

His Beloved 421

Chapter 421: Is over_1

Mu Qingxin called Qin Mu in the afternoon to ask her to pick up Huanhuan at home...

After Qin Mu arrived, however, it was like this.

"We won't interfere in the two of you's business, but as a brother and sister-in-law, how can you say you don't approve of their matters? Mu Yichen always listens to you the most; you must set this straight for Qingxin."

Feng Fanghua sat on the sofa, hugging her granddaughter, and gave Qin Mu the order.

"He said he doesn't approve? But why do we need to care whether he approves?"

Qin Mu lowered her eyes and thought for a few seconds before speaking up softly to remind everyone.

The patriarch and Mu Zihao both looked at her curiously, and Feng Fanghua's eyes also lit up, but Jiang Yan and Mu Qingxin still hesitated.

"How can we not care about him? He's our eldest brother. If he doesn't attend, what meaning would our wedding have?"

Mu Qingxin said with a pitiful look.

"I guarantee he will come!"

Qin Mu responded after hearing Mu Qingxin's concern.

Mu Qingxin was somewhat excited upon hearing her promise, as in the eyes of the Mu family, Qin Mu was the only one who could persuade Mu Yichen.

"Then thank you, sister-in-law!"

Jiang Yan said very politely.

"For that title of 'sister-in-law', I will definitely get him sorted."

Qin Mu replied happily.

Feng Fanghua didn't speak, but her displeased expression revealed she wasn't too happy with Qin Mu's confidence.

It was the patriarch who smiled and pointed at her: "Still such a child at heart."

"Exactly, the child is already so big, yet always so willful, never thinking about the consequences of her actions."

Everyone had been quite happy, but the mood instantly turned cold with Feng Fanghua's words.

The patriarch saw Qin Mu feeling a bit awkward and immediately cleared his throat to prevent Feng Fanghua from continuing.

Feng Fanghua also immediately fell silent; seeing that the patriarch didn't want to hear it, she, as his daughter-in-law, wouldn't say more.

Later, Qin Mu left with Huanhuan in her arms and received a call from Mu Yichen on the road: "Did you pick up Huanhuan?"

"Mhm! We're almost home now!"

"Mhm!"

Then, after listening to his wife's report, Mu Yichen hung up the phone, and at that moment, he had just arrived home and was walking towards home carrying groceries from the supermarket.

Qin Mu sighed helplessly, turned to her little one in the car seat and said, "Your grandma accuses me of being willful, doesn't she realize that your dad is the most willful of all?"

Huanhuan looked ahead, her bright eyes a bit puzzled, clearly not quite understanding her mother's words.

"Doesn't even tell me where he is, just hangs up after asking! So rude!"

Qin Mu muttered again while flipping the turn signal.

It wasn't until she returned to the residential complex and saw his car parked there that she felt a bit better, then she carried Huanhuan inside.

"We're back!"

Qin Mu called out as she opened the front door with her fingerprint, holding Huanhuan.

Mu Yichen had already gone to the kitchen, so he didn't hear their voices and didn't respond.

"Daddy!"

Huanhuan ran to the kitchen first, where Mu Yichen, busy with preparations, had a somewhat stern expression that startled Huanhuan into quickly correcting herself: "Dad! We're back!"

"Mhm! Go play, I'll call you for dinner when it's ready."

He smiled faintly, easing Huanhuan's tension.

After Huanhuan darted off, Qin Mu, standing by the dining area, peered inside, saw him preparing dinner, and didn't go over to disturb him. She took off her coat, setting it aside, then sat down on the couch to join Huanhuan in having snacks and watching TV.

Mu Yichen, however, sighed out of boredom. It seemed that woman had returned but didn't even come to the kitchen to greet him; she was really getting used to having a free male nanny.

During dinner, after eating for a while, Qin Mu lifted her eyes and stared at him before asking, "Why don't you approve of Qingxin's wedding with Jiang Yan?"

Actually, Qin Mu asked very gently, with a soft voice and tone, but Mu Yichen looked up at her suddenly with a particularly hostile gaze upon hearing the question.

Qin Mu immediately lowered her head to serve food to her daughter, scared that he might see right through her: "Huanhuan, eat more vegetables!"

"Mommy should eat more too!"

Huanhuan immediately helped Qin Mu serve food as well.

"Thank you, baby!"

Qin Mu thanked Huanhuan happily, and at that moment, the mother-daughter bond made the only man at the table feel a bit troubled.

Mu Yichen just watched her for a while and, realizing she didn't dare to meet his gaze again, he lowered his head to eat his dinner.

Qin Mu, on the other hand, took the chance to observe him stealthily when he looked down.

She really didn't want to think that because they never had a wedding, Mu Yichen was being petty and not letting Mu Qingxin have her wedding.

Chapter 422: Is it over_2

After all, each matter has its own place, right?

After dinner, one of us would accompany our daughter to bathe, while the other cleaned up the kitchen and then dealt with emails on the phone.

It seemed that since living separately, the two of us each had our own things to do every evening, except for when we went to bed.

Later, while Qin Mu was drawing, Xiaomei sent her a message saying Yang Qianxi was back. After seeing Yang Qianxi, Qin Mu suddenly thought of Mu Yichen and sent Xiaomei one word: Hmm!

"Hmm? I don't have a place for her to stay tonight, surely I can't let her go to other colleagues' rooms?"

"You'll just have to make do with her for now, we'll deal with this tomorrow. Can you do me this favor?"

Qin Mu sent her a message back, saying that no matter what, they couldn't let the girl sleep on the streets now, and besides, Yang Qianxi hadn't made any substantial mistakes.

She was just admiring their CEO Mu, that's all!

"Fine, but you must sort this person out tomorrow; I can't let her sleep in my room anyway."

Xiaomei was still somewhat reluctant but agreed to help Qin Mu out.

That night, the two girls didn't sleep well together in one bed, and Yang Qianxi even asked about Mu Yichen.

Hahaha, Xiaomei now understood why Qin Mu didn't want Yang Qianxi around.

Afterward, when Qin Mu and Mu Yichen lay in bed after exercising, Qin Mu, out of boredom, asked him, "You're not really going to skip Mu Qingxin's wedding, are you? I promised Mu Qingxin I would bring you."

"Not going!"

Mu Yichen turned his back to her again.

Qin Mu turned her head, looked at his back, and raised her hand to tear at his arm, gripping his arm and pulling it towards her: Turn your head this way! Don't turn your back on me!

Actually, Mu Yichen was happy to turn around, but he pretended to be unwilling.

"There's nothing to talk about regarding this matter, and it has nothing to do with you. Don't worry about it unnecessarily!"

He said languidly, his cold gaze fixed on her.

Qin Mu...

It has nothing to do with her?

This...

Is awkward!

Qin Mu slowly turned around and went back to the window.

If he says it has nothing to do with her and tells her not to worry, what can she say?

Later, she would just tell Mu Qingxin that her brother asked her not to interfere and that it doesn't concern her.

Qin Mu thought this but couldn't help feeling a little sad inside.

This man... Had he ever really seen her as part of the Mu Family?

Perhaps it was she who had unilaterally integrated herself into that family.

Mu Yichen, seeing that she had calmed down, also decided to sleep. He was annoyed, too; his sister was getting married, and he, as her brother, was still kept hidden and unable to show face publicly.

Is he really that disgraceful?

In fact, he didn't know that in Qin Mu's heart, they had long been husband and wife, recognized as a couple by everyone.

Even though their status as a married couple wasn't public yet, with them having a child and cohabiting, who in Rongcheng didn't know they were a family?

The next morning Qin Mu got up early to go for a run, utterly frustrated, and then encountered a handsome neighbor who was also running. The handsome man slowed down when he saw her and greeted her with a smile: Hey!

Qin Mu lifted her eyes, wow, such an attractive young man.

"Hey!"

"We're from the same neighborhood. I often see you with your husband and daughter commuting."

"Is that so? What a coincidence!"

However, facing a handsome man, Qin Mu was still not one to get too familiar, only managing to ask awkwardly with a nervous smile.

"You don't talk much usually, do you? I always see you with your head down."

"Uh!"

Clearly, the handsome man loved to talk, clad in thin running gear, with his shirt clinging to his toned chest as he ran, making Qin Mu feel like his chest was even higher than hers.

Um...

After realizing her thoughts had wandered, Qin Mu's face immediately flushed, she turned her face away not to let him see her embarrassment, and it took considerable effort to regain her composure.

"Do you want to pick up the pace and run a couple of laps with me?"

Suddenly, the handsome man ran in front of her, running backward while asking her.

Qin Mu stared blankly, shook her head vigorously, so much that she made herself dizzy: "No thanks, you go ahead!"

She had to refuse, first because she couldn't keep up, second because she couldn't keep up, and third because she still couldn't keep up.

After the handsome man left, her jog turned into a walk because she was already sweating and couldn't run anymore.

He was in thin sportswear, and yet she was in a thick down jacket; nonetheless, she really was out for exercise.

She had intended to energize herself, but now...

Later, as she walked, playing with her phone, the handsome man would greet her each time he ran past. Qin Mu just looked up and gave a silly smile in return. After three or four laps, she decided to head back because she had only walked one and a half laps, but when she returned to the neighborhood, she saw the handsome man returning as well.

Chapter 423: Is it over_3

"Haven't asked for your esteemed surname yet?"

The handsome man suddenly came to her side, and walked shoulder to shoulder with her.

"No need for esteem, surname Qin!"

"Surname Qin?"

Qin Mu...

This really couldn't get any more embarrassing.

"Oh, sorry, I meant..."

"It's fine, I need to go home to take care of the kids, bye!"

Qin Mu suddenly couldn't carry on the conversation and started to run as soon as they were about to reach the building they lived in.

The handsome man, watching her leave, couldn't help but smile unconsciously; he knew he had made a big blunder, but just now he really...

Surname Qin?

Miss Qin!

This surname is not that common in Rongcheng, indeed the rarer ones are the better ones.

The sun had risen quite high by the time Qin Mu got home. She took off her down jacket, hung it up, then turned around and entered the living room: "I'm back!"

"Mommy, did you go on a date with uncle?"

Huanhuan was in the sofa playing with toys, and upon hearing Mommy's voice, she immediately turned her head and leaned on the back of the sofa to ask her sweaty-faced mother who was walking over.

Qin Mu...

"Don't talk nonsense, when did Mom go on a date with uncle?"

Qin Mu, hearing that remark, lightened her steps and hurried over, gently covering her daughter's mouth and crouching behind the sofa to give a stern warning.

Huanhuan made a scared expression, dramatically bulging her eyes.

Qin Mu, looking at Huanhuan's expression, suddenly thought of that handsome man and then asked in a low voice: "Huanhuan, how did you know Mummy met uncle?"

Huanhuan immediately turned her head to grab Daddy's phone, her little body blocked by the back of the sofa momentarily, then she quickly lay back down there.

She took Mu Yichen's black phone in her hand and swiped to unlock it.

Yes, little Huanhuan already knew how to use a smartphone and was quite good at it.

She had even opened Mu Yichen's WeChat, and the person sending messages to Mu Yichen there was named Jiang Zhiyuan, and those photos all came from Jiang Zhiyuan.

Qin Mu...

The matter of her husband getting his mouth bleed by a punch hadn't been settled yet, and now here was something else to disrupt their marital relationship. Angrily, Qin Mu immediately stood up with Mu Yichen's phone in hand and pressed for voice messaging.

The person on the other end seemed to still be outside, panting as he spoke into the receiver: "Hello? Why are you still making voice calls? Hasn't your wife returned yet?"

"Mr. Jiang, what have I done to offend you? I haven't even settled the score with you for hitting my husband, and now you're stirring up trouble with these photos to mess with our marriage? Are you jealous that Mu Yi and I are living too well now? Are you trying to tear us apart?"

Jiang Zhiyuan...

Qin Mu was about to continue speaking when she turned and saw the man standing to the side, then silently put down the phone, forgetting to speak to the person on the other line.

"Who are you talking to?"

Mu Yichen asked.

Qin Mu...

"No, nothing!"

Qin Mu, intimidated by his piercing black eyes, hastily denied everything, quietly turning off his phone and hiding it behind her.

"Give me the phone!"

President Mu walked forward slowly and methodically.

Qin Mu looked up with her watery eyes at the imposing Mu Yichen, "That, I was talking with Jiang Zhiyuan!"

"Talking about what?"

His tone was indifferent, his gaze as tranquil as ever.

Unwilling to play a game of hide-and-seek with him, Qin Mu decided to take out her phone from behind her back and forcefully place it in his palm, "You look for yourself!"

Qin Mu guessed that he probably hadn't seen the pictures yet. Originally, she had wanted to delete them unnoticed for the best, but now...

Forget it!

There was nothing to hide in the first place! Acting this way only made it seem like there was something shameful to conceal.

Mu Yichen glanced at her, then looked down at the phone, and saw that the call was still connected, with no sound coming from the other end, but he heard the sound of a car horn and guessed that Jiang Zhiyuan must be outside, thinking to himself, doesn't that kid have legs?

After hanging up the call, he saw the chat history with Jiang Zhiyuan, which contained a few photos of a young boy flirting with his wife.

"Someone you know?"

Mu Yichen asked with a frown, lifting his eyes to look at Qin Mu.

"No, I don't know him!"

"Then why go running together?"

Qin Mu's eyes widened in disbelief, unsure of how he could remain so composed. If he had been this calm about such matters before, they would never have had Huanhuan. Or was it that he was now tired of her?

Ha!

Really tired of her?

She once hoped that one day, when he had enough of her, they would go their separate ways...

Qin Mu was startled by her own thoughts and unconsciously opened her mouth to say something, but her legs went weak.

Mu Yichen immediately caught her with one hand, his eyebrows furrowed even more, "What's wrong?"

Qin Mu didn't speak, just staring blankly at him.

Considering what had happened recently, was he angry that she hadn't held a wedding ceremony with him, or did he feel that their relationship had become outdated?

Huanhuan was still kneeling in the sofa, resting her chin on the backs of her hands placed on the back of the sofa, watching her mom and dad look at each other in that ambiguous posture in silence.

It was as if the air in the spacious living room had solidified, as if even their breaths were gradually becoming scant.

— —

Qin Mu went to her studio that day somewhat distracted, yet both of her assistants were still waiting for her.

Xiaomei had thought that Qin Mu would resolve the matter today. Yang Qianxi was also waiting for something, but when Qin Mu arrived at the studio, she just lowered her head and went upstairs, passing between them without uttering a greeting, despite hearing them greet her. The two girls looked at each other, and then, together, they watched her retreating figure climb the stairs.

Once she entered her office, she closed the door forcefully, leaning against it with both hands, trying to let the coolness of the door calm her agitation.

Had their love faded?

He didn't even seem jealous when he saw another boy running with her.

Lately, he always preferred to sleep with his back turned to her.

Last night, he told her not to interfere with Mu Qingxin's affairs because it was none of her business.

And that day...

In short, lately, whatever she said seemed to displease him, always so cold and distant.

Qin Mu suddenly leaned against the door, feeling exhausted, her stiff back making her feel as if her blood was being slowly drawn out by a syringe.

If their relationship was ending, what would she do in the future?

Qin Mu straightened up and walked, somewhat numbly, towards her desk, her dark pupils already brimming with a layer of mist, her eyes tearful.

Chapter 424: gives you a son!_1

That morning, the weather was gloomy, and so was her heart!

But she had no time for sorrow, as she had already considered all the possibilities with him from the start.

She still called Yang Qianxi to her office. Upon hearing her, Yang Qianxi asked with a wry smile, "Just because I like President Mu?"

"Yes!"

Qin Mu originally wanted to argue, in fact she didn't want them to fight over a man in the future, but then she thought about it and realized she also didn't want any other woman to have a chance to touch him.

She could do without him, but when she wanted him, those women better stay as far away as possible.

So she just said that one word.

Yang Qianxi seemed to have guessed it already, "I understand!"

As Yang Qianxi turned and left without saying anything further, Qin Mu thought about the person she might seek support from, yet she let her go.

Xiaomei, under the pretense of bringing coffee, probed Qin Mu's thoughts and casually asked about Wen Runuan. Qin Mu, with her head bowed in thought for a long time, then lifted her sharp gaze to Xiaomei: "This year she's not going for the girl-next-door look!"

"Changing it? To what?"

"Intellectual and cool, mature and composed!"

Qin Mu said after some thought.

"Huh! But didn't you previously say that it was best for her to stick with the girl-next-door style for these years?"

"If I'm not wrong, Yang Qianxi will switch to Jing Qing. She is familiar with Wen Runuan's recent style and will definitely push Jing Qing in that direction, so..."

"So we're going to take the completely opposite direction?"

Xiaomei didn't wait for Qin Mu to finish before she understood her intention.

"Mhm!"

Qin Mu affirmed, yet she felt a hint of disappointment when she thought of Yang Qianxi.

At noon, she and Xiaomei ordered takeout. As the two ate on the first floor, Xiaomei suddenly laughed, "Doesn't this seem like the times we were in Paris?"

Qin Mu really loved ordering takeout!

Qin Mu laughed helplessly. Was it not so?

But this was now the simplest and quickest way. She herself didn't cook, and although she used to make an effort to cook for Huanhuan, ever since Mu Yichen came into her life, she had long stopped cooking. And now, she was increasingly reluctant to step into the kitchen.

If she lost him, she might have to return to her previous lifestyle.

She didn't want to go to the kitchen because she would see him cooking there, and she feared that someday she would hallucinate his figure in the kitchen.

How painful would that be!

Noticing Qin Mu's mood today, Xiaomei asked, "Are you pregnant?"

Pregnant?

Qin Mu looked up at her, puzzled.

"Your complexion is awfully pale, just like when you were pregnant with Huanhuan."

Xiaomei mentioned the past.

Only then did Qin Mu look down again: "I probably won't be pregnant for a while!"

She spoke with a calm tone, yet it seemed tinged with disappointment.

"Why? Aren't you and Mr. Yichen planning for another baby?"

It was a long story. Qin Mu thought of the contraceptive components in her body and didn't even know where to begin. Some things she really didn't want to talk about.

"This afternoon, you should go to the factory again!"

Qin Mu said, sipping her coffee.

Xiaomei's eyes spun, completely missing Qin Mu's rhythm.

Mu Qingxin came to the studio with Jiang Yan in tow. By that time, the coffee table was already spotless. Xiaomei served them with tea and water and then left. Mu Qingxin looked around the studio and at her, before asking, "How did it go with my brother? Did he promise you that he will definitely attend my wedding?"

Qin Mu laughed softly, her long lashes fluttering, but she never lifted her eyes.

"Even if I don't say anything, he wouldn't miss your wedding!"

Qin Mu whispered to her.

"Really?"

Mu Qingxin couldn't believe it and laughed, excited.

"You're his only sister. Even though you haven't been home these years, he has always been sending people to protect you. Do you think he would miss your wedding?"

Only then did Qin Mu raise her eyes slightly.

Jiang Yan sat quietly beside her but, upon hearing this, felt reassured.

After all, Mu Yichen did care deeply for Mu Qingxin, more than others knew. He certainly knew that Mu Yichen would definitely attend their wedding.

"You're right, but you still have to keep an eye on him for me. If he doesn't show up, I'll hold you accountable!"

Mu Qingxin thought about it and felt what Qin Mu said made sense, but still felt very anxious, so she could only put pressure on Qin Mu.

Qin Mu merely laughed lightly. What could she say?

If she was still part of the Mu Family by then, no, even if she wasn't, she would still do her best to help.

Chapter 425: gives you a son!_2

"Hmm!"

She could only agree.

"I'm relieved to hear you say that. Mom, Dad, and Grandpa could never handle brother; he never listens to his elders, he only listens to you."

Mu Qingxin seemed to be saying this deliberately to cheer her up.

"Really?"

Qin Mu asked softly, merely making conversation.

"Of course, why else would he have followed you to Paris when he was young? And after he came back to the country, didn't he visit you every now and then? He spent important holidays with you."

Qin Mu just listened quietly, believing in her heart that she indeed held a special place for Mu Yichen, at least for now.

But what about the future?

How many childhood sweethearts break up suddenly after finally getting together?

They are certainly not the first couple, nor will they be the last.

Jiang Yan, however, noticed that Qin Mu seemed to have argued with Mu Yichen. Although she didn't say anything, she also didn't let Mu Qingxin bother her too much.

They had already picked a date for the cesarean section. Once Mu Qingxin had given birth and the baby was a month old, they would immediately hold the wedding.

After seeing them off, Qin Mu returned to her office and spent the entire afternoon immersed in drawing.

After work, intending to go home early so as not to make Mr. Mu unhappy again, she was instead delayed by a phone call and ended up at the restaurant she had visited with Qin Haiming.

"Are you upset? Because of the herbal medicine incident?"

Qin Haiming hadn't been having a good time these past few days, so he wanted to have dinner with Qin Mu. Upon seeing her absent-minded and lowering her head, he asked with concern.

"Back then, you loved my mother very much, didn't you?"

She suddenly looked at him and asked.

"Yes! She was the only woman I ever loved! Mumu, believe it or not, I have never loved anyone else."

"Why would you hurt the woman you loved the most?"

"It was an accident!"

It seems that every man attributes such a mistake to an accident.

After listening, Qin Mu laughed, then downed all the wine in her glass.

The red wine here was actually bitter!

When she got home, Mu Yichen had already put Huanhuan to sleep. She quietly took off her high heels at the door and tiptoed inside.

The living room on the first floor was dark, but she knew her way around, except...

The floor lamp by the window suddenly turned on.

Crouching, she walked forward, following the light. When she turned her head towards the light, she saw a man dressed in a black shirt sitting on the couch. She straightened up slowly, feeling a sharp pain in her back, and then smiled lightly: "You're still awake?"

"The mayor of Qin City arrived home at 9:10. May I ask where Miss Qin went to have an additional two hours of fun?"

She had actually come home early, but had simply been blowing cold wind in the parking lot.

"The car broke down on the road. Fixing it took some time. Were you waiting for me?"

As she walked over, the warmth in her socks had faded. Sitting on the sofa next to him, feeling his cold gaze lift to her, made her suddenly tense up.

"Is there a misunderstanding between us?"

Mu Yichen asked, his shrewd gaze fixed directly on her.

"Not at all! Aren't we in perfect harmony every day?"

Mu Yichen...

Her tone sounded completely unguarded, and after speaking, she offered him a beautiful smile.

"Hmm! Not tonight though!"

He stated.

Qin Mu's heart felt like a string suddenly snapping from the instrument, the 'twang' of its breaking seemed like her heart was ripped open.

His dark eyes stared straight at her: "Come here!"

Qin Mu didn't understand why she still went to sit on his lap when she actually wanted to run away.

But it was as if a string in her heart had loosened, and with a gentle pull from him, she was hooked.

"You're very obedient tonight!"

He held her, suddenly laughing.

The breath he left on her neck was so fresh, Qin Mu held her breath, bowing her head, feeling his hands on her skin as usual, but with a sense of danger this time.

Suddenly, Mu Yichen laid her down on the sofa, yet his eyes still stayed locked on her.

Qin Mu also looked at him and smiled: "Why look at me like that? If you're going to eat me, why not hurry up?"

Her voice was soft and naughty; he wanted her right then, but he just kept his gaze on her.

"Did you call Liu Jingyuan?"

He asked while caressing her leg.

"No!"

Qin Mu, hooking his neck, looked at his seductive deep eyes and answered composedly.

"Good! So what exactly did you do after dinner with the mayor of Qin City tonight?"

"I was downstairs, looking at the stars!"

Qin Mu answered him with a smile still on her face.

Mu Yichen suddenly laughed at her response of looking at the stars.

Chapter 426: gives you a son!_3

"The stars are that beautiful? Watching them from childhood until now, and still not enough?"

He asked her with a smile, but the devilishly charming expression in those pitch-black eyes was impossible to ignore.

Qin Mu was scared inside, but her smile looked even more beautiful on the surface.

"Yeah! Just can't get enough!"

"Oh?"

He made a sound of agreement, then suddenly pinched her warm, slender waist with force.

Qin Mu almost cried out but quietly bit down on her lip instead.

"Mayor Qin might be getting a divorce from Zhang Rujia, what are your plans next?"

"To watch them fall."

"And then?"

"If you want, I can bear you a son!"

She looked into his eyes, her hand that was hooking around his neck quietly moved to caress his well-defined contours.

"Truly after my own heart!"

He suddenly laughed again and then lifted her up from the sofa.

Qin Mu had no choice but to hold onto him tightly, wrapping her legs around his strong waist as he carried her upstairs.

For the first time, she felt that the walk up to the bedroom was as if heading toward hell.

Qin Mu felt he could see through her heart, yet, she could never seem to fathom him.

What was he really thinking?

Did he still truly love her as he did before, or was it just unwillingness to let her go after these years of pursuit?

However, the matter of bearing a son seemed to be perfectly proceeding!

Later, Qin Mu didn't know how she endured his possession without a trace of tenderness, only that when she woke up the next day, she was lying in his warm chest.

As if there were no cracks between them!

He held her gently, just like always.

Qin Mu raised her eyes to see his sleeping face—he looked like a gentle prince. Ever since she was little, in her heart, he was always a prince, although a dark-hearted one.

He's quite dark-hearted now too, often very bad!

She just watched him quietly, gazing up admiringly.

The room was silent, save for their breathing and heartbeats. Qin Mu heard a strong heartbeat, it was his.

She couldn't help but press herself against him, knowing her lack of security.

Just like now, lying on his chest, yet feeling like she had been thrown into hell and tormented a thousand times over.

His gaze, his breath, both could torment her.

In the morning, he had to go out of town for a meeting and didn't bring Huanhuan along, Qin Mu thought she would finally be able to take Huanhuan to the studio, only to discover, upon going downstairs, that the Mu Family's car was already waiting there.

"You certainly won't have time to take Huanhuan to her early education class today, right? Give Huanhuan to me!"

Feng Fanghua, carrying her bag, walked out and smiled very kindly, of course, at her granddaughter.

"School begins this early?"

Qin Mu asked subconsciously, feeling a cool breeze pour into her heart the moment the child was taken away.

"It started on the eighth!"

After Feng Fanghua finished speaking she said to Huanhuan, "Baby, say goodbye to mommy, grandma is taking you to play with other children!"

"Mommy goodbye!"

Huanhuan actually just wanted to go play with the toys in the early education class, so she waved to Qin Mu happily.

At that moment, oh, Qin Mu truly understood what it felt like to have your heart carved out.

"Bye-bye!"

Qin Mu smiled and said goodbye, then turned and got into her own car.

Before she set off, she received a call from a police officer, asking her to go to the police station.

As a result, she was detained!

"Your counter's salesperson says you instigated this theft, do you have anything to say?"

It was a male police officer who looked at her with a cold face, and when he sat down to speak, there wasn't a hint of emotion.

"I want to speak to Mayor Qin of Qin City!"

Qin Mu knew how these people treated the detained, and at this moment she didn't want to bring up Mu Yichen, only to find someone related to this case.

"Sorry, Mayor Qin probably doesn't have the time to speak to you!"

The officer said coldly.

Qin Mu didn't speak, just quietly looked at him. Had this officer been bought by Zhang Rujia?

"What about Mu Yichen?"

"Mu Yichen? The president of AM, Mu? Who are you to him?"

"Would a wife suffice?"

Qin Mu asked indifferently, lowering her eyes to the cold object on her wrist, and unconsciously furrowed her brow.

"Ha, seventy percent of the girls in Rongcheng claim to be President Mu's wife. Take this seriously. If you don't confess the truth, don't blame me—"

"How much did she pay you?"

Qin Mu didn't answer, but asked in return.

"Do you know you're obstructing a police officer from carrying out official duties?"

——

Mu Yichen had been trying to call her all day but couldn't get through, so he called Mu Qingxin, and Mu Qingxin said only Huanhuan was there, Qin Mu wasn't.

Mu Yichen had no choice but to call her studio, and Xiaomei nervously told him, "I haven't seen her all day, she said we were supposed to go to the garment factory for a meeting today, but I can't get through to her phone either."

Mu Yichen glanced at his watch, it was already past eight, and it would take him at least another two hours to get back to the city.

Helian Hao was at home arguing with Jing Feng when he received a call from Mu Yichen; he was also startled and then looked at Jing Feng puzzled, "Why would Mu Yichen call me?"

The two who had been quarreling had to pause, and Helian Hao answered the phone with confusion, "Hello?"

"Did Qin Mu come to see you today?"

"No, what's up?"

"I can't find her now!"

Mu Yichen's heart was in turmoil when he uttered those words, feeling utterly powerless.

He suddenly had a very bad premonition; he didn't know if she was still in this city or if something had happened.

Helian Hao was suddenly stunned too, because deep down he also felt something was off, "Did you two have a fight, so she's not answering your calls?"

"She wouldn't!"

Even if they had fought, she would not ignore his calls, especially these past few days.

"Then I'm hanging up!"

Mu Yichen suddenly thought of Qin Haiming and immediately called him. Qin Haiming was entertaining guests but raised an eyebrow when he saw it was Mu Yichen's number and excused himself from the table.

"Did Qin Mu contact you today?"

"We haven't been in touch since dinner last night, what's up?"

He just floored the accelerator, driving as fast as he could; she knew only a handful of people in Rongcheng, and he had called every one of them, those he should and shouldn't have.

When he got home and hurriedly opened the door, the only sounds were the loud bang of the door hitting the wall and the feel of the warm air blowing on his face from the pitch-dark house, so warm it was almost unbearable for his eyes.

Chapter 427: Making use of_1

Qin Mu was picked up from inside and by the time they got outside, it was nearly midnight. She was draped in Mu Yichen's black jacket, gazing at the stars above, and couldn't help but laugh softly.

Mu Yichen hugged her shoulders, "Can you still walk?"

"The stars are so beautiful!"

Following her gaze into the night sky, Mu Yichen suddenly remembered how just last night he was complaining about her watching the stars outside.

Yes, the stars are so beautiful!

He didn't ask her anything else, just lifted her off the ground and into his arms.

She curled up in his embrace, quietly pressing against his chest.

"Yichen!"

Yang Bo ran out from inside.

Mu Yichen turned his head, "I'll settle this with you later."

Yang Bo, looking at the startled woman in his arms, understood the message and stopped, standing on the steps watching the two of them leave.

The murderous intent flickering in Mu Yichen's dark eyes was clear to Yang Bo. He knew he had to explain himself to Mu Yichen, about the staff member who had detained Qin Mu without authorization...

With that in mind, Yang Bo immediately turned around and went back inside.

After arriving home, Qin Mu was placed on the bed, but her eyes couldn't help following him intently.

"I'll go and run a bath for you, how about you soak for a while first?"

He whispered softly.

Qin Mu didn't speak, just watched him quietly.

Mu Yichen felt a sudden pang of heartache and moved to the head of the bed, pulling her into his embrace.

"I'm here!"

Qin Mu thought back to the year when, as a child, she was bullied at the edge of the school, and it was he who had found and rescued her, promising "I'm here!"

Unconsciously, Qin Mu snuggled tightly into his embrace but stubbornly refused to say anything.

She wasn't even sure if he still loved her.

"Forget the bath, shall we rest instead?"

"I want to take a bath!"

Her face, already tear-stained at the mere thought of that year's incident, unconsciously sniffled as she spoke.

She was still so stubborn, and Mu Yichen, seeing her as obstinate as a mule, resigned himself to running her bath.

In the past, she would never let him watch her bathe, but this time, she grabbed hold of him as he was about to leave the bathtub.

"Mu Yi, don't go!"

What happened in the bathtub after that...

Indescribable!

After a tumultuous scene in the bathroom, Mu Yichen carried her out and placed her on the bed, found some ointment, and carefully applied it to the bruises on her arms, all acquired in just one day's time.

Her face bore no marks of injury, but her body was covered with bruises.

She even joked, asking if it looked like he had pinched her.

How could he bear to?

When he applied the ointment, she didn't make a sound, just lay on the bed, her eyes serene and unfocused, gazing into the space beneath her eyelids.

The room felt so empty in its silence, only the warmth in his palm was real and hot.

He didn't ask anything, because he already knew that when he saw the injuries on her body, he wanted to know more, but she wouldn't let him.

Later, after she fell asleep, he then went out to call Yang Bo.

But when he woke up the next day, she had disappeared.

Upon opening his eyes, Mu Yichen reached for her body, but found nothing.

As he fully awoke and panic set in, he saw the other side of the bed was empty, and he instinctively threw off the covers and jumped out of bed.

She wasn't in the bathroom; he got dressed in the bedroom, put on a shirt, and then headed downstairs.

Qin Mu had gone to the Qin Family's house. Qin Haiming had also just woken up not long ago, and upon hearing she was outside, he went out; sure enough, there she stood, wearing a down jacket but with her face already frozen red.

"Mumu, what's wrong?"

"I need to borrow two people from you!"

Qin Mu, hands tucked into the pockets of her down jacket, raised the reason for her visit.

"Come inside and we'll talk!"

"No! This has to be discussed here."

Qin Mu softly refused, just waiting for Qin Haiming to agree to her request.

Qin Haiming, who had donned a coat, initially wanted to bring Qin Mu inside to talk, but seeing the determination in her eyes, he resigned to standing outside with her.

After hearing Qin Mu's intentions, he nodded.

Additionally, she said, "I visited the police station yesterday to experience their interrogation method. I think it's necessary to report a few individuals to the mayor."

Qin Haiming looked at Qin Mu in surprise; she seemed calm and unharmed.

However, when she made that statement, it made him feel as if she had been bullied there, as if she had sustained severe injuries.

"What exactly happened? Why did you go there?"

"You'll have to ask your wife about the specifics. Besides, the people I want to report, I hope they get their retribution today."

"Tell me!"

After Qin Mu left, Qin Haiming still stood there, thinking for a long time. Eventually, he reached into his pocket, took out his phone, and dialed a number: "Check these people for me, and give me a response after work starts."

Chapter 428: Making use of_2

Qin Haiming hung up the phone and returned to the house.

He had mentioned divorce to Zhang Rujia, but she had not agreed, and had been cajoling him for the past few days, so they still shared a room, sleeping on the same bed.

As he stood in the yard looking up at the building, he frowned involuntarily when he noticed that woman peering out of the window, then he said to the driver, "I'll go to work by myself today, you stay at home and watch over the lady, keep an eye on her every move."

"Yes!"

The driver was his trusted confidant, and he felt assured by him.

When he returned to the room, Zhang Rujia had already gotten up and, seeing him come back, she said softly, "Is it cold outside?"

"Not bad! Why are you up so early?"

Qin Haiming asked, casting a low glance at her.

"How could I stay in bed when you're already up? I'll go to the kitchen and personally make some porridge for you to drink."

"No need! Sit down, I have something to tell you."

Qin Haiming said as he sat down at the edge of the bed. Zhang Rujia initially intended to leave but, hearing his words, she had no choice but to return and sit quietly on the sofa, waiting for his instructions.

"Don't go out these days if it's unnecessary. There might be some important guests coming over who you'll need to help me entertain," he said.

"Are they very important guests?"

Zhang Rujia was naturally unwilling, yet she had to feign concern as she asked.

"Yes! It's important that you're here when this guest arrives. After all, he thinks highly of you, understand?"

"Of course!"

Zhang Rujia understood that when some figures visited from outside, they also brought their families along, and the house needed her as the hostess to entertain them.

She quite enjoyed that feeling of being his wife.

"But I still need to go to the mall this morning. There's a bit of an issue at the counter that I need to handle personally, then I'll come right back. What do you think?"

"It's better not to!"

Qin Haiming said, looking at her.

Qin Mu left the Qin Family and drove straight to the mall, entering through the employee entrance at the back and heading directly for the manager's office. The manager had spent the night with a female staffer in the office, and as he was tucking in his shirt after hearing a knock at the door, he froze when he saw Qin Mu.

Qin Mu didn't speak; instead, it was two men who suddenly stood out from behind him, lifting the work badges they had prepared earlier.

The manager was petrified on the spot, his shirt not even properly tucked into his trousers.

The young service worker sat on the sofa, her head bowed, using her disheveled hair to cover her face, unmoving.

Qin Mu took a photo with his phone indifferently, then turned and left.

As for the manager, he was naturally taken away.

The JY store manager had just hurried back from out of town. After hearing about yesterday's incident, she was also very nervous. Qin Mu stood in front of the counter, looking at the list on top while listening to the store manager say, "I've been trying to call Zhang Xiaojie, but she isn't answering. Could she have left?"

"She's upstairs!"

Qin Mu said nonchalantly, glancing at his phone.

Store Manager...

"Starting today, you'll personally manage this counter. If anyone else causes trouble, bring out the Qin City mayor's estranged woman."

"You..."

The store manager was a woman with short hair, good in many ways and very smart. Understanding Qin Mu's hint, she dared not ask any further.

"Should we still open the shop on Central Street?"

"Of course, it's going to become our most classic and luxurious store in Rongcheng."

Qin Mu's eyes inadvertently drifted to the store opposite as he spoke.

"Keep a close eye on that shop for the next few days and call me immediately if anything happens," Qin Mu instructed before leaving.

After she left, the store manager quickly began to clean up. Though she was the manager, under the current special circumstances, she had to put in the hard work as well.

Having received a call from Mu Yichen in the morning and not contacting him again after being busy, she parked her car under his office building and went up to find him.

But as fate would have it, she ran into Jing Qing who was also coming over just as she got out of the car.

"Are you that afraid of him being taken by someone else?"

"Yes!"

Qin Mu replied with a cold laugh, then marched ahead of her.

Jing Qing stood there, watching her walk away before starting to move towards the inside.

Now, Qin Mu was actually at ease!

After all, what was meant to be lost would be lost when the time came, and what was meant to be hers would be hers.

But the woman behind her was nearly being tortured to the breaking point!

—

In the CEO's office, Mu Yichen sat in the chair behind the desk, looking at the somewhat defiant and wild woman standing across the desk.

Jing Qing sat on the sofa, about to drink the tea served by the secretary.

"Why does our company's advertisement need you as a spokesperson? Wasn't my endorsement higher than yours last year?"

Chapter 429: Making use of_3

Jing Qing hadn't even taken a sip of her tea before she was left staring angrily upon hearing those words.

"I want to endorse all of your advertisements!"

Qin Mu turned his head to look at Mu Yichen and stubbornly said to him.

Mu Yichen's deep black eyes gazed at her, only faintly uttering, "Are you sure?"

"Absolutely!"

Qin Mu answered with certainty.

"Including gynecological medicine and kidney medicine?"

Mu Yichen looked at her to confirm.

Qin Mu...

Jing Qing was already displeased, and only felt somewhat happier after seeing Qin Mu at a disadvantage, before she lowered her head to drink her tea.

"Then let Miss Jing handle the endorsement of the gynecological products, I'm too young, I don't understand what gynecology is."

Qin Mu raised her eyes as if she didn't see Jing Qing at all, domineering like a stubborn child.

Mu Yichen sighed helplessly, then turned his head towards Jing Qing, "Are you willing?"

"I only endorse the pharmaceutical company's name."

Jing Qing almost spat out her tea because of Qin Mu's words, eventually swallowing it down and scalding her throat in the process, she promptly replied after hearing Mu Yichen's inquiry, actually reminding him.

Because it was indeed her who had endorsed the pharmaceutical company's name a few years ago.

"I'm afraid that's not possible this year!"

Qin Mu stood there looking down at her and said a word before turning to look at Mu Yichen, seemingly waiting for him to make the final decision.

"From now on, all the brands under my flag will be endorsed by Mrs. Mu, Jing Qing, you may go back now!"

Mu Yichen looked at her tricky appearance, knowing full well she was doing it on purpose, but he could only let her be.

But Jing Qing stood up irritably, putting the tea cup down, "Yichen, do you not have a stance of your own now?"

"My stance is her!"

Mu Yichen glanced at Qin Mu, helplessly replied as if with cold, unfeeling finality.

Jing Qing laughed helplessly, "It seems I can't make it in Rongcheng anymore, unless this woman leaves."

Mu Yichen didn't seem to react, but Qin Mu's sensitive eyes flickered upon hearing the word "leave."

Jing Qing left, and only the two of them remained in the office.

Mu Yichen still sat there, with a commanding presence surveying the woman before him.

But Qin Mu cast down her gaze after Jing Qing had left.

"Sorry, I didn't do it on purpose!"

"Not on purpose?"

Mu Yichen leaned back in his seat, looking at her listless appearance, and asked her.

Qin Mu glanced at him subconsciously, and upon seeing the questioning in his dark eyes, she unintentionally murmured, "It was intentional! I did it on purpose!"

"Where did you go this morning?"

He didn't want to argue with her about these things, whatever she wanted, he would give her everything!

"The Qin Family!"

"It seems you're very clear about what's in your heart!"

Mu Yichen remarked.

"After what happened yesterday, I suddenly realized that to 'kill one to warn a hundred', you must act quickly!"

Qin Mu pulled out a chair to sit down, her hand gently resting on the table, wiping away the faint dust.

"So..."

"This morning, I asked Qin Haiming for some men, and we took the shopping mall's manager away first!"

"What else?"

His dark eyes watched her, and even though she did not meet his gaze, he could still peer into her heart.

"Qin Haiming has imprisoned Zhang Rujia!"

The office fell momentarily silent, until Qin Mu's phone rang.

It was Qin Haiming, and after she finished the call, she looked up at Mu Yichen, "You were faster than me!"

"Otherwise, how could I let you rise and fall with me?"

Mu Yichen asked, looking at her.

Qin Mu also stared straight back at him, the two of them separated by a desk, trying to conquer each other with their eyes first.

Later, Qin Mu walked out of his office with pride. She wouldn't thank him, because saying thanks too much renders it meaningless!

Since they were still together, she would accept anything he was willing to do for her, as long as it was good for her.

"Since you're so free, why not help me investigate the past events?"

"Which one?"

Mu Yichen asked her!

"Qin Haiming told me that back then, he only made a mistake any man would make. He said he was drunk and not thinking straight when he slept with Zhang Rujia!"

"Understood!"

Mu Yichen nodded.

Qin Mu stood up from the chair: Then I'll be leaving, you will pick up Huanhuan this afternoon, right?

Mu Yichen just stared at her, suddenly finding it difficult to adjust when she was so unceremonious with him, and laughed involuntarily: You're leaving just like that?

"What else should I do? I've said all there is to say, — do you want to invite me to your resting room for a break?"

Qin Mu's eyes flickered, suddenly realizing.

She had already been angered to stupidity today until this moment, looking into his dark eyes, she finally understood that his mood wasn't very good right now.

"That's exactly what I had in mind! Does it not hurt anymore?"

But he still asked with some hesitation.

"The body and skin are the gifts of my parents; if they don't hurt, what do I have to hurt about?"

Qin Mu's bright eyes looked at him, then while taking off her coat, she began to move backward, signaling with her eyes for him to follow.

Mu Yichen didn't speak again. Her current cold and ruthless demeanor was because of what happened yesterday. He had seen the surveillance footage, so he had people deal with those who hurt her last night.

Only...

She was still hurt in the end!

She had come to realize the cruelty of society, she had recognized that those who seemed righteous were indeed heartless beasts.

This was a good thing, but he was worried about the direction she was heading in.

In bed, she was on top of him, looking down at him, her soft fingers lightly pulling his tie undone.

All of a sudden, Mu Yichen sat up, grabbed her waist, and with an evil grin in his dark eyes, he flipped her onto the bed.

"Don't do this!"

He lay on her back, biting her gently, then soothing tenderly, whispering kisses and pleadings.

"I want to take more while you still want me!"

She lay on the bed, her hands pinned behind her by him, yet she did not show weakness, she lifted her head towards his side and smiled as she spoke to him.

"I'll give you as much as you want! But not like this!"

"Then tame me!"

— —

Afterward, Qin Mu came out from within, her clothes neat, but with several bite marks on her neck. She turned her back to the door, gently closing it for Director Mu, then nodded at Secretary Xi before leaving.

Secretary Xi watched her, not daring to take a deep breath, wondering if their boss was still all right, but not daring to disturb him.

Chapter 430: Hidden in the Golden House_1

Later, Yang Bo, clad in his police uniform, went to find Mu Yichen. Walking from their office building to the rooftop, he was greeted with countless sparks of interest.

Mu Yichen, while tucking the hem of his shirt into his trousers, walked out of the break room with utmost seriousness.

Yang Bo stood lazily behind his desk, looking at the photo of Mu Yichen with Qin Mu, and as he glanced up...

Haha!

The man who claimed to love only Qin Mu couldn't be...

"You're keeping a mistress in a golden house?"

"It's someone else keeping a—man!"

Mu Yichen was about to say 'mistress,' but he hesitated and then switched direction.

Yang Bo put down whatever he was holding, looking incredulously at him, who's hiding him?

"Didn't you run into Qin Mu just as he was leaving?"

Mu Yichen looked at him with that foolish expression and simply reminded him before taking a cigarette from the box on the desk and putting it to his lips.

Yang Bo also took one, but he sniffed it vigorously under his nose before putting it in his mouth.

After lighting his cigarette, Mu Yichen tossed the lighter to Yang Bo. Catching it with both hands, Yang Bo lit his own and then watched as Mu Yichen took a harsh drag of smoke at the side.

With his gaze lowered to the burning cigarette in his hand, Mu Yichen said, "Tell me, what's the situation now?"

"Could it be that Xiaomu told her father, and now his people are getting involved? It seems like they want to reorganize our police department."

"The top position should've been yours all along!"

Mu Yichen patted his shoulder after hearing this, then walked towards the window, smoking.

Yang Bo took a hard drag of his cigarette as well, still standing there, looking somewhat anxious.

"Yes! But have you considered how our colleagues will view me now? The matter of Qin Mu being in the police department was revealed to you by me."

"Do you regret it?"

Mu Yichen turned, his sharp eyes piercing as he looked at him.

"Regret? What's there to regret about saving my own sister? It's just that if this gets out... Well, it's fate!"

Actually, becoming the top man would benefit him too. He was originally designated for the position, everyone was already calling him boss, but then out of nowhere Cheng Yaojin appeared, and now good!

"Xiaomu's alright, isn't she?"

Yang Bo still remembered the pitiful sight of Qin Mu cowering in a corner being bullied; a girl must have been scared out of her wits.

"She's fine!"

Mu Yichen thought back to last night when she dragged him into the bathtub upon his return, the fact that he couldn't see her when he opened his eyes this morning, and just a moment ago.

In his heart, he knew that the more frightened she was, the more rational she became. She must have been scared to death at that time, otherwise why would she look up at the stars after coming out?

After what happened yesterday, she completely changed today.

The woman who had just recently softened like jade suddenly became sharp and angular again, a coldness seeping from her eyes, from her body.

"But last night when I saw her come out, she was still..."

"Let's not talk about it; you guys don't understand her!"

With those words, Mu Yichen shut Yang Bo down; if he didn't understand her, then there was no use thinking about it any further.

Late http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguidern, Yang Bo mentioned a few things and then left. Mu Yichen stood at the window, lighting another cigarette and looking out. His phoenix eyes half-narrowed, he watched the tiny matters below, a fierce determination seeping through.

— —

The Qin Family!

Zhang Rujia grew increasingly worried; this felt less like waiting for guests at home and more like imprisonment.

Every attempt to leave the house was obstructed, and although people still respectfully called her 'Madam,'...

Could she have been exposed so quickly?

But Qin Mu had been caught; surely it couldn't have been so fast unless Mu Yichen had found her—

That would be truly terrible!

The more Zhang Rujia thought about it, the more frightened she became. It was already dark, and Qin Haiming hadn't returned, so she took out her phone to call Qin Mingzhu: "Mingzhu, can you go to the mall and check on our store for me."

"I'm at the mall right now, and there's no issue at all; it's just the shop next door undergoing renovations."

"JY is closed?"

"No! It's the shop next to JY that's closed; who knows what brand will take over after that. What's wrong with you? Aren't you coming out yourself?"

Qin Mingzhu had not been having an easy time either. Zhang Rujia had told her to keep a low profile, not to dine or play with friends for the time being, to just stay quietly in the apartment. If she felt too bored, she'd take a turn around the mall, buy something, and then go back to sleep in the apartment.

"Listen, I might be under house arrest by your father. Help me keep an eye on the mall for the next few days, and call me immediately if anything strange happens, got it?"

Zhang Rujia nervously held her phone, giving instructions to her.

"Okay!"

Qin Mingzhu nodded, standing behind some clothes, stealthily watching the outside.

"By the way, did you see Qin Mu today?"