

## His Beloved 401

Chapter 401: Cut the grass and remove the roots\_2

"You... Husband, you're really going to let her do this?"

"Listen, from now on, I no longer want Qin Mingzhu as my daughter. Have her move out and you are not to provide any financial assistance. Starting today, she is no longer my Qin Haiming's daughter, and therefore no longer your Zhang Rujia's daughter either."

"What?"

When Qin Haiming said these words indifferently, Zhang Rujia couldn't accept it.

They had just been discussing Qin Mingzhu's future before Qin Mu arrived, but in the blink of an eye, he was disowning her.

"If you disagree, then leave the Qin Family with her!"

Zhang Rujia's mouth was agape, ready to defend her daughter, but upon hearing Qin Haiming's words, she immediately dared not say more.

Move out together?

Wouldn't that ruin them, mother and daughter?

Zhang Rujia thought, how could she let this mere twenty-something-year-old upstart defeat her? How could she not swallow this indignity?

"What am I to you? You give birth to me but then decide you don't want me? You can't be this irresponsible, you can't just not want me!"

Seeing that Zhang Rujia also did not dare to protect her, Qin Mingzhu started pleading her own case nervously.

"Mumu went to Paris alone at eight and is now a famous designer. Yet you're still expecting me to support you? Haven't I supported you enough over the years? Even ordinary people's children of your age should be self-sufficient. Think of it as going out to hone yourself, leave now!"

Qin Haiming didn't look at her and instead spoke to the photo of the three of them on the desk.

Qin Mingzhu's tears couldn't be held back any longer, she covered her face and backed away, You're being irresponsible; is it just because this little wretch is back? Do you just care that she's now a designer? Do you just think she's hitched herself to Young Master Chen? Just you wait, one day I'll make you look at me with new respect.

After saying that, Qin Mingzhu turned and ran, her tears unstoppable.

"Mingzhu!"

Zhang Rujia turned and chased to the door but ultimately did not go outside.

"If you leave with her today, never step through this family's doors again."

Qin Haiming said this quite calmly.

Zhang Rujia turned to look at him, but he wouldn't meet her gaze.

Zhang Rujia bit her lip, hard enough to shatter her teeth and swallow, her eyes filled with reluctant defiance as she looked toward Qin Mu, as if declaring war.

Qin Mu glanced at her, then turned and said, "Wait and see tomorrow's news, farewell!"

"Mumu!"

As she was leaving, Qin Haiming called out to her again.

"Does this count as giving you an explanation?"

Qin Haiming turned to look at her and asked.

Qin Mu just glanced back at him, without a reply.

After she left, Zhang Rujia knelt on the ground, filled with grievances, "To give her an explanation, you're driving our daughter out like this?"

"They're both my daughters, but Mumu has been driven out by me since she was little, while Mingzhu has always lived a carefree life as the young miss. But look at the gap between the two now; it's time for Mingzhu to go out and toughen up."

Qin Haiming's brows remained furrowed.

"Does it have to be so extreme as to sever the father-daughter relationship completely?"

"Xiao Jia, how do you still not understand?"

Qin Haiming sighed with a headache, intending to say more but eventually just walked around her and left the study.

She knew that Qin Haiming probably didn't truly intend to break ties with Qin Mingzhu, afraid that the pretense would become irrevocable, terrified to think of what happens when the fake becomes real...

She only had that one precious daughter; how could she bear to let her suffer outside?

After Qin Haiming left, Zhang Rujia received a phone call saying there were no sales at the clothing store for the whole day. Involuntarily she screamed, "No sales, what are you all eating? Just standing there like poles all day? If there's no sales again, you might as well pack up and leave."

After hanging up, Zhang Rujia also went downstairs, exhausted, sitting on the sofa now that Qin Haiming had left.

Zhang Rujia knew that Qin Haiming was falling into the traps set by Qin Mu step by step. He thought he could control everything, unaware that he was already being led by the nose by Qin Mu. The more Zhang Rujia thought about it, the more panic-stricken she became, and immediately grabbed her phone to dial a familiar number: "Sister Zhang, are you free now? Would you join me for a cup of tea?"

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Qin Mu went to the studio; she hadn't been there in days and was beginning to miss the feeling it gave her.

It was quiet inside without any movement. She walked around by herself and after making a round, cleaned up the sofa in the reception area on the first floor and settled there.

Chapter 402: Chop the grass and eliminate the roots\_3

The sofa was soft, and she hugged herself as she leaned into its back.

It was as if the entire world was at peace.

The restlessness that had gripped her just moments ago seemed to finally find its calm now.

She listened quietly to her own heartbeat, took in the rhythm of her breathing, and lost herself in dreams of their beautiful future.

The fashion store had been open for a few days, and she had heard that it was doing quite well. She had never shown up and had no desire to; she hired professionals to manage it and continued to focus on her designs.

The wedding dress she was designing for Mu Qingxin was almost complete. She closed her eyes for a moment to think, then opened them to look out at the tranquil world, picturing the moment Mu Qingxin would appear before everyone in the dress.

She was a beautiful girl and would surely be the most beautiful bride.

But for some reason, Mu Yichen's figure unexpectedly appeared in that vision, and he was dressed in a groom's attire.

Qin Mu wondered if this would become a curse; every time she designed a wedding dress, she always saw Mu Yichen's shadow. Could Yichen have cast a spell on her?

Thinking of Yichen's occasional resentful gaze, Qin Mu fixed her eyes on the distant mountain.

One day she would climb to the top of that mountain and propose to him.

Propose to Yichen?

Qin Mu was startled by the thought that had suddenly appeared in her mind. Wasn't she against marriage? Why would she want to propose to him?

She sat for a while longer, and after figuring out what she wanted to do next, she left with her bag on her back.

It was as if she had never been there; she closed the door gently and then turned around.

As the sky gradually darkened, Qin Mu returned to the Mu family home just as Mu Yichen's car also arrived; the two vehicles pulled into the parking spaces together.

After getting out, Mu Yichen walked towards her and, with sharp eyes, focused on her beautiful face, he asked, "How did it go?"

"No problems!"

Qin Mu looked up at him, certain in her reply, then added with a flick of the hand, "Today was really something, wasn't it? I pushed Qin Haiming into a corner with no way out, and Zhang Rujia was at a loss too."

"Let's go inside."

Mu Yichen extended his hand to gently drape over her shoulder, and the two walked into the house together.

A little later, Qin Mu called Wen Runuan, who was at a company gathering, sitting reluctantly beside Jing Qing, so she was not in the best of moods; the call was a good excuse to step away.

She quietly answered Qin Mu's call in the restroom, and after washing her hands and drying them, she saw Jing Qing come in; her eyes couldn't help but shift. Why did she feel like Jing Qing was following her?

After entering, Jing Qing also turned on the tap and began to wash her hands. Wen Runuan glanced at her through the mirror for two seconds, then snickered and walked out.

"You're pregnant!"

Jing Qing suddenly asked, the volume of her voice low enough to attract attention but not high.

It was then that Wen Runuan turned back around, yet appeared completely unfazed: "Yes!"

Jing Qing's downcast gaze made it impossible for Wen Runuan to guess what she was thinking; all she could do was wait for Jing Qing to finish washing and look up.

Jing Qing turned to her with a smile: "Don't be nervous, I was just asking casually. Congratulations, though!"

"Thanks!"

Seeing Jing Qing's indifferent attitude, Wen Runuan could only casually express her gratitude before walking out first.

Yet Jing Qing remained standing there motionless.

Wen Runuan's pregnancy was, of course, good news for her, but she had just heard something that made her frown—Jing Qing appeared to be on the phone with Qin Mu.

Qin Mu and Wen Runuan were already in the same boat, and Jing Qing hadn't expected that the seemingly ordinary girl would quickly gain the support of the most capable person in Rongcheng. After a year of battling, Jing Qing would naturally not underestimate her opponent. She would need to carefully consider each move in this year's game.

After Wen Runuan returned, she spoke a few words to Director Zhang, who was making a call in front of her. Director Zhang looked up at her, seemingly confused by her meaning, until Wen Runuan nodded at him, prompting him to stand up, "Carry on, everyone, I have something to attend to and must leave now."

The company's artists were used to Director Zhang leaving first, but this time—

"Wen Runuan, come out with me!"

When Director Zhang called out like this, everyone had the same thought.

Wen Runuan followed him outside, and once the door was closed, Director Zhang wrapped his arms around her.

Some bored artists were peering through the doorway and even taking photos: Director Zhang's embrace around Wen Runuan's waist, the low whispers into her ear—such intimacy was self-explanatory; everyone understood.

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The Mu Family.

That morning, in the warm and vintage living room, the family sat together. Mu Qingxin read the newspaper aloud earnestly, and after hearing the report, each member of the Mu family had their own thoughts, but only Mu Qingxin laughed and said, "I didn't expect that girl Qin Mu to be quite skillful!"

Feng Fanghua and Mu Zihao said nothing, nor did the elder gentleman, but Mu Qingxin felt that what was done was quite satisfactory.

Qin Mu was curled up on the sofa in her room, having finished reading the news on her phone. It featured a pitiful photo of Qin Mingzhu being rejected from a hotel and sensitive words from a source, mentioning the broken father-daughter relationship—all of which had not escaped her attention.

She wasn't excited, nor thrilled, because she knew that Qin Haiming wouldn't just abandon Qin Mingzhu like that. There was still much to do; this was merely a beginning.

The girl who had dared to insult her mother was destined to fall into destitution and helplessness.

Mu Yichen came out from his shower, dressed in high-quality dark pajamas, and sat down beside her, casually placing his arm behind her, and softly asked, "You don't like the effect the news has had?"

"Not at all! I'm just thinking about the next move for Qin Mingzhu and Zhang Rujia. Zhang Rujia will certainly help Qin Mingzhu find a place to live, right? I have to do something to ensure they don't have it too easy," she said, turning to look at him.



Mu Yichen nodded, "Mm! I'll help you keep an eye on them."

"Great!"

Qin Mu smiled and leaned into his embrace, "Qin Mingzhu and Zhang Rujia must be hating me to death by now!"

"Mm! So, will you continue?"

Mu Yichen asked her with a flutter of his long lashes and a seductive tone.

Outside, the sunlight was faint, and Qin Mu leaned into his shoulder, her gaze ruthless.

"To weed without removing the roots is to leave troubles for oneself."

#### Chapter 403: Suddenly Miss You\_1

On the eighth day of the month, Mu Yichen received a call from the hospital. By the time he and Qin Mu rushed to the hospital, Jiang Yan was already lying in the most hidden ward.

As soon as he finished dealing with matters regarding the Jiang Family, Jiang Yan rushed out to find Mu Qingxin, only to realize there were remnants still at large. It was in Rongcheng that he discovered he was being tracked. Afterwards, the two fought a fierce battle resulting in one dead and one injured.

Luckily, he was the injured party!

"Is Qingxin doing okay?"

Jiang Yan had just undergone surgery and, while lying on the hospital bed with lips so dry they were cracking, his mind was still solely concerned about one woman.

"She's fine, but you..."

Mu Yichen's dark eyes fell, looking towards his bandaged chest, hesitant to speak.

"Wait until I'm a little better before letting her see me. Keep it from her for now,"

Jiang Yan said to Mu Yichen.

Mu Yichen didn't say anything. He just glanced at Qin Mu, who would surely keep the secret. He spoke softly, "She's been quite worried about you lately. You should at least send her a message."

Jiang Yan lifted his eyelids, glancing at the black mobile phone on the side table: "Could you help me send her a message?"

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After leaving the hospital, Qin Mu and Mu Yichen were still somewhat concerned: Should someone be arranged to protect him?

"His people should be arriving any moment— Look, they're already here!"

Before the two could even get in the car, they saw three shiny black luxury cars drive up from the opposite side of the street.

Qin Mu didn't recognize those people, but Mu Yichen did, so he opened the car door: "Let's go!"

After a moment's thought, Qin Mu said to him, "You go ahead. I need to talk to Xiaohao about something."

"Then get back early, and give me a call if there's any issue."

Mu Yichen closed the passenger door, walked around to the driver's side, and drove off.

Qin Mu re-entered the hospital and headed straight for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Helian Hao, having nothing to do at home, came to the hospital early for his shift. He was somewhat surprised to see Qin Mu: "Come in! I was just about to ask you out for lunch."

"No need for tea; I've come today because there's something I need to ask of you,"

Qin Mu walked over, pulled up a chair, and sat down opposite Helian Hao.

With his hands tucked into his lab coat pockets, Helian Hao couldn't help but wonder as he observed Qin Mu's serious demeanor, "You need a medical check-up?"

"Yes!"

Qin Mu affirmed.

Helian Hao knew about Qin Mu's situation and was the one who reminded her to get a check-up. Therefore, he promptly wrote up an order for her tests.

Many of the test results came back within minutes. One of the tests wouldn't have results until after three in the afternoon. By noon, the two of them went together to a buffet restaurant nearby the hospital.

As Mu Yichen's call came through to Qin Mu's phone, Helian Hao was speaking, "Could it be that Young Master Yichen has some health issues?"

Qin Mu hurriedly gestured for silence, then answered the call, while Helian Hao quickly sipped his soup to shut himself up.

"Having lunch with Helian Hao?"

Mu Yichen had taken a moment out of his social engagements to phone her.

"Yes!"

Qin Mu and Helian Hao exchanged glances and softly affirmed.

"They haven't been talking smack about me, have they?"

"Why would we do that? Aren't you busy with your engagements?"

"I suddenly miss you a lot!"

Qin Mu...

Being confessed to so unexpectedly was quite exhilarating. Qin Mu blushed and lowered her eyes, softly clearing her throat, "Xiaohao's right next to me."

"So what? Do I need her permission to miss you now?"

Mu Yichen stubbornly retorted.

Qin Mu laughed helplessly, "Let's talk more when I get back later. I'm having lunch with Xiaohao, okay?"

Mu Yichen hung up reluctantly, thinking to himself that this woman dared to hold his call hostage for a lunch date with her friend. He plotted how he would handle her when he got back in the evening.

Meanwhile, as soon as Qin Mu hung up the phone, she faced Helian Hao's questioning: "Ah, that's so cheesy, I'm almost losing my appetite here. Weren't you scared to love? Weren't you afraid of marriage?"

"I still feel the same way, but since he's come knocking at my door, and I don't dislike him, why turn him away?"

Qin Mu lifted her eyebrows at her friend, her sparkling eyes seemingly spelling out the words 'why not if it's free.'

Helian Hao sighed helplessly. She had long seen through Qin Mu, knowing she couldn't let go of Mu Yichen. Now that she was proactive in getting a health check-up to have his child, if Qin Mu claimed she didn't love Mu Yichen, that would be too pretentious.

However, these days, Mu Yichen hadn't spoken to her about love or asked her whether she loved him or anything like that.

"By the way, did your father really disown Qin Mingzhu?"

Helian Hao suddenly asked with curiosity.

"It seems so!"

Qin Mu's eyebrows twitched slightly, the lively look on her face fading all of a sudden.

"Sigh. Qin Mingzhu really went too far, daring to commit such acts, not fearing retribution from the heavens. But don't be complacent; even if your father really drove her out and disowned her, as long as Zhang Rujia is still with the Qin Family, Qin Mingzhu will likely return sooner or later."

Chapter 404: Suddenly Miss You\_2

Helian Hao reminded her.

"Yeah! That's what I think too."

Qin Mu nodded thoughtfully.

"Do you already have an idea?"

Helian Hao asked Qin Mu one more question, unable to restrain herself because of Qin Mu's low-profile behavior, always feeling that this time Qin Mu was truly angered, otherwise she wouldn't have forced her father to kick Qin Mingzhu out of the Qin Family.

"Sort of! Since they can't even tolerate a dead person, why should I be reserved?"

Qin Mu lifted her eyes, her sharp gaze meeting Helian Hao's.

"Exactly, how much have you suffered this past year? They didn't restrain themselves but became even more excessive, so they deserved this end."

Helian Hao muttered.

"Let me tell you another piece of news!"

"Oh?"

"I've rented the counter across from Zhang Rujia at a high price."

Qin Mu's eyes flickered as she spoke again, with a slight mischievous smile on her face.

"Oh? What location?"

"The same mall we went to last time."

Helian Hao...

Remembering how Qin Mu was nearly assaulted in that mall's restroom, she instantly understood why Qin Mu wanted to start there, yet was still startled by Qin Mu's move: You only make a move when it's impressive.

"Since they won't let me off whether I act or not, why shouldn't I do something?"

Qin Mu said!

Renting a counter in that mall for a year would cost two million, and Zhang Rujia probably had to spend another one to one hundred and eighty thousand on stock. It's said that their profits in the past two years have been fairly stable, but still...

"I support what you're doing, what's the name of the counter?"

Helian Hao asked curiously.

"JY!"

Qin Mu softly uttered the two letters.

Helian Hao...

"Didn't Jian Yan tell you to be independent? Are you still going to use his name?"

"Just for a few years for now, we'll talk about the rest later."

It was Jian Yan that gave her all this, she couldn't split up with Jian Yan the moment she returned to the city.

"Does Yichen know?"

Helian Hao asked her.

"I've talked to him about it."

Qin Mu hadn't been able to bring herself to tell Mu Yichen about the tombstone matter, but otherwise, there wasn't anything she kept from him.

"That's good! If Yichen found out you're doing things behind his back, he would probably be half dead with anger."

Helian Hao couldn't help but laugh, finding it amusing to think of the times Mu Yichen had gotten as angry as an immature boy because of Qin Mu.

After the meal, Qin Mu took a taxi directly to AM. She intended to rest in Mu Yichen's office while waiting for him, but upon entering the hotel, she bumped into Wen Runuan who was about to leave, so the two women went upstairs together.

Since they had already eaten lunch, they headed straight for the tea restaurant,

It was a very elegant tea restaurant, only apart from the two of them there were no other customers.

Mu Yichen, knowing they were going for tea, ordered the tea restaurant not to welcome any other guests temporarily, allowing the two of them to chat freely.

Although they frequently texted each other recently, it had been a long time since they met face to face. Wen Runuan couldn't help saying: You seem to have gained some weight recently.



Qin Mu involuntarily touched her own cheek: Really? Maybe it's because I've been eating too well lately.

Thinking of her recent life in the Mu Family, especially since the old man returned, Feng Fanghua hadn't had the time to criticize her, and the Mu Family's meals had also improved a lot, so...

She had gained weight!

"I heard that Qin Mingzhu went to our company to look for Jing Qing yesterday, it seems like she plans to leverage Jing Qing to break into the entertainment industry, do you know about this?"

After chatting for a while, Wen Runuan asked Qin Mu.

"I do know she's been to your company."

Qin Mu replied softly, as Mu Yichen recently had people keeping an eye on Qin Mingzhu, meaning Qin Mingzhu's every move was under surveillance.

"It seems Jing Qing agreed to give her a minor role. Knowing Jing Qing's character, would she let a girl younger than her play an important role? I don't understand why Qin Mingzhu trusts Jing Qing so much."

"But in the entertainment circle, the only person Qin Mingzhu is a bit close to is Jing Qing."

Qin Mu responded after hearing that.

"Their so-called closeness!"

Wen Runuan shook her head helplessly.

Qin Mu also chuckled lightly, warning herself: Their closeness may not be deep, but I still can't underestimate them.

"Your father chose you over Qin Mingzhu."

Wen Runuan guessed again.

"Not really, it's just that now he has no other choice but to do so."

"What do you mean?"

"Unless we make it so that she truly has no qualifications to return to the Qin Family."

Qin Mu's eyes flickered.

"Do you need help?"

Qin Mu couldn't help but smile: "No, thanks!"

With Qin Mingzhu's acting skills, heading into the entertainment industry might just be setting herself up for failure, so Qin Mu wasn't worried about Qin Mingzhu being successful. She was just concerned that Qin Mingzhu might collude with Jing Qing to target her again.

#### Chapter 405: Suddenly Miss You\_3

The open struggles are manageable, but the secret battles are genuinely impossible to guard against.

Later, after Mu Yichen finished socializing and came down from upstairs to look for them, Wen Runuan stood up to take her leave, "Thank you for the afternoon tea, Yichen. I'll be taking my leave now."

Mu Yichen smiled slightly as he watched her leave, then sat down next to Qin Mu, "How did the check-up go?"

Qin Mu thought he didn't care, but it turned out he did.

"All the tests that came back so far show no problems, there's one more that won't be ready until after three in the afternoon."

Qin Mu said, glancing at her watch, there was still an hour to go.

"Go upstairs to rest for a bit?"

He asked her in a low voice.

"Aren't we going home?"

"There are too many people at home, let's go!"

Mu Yichen said as he stood up, pulling her along with him.

Qin Mu followed him out of the teahouse, Mu Yichen carrying her bag in one hand and wrapping his other arm around her, looking rather content.

Once they entered the guest room, Mu Yichen closed the door and immediately hoisted her onto his shoulder, causing Qin Mu to quickly grab onto his suit in panic, "What are you doing?"

"Going to the room to sleep!"

"Put me down, I can walk by myself!"

"From now on, you no longer need to walk by yourself."

Mu Yichen deliberately pushed her up a bit, making the bumpy ride on his shoulder far from comfortable.

"What did you talk about with Wen Runuan?"

He asked casually.

"She said that President Zhang has already registered their marriage secretly."

"Oh?"

Mu Yichen looked at her with a raised eyebrow, seeming skeptical of her words.

"See, it's not just us with a hidden marriage, many couples are part of the hidden marriage group," Qin Mu said.

"Someone invited your husband to be a judge on a talent show, you understand?"

His dark pupils narrowed as he looked at the collar of her shirt and asked.

How could Qin Mu not understand? It was all about the unspoken rules!

"So, will you have a favorite girl?"

"I will!"

Qin Mu didn't know why, but the hairs on the back of her neck stood on end when she heard his words, and she looked at him with dissatisfaction in her eyes.

"So why are you angry, huh?"

"If you dare to be some damn judge, I'll dare to enter the entertainment industry."

Qin Mu jutted her chin up, stubbornly arguing with him, unable to tell whether she was pinched or just angry.

"Enter the entertainment industry? Is your skin itching again?"

"I'm not itching, but if you go and be a judge, then I'll act."

Qin Mu continued to be childishly stubborn with him.

"I'll only be a judge for you!"

He suddenly murmured to her.

"Am I qualified?"

Qin Mu asked, gazing down at him like a queen high above the world.

Mu Yichen chuckled softly, "Whether you're qualified or not, we'll see after your performance."

When her phone rang, Qin Mu picked it up to answer the call.

It was Helian Hao!

Qin Mu listened to the somewhat serious voice on the other end of the phone and couldn't help but frown.

After hanging up, Mu Yichen asked in a low voice, "What did Helian Hao say?"

"She said I took birth control pills!"

Even Qin Mu found it incredible as she spoke.

"You took birth control pills?"

Mu Yichen asked, frowning.

Just a moment ago, the two were intensely engaged, but now all actions suddenly stopped.

"I didn't! Ever since we planned to have children, I've only taken Chinese medicine. When did I take birth control pills?"

Qin Mu explained, truly confused. Apart from when she had just returned to the country, when he hadn't used protection, and she hadn't yet decided to have children with him, so she went to buy birth control pills, she hadn't taken any after they decided to have kids.

Mu Yichen's expression shifted slightly as he realized there might be more to the story, so he quickly wrapped up their passionate encounter and took a shower.

Qin Mu randomly picked out a black spaghetti-strap nightgown to put on, then sat on the bed, zoning out, which was actually her deep in thought.

Where did things go wrong?

It didn't seem like there were any birth control pills left at home, so it couldn't be a mix-up.

Her heart felt as if someone was banging a drum, with a great force, at that.

But Qin Mu didn't have the chance to appreciate his good looks; she only feared he wouldn't trust her.

"Mu Yichen, you have to trust me, I really didn't take any birth control pills!"

Qin Mu sat cross-legged on the bed, looking at his indifferent expression as he lit a cigarette, nervously explaining again, afraid he wouldn't trust her.

Chapter 406: Deep-rooted\_1

"After that, you only drank herbal medicine, right? Who knows that you've been drinking it?"

Mu Yichen took a drag from his cigarette, his piercing dark eyes casually inquiring.

"Xiaohao? No one else."

Qin Mu thought carefully, the people who knew she was taking herbal medicine weren't many, and they were friends or colleagues from the studio—who would harm her?

And then, there's the matter of contraception...

How could she naively think that she had to consume an entire pill for it to count as taking contraceptive?

It could easily be sprinkled into other foods, or even...

"We need to figure out at which point things went wrong and investigate step by step."

Mu Yichen took another drag from his cigarette and gestured to the woman sitting cross-legged opposite him to come closer.

"What's up?"

"Don't be so nervous, come here!"

Mu Yichen's wicked gaze fixed on her, and he chuckled mischievously before pulling her back into his embrace.

"Someone doesn't want us to have a child, but we will just have to have one to spite them."

He extinguished his cigarette in a white ashtray on the nightstand, then pinned her down again. Those who wanted them unhappy, he was determined to show them his happiness.

Qin Mu just quietly watched him, then raised her hand to cup his face: "Can we keep this between us and not tell my parents for now?"

Qin Mu discussed with him a bit apprehensively.

"They need to know about this! In fact, everyone in the family should know."

Qin Mu...

"Maybe it's in the food, or perhaps in the herbal medicine... I must go to that hospital today."

"The one dispensing the medicine?"

"Yes!"

Qin Mu did suspect that there was something amiss with the herbal medicine, so she didn't stop him.



Later, he dropped Qin Mu off at her home and went to the private hospital by himself since the doctor had been waiting for him all along after his phone call.

On the way back, Mu Yichen had already informed Feng Fanghua about the contraceptive drugs in Qin Mu's system, which led to an interrogation of all possible suspects around her after she got home. Feng Fanghua later sighed: "The servants in the house have been with us for so many years; naturally, it couldn't be any of them."

With everyone seated on the sofa, Feng Fanghua suddenly thought of two people, but the thought immediately turned her pale.

"Do you remember when the Jing Family patriarch and Jing Qing visited us once? At that time, you were drinking your herbal medicine, so I mentioned it in passing..."

Feng Fanghua couldn't continue, finding it increasingly unbelievable.

No matter how ruthless the Jing Family patriarch was, it was inconceivable for him to stoop so low as to do such a despicable thing to Qin Mu. The more Feng Fanghua thought about it, the more it seemed wrong, and she shook her head repeatedly: "It definitely wasn't the Jing Family patriarch."

Mu Zihao and his father were also incredulous before turning to Feng Fanghua: "You can't just say things like this without proof."

"Exactly, from what I know of Old Jing, his methods may be harsh at times, but he wouldn't be so underhanded," said the grandfather.

"Grandfather, there's an old saying 'knowing a person by their face, but not their heart'. Stop defending your old friend," Mu Qingxin interjected.

Because of Jiang Yan's elders, who were not good people, Mu Qingxin genuinely had no good feelings for some of the older generation, not to mention how well Jing Qing could pretend—Mu Qingxin had long felt something was off about that woman.

"Let's keep this matter to ourselves for now and wait for Yichen's findings."

Mu Zihao suggested.

Qin Mu naturally wouldn't speak rashly; she wouldn't wrongly accuse anyone. In fact, she didn't suspect the grandfather, but Jing Qing came to mind.

Given the things Jing Qing had done to her recently, perhaps Jing Qing really might have...

But what exactly had Jing Qing done?

Could it be the second batch of herbal medicine she collected?

"Mom, do we still have some of the herbal medicine I was taking last time?"

Qin Mu wondered aloud and looked keenly toward the woman sitting across from her.

"Herbal medicine? Wang Sister, Wang Sister?"

Feng Fanghua wasn't sure either, so she immediately called to the person preparing dinner in the kitchen.

"Coming, coming! Madam!"

Wang Sister hurried out, wiping her hands: "Madam, you were looking for me!"

"Do we have any leftover herbal medicine for the young mistress?"

"There might be some dregs left, but probably not enough to make a complete batch. Should I brew some for the young mistress?"

Recalling she had collected the dregs from several medicine pouches together a while ago, Wang Sister meant to dispose of them, but ended up forgetting after placing them in a cabinet.

"Brew what? Find all of it!"

Feng Fanghua listened, grew furious, and commanded after asking in irritation.

Seeing everyone's concern, Wang Sister nodded and quickly went to search for the medicine pouches.

#### Chapter 407: Deep-rooted\_2

Mu Qingxin watched her mother getting so angry and couldn't help but go over to comfort her, "Don't be so upset, this has nothing to do with you."

"How can it not be related? She was at home when she took the medicine."

Feng Fanghua said, her eyes suddenly misting over.

Actually, she was the person least willing to believe there was a problem with that herbal medicine, because she watched Qin Mu take her medicine every night and insisted she drink it all up.

"This matter has nothing to do with anyone in the family. Even if there was something wrong with the Chinese medicine, the medicine came from the pharmacy. The person who tampered with it and added contraceptives is the real culprit."

Qin Mu had no choice but to speak up, calmly analyzing the situation for her.

"I found the medicine."

The auntie came out with the medicine, the bag only containing some bits and pieces. Qin Mu looked at it and then handed it over to Feng Fanghua, "Mom, can you take this medicine to Director Yang and ask him to test it directly? If he orders it, the hospital should give us an answer as soon as possible."

Qin Mu, worried Feng Fanghua felt too upset, found her something to do.

Feng Fanghua immediately grabbed the medicine and stood up: I'm going to find Old Yang right now.

It was almost dinner time. Mu Zihao gave Qin Mu a covert thumbs-up, then pretended to remind her, "It's almost time for dinner!"

"I can't eat until this is resolved!"

Feng Fanghua said as she walked out, and Mu Zihao got up from the sofa, "Then I'll go with you."

Mu Qingxin couldn't help but sigh, "My dad sure knows how to pretend!"

"Hmph! When your dad was young, he was famously crazy about pampering his wife. Does your husband spoil you like that?"

The old master asked his granddaughter.

Suddenly reminded of Jiang Yan's matter, and seeing Mu Qingxin blush when asked that question, Qin Mu said, "Of course, he sent me a message this morning saying he would come to see me in the next two days."

Qin Mu bowed her head, trying to stay silent, thinking to herself that Miss Mu didn't know the message was actually sent by me, did she?

Later, when Mu Yichen returned home, Mu Qingxin recounted the family's situation to him, and he shook his head: It's not the Jing Family patriarch, nor Jing Qing.

"Then who is it?"

Mu Qingxin couldn't help but ask curiously.

"It's Zhang Rujia and Qin Mingzhu."

Qin Mu had just finished bathing Huanhuan and putting her to bed, when she came downstairs and heard that distinct remark in the living room.

Zhang Rujia and Qin Mingzhu?

Yes, remember how Qin Haiming used to visit our house often during that period?

And no one suspected him!

Qin Mu just stood there at the top of the stairs, frozen, until Mu Qingxin accidentally looked up and saw her, calling out, "Qin Mu, what are you daydreaming about?"

Qin Mu snapped back to reality and then walked downstairs.

It was almost ten o'clock, and Feng Fanghua and Mu Zihao hadn't returned yet.

Mu Yichen saw her somewhat dazed look and pulled her to sit next to him, "What are you thinking about?"

"It's Qin Haiming. He used to come to our house often. He must have been the one who informed them, mother and daughter."

Qin Mu was almost certain.

"The reason?"

Mu Yichen asked.

"Reason? Any reason will do!"

Qin Mu felt her heart was almost dead. How many more things did that man need to do to disappoint her?

She didn't want to acknowledge him, but she carried his blood in her veins.

She claimed she didn't yearn for it, wished she would never have to see him again, but...

They were ultimately father and daughter!

He was the only man who had ever given her a father's love. He was the happiest part of her childhood.

But...

Qin Mu didn't want to think any further. She had just sat down for a moment when she couldn't hold back her tears and started running upstairs.

"Bro, Qin Mu won't be in trouble, right?"

Mu Yichen didn't say a word, just sat on the sofa, his eyes downcast.

"Sigh! This father and daughter might really be cursed."

The old master shook his head and stood up to leave.

Mu Qingxin looked at Mu Yichen worriedly, "Should I go up and comfort her?"

"Don't interfere!"

Mu Yichen warned in a low voice.

Mu Qingxin...

After Mu Yichen finished speaking and thought about it, he got up and climbed the stairs. At that moment, probably no one but him could soothe her.

Watching her brother's retreating back as he went upstairs left Mu Qingxin in a somewhat melancholic mood. She had never tasted the feeling of being betrayed by her dearest father, but she had seen it. She had witnessed Jiang Yan struggling in a sea of pain, she had seen the fierce gaze in his eyes filled with hot tears after he drank heavily. He said he wanted that man to pay, and yet his eyes were full of unbearable pain.

If a man could feel like that, why should a young girl suffer so?

After returning to her room, Qin Mu wiped away the tears that had escaped her control for a moment, and then stubbornly refused to let another tear fall.

Chapter 408: Deep-rooted\_3

Qin Haiming trusted that mother and daughter too much. No matter the reason he had shared with them, she would not forgive him. He caused the death of her mother, and now he wanted to prevent her from having children. For her whole life, this grudge was firmly rooted and deep-seeded.

"I don't think this has anything to do with Qin Haiming, Mumu. Your dad wouldn't wish to harm you to the point you can't have children."

After Mu Yichen returned to the room and saw her standing at the window, hugging herself in solitude, he walked up behind her and gently grasped her shoulders to remind her.

"He's not my dad! No matter the reason, as long as it was him who told Zhang Rujia, I will not forgive him."

Qin Mu stubbornly spoke, her voice unintentionally trembling towards the end.

"Fine! Let's not think about it too much, okay?"

Qin Mu didn't care to think about him, but her hatred towards that mother and daughter grew increasingly intense, especially since they even refused to let her have children.

The next day, Qin Mu went to the Qin Family's house again, and she threw the photos that Mu Yichen's people had taken of the mother and daughter duo out together, tightly-knit, on his desk.

The study, which had been deathly silent, was stirred by the sound.

Qin Haiming frowned as he looked at the photos on the desk. He knew Zhang Rujia would quietly help Qin Mingzhu, but he didn't expect Qin Mu to have them tracked.

"Is this the relationship cutoff you promised me?"

Qin Mu looked at him with a questioning gaze.

"Mumu..."

"There's one more thing I want you to clarify for me, very clearly."

Qin Mu didn't wait for him to finish; she didn't want to listen to his bureaucratic talk.



"You say it."

Qin Haiming was eager to push the matter aside and couldn't wait to hear the next thing from Qin Mu.

"Did you tell Zhang Rujia and Qin Mingzhu about my taking Chinese medicine?"

When Qin Mu asked him, her eyes were devoid of warmth, filled only with loathing.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Just answer me!"

Qin Mu didn't want to waste words with him. She just wanted to hear his answer — a yes or no!

She discovered how pitiful her own heart was, still hoping there was that slight bit of privacy between her and this man.

She wished his love for her was genuine, harboring such an unrealistic thought.

"I said it!"

Qin Haiming admitted frankly.

Qin Mu gasped, her eyes filling with tears and sarcasm afterwards.

She laughed, but it was a laugh of ridicule.

Ridiculing her own naivety, ridiculing her own stupidity.

"Your beloved wife and your dearest treasure, they went to the hospital's herbal pharmacy to find someone to tamper with my Chinese medicine, mixing in birth control drugs that will prevent me from having more children."

Qin Mu couldn't help but tremble as she took out that set of documents from her bag. After throwing them onto the table, she looked at him in despair, "I truly wish I were not your biological daughter. Perhaps if my mother had loved another man, I wouldn't hate you so much right now, hate every drop of blood in my veins."

Having said that, she turned around and walked out; she didn't want to take another look at this man.

After she left, the study was once again plunged into complete silence.

Qin Haiming picked up the documents and opened them. Although the photo was blurry, it was indeed his wife and daughter, a woman wearing a white coat, and the blood test report for Qin Mu. Coincidentally, he recognized both the words and the names on it.

How could Qin Haiming have dared to imagine that his own wife would do such a cruel thing?

Since Qin Mu's return, Zhang Rujia had been acting a bit abnormal, and her actions somewhat unreliable. But lately, Zhang Rujia had improved a lot, seemingly returning to the understanding and good wife and mother of the past. But today...

His eyes struggled to focus on the words before him, and he didn't understand. Was the woman he had taken back against his conscience really such a cruel person?

He refused to believe it.

Meanwhile, Zhang Rujia was still checking the accounts in the store. The accounts from the past few days were in complete disarray; it truly was a deficit.

And then there was the counter of JY.

Zhang Rujia suddenly felt the initials JY seemed familiar. After thinking carefully, she immediately grabbed her bag and left the mall.

When she got home, sure enough, Qin Haiming was still there, still in the study as he had been when she left that morning.

"Husband, I know who owns the counter that has been competing with me. It's Qin Mu, your precious daughter," she burst into the room excitedly, closed the door behind her, and came to his side. But no matter what she said or how agitated she was, the man sitting at the desk did not respond with even a single word.

"Husband, did you hear what I said?" she asked again, then cast her eyes down to the table...

Qin Haiming's lips moved slightly as if he wanted to speak, but in the end, he said nothing.

Precious daughter?

Honestly, for the peace of this family, he had not hesitated to send Qin Mu to Paris.

How many years had it been since he last treasured Qin Mu? He was very clear about it in his heart.

"Husband, where did all these come from?"

Zhang Rujia picked up the photos on the desk, looking at one after the other: the pictures of her giving money to Qin Mingzhu, taking her to the outside mansion, and the two of them shopping. She suddenly stuttered.

"I can let bygones be bygones with all this!"

Qin Haiming's deep voice said a few words.

Zhang Rujia looked up at him excitedly, on the verge of laughter, but seeing his expression, she ultimately didn't dare to let it out. Instead, she circled to his side, knelt at his knees, and grasped his hands with force, "Husband, she is our only daughter after all. We can just put on a show for outsiders, let her suffer a bit outside and then let her come back, okay?"

Qin Haiming looked down at her seemingly reasonable demeanor and immediately withdrew his hand from her grasp, frowning at her, "Her come back? You might as well move out and live with her."

Qin Haiming's voice was tired and merciless.

Zhang Rujia suddenly opened her mouth but couldn't speak, just looking at him in astonishment, suddenly not understanding.

"Or perhaps you'd like to take a look at another set of documents!"

Qin Haiming asked in a low voice. Then he took out the documents he had just placed in the drawer again; he had thought to discuss them with her in the evening, but she had returned so quickly.

Chapter 409: Karma arrives\_1

The materials were thrown on the ground.

Qin Haiming stood by the window, his back to her.

Zhang Rujia looked down at the material bag on the ground, then picked it up and slowly opened it.

She couldn't think of anything else that Qin Haiming might have suddenly discovered, she dared not think about it, unwilling to even consider it.

She did not even want to open the heavy bag, although her fingers felt as if there were only a few sheets of paper inside.

Zhang Rujia could even hear the sound of her own breathing as she reluctantly opened the bag and was startled by the contents.

Had it not been for this material, she would have even forgotten about the incident.

She suddenly sat on the floor, her mind blank until she remembered the day she went with Qin Mingzhu to that private hospital to find the girl who dispensed herbs and bribed her with some money.

She suddenly remembered her own voice, telling the girl, "Just put the medicine in, no one will notice, not a soul, and you could make a large sum of money. Why wouldn't you do it?"

"Let's get a divorce!"

He said!

Zhang Rujia was so frightened by those words that she didn't dare to make a sound; she just turned her head to look at his back.

She couldn't even see his face now and had no idea what expression he wore; she shook her head vigorously, biting her lips that were painted with a men-slaying color.

"How could you, Qin Haiming's wife, be so ruthless? Yet minute by minute you play the role of a virtuous wife and loving mother in front of me, telling me you would treat Qin Mu as your own daughter,—let's divorce."

Qin Haiming gazed outside with an indifferent look; the only thing he could think of at that moment was his ex-wife, who used to speak to him in gentle tones. She had died because of a major accident caused by his drunkenness.

He had never dared to get drunk again in all these years, fearing another such incident.

That night from over twenty years ago, he had long since forgotten.

All he remembered was someone telling him that Mumu's mother had died!

After that, Zhang Rujia said that Qin Mu seemed to dislike her and feared Qin Mu would become introverted if she stayed at home, so she sent her to the open-minded West as he thought perhaps such a family environment was indeed not suitable for Qin Mu, and so he sent Qin Mu away.

On that day, the words Qin Mu blurted out in anger, she said she was nearly sold, she said she nearly died...

He had always known he had been an incompetent father these years, but he had never realized he was this foolish.

Foolish enough to let his stepwife hurt his most guilt-ridden daughter so badly.

He loved Qin Mu dearly, and she had always been the apple of his eye over the years.

But then...

Outsiders all said he doted on Qin Mingzhu the most, but in truth, besides Qin Mu, he had never cared for another child as much. That kind of genuine affection seemed only possible for the first child, or perhaps his heart had been resistant all along.

"Rujia, I have already forgotten that night from more than twenty years ago!"

He said softly, without any anger.

But his words made Zhang Rujia eyes turn red.

"I should not have been promiscuous that night after drinking, I certainly shouldn't have neglected Mumu's mother to go to work during that time, I shouldn't have started a family with you later, sending Mumu off to Paris for over a decade without a word. I am simply a failed man."

Qin Haiming thought of the harsh words Qin Mu had said to him; he had felt Qin Mu was selfish at that time, but now he realized the most selfish person was actually himself.

"Husband!"

Zhang Rujia called out to him, distressed, shaking her head incessantly.

Qin Haiming turned his head to look at her: Leave this home, go live well with Mingzhu, or find another man.

"I won't! Your status doesn't allow a divorce."

"I don't value everything as I did before!"

Qin Haiming said.

Zhang Rujia looked at him in disbelief; she knew better than anyone how much Qin Haiming valued his own reputation over the years, and yet today, he spoke these words. He really intended to discard her.

Zhang Rujia had anticipated this day might come, but she never thought it would come so soon. Her own daughter had just been disowned and thrown out not many days ago, and now it seemed she was about to be kicked out as well.

"I can move out, it can be good for you to calm down, I'll go pack my things right now."

"Rujia!"

Qin Haiming turned and called out to the woman who had gotten up from the ground and was running out.

"We're done!"

"I won't! Till death do us part, where is the love of days past? How can you be so heartless? Even if I bribed that girl to add contraceptive drugs to Qin Mu's herbal medicine, so what? It's not like she can't get pregnant again in the future. Besides, she made you distant and cold towards me, why should I let her live the comfortable life of a young madam in the Mu Family, why should I make it so easy for her to take you away from me? She doesn't deserve it, she doesn't!"

Chapter 410: Karma arrives\_2

"Get out!"

Upon hearing this, Qin Haiming couldn't help but tremble as he raised his hand to demand her to leave.

"Me, get out? Why should I get out? I've stood by you for so many years, caring for you without daring to slack in the slightest. I've always been diligent, keeping our home in perfect order. For you, I was content to stay low-key. For you, I spent my youth sneaking around in that dreary place. The one who should leave is your precious daughter, that wretched bastard borne of that whore!"

"Slap!"

"Ah!"

"Get out! I never want to see you again!"

After hitting her, Qin Haiming's hand trembled even more fiercely. Pointing to the door, he could no longer stand the sight of this woman who made his stomach turn.

Zhang Rujia was slapped so hard she stumbled backward, fortunately steadying herself with a writing desk. She covered half her face and turned her head, but she didn't leave the house. Instead, she locked herself in a room.

For over twenty years, she had never cried like this.



The pain she felt today only intensified her hatred for Qin Mu.

Meanwhile, Qin Haiming was sitting in his chair, incapable of calming down. He had not expected that Zhang Rujia would hate Qin Mu so much, that she would despise his now-deceased wife so thoroughly.

In life, that woman had been like a flower untouched by worldly strife, but after her death...

How could he let another woman shame her? The woman he had loved the most.

Yes, he had loved before. Back when he was young, he had a warm home, a wife who loved him, and a daughter who loved him.

That night, Zhang Rujia didn't leave, but Qin Haiming moved out of their residence.

Qin Mu remained calm when she heard the news, for she knew this was not the end result.

She wanted to see that mother and daughter destitute and helpless.

Even if Zhang Rujia hadn't arranged for someone to tamper with her herbal medicine, Qin Mu had already stopped caring about letting them off. The incident only hastened her actions.

When Jiang Yan was feeling a bit better, he visited the Mu Family again.

At that time, Mu Qingxin was holding Huanhuan's hand, applying nail polish. While painting, she asked, "Doesn't it look pretty? Should we try another color? Hm?"

Jiang Yan was brought to her house by Mu Yichen, but she hadn't been informed.

She thought he was in another city.

In the past few days, on the phone, he always said it was not convenient to meet. However, he had reassured her so well that Mu Qingxin didn't think too much of it until she sensed a familiar person approaching.

It was Huanhuan who first looked up, staring with big, round eyes at the tall man in front of her.

He smiled gently at her, his hand lightly touching Huanhuan's head.

Blinking slowly, her hand, decorated with nail polish by her aunt, slipped away as Huanhuan ran toward the door where her father was beckoning to her.

With no one else in the living room, Mu Yichen took his daughter to the yard.

Now alone in the living room, Mu Qingxin gradually looked up, her gaze finally settling on him.

He looked somewhat haggard, but he stood before her intact.

Mu Qingxin couldn't suppress the excitement in her heart. Knocking over the bottle of nail polish on the table, she stood up and hugged the man before her tightly.

"Ayan! I've missed you so much!"

Unable to hold back, Mu Qingxin tightly wrapped her arms around his neck.

"Me too!"

Jiang Yan hugged her shoulders as well, his chin resting on her forehead, kissing her hair lightly.

The elders who were about to come downstairs stopped in their tracks at the scene in the living room and quietly retreated.

Reluctantly, Jiang Yan let go of her, examining her tear-streaked face closely. He lifted his hand to gently wipe away her tears while teasing her, "You look like a tearful little cat."

"It's all because of you!"

Her tears wouldn't stop; she playfully tapped his chest, acting spoiled.

"Ah!"

Jiang Yan immediately clutched his chest and stumbled backward, turning pale.

"I forgot to tell you, he's just recovered from a gunshot wound."

The man who had been at the doorway suddenly spoke up and then left again.

Mu Qingxin, with her mouth hanging open, pulled her gaze back from the door and anxiously looked at Jiang Yan, "You said you were fine, didn't you?"

"Do I look fine now?"

He gently soothed his chest and then opened his arms wide, asking her.

"You scared me to death, you know! Don't ever leave me again."

Mu Qingxin started crying again and threw herself into his embrace.

Jiang Yan felt a cold sweat breaking on his forehead from the pain, but once she settled down, the pain in the wound gradually faded, replaced by a warming sensation.

"I thought I was going to lose you, Ayan. Never leave me again."