

His Beloved 561

Chapter 561: Your husband will strive to keep himself clean and pure_4

The friend sighed, "Both of us came back from abroad together, both top students, and soon we'll go to the Science Research Institute to assume our positions."

"So pessimistic?"

An Li asked.

"Don't think about him anymore. Just like you said, Jiang Zhiyuan and Qiao Yi are also not bad. Besides, we're going to work in Beijing soon. Do we still have time to think about men from Rong City?"

After hearing this, An Li thought for a moment and couldn't help but chuckle, realizing the truth in those words.

"How about we go to AM this afternoon if we're free? As Mu Yichen's classmates, neither of us has met that Xiaomu sister yet. Let's see what she's really like—what do you think?"

"That's actually a good idea!"

The two women agreed, clapped their hands, and happily made the decision.

After lunch, it was almost two o'clock. Mu Yichen drove straight to Qin Mu's studio because he had drunk a little extra and went to cuddle with her for a nap.

When Xiaomei knocked on the door, Qin Mu, groggy, went to open it, standing at the doorway with sleepy, tousled hair.

"Two girls who claim to be Mr. Mu's classmates are here to see you!"

Xiaomei whispered to Qin Mu, knowing that Mu Yichen was inside.

Qin Mu suddenly became alert, nodded, and said, "Greet them for me first!"

"Hey, hey, hey, those two girls seem to be up to no good!"

Xiaomei added another reminder before Qin Mu could tidy up, causing Qin Mu to frown and reply, "Oh!"

By the time Qin Mu came downstairs, An Li and the other girl were already drinking tea in the reception area, with publicity materials from their studio in hand.

"Our boss is here!"

Xiaomei was by their side, presenting their fashion works, and when she saw Qin Mu approaching, stood up.

The two girls also turned their heads to look towards the stairwell.

Qin Mu walked over with a calm expression and smiled faintly as she looked up at them.

"I hear you're Mr. Mu's classmates! It's a pleasure!"

She shook hands with them as she arrived at the reception area.

The two girls stood up to shake hands with her and then sat down again, looking at the composed and solid young woman across from them: "Are you the Qin Mu who whisked Mu Yichen away overseas when he was just a teenager? You're nothing like you were as a child?"

"If you're people I knew when I was younger, then I must also say, you really are different than before!"

The faces of the two women showed a bit of embarrassment, but they quickly regained their composure.

"I'm An Li! I used to live quite close to your family!"

"I'm Jia Weihua, our family used to live near the Jing Family's old house, but later on, we moved to the UK. We didn't see each other much before."

After introducing herself, the girl named Jia Weihua gave a shallow smile, reasonably friendly, although her gaze at Qin Mu was sharp, as if trying to see right through her stomach.

"I heard you're pregnant again! Quite impressive!"

An Li stared at her belly for a while before speaking.

"The impressive one is Mr. Mu!"

Qin Mu humbly replied.

An Li and Jia Weihua found themselves at a loss for words. They hadn't expected Qin Mu to block them so deftly, her soft demeanor and quiet nature belying her sharp tongue.

"Of course Mr. Mu is impressive. Since childhood he's dazzled all the girls around him—we included. It's just that you're the one who hooked him and took him away. Today, we just wanted to see what this girl who charmed him away since youth looks like now."

An Li added.

"Are you satisfied with what you see?"

Qin Mu asked, thankful she had applied some light makeup.

"But, aren't pregnant women not supposed to wear makeup? Although your makeup is exquisite, won't it affect the baby in some way?"

"All the products are prepared by professionals, specially made for pregnant women. When you two sisters reach this stage in the future, you'll naturally understand all of this."

Qin Mu responded cheerfully, taking a glass of water Xiaomei brought for her and holding it in her hand.

She thought to herself, why do Mr. Mu's female classmates all seem to be so high and mighty?

"So that's how it is? We students who are still studying probably have a long way to go before we can understand that."

An Li responded with a forced smile.

"I heard you've designed evening gowns for many celebrities, and you've achieved so much at such a young age. That's really impressive!"

Jia Weihua held An Li's hand, then praised Qin Mu with a light grin.

"It's all thanks to my master's good teaching and giving me the opportunity!"

Qin Mu refused to take all the credit for herself.

"If it weren't for your own exceptional talent, having a master wouldn't be enough. After all, they say the master leads you to the door, but the practice is up to the individual."

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Jia Weihua continued to make polite conversation with her.

Qin Mu gave a brief smile after hearing him and lowered her head to drink water.

She couldn't figure it out; what exactly did these two women want with her?

The woman of Mu Yichen wasn't some rare animal in a zoo.

"We heard you two are getting married on Christmas, and Yichen asked us all to come back for it, so don't worry, we'll definitely be back then,"

An Li knew what Jia Weihua meant, but still couldn't help but speak with a prickly edge.

"It's okay if you don't come back! Both of you doctors are very busy!"

Mu Yichen came downstairs from above, his cold voice reaching them from a distance before he came into view.

Jia Weihua and An Li turned their heads to look in that direction, and Qin Mu glanced over curiously, thinking to herself: The savior has finally arrived.

"Yichen! We just came to see Mrs. Mu!"

Jia Weihua immediately began to explain earnestly.

"Actually, there's not much to see. My wife isn't one for excitement, and as for me, you all know, I give face to my friends, and there's no need to force those who aren't friends to stick around,"

Mu Yichen stepped forward and sat on the sofa. Stretching an arm out behind Qin Mu, he lightly rested it on the back of the sofa beside her, his sharp gaze fixed on the two women standing opposite them.

"Didn't we agree you'd nap with me? Sneaking down here by yourself, hmm?"

Jia Weihua was about to explain, but Mu Yichen had already turned to question Qin Mu, seemingly in reproach.

Qin Mu glanced up slightly and, seeing the expression in his eyes, felt compelled to say, "How could I neglect your classmates?"

"You should neglect everyone except me!"

Mu Yichen said, lifting his hand to touch her chin, then looked up and said, "Ladies, didn't you say you were going home to rest early after the meal? Why the great interest in my wife?"

"We've grown up together since we were kids. Isn't it okay to come and see your woman? Why are you being so protective? We don't have the guts to harm your woman,"

An Li really couldn't stand it. Being a decisive woman, she wasn't one to beat around the bush.

"Top students sure don't leave room for others' feelings when they speak!"

Mu Yichen's eyes dropped, a smile playing on his face.

Knowing Mu Yichen was annoyed, Jia Weihua took An Li's hand and said to him, "It's getting late, and since you two are napping, we won't disturb you any longer. We've seen the person we came for, and she's fine! We'll take our leave now!"

Jia Weihua nodded at Qin Mu then pulled An Li away with him.

Before leaving, An Li turned back and said, "Hey! Qin Mu, if you ever treat Yichen badly, I will still come back to scold you."

It was only at An Li's last word that Qin Mu realized this woman had deep feelings for President Mu as well.

Mu Yichen's originally serious face suddenly relaxed, and he laughed uncomfortably upon seeing the look Qin Mu threw his way.

"Shall I go back to sleep with you for a while? Hmm?"

"What's the deal with An Li?"

Qin Mu whispered her question to him, turning her head away from him on the sofa.

Mu Yichen couldn't help but lift his hand to his brow, letting out a troubled sigh, "She once confessed to me in college, and that was that, nothing followed!"

"Just one confession? And she's threatening me like this?"

Qin Mu didn't believe him.

"That's her problem. This time a few good brothers wanted to have dinner together. I didn't expect An Ming to blab about it to her, so that's how you got into this mess. Don't be angry; will it be alright if I apologize to you?"

"If you haven't done anything wrong, why are you apologizing on behalf of others to me?"

Qin Mu stood up and walked away with a twist of her head.

"You really have a temper!" Mu Yichen muttered to himself as he watched her leave, but in a blink, he stood up, hands in his pockets and coolly followed her, staying two steps behind her all the way to the door before quickly stepping forward.

After closing the door and seeing him by her side, Qin Mu glared at him, "Aren't you going to tell me the truth?"

"Sigh! There are a few women with unrequited love for your husband, some things your husband truly doesn't know about,"

Mu Yichen sighed helplessly, wrapping an arm around her waist and pinching her chin with the other, his deep gaze locking onto her, as if wanting to draw her into himself.

Qin Mu, convinced, then asked him with a smile, "So, both of them have doctorates?"

"Hmm! I'm going to start working in Beijing soon, so I won't have the chance to trouble Mrs. Mu anymore!"

"Hmph! Do you think they can cause me any trouble?"

Qin Mu glanced at him, then lifted her soft hand to gently stroke his chest, "You, you're just a magnet for romantic troubles."

"As your husband, I'll do my best to avoid it!"

He grasped her hand, his gaze deep, his breathing a bit restrained, and in an instant, he lifted her off the ground.

"In broad daylight!"

Qin Mu reminded him, looking up.

"Draw the curtains, hmm?"

Qin Mu...

The curtains closed and the room went dark, but why did it still feel so...

Exciting!

That evening, the couple went to the Mu family's old house, and finally, Jiang Yan came to pick up his wife.

Just as they drove up to the house, they saw two familiar figures at the entrance, hmm, indescribable.

"Isn't that Qingxin?"

Qin Mu asked doubtfully, from a not too distant place.

Mu Yichen looked coldly at the girl being pressed against the wall, then forcefully honked the car's horn.

The two people immediately turned their heads to look at them.

Jiang Yan immediately wrapped Qingxin in his arms with his coat, waiting for Qin Mu and Mu Yichen's car to get inside before he slightly released her.

Qingxin hit him, feeling wronged, "You're going to suffocate me!"

"Your brother and sister-in-law!"

Jiang Yan said awkwardly.

Qingxin hadn't seen clearly who it was at first; once she recognized the car that entered, her entire face flushed red, "Jiang Yan, you're going to be the death of me!"

Jiang Yan laughed helplessly, thinking, as long as he acted like everything was natural, it would be fine.

"There, there! Everything's going to be okay with me here, hmm?"

Jiang Yan coaxed her gently, hugging her.

Qingxin shyly glanced at him, then burrowed back into his arms, "I don't care anyway!"

Jiang Yan smiled, thinking to himself, this was the real Qingxin.

After Mu Yichen and Qin Mu arrived home, they didn't rush inside, but got out of the car to wait for those two to return. Ten minutes later, that couple's car also came in. Jiang Yan and Qingxin emerged and walked towards them.

"Big Uncle! Sister-in-law!"

Jiang Yan greeted them politely, dropping his usual aloofness in front of others.

"You two were waiting here for us? Kind of creepy, huh!"

Qingxin pouted her lips, still not forgetting to mock.

Qin Mu couldn't help but snicker at the mention of creepy, "Do you really think we're the creepy ones?"

"Hey, hey, hey, Qin Mu, don't think I don't know, you and my brother outside in the middle of the night, hmm?"

Qingxin's face turned red immediately after hearing that, but she didn't forget to raise her hand and challenge Qin Mu.

"At least we were in the middle of the night, you two... tsk, tsk, tsk..."

Qin Mu held back her laughter, gazed at today's beautiful blue sky and white clouds, then sighed helplessly and shook her head.

Qingxin jumped with embarrassment, "You, you, you..."

Jiang Yan lowered his head, sensing that things were somehow amiss.

"Let's go, these two women have become so deranged that they discussed all of your forty-eight positions!"

Mu Yichen originally wanted to scold them a little, but after hearing his wife's words, he sighed helplessly and walked ahead.

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Jiang Yan, upon hearing Mu Yichen's words, dared not stay any longer, and incredulously looked at his sister-in-law and his wife before quickly following his uncle ahead, into the interior. The world of women was simply too terrifying for him.

Jiang Yan was the kind of person who never shared his private life with others. In his more than twenty years of life, apart from fighting wars and staying on guard, there were only Mu Qingxin and his son; nothing else mattered.

Mu Qingxin stayed glued to his side, sitting on the sofa next to him without a bone in her body, leaning against his shoulder.

Jiang Yan just glanced at her with a questioning look, hoping she would sit up straight since there were so many elders around to watch, but she insisted on clinging to him.

"Mu Qingxin, as a lady from a prominent family, don't you know the basic etiquettes of sitting and standing properly?"

Feng Fanghua couldn't stand it anymore and said something.

A pitiful Mu Qingxin retorted, "Mom, you don't understand anything, don't talk!"

Despite Mu Qingxin's noncompliance, the young girl sitting next to Feng Fanghua straightened her hunched back thoroughly, as if fearing everyone would notice her poor posture. She cautiously examined the faces around her and held her back particularly straight.

Mu Qingxin, watching Huanhuan's serious demeanor, couldn't help but give an embarrassed cough and reluctantly let go of Jiang Yan.

"Look, even Huanhuan knows better than you!"

Feng Fanghua, seeing her granddaughter being so sensible, was quite relieved and continued to scold her daughter.

"Huanhuan, Huanhuan! Ever since Huanhuan arrived, you've had no eyes for Qingxin!"

Mu Qingxin complained and then called out to Huanhuan, "You little girl, come over to your aunt!"

Huanhuan got down from the sofa next to her grandmother and walked over to her aunt's side.

The old master, seeing the little girl so obedient, couldn't help but smile and said, "Huanhuan, this little girl, is indeed well-behaved!"

Well-behaved! Qin Mu watched her daughter pretending and couldn't help but laugh, thinking that the elders must be fooled by this little girl, right?

When Huanhuan came over to Mu Qingxin, she also straightened her back forcefully. Sighing, Mu Qingxin patted her shoulders and told her, "Huanhuan, believe in your aunt, one shouldn't be so rigid.

Why be so tiresome all the time? In your own home, you can sit however you want. When you're out, then you can pretend for those people."

Hearing her aunt's words, Huanhuan couldn't help but look at her uncle. Jiang Yan actually agreed with Mu Qingxin's words, but in front of the elders, he didn't dare to concur and only gave her an embarrassed yet polite smile.

"Is that how you teach a child? Does a hunched back look good?"

Just as Huanhuan was about to relax, her grandmother's remark about looking good made her immediately straighten her back again; she thought looking good was more important after all, and it seemed like her mom always sat up straight too.

Later, Huanhuan went to Qin Mu's side, thinking that she might be led astray if she stayed next to her aunt.

Seeing her daughter finally coming to her, Qin Mu happily embraced her and kissed her, making Huanhuan feel a ticklish sensation where she was kissed. She giggled and touched her small face, falling into her mother's embrace. As she laughed, her neat white teeth and sparkling eyes both curved beautifully.

That evening, the family made dumplings, and they were quickly devoured.

But because Feng Fanghua noticed Qin Mu enjoyed eating them, she told everyone to let Qin Mu eat first.

An irritated Mu Qingxin muttered, "Stepmother!"

Feng Fanghua paid little attention, only saying, "When it's your turn to be pregnant again, we'll let you eat as much as you want too."

Qin Mu loved dumplings, so naturally she didn't hold back and ate quite a few whenever the family made them.

Only later did she realize that Feng Fanghua, having noticed her fondness for dumplings, would have the kitchen make them every now and then and even have them delivered to her studio at noon.

At that time, Qin Mu felt she was so blissful it was almost unbearable.

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Summer crept in quietly, and it really began to heat up.

The air conditioning in the studio was also turned on, and several colleagues had already caught colds due to the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures. Unsurprisingly, Qin Mu joined them.

Feng Fanghua directly kept her at the old house instead of letting her go back to the studio, telling her to have someone run errands for her if needed. Qin Mu thus spent most of the time lying in bed or on the couch.

Fortunately, she had taken fewer orders this year, so she was able to relax for a few days.

Mu Qingxin and her beloved son were picked up by Jiang Yan, leaving her and the old master alone at home during the day. Fearing she'd be bored, he had someone call her downstairs to play chess with him.

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Qin Mu put on a mask and went downstairs.

"Girl, what are you doing? Your grandpa has brushed his teeth, there's no smell."

"Grandpa! I'm worried about giving you a cold!"

In the spacious house, other than the staff, it was just the two of them sitting on the couch, drinking tea and playing chess.

Qin Mu's progress wasn't much, so although the old master occasionally had a headache, he basically won steadily.

After losing two games, Qin Mu felt utterly disheartened, "Grandpa, you're killing me!"

"Haha! Let's go again, this time I'll let you win!"

"Really?"

Qin Mu gaped with her big red eyes, disbelieving as she looked at the old man.

"Would I lie to you? Come on, continue!"

Qin Mu was actually skeptical, and sure enough, it went just as she expected.

The old master quickly won another game, then laughed, "Oh dear, I forgot to hold back."

Qin Mu's heart cried, but she could only laugh along, "Grandpa, please show some mercy!"

Qin Mu thought, if no one else came home, she would be done for!

In less than an hour and a half, Qin Mu was almost falling asleep when the old master, feeling sorry for her, was about to let her go upstairs to rest. Mu Yichen came back from outside.

Hearing the housekeeper greet Mu Yichen, the old master turned to look at his grandson returning, "Boy, what brings you back so early?"

"You're still letting her play chess with you looking like this?"

Mu Yichen walked up and directly lifted Qin Mu from the couch.

"I did it because I was afraid she'd get bored!"

The old master explained.

"Who's the one that's bored?"

Mu Yichen asked, then turned with Qin Mu in his arms and headed toward the staircase.

"Grandpa, I'll come back later to accompany you!"

Qin Mu, feeling bad for dampening the old man's spirits, promised the old master with wide eyes.

"Do you want me to spank you?"

Mu Yichen looked down at her unhappily and asked in a low voice.

"You're finally back!"

Qin Mu wasn't upset, instead, she snuggled into his embrace with a smile.

"Actually, grandpa is very entertaining; he always tricks me into playing chess with him. He's like a cute little kid."

Mu Yichen looked at Qin Mu's reddened eyes, then at her spirited appearance, and couldn't help but sigh, "He is cute, but you're even cuter!"

It was definitely not a sincere compliment.

Once Mu Yichen put her on the bed, he gave her a reproachful look, "Don't you know your own condition? If this continues, I think it's better we move back to the apartment!"

He said!

"Moving back to the apartment, will you take time off work to take care of me personally?"

"Have I not taken care of you personally before? Or are you worried I'm not good at it?"

Mu Yichen didn't answer, instead questioning her.

Seeing he was really angry, Qin Mu raised her hand to cup half of his face, "Oh, I was just keeping grandpa company for a game of chess. Plus, I've been sleeping so much that I'm getting stupid. It's hard to find someone willing to play with me."

"And the result?"

Mu Yichen asked her patiently.

"Well, I lost pretty badly! Me!"

"Sigh!"

Mu Yichen sighed helplessly and pulled her hand down, tucking it under the blanket, "Your eyes are so red, and you still care if others are happy or not, you're really something."

Mu Yichen's deep gaze settled on her as he lay down beside her.

"I have a slight fever, but it's not too serious!" Qin Mu touched her forehead, then used the back of her hand to press against her eyelids, feeling the hotter sensation there.

"If you don't get better, I'll have to take you to the hospital. Or should I call Helian Hao to give you a shot?"

"No way! Medicines can be harmful, our baby needs to grow up healthy and strong."

"First, his mother has to be healthy!"

Mu Yichen reminded her.

"Alright, I get it!"

Qin Mu couldn't argue with him!

Later, Mu Yichen spent the entire afternoon with her in bed, and no one came to disturb them.

Because Mu Yichen was by her side, Qin Mu fell asleep quickly. After she was asleep, Mu Yichen looked down at her, then went to the bathroom to wet a towel and brought it back to gently place on her forehead.

When Secretary Xi called him, his first reflex was to glance at Qin Mu, then he quickly picked up the phone, "Hold on!"

Secretary Xi waited as he quietly went to the bathroom to take the call.

"What's the matter?"

"President Li from Construction Bank is here!"

"I have something at home, let Qiao Yi entertain him!"

Mu Yichen thought for a moment, probably about something related to joining Construction Bank, but none of that was as important as his wife's health.

"Alright!"

Secretary Xi was standing with Qiao Yi, and immediately looked at the man next to him after the call, "The boss says it's up to you now!"

Qiao Yi raised his eyebrows slightly, then nodded, "Hmm!"

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In fact, regarding Jing Qing's matter, though Mu Yichen hadn't troubled him, he knew Mu Yichen was aware of everything. All he decided was to devote himself entirely to his brother in the future, out of the guilt he felt within.

Secretary Xi had been standing with him in his office, but after she finished speaking, Qiao Yi left, and she immediately went out the door, sensing that their boss's voice seemed very suppressed!

That evening, after Qin Mu fell asleep, Mu Yichen went to the bar where Qiao Yi was waiting for him. Seeing him arrive, he immediately took the initiative to pour him a glass of wine, "Drink this first, I have some things to talk to you about."

"Some things don't need such a clear explanation from me!"

After downing the glass of wine, Mu Yichen turned his eyes to him and threw out a reminder.

"So, this is totally clear?"

Qiao Yi looked at him, his voice even lower.

"We've known each other for almost thirty years; you wouldn't harm me."

"But..."

"The company can't do without you now, let's talk about everything else later!"

Mu Yichen had someone pour him another glass, then raised it, waiting for Qiao Yi to clink glasses with him.

Qiao Yi gave a bitter smile, "From now on, my life is yours!"

"That sounds so familiar!"

As Mu Yichen drank, he slightly raised his eyes to look at the bartender's cocktail shaker, carefully chewing over that phrase.

Qiao Yi choked on his drink, unable to hold back a cough!

"Hey, handsome! Come dance with me!"

Suddenly, a girl dressed provocatively walked up and gently tapped on Mu Yichen's back.

Instinctively frowning at the contact, Mu Yichen then glanced to the side. The girl walked up to him, smiling and winking, "Let's go?"

"Married!"

President Mu just tossed two cold words at her, then turned his gaze to Qiao Yi.

"I'm single! Can I go?"

Qiao Yi, receiving the cue, immediately put down his glass and spoke to the lady.

The girl wasn't blind; she nodded and then stepped forward to take Qiao Yi's hand, leading him toward the dance floor.

"Girls, did I not bring a real hottie over?"

Qiao Yi's face turned slightly red, but luckily the light was dim enough.

Mu Yichen stood aside and had another drink before he paid the bill and left.

His mind was on his wife at home, so he dared not linger over his drink!

However, as he was leaving, he accidentally bumped into a girl who had come in with a few young men at the entrance. Initially flirting with the guys, she glanced at him after the collision.

Mu Yichen merely glanced back reflexively and left without looking back.

Watching his indifferent silhouette leave, the girl couldn't help but ask, "Who's he? Seems like he's got quite the temper."

"He's really someone important!"

Someone familiar with him explained to the girl.

"Oh? Let's hear it, how important can someone be to be out drinking here in the middle of the night?"

"The business emperor of Rong City!"

The man beside her shared.

The girl's expression became serious for a moment and then she laughed as she walked further in, "Mu Yichen!"

"That's him!"

Remembering that name and thinking back on the indifferent glance from moments before, the girl felt she had made the right connection.

However, running into him on her first night in Rongcheng made her feel quite pleased.

After Mu Yichen got home, he tiptoed to the bathroom to shower. Only after changing into clean pajamas did he lie down next to her.

As Qin Mu turned over, she happened to hold onto him, murmuring unconsciously, "Why are you so cold?"

"Went out for a bit!" he said in a low voice.

Qin Mu said no more, only holding him tight, continuing to sleep peacefully without even opening her eyes.

Mu Yichen couldn't help but laugh at how quickly she fell asleep, as if she were a piece of cotton candy accidentally touching his nose, the soft and tender feeling making his mood as good as if spring had arrived.

He kissed her on the forehead softly and fell asleep with her in his arms.

The next day, when Mu Yichen went to work, after a meeting, he looked at the man who hadn't moved and asked, "Didn't go home last night?"

Qiao Yi's face flushed, then he cleared his throat, sitting weakly in his chair.

Secretary Xi was still sitting there; seeing her, Qiao Yi lowered his eyes, and Secretary Xi laughed unintentionally, "Is it inconvenient? I'll step out!"

"Well... it's indeed a bit inconvenient!"

Qiao Yi tried to call her back, but after thinking, he added.

Secretary Xi's face shifted, then she took her notebook and walked out. At the door, she turned back, "Assistant Qin, 'a bit inconvenient' indeed means that you've admitted to not going home last night."

After speaking, Secretary Xi walked away.

Mu Yichen didn't understand why Secretary Xi was so upset and turned his gaze to Qiao Yi, "Do you two... have an issue?"

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"No, no! She might be having her period!"

Qiao Yi immediately shook his head in denial, explaining.

Mu Yichen looked at Qiao Yi, frowning, "What on earth happened last night?"

"The girl was kind of straightforward, so I didn't make it back home."

After hearing this, Mu Yichen just looked at him for several seconds before casually nodding, "At least that's out in the open now!"

"Uh, well, actually..."

"There's no need to explain to me! I think you should explain to Secretary Xi instead!"

As Mu Yichen spoke, he had already stood up, his keen gaze fixed on Qiao Yi. After he finished speaking, he left.

Qiao Yi wanted to explain more to Mu Yichen; in fact, he had wanted to talk to someone about last night's incident, but he didn't know who to turn to, and since he worked closely with Mu Yichen, he thought of confiding in him. Who knew that Mu Yichen wasn't interested in listening at all.

Qiao Yi sighed helplessly, and during lunchtime in the cafeteria of the office building, he coincidentally saw Secretary Xi eating alone. He walked over out of habit to join her and casually greeted, "Why are you eating alone today?"

Secretary Xi glanced at him, then picked up her tray and moved to another spot.

Qiao Yi...

Having no idea what had transpired, Qiao Yi went to Mu Yichen's office, quite upset that afternoon, "Hey, President Mu, what's the deal with your secretary? I kindly went to eat lunch with her, and she just picked up her plate and left without acknowledging me."

"Are you sure you didn't provoke her?"

After Mu Yichen finished signing the documents and closed his pen, he lifted his eyes and looked at him seriously and asked again.

Qiao Yi...

"How could I dare to provoke her? Didn't you say I'm not allowed to mess with your secretary?"

"Then I don't have a clue!"

Mu Yichen thought, if the person involved didn't understand what was happening, it wouldn't be good for him to speculate.

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That day, Qin Mu went with Helian Hao to pick out clothes in a store and heard a woman next door asking a salesperson, "I heard that the clothes in your store are all unique. I want something that won't be duplicated, yet not old-fashioned. It should be subtly revealing, give an impression of politeness while still being sexy."

The salesperson listened to her request and picked out several items for her, which she repeatedly shook her head at, "No good, the color should be mainly dark shades."

After listening, Qin Mu thought about it and rummaged through a few items before pulling out a dark-colored V-neck dress with a hollow-out back design, sexy yet forward-looking from the front without losing a sense of propriety.

"I wonder if this dress meets the lady's expectations?"

Qin Mu carried the dress over.

The woman glanced at Qin Mu, first in confusion, then at the dress.

"It looks decent, I'll try it on!"

"All right!"

Qin Mu smiled faintly as the woman took the dress and followed the salesperson to the fitting room.

Helian Hao stepped out from the side and said, "This woman must have some motive, right? Isn't she trying to seduce a man?"

Qin Mu curiously looked at Helian Hao, "Seduce who?"

Helian Hao was taken aback, then shrugged, "How should I know?"

For some reason, Qin Mu's heart thumped.

"But you see, with her requirements, all that subtly revealing yet dignified and sexy stuff, if it's not for a man, who would believe it?"

Helian Hao whispered in Qin Mu's ear, her discerning eyes fixed on the fitting room area.

"Then let's each pick out something like that too?"

Qin Mu suddenly suggested excitedly.

"Hm?"

Helian Hao was taken aback!

"To seduce men at home, of course!"

Qin Mu replied!

Helian Hao...

"Although I'm not too keen on it, to be honest, I still have what it takes to seduce men, after all, I can handle it now. But what about you? With your current situation..."

Helian Hao didn't finish speaking but reached out and patted her belly.

Qin Mu...

Sigh! Nowadays, I can only wear dresses that are more on the loose side.

She felt somewhat dismayed and couldn't help sighing.

The beautiful woman had just come out of the fitting room wearing the new dress and looked at herself turning left and right in front of the mirror. Then she turned to look for Qin Mu.

Qin Mu and Helian Hao were also astonished by her figure; she truly had the perfect model's body, with cleavage and long legs, and a gorgeous back highlighted by the dress design that made both women feel envious.

Qin Mu quietly asked Helian Hao: could she be an actress or a model or something?

"I wouldn't know, but I've never seen this woman among the refined ladies of Rongcheng."

Helian Hao's gaze was very serious as she scrutinized the woman's face.

"I'm Su Zhen, from D City!"

Su Zhen happily greeted them after purchasing the dress, her sharp gaze noticing that Qin Mu and Helian Hao were wearing the same brand and deduced they must be close friends.

"Hello! Qin Mu!"

Qin Mu introduced herself simply yet politely!

"Helian Hao!—We're both genuine Rongcheng locals!"

Helian Hao thought for a moment and added a few more words.

"That's wonderful, I've just arrived in this precious place and still don't know much about it. Can we be friends?"

Chapter 567: How can she compare with you?_1

"I'm an obstetrician working at the downtown hospital, and I'd be more than happy to help if Miss Su has any issues in that area. Here's my business card!"

Helian Hao said, reflexively fishing a business card from her bag, which indeed had her phone number on it.

Qin Mu felt a bit shy upon hearing someone wanted to befriend her, but she was genuinely surprised when she heard Helian Hao produce her business card.

Helian Hao was also that kind of person who doesn't make friends easily, having been through a lot, she knew all too well how precious the word 'friend' could be.

They didn't need friends who were just there for casual eating and drinking, so that's why Helian Hao had to say it that way.

Su Zhen smiled a bit awkwardly but still took Helian Hao's business card: "I hope I won't have to consult you on such issues."

"Here's my business card!"

Su Zhen also politely took out her own business card and handed it to them.

Qin Mu and Helian Hao both held their breath involuntarily upon seeing this card.

"I just started working at AM on Monday, and I got my business cards just this morning. If you two ever dine at AM, be sure to look for me!"

— —

Qin Mu and Helian Hao had never expected that this stunning beauty named Su Zhen had come from out of town to work at AM. Now, they wondered which gentleman at AM she was so carefully selecting an evening gown for.

Before parting ways, Helian Hao reminded her, "You might want to gauge Mu Yichen's opinion first."

"I'll ask him directly, why beat around the bush?"

Qin Mu laughed, opening her car door and leaving first.

In the evening, when Qin Mu and Huanhuan returned to their apartment, Qin Mu went to the kitchen to prepare dinner, while Huanhuan sat in the dining room reading a picture book on her own.

Mu Yichen only knew that they had gone back home, but seeing no one in the living room, he glanced toward the kitchen, saw the light on, and headed there, shedding his coat along the way.

To his surprise, Qin Mu was rolling up her sleeves to chop tomatoes. He approached Huanhuan and tenderly stroked her little head while his eyes irresistibly followed the woman in the kitchen.

Looking up at her dad, Yichen finally lowered his gaze to meet her eyes, smiled gently, viewed her picture book and then asked with a smile, "Do you understand what you're reading?"

"Yes!"

Huanhuan nodded seriously, then pointed at a princess in the book for her dad: "This is Belle! The princess that Huanhuan likes the most."

Yichen frowned slightly, vaguely remembering his daughter saying she liked Princess Elsa just a few days ago.

So, the dreams of a little girl are always changing, aren't they?

Yichen smiled helplessly.

Qin Mu came out from the kitchen: "She's changed her favorite character seven times this month."

Yichen looked up at her, noting that his wife looked particularly radiant today.

"Are you sure you can be trusted with cooking?"

Yichen walked toward her.

Qin Mu stepped aside to give him a view of the kitchen.

She had already arranged several dishes.

"To be truthful, I don't want to wait every day for you to come home and cook for me, so I've chopped all the vegetables."

"Hmm! Not bad chopping! How long did it take you?"

"Not too long, just over half an hour or so!"

Yichen placed his hands on his hips, and while laughing, he couldn't help but raise one hand to touch the center of his brow; then, turning his head to contain his smile, he looked at her with eyes full of affection and not a hint of disdain.

"Mrs. Mu, is it just these greens and two tomatoes? Half an hour, you say?" Yichen was quite skeptical of his wife's abilities.

"What about ginger? Chopped onions? Carrots? Don't they count as vegetables? And didn't you notice how beautifully I chopped everything? Aren't those tomato pieces all the same size?"

Qin Mu went over and picked up a slice to show him.

Yichen sighed lightly and watched her eat a slice of tomato, then rolled up his sleeves.

"Start the fire!"

He ordered softly, then took a piece of beef out of the fridge.

"Oh!"

Qin Mu quickly assisted him.

Rather than just watching him cook as she used to, she wanted to be actively involved in this realm.

After all, during the two years without him, she and Huanhuan had relied on her cooking skills to get by.

Occasionally, Huanhuan would look up to see her parents in the kitchen, cooking her favorite dinner, then she would climb contentedly down from her chair and head to the living room on her own.

Soon enough, the sound of the TV came on in the living room, they exchanged glances, and Qin Mu shrugged, "Your daughter can do a lot now, finding her favorite TV shows, browsing on a phone, and she can accurately find both our names."

Chapter 568: How can she compare with you?_2

"Hmm! Who taught her this?"

Mu Yichen looked at Qin Mu and asked.

"Mu Qingxin! Her aunt!"

Qin Mu was startled but immediately pushed the responsibility onto the woman who had already left the Mu Family.

Mu Yichen nodded, "I see!"

Qin Mu silently sighed in relief, then continued to nibble on a slice of tomato.

Mu Yichen glanced at her, "Am I still frying this or not?"

"Mixing it with some sugar is also fine," Qin Mu thought for a moment before suggesting.

"It looks like you have enough to eat like this!"

Mu Yichen observed as he spoke.

"Hmm, indeed!"

Qin Mu, wearing slippers and standing in front of him, was much shorter, looked up at him with bright eyes that sparkled with dazzling light.

"Go accompany Huanhuan first."

The feeling of happiness was beyond words.

All the beauty was reflected in her eyes, on her face, and even in every gesture she made, which seemed to radiate her current happiness.

After dinner, Qin Mu was going to bathe Huanhuan, and Mu Yichen said to Qin Mu, "Don't give her a bath, just wash her up quickly, OK!"

"Alright!"

Qin Mu obediently agreed.

However, after mother and daughter got to the bed, Qin Mu forgot that Mu Yichen was waiting for her. She cuddled with Huanhuan in bed, telling a bedtime story until Huanhuan fell asleep, and then listened to her daughter's breathing as she slept.

The sound made her feel very comfortable, so she fell asleep too!

Mu Yichen dealt with some emails for a while, but when she didn't return, he looked at his wristwatch on the table. It was already ten o'clock. He frowned slightly and went to find her.

When he got to his daughter's room and saw Qin Mu sleeping beside her, he sighed helplessly.

He was still waiting!

And she had fallen asleep just like that?

After he brought her back to the room, she woke up and asked him, "Did I fall asleep just now?"

"Hmmp!"

The normally good-tempered Mu Yichen just smiled it off.

Qin Mu was now wide awake, fluttered her lovely lashes, and then smiled at him, "What's wrong?"

"What do you think?"

"Have you been feeling sleepy lately?"

"Just a little bit!"

Qin Mu answered.

"Do you know Su Zhen?"

Qin Mu was actually a bit nervous when she asked, afraid he might think she was jealous.

"I don't know her!"

Mu Yichen frowned as though he needed a moment to think.

After hearing his response, Qin Mu couldn't help but raise her eyebrows, "You don't know her, huh, but... she said she's going to work at AM on Monday!"

Her voice was still low and indeed had a tinge of probing.

Hearing the letters AM, Mu Yichen looked up and frowned at her, "Which Su Zhen?"

"The Su Zhen from D City?"

Qin Mu wasn't quite sure and asked softly, her facial expression all questioning.

"I know her!"

He thought for a while then started to explain slowly, "She comes from a connected family, studied hotel management, and I'm currently cooperating with that sector. So, her father approached me and asked me to arrange a position at AM for her, saying it would be a good opportunity for his daughter to gain some experience."

Mu Yichen recalled the situation with a hint of helplessness, his brows still knotted.

"She has quite the background!"

Qin Mu also frowned at this, not too pleased!

"She's not worth a finger of yours—you, how do you know her?"

Mu Yichen suddenly thought, Qin Mu shouldn't have known this woman before.

"She was shopping for clothes at our store today, and I happened to go with Xiaohao to pick up some clothes, and we ran into each other. She specifically asked for a dignified dress, so I introduced one to her, that's how I know!"

Mu Yichen couldn't help but give a wry smile after listening, "I promise you, there is absolutely nothing inappropriate between this woman and me, I swear it!"

"Oh? Then with which woman are things not so innocent?"

Qin Mu looked up at him and asked, her eyes sharp as knives.

Mu Yichen felt a bit of a shiver in his scalp at her question, "Just dealing with you is more than I can handle, do you think I have time to fool around with other women?"

"That's for the best, or else..."

"Or else what?"

"Mu Yichen, if that woman dares to cause trouble, I'm warning you in advance, I won't be polite!"

"Hmm! Mrs. Mu, feel free to be impolite to her!"

The following day!

Qin Mu took Huanhuan to the Mu Family, where Feng Fanghua had the kitchen prepare freshly washed and cut fruit for her.

"These were all freshly cut for you this morning, take them with you, and have some when you're tired from work. I've told your assistant to make sure you drink milk every day—are you doing it?"

Feng Fanghua handed over the box the maid gave her to Qin Mu while speaking.

"I am, drinking it every day!"

Qin Mu replied.

"That's good, then take care!"

Feng Fanghua said goodbye while holding Huanhuan's hand.

"Bye-bye, mommy!"

"Bye-bye, Huanhuan, be good!"

After bidding farewell to her mother, Huanhuan went with her grandmother to the house, where many people were waiting to play with her, and she was quite eager.

Chapter 569: How can she compare with you?_3

Qin Mu drove to the studio and after arriving, she opened the food box given to her by Feng Fanghua. Inside were two large boxes filled with super pretty, super fresh fruit!

Qin Mu felt that she had gained some weight around her stomach recently.

But she couldn't resist eating! And the more she ate, the bigger her appetite grew.

Xiaomei brewed her some flower tea and brought it over, then saw her eating fruit.

"Wow! Eating secretly by yourself!"

Xiaomei accused her, then leaned forward, propping herself on the office desk and reached out to grab some fruit.

Qin Mu slapped her hand away, and Xiaomei immediately looked like she was about to cry.

Qin Mu handed her a fruit pick, and Xiaomei cheered up again, quickly helping herself to a few pieces.

"Mmm! The fruit from rich families is really different!"

Xiaomei said while eating, totally relishing it and tilting her head back as if she was drooling while eating.

Qin Mu helplessly glanced at her, "You talk as if you haven't eaten anything yummy with me over the years."

"But I never get enough each time."

Xiaomei continued to complain, then picked out some unfamiliar fruits to taste.

"This time you still won't get enough."

Qin Mu kindly reminded her, but couldn't help laughing after she finished talking.

"Qinqin, you're getting better at expressing yourself! I kinda miss the old Qinqin who only loved her work."

Xiaomei muttered.

Qin Mu...

Did she only love her work before?

How could that be?

She loved Huanhuan too!

What about her now?

Suddenly, she felt like she had fallen in love with the whole Rongcheng!

This astonishing discovery made her stop talking and retreat into a memory.

Xiaomei, still eating with her head down, looked up at Qin Mu after noticing her silence. Realizing that Qin Mu was lost in thought and that Xiaomei herself had no memory of what she had just said, she looked at her and said, "You're not eating anymore? Then, I won't hold back!"

"Why?"

Qin Mu came back to her senses and asked her.

"It's much nicer to have someone to compete with when eating! Plus, this was prepared by your mother-in-law. Sigh, I'll go out first, just call me if you need anything!"

Xiaomei said while standing up with her fruit pick.

"When you're pregnant, I'll definitely buy you lots and lots so you can eat your fill!"

Qin Mu immediately promised.

"Then you'll have a long wait!"

Xiaomei shrugged her shoulders and then left the room.

Thinking to herself, when can someone without even a man hope to get pregnant?

Ha ha, if not, I'll just go to the sperm bank when I'm thirty!

Xiaomei thought cheerfully and then went downstairs to bury herself in work again.

In the morning, Helian Hao had asked Qin Mu to also order lunch for her from the restaurant, so at noon, they ate the meal delivered by AM in the studio together.

By lunchtime, a dining table had been set up next to the first-floor kitchen, with six dishes and two soups arranged on it.

The three women exchanged looks, then turned to the restaurant manager.

"This was Mr. Mu's idea. He said you didn't seem comfortable eating over there, so we picked a dining table suitable for the studio and moved it here," said the manager.

"Thank you all for your hard work!"

Qin Mu was really embarrassed, but had to thank them nonetheless.

Yet, she felt a bit uneasy about troubling them.

"This is what we should do. If you need anything in the future, Madam, just instruct me and I will do my best to take care of it," the manager said with great courtesy.

"Okay! Thank you!"

After sending the staff away, the three women sat down at the table, "If I had known it would be this lavish, I wouldn't have ordered milk tea. I love these soups!"

Xiaomei said as she hastily served herself a bowl of soup. Even the bowl was exceptionally pretty, white and translucent.

"Being Mrs. Mu sure is nice!"

Helian Hao took Qin Mu's bowl to serve her soup but didn't forget to sigh with envy.

"Jealous, aren't you?"

Qin Mu tried to contain her pride, but eventually, she let out a laugh.

Helian Hao gave her a look, then served herself some soup. However, a sudden surge of nausea hit her, and she quickly put down her utensils and ran to the restroom.

Qin Mu and Xiaomei curiously watched her go, then looked at each other.

Later, Qin Mu put down the utensils she had just picked up and followed her to the restroom. Seeing Helian Hao vomiting, she frowned, "You're..."

Helian Hao turned to look at her with eyes brimming with tears, about to speak but overcome with distress again.

Qin Mu leaned against the door with her arms crossed, silently watching Helian Hao finish vomiting, then said earnestly, "Congratulations! You've got joy coming again!"

Helian Hao looked at her, "That can't be possible, right?"

Helian Hao asked worriedly.

Qin Mu smiled, "You're a doctor and even you don't know?"

Helian Hao...

Chapter 570: How can she compare with you?_4

Alright, she indeed had a bit of a slow reaction to certain things.

When the two of them returned to the dining table, Xiaomei was scarfing down food like crazy, having eaten nearly half of several dishes already.

Xiaomei looked up at them and said, "You don't need to tell me anything, I don't want to know!"

Helian Hao and Qin Mu gave a helpless laugh, then went over and sat down to eat.

However, Helian Hao still couldn't help but react a little at the sight of the fish soup.

"Fish soup is very nourishing, you should drink more of it."

Qin Mu, remembering her own first three months, then reminded Helian Hao.

But in her heart, she thought, ah, you have your day too.

Helian Hao gave a helpless sigh and said, "I might as well keep it a secret for now. Otherwise, if Jing Feng finds out, how am I to deal with him forcing me to eat all sorts of bizarre things?"

"And what if he figures it out just by your behavior?"

Upon hearing this, Xiaomei immediately began talking and mimicking the behavior at the same time.

Helian Hao thought about it and, feeling helpless, shook her head and said, "You actually make a lot of sense. Why does a single young woman like you seem to understand men so well?"

"I don't understand men at all!"

When Xiaomei heard Helian Hao's words, she protested softly but unconsciously thought of Jian Yan, having been with him for so long. She figured that perhaps this is what unrequited love is like; you gradually understand everything about that man, you guess his thoughts, you realize that a lot of things about men cannot be forced, and you come to know just how perceptive men can be.

Perhaps Jian Yan had sensed Qin Mu's feelings for Mu Yichen right from the start?

Suddenly, Xiaomei remembered how Jian Yan had been distracted during that period, memories like a long river, leading to unknown places, making one lose their way.

Seeing Xiaomei's soul-lost appearance, Qin Mu guessed she was thinking of Jian Yan and simply said softly, "Didn't you say you liked the soup? Drink more of it, it won't taste good once it's cold!"

Xiaomei, reminded about the soup, quickly recovered her spirits and started competing with the two pregnant women for food.

After Helian Hao returned to the hospital, she found a pregnancy test stick and took it to the restroom.

When she confirmed later that she was pregnant, her heart almost stopped from the fright.

She sent a WeChat picture to Qin Mu: "Dear, I really am pregnant!"

"What did you originally think?"

Qin Mu thought to herself, she had made it so clear in the studio at noon, so that woman had never believed it.

"I thought you were joking!"

She also sent a crying emoji.

Qin Mu laughed helplessly and replied, "Take good care of yourself, you should tell Jing Feng by tonight at the latest when you get off work."

Helian Hao sent a string of ellipsis.

The relationship between Helian Hao and Jing Feng lately, how to put it?

Helian Hao always felt that they were just getting by, although there were feelings, it was hard to get fully invested.

There was a period when she almost thought they were going to break up.

But day by day, they got through the past few months.

And then one day, out of the blue, she discovered she was pregnant.

If Jing Feng found out about her pregnancy...

Jing Feng must have been hoping for her to be pregnant, she thought. Thinking of his reaction when he would find out, she felt somewhat gloomy all afternoon, and went straight home after work.

In the evening, she prepared dinner on time as usual. Jing Feng also seldom socialized after work and would come home to eat.

But tonight, Jing Feng did not return. He called to say that there was something at the old house that required his attention, so Helian Hao prepared dinner and ate alone.

Around ten o'clock, she sat on the sofa holding the remote control and watched TV. The house was silent except for the sound of the remote. She occasionally glanced at the beautiful clock hanging not far away on the wall, and then her gaze would return to the television.

She was kind of nervous, not knowing how to bring up her pregnancy.

However, as he didn't come back, she found herself wanting to say less and less.

When Jing Feng finally returned home, nearly at eleven o'clock, she still sat on the sofa. She glanced at him as he came over and sat beside her and then asked softly, "Is there something going on at home?"

"Nothing much!"

Jing Feng said tiredly, leaning back in the sofa and lifting his head.

Helian Hao felt that ever since Jing Qing left, Jing Feng seemed to be under a lot of pressure. She wondered if Jing Qing had truly died in that explosion, or if it was just the Jing Family's arrangement for her departure.

She couldn't be sure and later decided not to ask too much about it. Affairs of the Jing Family that she shouldn't meddle in, she wouldn't bother with.

The two of them sat quietly on the sofa for a while.

"Let's go to sleep!"

Jing Feng suddenly spoke up, then straightened his back.

Helian Hao turned her head to look at him, holding back again and again. Remembering the message from Qin Mu, she finally mustered the courage, "Jing Feng, I'm pregnant!"