasies about this man!

"Fine, then I'll book her a flight today and send her abroad."

Qin Haiming anticipated Qin Mu's refusal, so he eagerly nodded and once again brought up sending Qin Mingzhu abroad.

"Booking her a flight to go abroad? Mayor Qin, are you truly punishing her, or are you sending her on a free trip overseas?"

Qin Mu laughed involuntarily, she really couldn't stomach it any longer. Did this man think the daughter he had fathered was an idiot?

"She has never been away from Rongcheng by herself! You have no idea what kind of life she would lead if she were to go abroad to study alone."

"No idea? I was only eight years old when you threw me out, is her life unimaginable, or is it more unimaginable that I was almost sold on the streets of Paris? You randomly handed over my custody to someone else; do you know how they treated me? Unimaginable?"

Qin Mu's eyes unwittingly filled with tears. How could this man in front of her know what's truly unimaginable.

She was nearly sold just a few days after she had left, and it was Mu Yichen who arrived in time to avert that tragedy.

He only knew his current position was powerful and authoritative, so after she returned to town, Mu Yichen and she were still polite to him, but he had no idea how much hatred lay behind their civility.

"You said you were almost sold?"

Of course, Qin Haiming had no clue about these things; at that time, his relationship with Zhang Rujia was so intense, he had no time to care for his daughter overseas.

He thought Qin Mu was well-fed and well-educated abroad, and he wouldn't feel guilty as long as he sent money every month, and he would occasionally make a phone call to check in...

Qin Mu would initially look forward to his calls, but then they became less and less frequent, and afterwards...

She would rather have no further contact with this man.

"You've no idea why I hate you so much! You killed my mother with your own hands! You ruined my childhood, and while you, Zhang Rujia, and Qin Mingzhu were living happily in Rongcheng, did you ever remember that you had a daughter who was abandoned and struggling to survive on the outside?"

Qin Haiming suddenly became speechless, merely staring at her in shock.

"Send her abroad to study? If I let her off that easily, consider my very existence, Qin Mu, to have been a useless trip to this world."

Qin Mu pointed vehemently to the ground as she spoke, her face already streaked with tears without her awareness.

Qin Haiming remained silent, just gazing at her from a distance.

Outside the door, the mother and daughter were both terribly frightened. Qin Mingzhu couldn't help but feel the tears welling up, and Zhang Rujia warned her with her eyes to stay calm. After all, Qin Haiming had already discussed the worst-case scenario with her: she was reluctant to let her daughter study abroad, but it was better for her daughter to go out and gain some experience than to be caught in the city. Perhaps, after her return, she might transform entirely.

Little did they know what Qin Haiming would do for his daughter after hearing those words.

— —

"I want you to kick Qin Mingzhu out of the Qin Family and sever the father-daughter relationship!"

Chapter 400: Chop the grass and eliminate the roots_1

"I want you to drive Qin Mingzhu out of the Qin Family and sever all father-daughter ties with her!"

"What?"

"And you must announce the severance of your relationship with her on the media!"

"That's impossible!"

"Otherwise, hand Qin Mingzhu over to me!"

"Hand her over to you? What are you planning to do with her?"

"Have you ever cared this much about your other daughter? What I plan to do with her is my business. The last time she hired someone to rape me at the mall, stole my design drawings, everything she did to me this year is enough to get her a sentence, isn't it?"

After asking the question, Qin Mu felt like she was wasting her emotions, so she clenched her teeth and reminded Qin Haiming coldly.

"Sentenced? Do you know what a girl looks like once she's been to prison and comes out?"

"So do you know what a desperate girl might do? You don't know, do you? She'd kill."

"What on earth has happened to you over these years?"

Qin Haiming listened to her words and felt a chill run down his spine.

Qin Mu just gave a cold laugh: I thank you for everything you have given me!

Qin Haiming squinted his eyes, and for a long time, couldn't utter a word.

Actually, what had happened in the past didn't matter anymore; what mattered was what was to come.

Meanwhile, the mother and daughter outside the door continued eavesdropping. Zhang Rujia's heart kept drumming involuntarily, feeling that things were about to turn sour. Qin Mingzhu was already teary-eyed as if she had been thrown into hell.

"Mom, what should we do? What should we do?"

"Enough, keep quiet!"

Zhang Rujia hissed a reminder, her gaze sharp.

Wasn't Zhang Rujia anxious right now?

She was far more anxious than Qin Mingzhu.

She had married Qin Haiming because of Qin Mingzhu back then. How could she possibly allow Qin Haiming to hand Qin Mingzhu over to Qin Mu, or allow them to break their father-daughter relationship?

Qin Mu now wanted Qin Mingzhu to sever ties, but perhaps later on, it would be her turn, Mrs. Qin, to be divorced, right?

Zhang Rujia was crystal clear about Qin Mu's ambitions. Qin Mu wanted to drive both her and Qin Mingzhu out of the Qin Family, and then become the rightful Miss Qin again. How could she ever allow that?

"Give me an answer now, will you announce the severance of your father-daughter relationship with Qin Mingzhu to the media, or will you hand her over to me?"

Qin Mu gave him an ultimatum as Qin Haiming kept hesitating.

"I can't do that!"

Qin Haiming thought for a moment, then slowly shook his head.

"I can do it for you, as long as you personally drive her out."

Qin Mu said.

"Mumu, must you be so heartless?"

Qin Haiming couldn't help but ask her again.

"Heartless? She's already in her twenties, has her own circle of friends, how much do you have to love her to not bear to drive her away? And how much must you dislike me, sending me, eight years old at the time, to that foreign place in Paris? Heartless?"

As Qin Mu repeated the word 'heartless', her heart ached to death, yet she scoffed.

Qin Haiming saw the tears in her eyes and unconsciously murmured.

"I can disown her, but the rest..."

"I will do everything you can't!"

Qin Haiming looked at Qin Mu, knowing she was resolute, then turned his head to look out the window and said no more.

The two women who were listening at the door turned pale, both in disbelief.

Then the door was pushed open from the outside by Qin Mingzhu.

The father and daughter inside hadn't yet recovered from their emotions. Hearing the door open, no one turned around; they only heard someone shouting from behind: "Dad, you can't do this to me, you bitch! What right do you have to sever my relationship with my dad? You're no longer part of this family, just an unwanted bastard, a cheap woman, a slut, a..."

"Slap!"

"Mingzhu!"

As Qin Haiming turned to stop Qin Mingzhu's rambling, Qin Mu had already coldly slapped her across the face without mercy.

Qin Mingzhu felt her ear buzzing from the slap, her cheek turning red while she covered it, glaring at Qin Mu and biting her lip hard.

The taste of blood at the corner of her mouth was not new to her.

Zhang Rujia, hearing the loud slap, was both angry and heartbroken; frustrated at her daughter's helplessness, she stepped forward to point at Qin Mu and accuse her through gritted teeth: What right do you have to hit her?

"I have plenty of reasons to hit her. Just for the fact that she had someone destroy my mother's tombstone, I could execute her a thousand times over, let alone a slap. What's this slap to her?"

Qin Mu yelled out the last words, knowing that Zhang Rujia always bullied her for being reticent, for being new to Rongcheng, for being an orphan.