

His Beloved 441

Chapter 441: Mu Yichen, do you still love me?_3

Mu Yichen originally intended to ask her to walk back to the room with him, but when he looked back and saw her shaking her head vigorously, he knew that she had been looking up for too long, so he went back to her, picked her up, and carried her upstairs.

"Mu Yichen, you..."

"Want me to put you down?"

"No!"

The words that were about to slip out were indeed as he had asked, but then she thought, why should she get down? Just exhaust him to death!

Qin Mu put all her weight on one of his shoulders, oblivious to the fact that he was carrying her effortlessly, as if she were featherlight.

Although she was not as light as a feather, the idea of trying to overwhelm him was foolish.

Back in the room, he bowed his head and tossed her onto the bed, where her slender body bounced slightly, then she looked around dizzily, not sure where to focus.

He started unbuttoning his shirt, standing by her legs, and asked her in her dazed state, "Have you taken a shower?"

"No! I've showered!"

She was almost dizzy from being tossed, but it seemed she still had a sliver of common sense, at least knowing this was not the time to say she hadn't showered.

In fact, she had indeed showered; she had just wanted to contradict him, but then the thought that he might drag her into the bathroom for a round made her chicken out and admit that she had showered.

"Behave and wait for me! Otherwise..."

"I know!"

Qin Mu immediately acted like a clever, strange girl, to which President Mu nodded in approval, satisfied with her performance, and then he turned and went to the bathroom.

Only after he left did Qin Mu instantly get up and go downstairs to look for her bag, and then found her mobile phone to text Helian Hao.

Little did she know, Helian Hao only replied after half a year: "I'm at home, trapped by Jing Jian!"

Qin Mu...

Well! For Jing Jian to trap Mrs. Jing was indeed an easy task.

Helian Hao had originally wanted to go out for a drink with her to clear her mind, but she didn't even open her door. Jing Feng had locked the door and was sitting on a stool, guarding it.

So when Mu Yichen called, Helian Hao was just wondering how to tell Qin Mu that she couldn't go out.

But Qin Mu was unaware of all this and feared that she stood up her friend, worried that Helian Hao would be disappointed or sad.

Helian Hao didn't even have time to be sad, for she was in the midst of a battle with a man.

As Qin Mu pondered what Helian Hao might be doing with Jing Feng at home, Mu Yichen emerged from the shower wrapped in a large towel.

His lean, well-built legs caught Qin Mu's eye, and after a casual glance, she couldn't look away.

Mu Yichen, looking at the bag on the bed, instructed, "Put the bag on the sofa."

Qin Mu subconsciously grabbed her bag that she had thrown on the bed and tossed it onto the sofa, not wanting to leave the bed at all now.

Lying on the bed later, Mu Yichen pulled her over without a word, diving straight in with her hands.

Mu Yichen simply lay there observing her movements until he realized where her hand was heading and quickly grabbed it: "Mrs. Mu..."

"Mrs. Mu?"

Qin Mu was taken aback, gave him a glance, then suddenly grinned: "Are you calling me, President Mu?"

She mischievously called out to him in return.

Mu Yichen originally wanted to tease her further, but upon hearing her call him "President Mu," he quickly flipped her over.

"Say it again?"

His voice was cold and questioning.

"Are you trying to break my wrist?"

Qin Mu didn't say a word, just struggled to raise her head to look at her hand, which he had raised above her temple.

Mu Yichen then slightly relaxed his grip, but did not let go of her.

"Mu Yichen, can you not be so rough, please?"

Qin Mu looked at him pleadingly after he loosened his grip on her.

Mu Yichen lowered his head to her forehead, his chilly breath misting her face, "What exactly should you call me?"

"Anything is fine!"

She answered, as long as he was happy, she would call him anything.

"Then call me 'husband'!"

He sneered, rubbing his forehead against hers, and then commanded.

"Fine! Husband!"

It's not like she hadn't called him that before!

"Call me that outside too! In front of the whole world!"

His voice was very soft, but it weighed so heavily in her heart!

In public? In front of the whole world?

She didn't even know if his heart still cared about her as it did before, how could she do that?

Actually, she truly felt, not long ago, that they would last a lifetime as long as they tried.

But all of a sudden...

She felt that the fantasy was too perfect!

Maybe they would become quiet former lovers in the future!

Or perhaps they would soon part ways!

Or maybe, after many years, when they met again, they would only laugh and say to each other, "Long time no see!"

Then they would fall silent.

That silence...

She didn't dare to think further, only gazing quietly at him with her keen eyes, wanting to see into the depths of his eyes!

The deepest depths!

But that turned out to be quite a difficult thing, as if he had had enough of her scrutinizing gaze, he suddenly pressed his fierce kiss upon her lips, gently nibbling and tugging, allowing her to distinctly feel the slight pain accumulating...

"What on earth do you think about all day? Hmm?"

He kissed her, and when he felt that the kiss wasn't what he expected, he couldn't help but stop and, with a bitter smile, ask her, searching in her eyes with his dark ones.

Qin Mu also gazed quietly at him, and when he felt that the kiss was different from before, didn't she feel the same way too?

They were still in tune with each other, sensing each other's intentions just the same.

She raised her hand, gently caressing the distinct contours of his face, gazing lovingly at his face, his nose, his brows and eyes—

The room was so quiet, quiet enough that she could clearly feel his heartbeat, so intense atop her own.

She quietly looked at him, looking into the gaze he levelled at her.

They saw themselves reflected in each other's eyes, and at the same time, they saw the helplessness.

Qin Mu's other hand also rose, stroking the other half of his face.

"Mu Yichen!"

She couldn't help but softly call out to him!

Mu Yichen once again lowered his head, quietly yet forcefully rubbing against her forehead.

Qin Mu did not feel pain on her forehead; instead, her heart ached.

She just held his face, feeling his warmth with both hands that stroked his face so tenderly, wanting to retain his warmth a little longer.

For the next ten years, twenty years, throughout a very long life, she hoped she could still feel this warmth, even if they parted ways.

"Mu Yichen, do you still love me?"

Chapter 442: still not resting?_1

"Mu Yichen, do you still love me?"

That voice, light as a feather, pierced heavily into the man's strong heart!

At that moment, the whole world fell silent!

Mu Yichen's pitch-black deep eyes looked down at the woman beneath him, and at that moment, her uncertainty chilled his heart.

"No love! I haven't loved for a long time!"

His ruthless reply came as he rolled off her, pulled up his trousers, and left.

Love and being loved seemed to vanish in the blink of an eye!

After he left, the tears that remained at the corner of her eyes...

She then turned over and fell asleep!

There was no anger! No sadness! It was as if everything was expected!

So the next day, she still went to work as composedly as ever, Huanhuan being so young had already learned to make simple crafts out of drawing paper with Xiaomei.

Qin Mu went to the bank to apply for a loan that morning, the bank loan officer, a middle-aged man in his forties, became unusually excited upon seeing her: "Aren't you the girl, that girl, from the perfume advertisement?"

Qin Mu couldn't immediately recall what perfume she had endorsed, but she just smiled and nodded: "Hello!"

"My wife particularly likes the products you endorse, she has almost everything you've promoted, haha, she would be so excited if she knew I met you, why are you also applying for a loan? I heard you're very close with our Rongcheng's Mu Shao!"

The employee began to get excited and speak incoherently, his face growing more uneasy as if startled by his own blurting words.

"I'm sorry! I've spoken too much!"

The employee hastily composed himself to assist her with the loan application and afterward stealthily took out a small notebook from underneath a stack of papers: "Could you sign an autograph for me? It's to thank you on behalf of my wife!"

Qin Mu...

But for some reason, she couldn't refuse.

Perhaps it was because of this seemingly honest man's adoration for his wife?

Even though the look on his face when he talked about his wife buying luxury goods was smiling, his eyes clearly showed helplessness, but now he was asking for an autograph for his wife, this man must truly love his wife.

She quietly sat across from him, agreed with a nod, and immediately picked up the pen and signed her name for him.

Truth be told, not many people asked for her autograph; it seemed most people wouldn't connect her with the woman from the perfume ads on TV, as she was just a backstage fashion designer after all.

However, it seemed that because the bank employee treated her like a star, this loan application went especially smoothly.

After leaving the bank, she went to a restaurant by herself for a casual lunch, one dish, one bowl of rice, one cup of hot water!

Sitting by the window was quite warm, she ate with chopsticks, listening to people nearby talking about a recent cold war with a boyfriend, her lips curling into a smile involuntarily.

"It's his fault for promising to go to the movies with me, but then he chose to play games with his brothers instead. In his heart, I'm not as important as the games."

The girl sitting diagonally across from her vented to her dining companion.

"Oh, aren't all men like that? Like they've never grown up. If you're not into him anymore, let your sister have a go; I'm quite fond of your little boyfriend, you know."

"What's with you? Are you trying to comfort me, or do you hope we break up? Besides, do you have the nerve to covet your best friend's man?"

Already furious, the girl became protective of her boyfriend the moment she heard someone else desired him, her words laced with defense.

"Why should I feel ashamed? Haven't you heard the saying 'not to covet a friend's wife'? It's the same with men!"

The woman raised her eyebrows, continuing to provoke her quarreling friend.

"Who wants to be like you? I'm telling you, if you dare to go after him, I'll fall out with you immediately!"

It turns out every couple argues!

After finishing her meal and paying the bill, she left the restaurant feeling as if she was utterly alone, walking in the wind, her mind occasionally drifting to the words he said last night, No love, I haven't loved for a long time!

She hugged her chest tightly, wrapped her clothes closely around her, and walked quickly toward the parking lot, head down.

Upon returning to the studio, everyone was thrilled to hear her loan had been approved, in Rongcheng they would have their first store.

In fact, Qin Mu initially targeted the mall only to seize Zhang Rujia's business and didn't plan on a long-term development, although now she didn't intend to withdraw her booth either, but the first JY store in Rongcheng would be this new one, not inside the mall.

Qin Mu, seeing everyone so happy, felt joy herself, and holding Huanhuan's hand, they looked at each other, then at everyone else: "Since that's the case, let's continue to work

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Everyone quickly got to work, and she also took Huanhuan's hand and slowly walked up the stairs.

— —

In Zhang Rujia's apartment!

Qin Mingzhu had finally returned. Zhang Rujia looked at the daughter standing at the door, too scared to step inside, and hatefully shed tears.

Although Qin Mingzhu used to stay out all night, at least she would call to tell her mother where she was, but this time, she truly didn't say anything.

Zhang Rujia looked at the girl at the door with resentful eyes, full of disappointment: "You were kicked out, and I was kicked out too. If I hadn't begged repeatedly, your father would have probably cast aside all past affection and divorced me by now. Do you know what would happen to us mother and daughter then?"

"But Dad's status means he can't get a divorce, and didn't you say Dad can't live without you?"

Qin Mingzhu stood by the door, nervous yet still unable to resist talking back.

"That was before, before that girl came back! Now that she is back, do you think he still cares as much about us? Right now, he probably can't wait for us to leave Rongcheng so he can live devotedly with that girl."

Every time Zhang Rujia thought about Qin Mu possibly moving into the Qin family home, it felt like her heart was bleeding.

Qin Mingzhu, gazing at Zhang Rujia's facial expression, unconsciously bit her lip. She hated Qin Mu even more than Zhang Rujia did: "Mom, how about we find someone to teach her a lesson, threaten her to leave Rongcheng? Or maybe we could kidnap her daughter."

Qin Mingzhu's thoughts quickly shifted, and with a turn of her eye, she blurted out the kidnapping scheme.

"Absolutely not! If it backfires, we will truly have no place in Rongcheng anymore. Or do you really hope that I can never reconcile with your father?"

"Of course not, but that girl is living so well in Rongcheng, while we're cramped in this little apartment. Just thinking about it makes me angry. You don't know, I ran into her at the hospital yesterday, she..."

"Hospital? What were you doing at the hospital?"

They had only talked on the phone the day before, but Qin Mingzhu hadn't mentioned going to the hospital.

Realizing she had said the wrong thing, Qin Mingzhu quickly covered her mouth with her hand, her face turning pale.

"Nothing! I didn't! I was just visiting a friend!"

Even her voice had lost the previous boldness.

"Mingzhu, you must never keep anything from me, you understand? No one in this world cares for you more or protects you more than I do. If you lie to me, if your father finds out... the consequences are unimaginable."

"I'm not afraid of him!"

Qin Mingzhu muttered stubbornly. In fact, she was now holding a grudge against her father too, because he had kicked her out for his other daughter.

Even though she had done something wrong, she still felt resentful after being thrown out!

"Mingzhu, come here, let me have a good look at you."

"Mom!"

All of a sudden feeling very tired, Zhang Rujia weakly beckoned Qin Mingzhu to come to her.

Seeing her mother like that, Qin Mingzhu felt aggrieved too, and the mother and daughter hugged each other on the sofa and suddenly burst into tears.

"Mom, don't worry, I will definitely make Dad bring you back home. Neither Dad nor I will leave you."

Qin Mingzhu reassured her as they embraced.

"Silly girl!"

Tears of sorrow covered Zhang Rujia's face.

Later, a call came from the mall, and the day again had brought no profits. Zhang Rujia thought they couldn't go on like this; it had been two months, and their store had constantly been in the red.

"Also, we don't have anyone at the police station anymore, so you must be very careful in everything you do, understand?"

Zhang Rujia wiped her tears and warned her again.

"What happened to our people?"

Qin Mingzhu asked, stunned.

"It's all because of that theft at the mall. Your father probably knew about Qin Mu being wronged at the station, so he withdrew all those people."

"What?"

Qin Mingzhu, realizing it concerned framing Qin Mu, unconsciously opened her mouth wide, then after a while, finally asked: "So, is that why Dad wanted you to move out?"

"He wanted to divorce me. I barely managed to talk him into letting me move out first to cool down. He must still have some feelings for me."

Speaking to this point, Zhang Rujia suddenly felt somewhat comforted.

She always felt that Qin Haiming still had some feelings for her; they had also had good times, and he had been happy before.

All the years she had taken care of him, it was just that he felt a bit guilty towards that girl. And now, she realized that Qin Mu was too scheming. They, mother and daughter, had to be very cautious from now on and definitely couldn't let that girl easily grasp any hold over them.

Chapter 444: still not resting?_3

"Should I give Dad a call?"

Qin Mingzhu thought and whispered to her.

"That's a good idea! If you're willing to call your dad on your own, he'll definitely be moved."

Zhang Rujia was also very excited to hear her daughter's words, as Qin Mingzhu rarely showed such understanding.

Qin Mingzhu immediately called him, but after two rings, an auntie answered the phone.

"Aunt Zhang? Where's my dad?"

"We have guests at home, he's in the study talking business and it's not convenient to answer."

"Oh! Then please tell my dad I called."

Qin Mingzhu thought for a moment and instructed the auntie before hanging up.

"Yes, Miss!"

After hanging up the phone, the auntie glanced at the man sitting on the couch reading the newspaper, set down the cell phone, and went back to her chores.

Qin Haiming had no intention of taking the call from the start, which was why he had the auntie tell a little lie.

Qin Mingzhu was his daughter, and he, of course, wouldn't cast her aside, but the mistake she had made this time was so frightful that he couldn't easily forgive her. And once he picked up the phone, he could probably guess what Qin Mingzhu would say to him, except those definitely wouldn't be her true feelings. Having been father and daughter for so many years, he still understood Qin Mingzhu.

Nevertheless, not long after, he called Qin Mu, "When do you have time to have a meal together?"

"I'm a bit busy recently and probably won't have time. Is something the matter?"

For some reason, their conversations had gradually become less fraught with hidden barbs. That evening at eight, she stood on her apartment's balcony talking to him.

"Actually, there's nothing urgent, I just haven't seen you for a few days."

Qin Haiming said softly and then chuckled, "Then I won't bother you anymore. When you have time, come back and join me for a meal, will you?"

"Sure!"

Qin Mu lowered her eyes to the silver lamp on the street below and suddenly felt a numb sensation in her heart, but it was the hot kind of numbness.

Not the cold kind!

Huanhuan had taken a bath and was upstairs reading storybooks with Mu Yichen. After she hung up, she glanced upstairs, thinking that Huanhuan should be asleep by now.

He hadn't come back the previous evening, and tonight, after she had taken Huanhuan home, she heard the sound of him cooking in the kitchen.

The heartless break from the night before wasn't between them.

Silently, it was like being pricked in the heart.

But...

Qin Mu later nestled on the sofa watching TV, some old Hong Kong police and crime series, though she hadn't seen them before.

Mm! When she was in Paris, she hardly watched domestic dramas!

Afterwards, Mu Yichen didn't come downstairs either. The two of them, one above and one below, with such a vast distance between them, it seemed they could no longer feel each other's hearts.

Qin Mu's phone rang again, at that moment her eyes were on the TV screen, her mind on Mu Yichen.

It was Liu Jingyuan!

"Hello! CEO Liu!"

"Mm! I've shown the design you sent me to my fiancée, and it's very good!"

Liu Jingyuan stood at the window of a high-end hotel room, gazing into the distance, alone.

"Glad you like it! I'll find someone to work on it, and it should be done quickly."

"Thanks for your trouble!"

"You pay, I work, it's no trouble at all."

Qin Mu politely kept her distance.

"Okay then, I won't bother you anymore; I'll contact you if something comes up."

"Mmhmm!"

The person on the other end of the phone hung up very calmly. Qin Mu felt that Liu Jingyuan must no longer be the one who had confessed to her under the influence of drugs, and she was no longer the Qin Mu who had just arrived in Rongcheng.

When she hung up the phone, she intended to continue watching TV, but her gaze inadvertently drifted to the man slowly descending the staircase.

He was wearing pajamas, but his long legs were still faintly visible.

His face was expressionless, like his sharply defined contours, so indifferent.

Qin Mu found herself irresistibly staring at him, and he glanced at her too, but only for a moment.

He went to the kitchen!

Qin Mu subconsciously pricked up her ears to listen, but she didn't hear a thing.

Mu Yichen came back from inside with a glass of red wine, standing behind her as she refocused on the TV drama, one hand in his pocket, the other holding the wine glass, dark eyes also fixed on the TV screen.

This kind of TV show, he used to watch quite a bit when he was young.

Back then, he was crazy about Hong Kong and Taiwanese cop shows, especially the ones with these actors. He almost never missed any of their shows; suddenly, he realized that he too had once been a fan.

Later, Qin Mu heard a soft friction sound, and her heart gave a fierce shudder!

She didn't know when he had come to stand behind her, nor did she know how long he intended to stay.

Her eyes were on the TV screen, but she could no longer see the subtitles clearly.

The cop show still featured love scenes, seemingly quite intense ones.

When Qin Mu got to that part, she suddenly felt uncomfortable watching because the two people in that scene seemed a bit too intimate.

But the two of them now...

She suddenly stood up and asked without looking at him, "Aren't you going to rest?"

Mu Yichen glanced at her briefly as if she wanted to turn around and look at him, but she just tilted her face slightly and continued to walk away.

Mu Yichen looked down, his agile eyes fixated on the red liquid in the glass. Then he lifted the glass to his lips, paused briefly, and drank it down in one gulp.

Aren't you going to rest?

Of course, it's time to rest!

The TV was still on. After finishing his drink, he walked over to the sofa, placed the glass on the coffee table, and stood there watching the scene unfold.

Turn off the TV, go upstairs!

After Qin Mu went upstairs, she took her pajamas and went to take a shower!

She had thought she might have to sleep on the couch tonight, but after Mu Yichen stood over there for a while, she couldn't stay still and then returned upstairs.

In their current situation, after he had said he no longer loved her, were they still supposed to sleep in the same bed?

In her heart, Qin Mu was somewhat unsettled; she longed for separation and yet desired for him to sleep in the same bed with her.

Hadn't they just returned to sleeping together?

Back then, the idea was that perhaps love was not necessary, was it?

Both getting what they wanted from each other's bodies, wasn't that good enough?

So, what about now?

This evening, should they still lie together?

After her shower, if he was lying on the bed, would she go straight to bed and lie down, or should she say something?

Or maybe...

What if he hadn't come upstairs yet? Then she could comfortably lie in bed. Once in bed, she could pretend to be asleep, and then, she could get through the night with ease!

But...

Chapter 445: Does she not love him at all?_1

The woman with no makeup left on her face after her bath looked at herself in the mirror and ended up with nothing but a resigned chuckle.

How many years have they been entangled?

What was she still afraid of?

The gloominess in her eyes suddenly became sharp, and then she walked out with insouciant grace.

Oh!

But what she hadn't expected was that he wasn't in bed; the bed was empty.

But there he was, standing at the doorway!

He leaned against the door frame, smoking a cigarette, and when he heard her, his devilish eyes glanced her way.

Qin Mu subconsciously touched her long hair, laughing awkwardly, "Slept already!"

Mu Yichen didn't speak, but her words 'slept already' left him feeling rather uncomfortable inside.

Slept already meant what?

Did it mean she intended to sleep with him, or by herself?

Or was she planning just to brush it off?

Last night he had said those things, yet she hadn't shown any reaction.

After he left last night, he didn't return for the whole night, and still, she showed no reaction.

This was hardly the response of a married woman, but she was utterly unflappable, as if he were just the man she shared her days with, as if he wasn't the man she loved at all.

Yes!

He suddenly realized that he wasn't the man she loved!

His gaze turned cold at the thought, and his emotions began to grow indifferent.

He stared intently at the woman who got into bed and covered herself with the blanket.

Was she intending just to muddle through?

If that was the case!

Qin Mu heard a clatter and subconsciously climbed up again, but he was already gone.

The only thing left in the room that belonged to him was the scent of the brand of cigarettes he habitually smoked.

Qin Mu sat on the bed in an awkward pose, staring blankly at the door for a long time.

Was he planning on not coming home tonight again?

She was so angry she couldn't help but sigh softly, before lying down again, before her anger got the best of her, telling herself, "Don't get angry, don't get angry, it's the man you chose!"

Qin Mu wondered if perhaps in their past life they were a couple very much in love, which was why this life was filled with so many obstacles!

But why still be lovers in this life?

He surely wouldn't return tonight, Qin Mu thought, and after a moment, she climbed out of bed, put on her slippers, and went to her daughter's room.

It was as she was about to climb into bed in her daughter's room that she noticed the slippers on her feet were the ones they had chosen together; she wanted dark grey, but he assertively picked light blue.

Afterward, she fell asleep in bed, cuddling Huanhuan.

She slept well that night, despite the worried expression on her face.

The next day, Qin Mu rose early to cook breakfast. For some reason, she managed to make porridge really well, it was almost identical in taste to what Mr. Mu prepared.

Then with a bit more care, hmm, today's ham slices were also very pretty.

Huanhuan sat at the dining table watching her, a look of dejection on her little face.

"What's wrong? Doesn't mom's breakfast taste good?"

"Where's daddy?"

Huanhuan shook her head and asked with her tender voice, pausing between each word.

Listening to her, Qin Mu couldn't help but laugh: If only I knew!

After saying that, Qin Mu pulled out a chair and ate with her daughter.

Qin Mu was terrible at frying sunny-side-up eggs, so she simply boiled them instead!

She peeled the eggshell and placed the slippery egg on her daughter's plate.

Huanhuan was visibly reluctant to eat the boiled egg, her eyes seemingly saying that daddy's fried eggs were tastier, and that boiled eggs had no flavor and were hard to eat.

Of course, Qin Mu could tell Huanhuan didn't like it, but she was actually quite used to her daughter's silence regarding the breakfast she made.

She too had fried sunny-side-up eggs before, yet she hadn't heard this little girl call them tasty.

After breakfast, the mother and daughter hurried off to work. Huanhuan was quite accustomed to going to work with Qin Mu, and even seemed to enjoy it.

Although she missed her father a bit, he was there last night, so why wasn't he there this morning?

As soon as the mother and daughter reached the basement level and stepped out of the elevator, Mu Yichen's car returned.

"Daddy!"

Upon hearing the sound, Huanhuan turned to look, then saw her father's car and immediately began to dance with joy.

Qin Mu...

Was this really her daughter? Why wasn't she that happy when she saw her?

After Mu Yichen parked the car, he got out, his well-defined features perfect and flawless, yet completely cold.

"Daddy, daddy..."

Huanhuan waved her beautiful little hands, calling out to him.

Mu Yichen chuckled softly and walked over to lift her out of Qin Mu's arms.

"Are you going to work with daddy today?"

"Yeah!"

Mu Yichen asked gently, and Huanhuan nodded her head vigorously in agreement.

Qin Mu watched father and daughter, not saying a word, just licking her lips a bit helplessly, and then said, "I..."

Chapter 446: Does she not love him at all?_2

"Daddy has to go back and change his clothes, will you accompany Daddy back home?"

"Mm-hmm!"

Qin Mu...

Being ignored wasn't a first, but it still felt awful.

"Bye, Mommy!"

Mu Yichen carried Huanhuan past her shoulder without so much as a glance in her direction, but at least Huanhuan had enough conscience to say goodbye to her.

"Bye~"

Qin Mu merely uttered those indifferent words, then walked over to her own car, opened the door, and got in.

Off to work!

On the way to work, she received a call from Mu Qingxin, who was being discharged from the hospital today and asked her to come over to the Mu Family for dinner in the evening. Qin Mu agreed and soon turned onto the road leading to her studio.

Xiaomei was talking with a designer. When she saw Qin Mu arrive at the studio, she immediately left to find her.

"Qinqin!"

Qin Mu stopped in her tracks and turned to look at her. Xiaomei approached and handed her a file folder she was holding!

"This is Jing Qing's recent event wardrobe, clearly Yang Qianxi has been infusing you into Jing Qing, that's why she changed her dressing style."

"Yeah! For now, it seems fine for her, but in the long run, it might not be a good thing. Don't worry about it."

"But Wen Runuan's search popularity has dropped a lot compared to hers recently."

"That is their company's issue; we don't need to worry about it. As for her style, it should be more understated and literary."

"Alright!"

Xiaomei looked at Qin Mu, whose sharp gaze on the photos hadn't changed, and nodded in agreement.

Qin Mu put the photos back into the file folder and then handed it back to Xiaomei: If Jing Qing knew we were keeping an eye on her right now, she'd probably be half dead with anger.

"Hmph! She hasn't stopped other people from keeping a close eye on you either."

Xiaomei said indignantly.

"That's true!"

Qin Mu chuckled lightly. When she got to her office, she hung her bag behind the door, then took a document from her desk and handed it to Xiaomei: Follow up personally on the wedding dress issue for Liu Jingyuan's wedding, and remember not to let there be any mistakes.

"So cautious?"

Xiaomei couldn't help but wink at her.

Qin Mu sighed helplessly: Do you think there are any men in this world who can compare with President Mu?

"Of course, there are! It's just that in your heart, there aren't!"

Xiaomei immediately retorted.

"Exactly!"

Qin Mu wasn't disappointed; she just wanted Xiaomei to keep in mind that she had that man who hadn't slept at home for two nights.

And today, he saw her but pretended not to?

Did he not touch her when he was holding Huanhuan in her arms?

Acting so cold and heartless, was his heart really that heartless too?

Later, the store called her to say that Zhang Rujia had been to the store today and kept an eye on their brand, so Qin Mu told them to watch her.

This time, however, she wanted to see what else Zhang Rujia could do to her.

The bruise on her body hadn't fully faded, and she wasn't so forgetful that right after leaving the police station the next day, she went to the mall's owner – special connections, after all! Zhang Rujia had them, and so did she!

In the evening, when she went to the Mu Family for dinner, she of course prepared exquisite little gifts for Xiaobao and the old master.

Mu Qingxin didn't really like buying toys and such. These things, Qin Mu could take over completely. Even though they weren't wealthy when Huanhuan was young, Qin Mu would also work hard to earn money to buy toys back home for Huanhuan, always feeling that a child should spend those years accompanied by toys.

"But you have good taste! My son seems to quite like it!"

Hanging from the stroller was a trinket Qin Mu had bought, and the little guy always couldn't help but reach out for it, sometimes even laughing out loud. Mu Qingxin found it amazing and couldn't help praising her.

"Huanhuan used to like these when she was little too. Since they are siblings, they should like similar things."

Qin Mu said softly, bending down to pick up the little one from the stroller, reluctant to let go of that soft, squishy feeling.

"The young master is back!"

As they were chatting, Mu Yichen and Huanhuan came in from outside. Mu Yichen greeted the butler, and Huanhuan ran in cheerfully knowing that there was a baby in the house, so she didn't shout for Mommy or Grandma, but instead ran over to...

She wanted to hug Mommy at first, but seeing Mommy holding the little one, she went to Grandma instead. Yet, her eyes couldn't help but continually watch Mommy.

Mommy's expression while holding her brother seemed so touched, so moved, yet Huanhuan gradually felt a bit sad.

Feng Fanghua watched Huanhuan's expression and then turned to look at Qin Mu, who was stooping to coax her grandchild, and whispered to Huanhuan: "Would you like to come over to Mommy and see your brother too? He's very cute."

Chapter 447: Does she not love him at all?_3

Feng Fanghua was clearly trying to coax her, yet Huanhuan twisted her head into Feng Fanghua's embrace, suddenly refusing to look at her little brother.

Mu Yichen stood by and watched his daughter's reaction, she must dislike this little brother!

Mu Yichen suddenly frowned, worried that in the future, when they truly have another child, Huanhuan might not like him either.

Looking at Qin Mu, who was very sad about the little one in her arms.

"Mu Qingxin, take your son away."

Mu Yichen said.

The father and son playing chess turned their heads at this command, puzzled, but later chose not to interfere.

Mu Qingxin blinked, her face saying, 'I didn't provoke you': Oh!

Qin Mu felt a pang in her heart, but still handed the little darling back to Mu Qingxin. Huanhuan immediately ran back into Qin Mu's arms.

She finally understood why Mu Yichen didn't want her holding the little one and felt warmth in her heart. Her daughter was already showing jealousy!

Mu Yichen sat down next to her, and Qin Mu glanced at him uncomfortably. Mu Yichen questioned, "Is there a problem?"

Qin Mu...

Feng Fanghua and Mu Qingxin silently watched the two of them, now quite certain that they were in a cold war, suddenly becoming wise enough not to talk too much.

And the grandfather and grandson seemed oblivious to it all.

After dinner, the old master said, "It's getting late. Your family of three should not go back tonight. Yichen, come to my room, I have something to tell you."

So, before they could even decline, they had been asked to stay.

"Huanhuan, sleep with me tonight; you go take care of your things!"

Feng Fanghua spoke and then took Huanhuan's hand: "How about Grandma plays with you, okay?"

"Okay!"

Huanhuan had been away from Grandma for a few days and missed her kind grandmother. Charmed by Feng Fanghua, she followed her away.

Mu Qingxin had just returned from the hospital, so she did not stay outside any longer than necessary. After eating, she immediately returned to her room, hugged the little guy to sleep, and then had a video call with Jiang Yan.

As for Qin Mu, after going upstairs, she idly stood at the window, lost in thought.

Having finished all her orders, she thought to focus on the JY Rong City store next. She wanted to personally design the interior effect drawing and then find someone to do the renovation.

When Mu Yichen came out of the old master's room, his sister, standing at her own room's doorstep, called out to him, "Brother, brother, come over!"

Mu Yichen lifted his eyes to look at her and then reluctantly walked over.

His dark eyes stared at her carefree demeanor without asking a word.

"Did you have a fight with Qin Mu? Why?"

Mu Yichen...

"What 'that girl'? That's your sister-in-law! And since when is it your turn to meddle in our affairs?"

Mu Qingxin...

"Also, once you're done with your confinement, hurry back to that man! I never want to see you again! Seeing you just makes me angry!"

Mu Yichen never expected his sister to be so capable of irritating him.

And Mu Qingxin was stunned by his words, totally unaware of what she did wrong.

She suddenly missed her Ayan terribly.

When he returned to his room, Qin Mu had just finished showering and was coming out with her hair up.

She lifted her eyes to see his tall figure blocking her view.

"Finished talking with Grandpa?"

She didn't ask what he discussed with Grandpa, but whether he finished talking. If not, could he have come back?

Mu Yichen felt like whipping her, though outwardly he put on a distant front.

He entered the bathroom, ignoring her completely.

Qin Mu gathered her hair at the back and let go, turning to watch him mutter irritably, "Childish!"

Mu Yichen stopped at the doorway suddenly, turning to look at her coldly: "What did you say?"

Startled, Qin Mu gazed at him wide-eyed but lost the ability to speak.

"Say it again?"

"I didn't say anything, weren't you going to take a shower?"

Qin Mu smiled more awkwardly than crying, and, unable to stare him down, promptly turned and walked towards the bed.

Mu Yichen glared at her for a while before heading back to the bathroom.

As the bathroom door closed, she stood by the bed, exhaling with relief.

That scared her – that man!

Later when he finished showering, he also climbed into bed.

Was he not planning to slip away tonight?

Qin Mu felt uncomfortable with him lying beside her, subconsciously inching quietly to the side.

Mu Yichen frowned deeply, turned to her and asked, "What's that supposed to mean?"

"Nothing! I just don't want to crowd you!"

Qin Mu replied nervously, looking at him and answering guiltily.

Suddenly, she realized how stiff her body felt, as if about to turn to stone.

"You're far too full of yourself!"

He retorted coldly and then turned off the light.

Qin Mu, stubborn, held her breath without saying a word.

The darkness enveloped her suddenly, but she wanted to explode with anger.

However, this was the Mu Family home, and it wouldn't be proper for them to start arguing here.

So, she held back.

Qin Mu struggled to breathe, feeling suffocated by all of her restrained emotions, to the point where she was nearly gasping for air.

"Why are you so tense?"

The man's cold voice questioned her from the darkness.

Upon hearing his words, Qin Mu tensed up even more, paralyzed with fear like facing a great disaster, unable to move or breathe deeply.

She wished she didn't need to breathe at all.

"Have you gotten too comfortable these last few days?"

"Am I a natural disaster, a fearsome beast? If you dislike it so much, just leave then, considering that's what you're best at!"

No matter when, it seemed he could hurt her effortlessly.

"Mu Yichen!"

That faint voice squeezed itself out from her throat!

Chapter 448: had their luggage thrown away_1

"Mu Yichen!"

That thin voice forced its way out from her throat!

——

She's leaving?

She could storm out with Huanhuan in a huff, but did he really let her?

On one hand she said she might as well just walk away, while on the other, she discarded her suitcase.

But if they hadn't argued that next evening, she wouldn't have thought to pack her bags and leave, and wouldn't have realized that her suitcase had been trashed.

But when she angrily wanted to leave, when she took out most of her clothes from the wardrobe, when she looked for her suitcase...

Mu Yichen had prepared breakfast and was eating with Huanhuan, not even calling her. Qin Mu came downstairs and sighed unconsciously as she watched him enjoying his breakfast, then helplessly asked, "Mu Yichen, where's my suitcase?"

"You're asking me about your suitcase?"

He glanced up, eyeing her coldly as he retorted.

Qin Mu...

The vast dining room suddenly felt as if a gust of wind had swept through, and a big one at that!

"It was you who told me to leave!"

Her childish large eyes glared at him, then she turned away, not wanting to deal with him anymore. She went up and picked up Huanhuan, and said to Huanhuan, "Mommy will take you out to eat!"

"No!"

Huanhuan sadly held her spoon and flatly refused.

Qin Mu...

Somehow, her eyes suddenly blurred, and then she put Huanhuan back in the chair, "Then you eat with Daddy, I'm leaving!"

She had thought that without him, it wouldn't be a big deal, after all, she still had her daughter, but when her daughter rejected her, her heart really broke, leaving no place unscarred.

Huanhuan, watching her mother walk away, was actually quite heartbroken too, then looked back at her father. That look seemed to ask, "Daddy, what do we do now? Mommy has left."

Mu Yichen sighed helplessly: "Eat."

Huanhuan obediently continued to eat, believing that Daddy would definitely bring Mommy back!

Helian Hao went to have lunch with Qin Mu at noon. Qin Mu had takeout in her studio for her, and watching Qin Mu eat with such lack of appetite, Helian Hao asked, "What's wrong? Another argument?"

"Perhaps a bit more serious!"

Qin Mu didn't want to mention it, but when Helian Hao asked, she responded.

"A bit more serious? What, breaking up?"

Helian Hao thought of Qin Mu's temperament. In Qin Mu's dictionary, it was either normal or severe, and reaching the word "severe" meant there really was trouble.

"Pretty much! He told me to leave home last night!"

Qin Mu already had a poor appetite, and remembering the events from last night and this morning made her feel even worse, unable to eat. She simply put down her chopsticks.

In the office, they were sitting on the sofa by the coffee table, surrounded by four takeout boxes, neither having much desire to eat.

"That's definitely a spur of the moment thing for him. If you really ran away from home, wouldn't he go crazy?"

"I hope so!"

Qin Mu thought about her missing suitcase. Who else could have thrown it away if not him?

"You too! How many years has it been? You've seen his harsh words before. Why do you still get so upset?"

Helian Hao scolded her!

"But his words are still like a poison piercing through the intestines!"

Qin Mu thought that after so many years, he hadn't changed at all.

He was still as merciless as ever!

"Moreover, I'm becoming more and more uncertain about his feelings now!"

As Qin Mu spoke, she raised her eyes to look at Helian Hao, her gaze sharp yet troubled.

"Why do you say that? What conflict happened between you two?"

"Can't quite put my finger on it, just feels different from before lately."

"Old husband and wife of course aren't like when you're in love!"

Qin Mu had just lowered her gaze when she heard Helian Hao's words. She looked back up but eventually just gave a resigned smile.

What she felt was that Mu Yichen's heart, was getting further and further away from her!

"I'd advise you not to overthink it every day. That doting kind of love you want? Love can be doting for a moment, maybe a few days, but to expect months, years... Besides, after all the breakups and reconciliations over the years, do you really care so much about transient joys and sorrows?"

Qin Mu suddenly felt as though Helian Hao had changed a bit lately: "How have things been with you and Jing Feng lately?"

Helian Hao, caught off guard by the question, had all her prepared lecturing get stuck in her throat, then slowly swallowed back down.

"How could it be?"

Helian Hao suddenly sounded listless.

"Have you ever realized, even if we break up with our current men, get divorced, we're unlikely to find any better men?"

Upon hearing Helian Hao's question, Qin Mu fell silent.

The two sisters each had the fatal weakness.

Chapter 449: had their luggage thrown away_2

These two men had quietly existed in their hearts for more than twenty years; indeed, no one else could replace them now.

"Ah! Some things are better not taken too seriously, otherwise, you really don't know if you're making others suffer or just making things difficult for yourself."

Helian Hao's spoon jabbed a few times in the box of rice, showing little enthusiasm in her eyes, but after saying those words, she took a big mouthful of rice and put it in her mouth.

Qin Mu couldn't help but laugh at her, then picked up a spoon and started to eat her meal with big bites as well.

That evening, when Qin Mu returned home, she discovered that Mu Yichen and Huanhuan were not there. Without thinking, she picked up her phone to call him but then thought better of it and started fiddling with her phone as she walked towards the kitchen.

Forget it!

If it was already dark outside and the two of them hadn't come back, it meant they didn't plan to return for dinner, right?

Her beautiful eyes flickered slightly, then, with happy steps, she went upstairs, changed clothes, came down, and proceeded to the kitchen.

She might as well make something to eat! It's not like she could starve just because there was no man around.

For some reason, once she got back to this place, she seemed to lose the ability to order takeout.

There were all sorts of things in the refrigerator. She picked out a few vegetables of colors she liked, then found some noodles.

She'd just cook a bowl of noodles!

The pot was clean, so she filled it with water. Once the water boiled, she added the noodles, a pinch of salt, then covered the pot and went to wash the greens.

Suddenly remembering the tomato in the fridge, she turned around, took a tomato out, and in a few minutes, she had a steaming bowl of noodles on the dining table.

Looking at the colors, she thought it was quite appealing, except...

It was tasteless!

After eating the tomato and greens, she had no desire to continue with the noodles.

In a private room exclusive to AM, several men were dining, one of them holding a little girl.

Mu Yichen was helping Huanhuan eat fruit salad by herself while listening to a subordinate report, "Miss Qin seemed to have applied for a loan at the bank a few days ago, and the amount was not small."

"She used the studio as collateral?"

Mu Yichen thought for a moment, then asked with a calm and indifferent voice.

"Yes! Of course, to you, these amounts are like a drop in the ocean, which is why we find it strange that Miss Qin would apply for a loan at the bank. Could it be that it has something to do with Mr. Mu...?"

The shirt-clad, aging man carefully probed, his eyes carrying a meaningful gaze towards Mu Yichen.

"What about Mr. Mu?"

Mu Yichen turned and gazed down at him, his question sharp and cold.

"Of course, with Mr. Mu's conditions, Miss Qin would definitely not leave Mr. Mu of her own accord. Perhaps Mr. Mu and Miss Qin had some sort of disagreement?"

The employee continued to speculate, the others also looking on with anticipation.

Mu Yichen knew that as soon as he admitted that he and Qin Mu had ended things, these people would immediately take action against her.

"Do you know who this is in my arms?"

"Of course, this is your young daughter."

Another man spoke.

"Young daughter? I have only this daughter!"

Mu Yichen said to them with a sneer.

The group watched him with curiosity but no longer dared to ask further.

When Mu Yichen got back home after ten, the dinner hadn't even started when he had already risen to leave. Instead of going home, he went to the Mu Mansion.

Huanhuan had fallen asleep there, so she stayed over, and he returned alone.

He had thought for sure she would be asleep in her room, but when he got back, he heard the TV in the living room. She hadn't gone to bed.

Was she waiting for him?

Mu Yichen felt a twitch in his heart, set down the car keys, and walked inside to find the couch empty.

Turns out, she was lying on the couch; when he approached, she was idly switching channels with the remote.

Qin Mu didn't even bother to look up, her gaze fixed on the screen, yet she sensed him sitting down in the adjoining single couch.

"Have you had dinner?"

He asked in a tone that was neither warm nor cold, as if he was too lazy to care but felt compelled to ask.

"No!"

Qin Mu responded lazily, pressing the cushion further under her head as she continued to stare at the TV.

Mu Yichen glanced at her, his brow furrowed slightly, but he stood up after a few seconds.

Qin Mu didn't need to look to know he was heading to the kitchen, but she didn't call out to stop him.

In the kitchen, there was a bowl with uneaten noodles.

By the looks of it, no oil was added, just greens and tomato—a rookie mistake in cooking even a simple bowl of noodles.

Mu Yichen inwardly complained, yet he didn't have the time to ponder her deception.

He went to the kitchen to heat up some milk, then suddenly heard a voice behind him: "Where is Huanhuan?"

Chapter 450: had their luggage thrown away_3

Mu Yichen glanced over, and he saw her lying by the door looking at him, her eyes full of sincerity.

"Fell asleep at grandma's house!"

"You went to your parents' place!"

He replied to her indifferently, but Qin Mu finally understood where he had been.

Mu Yichen gave her another look, then heated the milk and brought it out to her, "Drink the milk!"

Cradling the milk, Qin Mu followed him and asked, "Did you go to eat dinner at your parents' place today? What did you tell them about me? Said I was working overtime at the studio?"

"I don't need to lie!"

He turned his head, his cold gaze falling on the woman who was so taut in front of him due to nearly bumping into him, and said plainly.

Qin Mu nearly collided with him because of his sudden turn, her whole person stunned, with just a hint of alarm in her eyes.

"Oh!"

Ultimately, she wanted to quietly move her gaze away, sneakily walking past the side of his shoulder.

She might as well act as if she hadn't seen him or felt his irritation.

Helian Hao told her not to take things too seriously, but Qin Mu felt that it wasn't her who was being too serious—it was him!

Suddenly, Mu Yichen lowered his head, and when he wanted to get angry, he saw the ring on his own hand, then turned again to look for her.

Qin Mu was standing by the sofa drinking milk, staring at the television. The milk was just the right temperature, so she wanted to drink it all before it cooled off.

When Mu Yichen walked over, she suddenly felt a bit wronged, and turned to ask him with furrowed brows, "Where's my suitcase?"

Her voice was raspy, very low.

Mu Yichen glanced at her, "Are you leaving?"

"Why would I leave? Those two suitcases were expensive!"

She lowered her gaze, recalling the effort she'd put into getting those two suitcases!

That's right, inside them were autographs from a famous Paris singer.

"Thrown away!"

He declared.

Qin Mu's drooping eyelids suddenly lifted as her gaze shot back at him, this time slightly more cutting.

However, he massaged his brow and walked over to sit on the sofa: "If you urgently need one, use mine for now."

Qin Mu...

She set the empty milk cup on the coffee table and defiantly walked straight toward the staircase, wondering why she was still wasting time with him.

She might as well go to sleep.

"Why didn't you discuss the loan with me?"

He suddenly asked, just as she stepped onto the first stair.

Qin Mu turned to look at him, surprised that he knew.

"What? You didn't expect me to know?"

His cool gaze questioned her.

Qin Mu walked back, "How did you find out?"

"Did you think I'd have someone spy on you? In Rongcheng, some things will reach my ears without my intervention, especially when it comes to you!"

His words struck Qin Mu as callous, but she had to admit it.

In Rongcheng, there were already so many people monitoring his affairs.

She was honored, in a way, to be under scrutiny because of him.

She then sat back down on the sofa, diagonally opposite him, in the single seat he had just vacated.

"I bought a shop on Central Street. At the time, I didn't have enough money, so I applied for a loan. I didn't tell you because I didn't want your help, otherwise..."

"Otherwise, the efforts you made last year would have been wasted because of me? The help I offer is different from the help others give you, isn't it? Because we're too close, you don't want my help, right?"

He understood everything, yet he still asked her.

Qin Mu felt a twinge of discomfort in her heart as he asked, lowering her head to look at the ring on her hand, then she still hummed in affirmation.

But her voice was so hoarse that she could hardly hear herself.

Mu Yichen sighed and turned to look at the television, what trashy show was she watching?

He frowned, his hand resting agitatedly on the armrest of the sofa, drumming his fingers before letting go, then turned back to glare at her.

"I promise I won't get involved in this matter, You want to achieve something on your own, OK! As long as you don't beg other men or go to the bank, do whatever you please, but do you need to hide it from me? Don't you even have the most basic trust in me?"

He asked her again, struggling to contain his anger.

"Mu Yichen! You know, you knew my temperament since I was very young!"

She lowered her head, whispering that phrase when he lit a cigarette.

She was like a humble child, yet hopelessly stubborn.

He chuckled softly, taking a deep drag of his cigarette and then glared at her ferociously, really wanting to beat her, but what good would that do?

Her stubbornness, not even death would change it.

"So I suppose it's my own fault, who made me love you even knowing your damn stubbornness? Who made me, no matter how much I hate the way you act, still unwilling to let you truly out of my sight?"

Her tears, they suddenly fell uncontrollably.

From childhood to adulthood, they had quarreled countless times, too many to count.

But his harsh words could always make her bow her head, always make her heart bleed.

He was still looking at her, so utterly disappointed, with hatred in his eyes.

Finally, amidst her tears, he picked up the remote control and turned off the TV.

"Why can't you be like other girls, a bit more sensible, a bit gentler? No matter how independent you are, can't you show a little bit that I am your lover?"

He stood up angrily, spoke those words and then didn't look at her anymore, pinching the cigarette and taking another fierce drag, thinking of leaving—

But he feared she wouldn't speak up to keep him!

So he stood there and scoffed, then took another harsh drag of his cigarette.

Qin Mu opened her mouth, suppressed the breath fiercely, then stood up: If you're done complaining, I'm going to rest!

Mu Yichen...

Complaining?

Did she think he was merely venting his emotions?

Could she not understand his meaning?

Was this woman truly clueless about emotions?

She had gotten close to him, during that period!

He still remembered her sweet-and-sour smile, remembered how she clung to his arm, reluctant to let go.

But now...

She said he was complaining, but what about her?

Did she think she was a magnanimous wife?

Or did she still think it was like before they were married, when she considered herself free, when she didn't need to take responsibility for him?

After Qin Mu went to bed, she closed her eyes, turned over, and settled into the center of the large bed, ready to fall asleep.

She figured he definitely wouldn't sleep at home.

He must think she was acting up, he would surely leave in a fit of anger again.

She was used to sleeping separately from him!

But then...

The door was pushed open from the outside...