

## **Loving 1391**

### **Chapter 1391. Still Father and Son? 2**

Qi Qiming was in a daze again. Haunted by the thought of Wang Qin in his nightmares for days, he was exhausted. Even after seeing a psychologist privately, his symptoms persisted.

Of course, it was not really about the nightmares. It was how Wang Qin would look at him in disgust every time, or how she turned around in disdain every time.

He had to admit that Wang Qin had been on his mind. He felt extremely ridiculed by that fact, but he could feel indescribable loneliness and grief in his heart.

She was gone!

While his mind still wandered, he finally took his chopsticks and picked up a thin slice of sweet and sour tofu in front of him, and put it in his mouth.

It tasted very good. It reminded him of Wang Qin's cooking though he did not seem to recall paying much attention to Wang Qin's cooking before because every time they sat down together, the tension between them was so thick that one could cut it with a knife. Over time, he just got tired of it.

While Qi Qiming ate three slices one after another, he ate very slowly. Opposite him, Qi Lei was eating just as slowly as he was. It seemed like he did not even notice that Qi Qiming was opposite him.

It was strange that even though Qi Lei's attitude was cold, Qi Qiming felt content at this moment. He seemed to feel a sense of satisfaction and peace of mind. In fact, it had been a while since the father and son sat down and enjoyed lunch together quietly.

If Wang Qin was still there, it would still be great for the family to get together like this and share a meal.

While Qi Qiming was eating, there was a lot going on in his heart. It was overwhelming and he found it hard to breathe. After collecting his thoughts, he looked at Qi Lei and said calmly, "You probably don't

want to see me now. Honestly, I'm sad about what happened to your mother. Recently, I've been dreaming about me and her in the past, and I have to admit that I was a bit of an a\*shole."

"You don't have to tell me that. I don't want to be reminded or think about all that again. You can go back after this meal. After all, even without me, you still have another son. Mother and I are connected, and one can't go on without the other. You don't need to feel guilty, and there's no need to feel sorry for me or my mother. From your point of view, you'd think you were right if you were more selfish."

Qi Lei's tone was very calm. He did not even look at Qi Qiming as he said this. He looked as if he was dead inside while his face was calm as still water. Qi Qiming could feel the pang of hurt in his heart again.

"I've been thinking about things these days. Instead of getting disgusted by the sight of me, it would be better for us to just not see each other again. I'm not trying to get anything out of that, unlike Mother. I want to cut all ties, but it's a pity that the blood I carry is yours and that's an undeniable fact. I wish I could just remove everything in my body that is yours and return them, but I'm afraid of pain."

"Lei, you are my son, and that will forever be the truth." He felt hurt by Qi Lei's words, so he immediately cut Qi Lei off. "You are blaming me for this incident...for not getting you out in time."

"I don't care anymore. Anyway, I'm safe and sound now. Now, I'm giving everyone the opportunity to stand on their own feet, be self-reliant, and stop thinking about Qi Kai. I also don't want us to meet and get sick of each other. Is it that difficult?"

"I have never thought about driving you out of our family. Lei, you will always remain part of the family, do you understand?" Qi Qiming had never felt so powerless, helpless, or even...

"Do you really think I can still be part of this family now?" Qi Lei rebutted while filling the cup in front of him and downing it in one shot. "Please let me be. I'll be grateful to you. Father, I beg you. If you won't leave me alone, the next thing I'll deal with will be death just like Mother!"

Qi Lei gently put the cup in his hand down as he said that. He got up, and without looking at Qi Qiming again, he turned around and walked towards the stairs.

“Lei!” Qi Qiming watched Qi Lei leave coldly, and he suddenly felt desolate.

“Whatever happened to your mother will never happen again!” Qi Qiming said determinedly, “I’ll never let go of whoever killed your mother! Gu Qiwu was locked up because of this, maybe it was really him! ”

Qi Lei stopped in his tracks at the stairs when he heard that, “Gu Qiwu? What good would it have done him to kill my mother? Is it because of Gu Lingsha? Or is it because of Qi Feng? He literally just gave Hui Gu to Mu Lingshi now. Do you think he’d kill for Gu Lingsha and the rest? Don’t you think that sounds ridiculous?”

Qi Qiming’s mood darkened. He paused, then continued, “Doris was responsible for what happened this time. Why did she kidnap you?”

“What do you think? Why did she kidnap me? The gangsters almost killed us, so what do you think? Why did they take us to the deep mountains and still want to hold us prisoners?” Qi Lei turned around as he snapped at Qi Qiming condescendingly.

Qi Qiming seemed conflicted. Although there was a trace of doubt in his heart, there was no evidence to prove it.

“You are afraid to find out the answer. Why would you come and ask me?”

Qi Qiming was speechless, and for a while, he did not know what to say.

“Well, with all that’s said and done, it’s actually not bad. It’s tiring to hide what I want to say. I blame myself for that, but I realize it now. I have been giving in, considering the relationship, but maybe they won’t let me go. Next time, he’d better kill me, or he will die a terrible death.” Qi Lei was still calm as he went on while his gaze was devoid of any malice.

“If he doesn’t believe it, I’ll show him!”

“Qi Lei, you...Can we still be father and son?” Qi Qiming’s hoarse voice sounded weak.

"I don't know. I think and I hope I can't!" Qi Lei left immediately. His tall figure disappeared at the corner of the stairs.

Qi Qiming's whole body went limp and he collapsed into the chair behind him. He glanced at the food on the table, and after a long time, he reached out for the wine bottle and poured himself some.

#### Chapter 1392. Grief and Indignation 1

Towards the end, Qi Qiming did not even realize when he left. He just knew that by the time he did, he had drunk all the sake and eaten half the dishes on the table...

The sun outside was brighter, and the car slowly left the Grand Lake Villa area.

Along the way, Qi Qiming stayed silent. Thoughts weighed on his mind to the point that even when Assistant Wang called out to him several times from the front, he did not respond.

"CEO Qi?"

Afterward, Assistant Wang raised his voice slightly, and Qi Qiming was stunned. He then gathered his thoughts from his daze.

Qi Qiming's obscuring gaze flickered, his eyes then returned to calm as he softly asked, "What is it?"

The assistant could hear from Qi Qiming's tone that he was not very happy, so he then lowered his voice and carefully said, "Should we send someone to oversee Doris's matter? Miss seems to be landing in City Z this evening, and I wonder how First Master will be arranging for her arrival."

Doris...

When this name was brought up, Qi Qiming's gaze darkened. He thought about it for a moment, then took a deep breath before saying in a lowered voice, "Let him handle it himself."

"Yes, CEO Qi!"

"Also, look into what Qi Feng has been doing recently," Qi Qiming said exhaustedly. Even if he did not want to, at this point, he could not help but have doubts. He was inclined to believe what Qi Lei had said, especially about the search mission to find Qi Lei. Qi Feng had not performed in a satisfactory way after all.

As a father, he did not wish to see the brothers go against each other, but right now, it seemed like things were not as simple as he thought. What was going on between the brothers was not just disharmony, but...

"CEO Qi..." When the assistant heard Qi Qiming, he began to feel puzzled. He looked hesitantly at Qi Qiming through the rearview mirror and said, "Master Qi, are you saying that you want to investigate First Master?"

"That's right. Look into what he's been doing recently, especially his subordinate, Morrison. Examine them thoroughly. I want information on them from the past six months. Also, revoke the information about the proposal with South River Project No. 2 first. I'll take over it myself."

"But, CEO Qi, isn't First Master in charge of this project? If we suddenly revoke the information, I'm afraid it won't be a good idea. First Master's most familiar with the project in the whole of Qi Kai. CEO Qi, you'll have to think this through!" Assistant Wang could not help but remind.

Yes, he was right!

South River Project No. 2 was a project that Qi Qiming had fought for to help Qi Feng rise up. Currently, they were collaborating with Hui Gu. However, now under the current circumstances, given that Gu Qiwu announced with great fanfare that Mu Lingshi was going to be his heir, he could not guarantee the progress of this project.

In truth, Qi Feng had been handling this project well, and he was very happy about it, but right now he suddenly seemed to have additional considerations.

After the New Year, Qi Lei's new company would be open for business. The fact that he could reach this stage proved that he was quite extraordinarily capable as well, so...

Qi Qiming hesitated before saying, "Send Yue Hai over to supervise it, and let them both work on this project. This project is one of Qi Kai's most important projects in recent years, so we can't afford to be negligent. Just let Yue Hai go over to supervise."

Then, Assistant Wang nodded. "Yes, I got it, CEO Qi!"

...

The warm sun faded away, and in the blink of an eye, it was evening.

After having lunch at the old Mu residence and staying for a while, the husband and wife returned to the Shen residence.

Since Shen Yue retired, he rarely left the house now. It was not too bad when the weather was warmer, but once it got cold, he would curl up at home to read or play chess, and on the weekends he would accompany Mu Zirui to practice writing or do some other things.

The elder's life was quite a calm one. At least, compared to before, he was much calmer, and he looked more spirited.

When Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye rushed back, Shen Yue was pruning his bonsai in the backyard. Coincidentally, Lan Zilang was there too.

The elder was dressed in a Tang suit [1], and he held a pair of scissors in his hand, and he hummed his favorite 'Katyusha' [2]...

"Elder CEO, you look more energetic these days. In fact, you look brighter too. Have you been doing well recently?" Lan Zilang did not notice Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye behind him. He just smiled cheerfully as he watched the joyful Shen Yue.

Upon hearing that, Shen Yue's aged eyes squinted. He fixed the plum blossom in the pot before him as he said, "I don't have to worry about anything, so of course, I look spirited. I should have long let go of my burdens. Now, I truly understand the true essence of life. If only Ah Hua was still around! Now,

we've got grandchildren too, but sadly, she wasn't that lucky. When we were younger, she suffered so much with me, and by the time we could finally enjoy ourselves, she left us..."

"Elder Madam will feel happy in heaven knowing that you've been thinking of her all these years, Elder CEO. Now, it's good that you can be more at ease. Xiaye's managing the company very well, so you can rest assured," Lan Zilang said with a smile.

"I'm not worried about you lot handling the company's matters. Our Shen family isn't a famous family, hence we don't need any heirs to carry forward the family name as long as the children are happy. In the years to come, when you're dead, none of this will matter. They should fight for the life they want too. Girls may be rich and spoiled but not the boys."

At this juncture, Shen Yue paused what he was doing but did not look up at him.

When Lan Zilang heard that, he laughed and quickly said, "It's quite rare to think of things like you do, Elder CEO. I always thought that you cared a lot about finding an appropriate match for a marriage partner like..."

"Like Wenna and Mushan?"

Before Lan Zilang could finish, Shen Yue had already cut him off. His aged eyes narrowed slightly at him.

Lan Zilang paused, then nodded.

When Shen Yue set aside the scissors in his hand, Lan Zilang quickly brought him a cup of hot tea.

Shen Yue took it and slowly took a sip.

"Actually, that wasn't my intention back then. I did look into the kind of family the Xi family was. If it had been possible, I would still much rather have arranged for Wenna to marry you. Otherwise, Ah Chen's father, Mu Tangchuan would have been great too. He was better than Xi Mushan either way, but after that, I thought it through. Those external factors aren't as important as I thought. Didn't I, Shen Yue,

come from the origins of being a farmer? When I was younger, I did all the tiring, dirty work. Ah Hua was an heiress from a good family too, but didn't she end up marrying a poor soldier like me?"

#### Chapter 1393. Grief and Indignation 2

Shen Yue's tone sounded somber as he said, "After figuring this out, I've come to accept whatever that has happened between Wenna and Mushan. Everything will be fine as long as they live happily." "Mr. President, it's great that you seem cheerful now that it's been resolved." Lan Zilang sighed lightly. "You'll have to work for a few more years if you stay with Xiaye in the company. Come keep me company when you have time. Let the young ones take care of themselves."

"Mr. President, are you talking about what happened recently?" As someone who had been with Shen Yue for many years, Lan Zilang could easily understand what Shen Yue meant.

Shen Yue lowered his head and took a sip of tea. "Mu Yinan called me some time ago. Everyone has probably heard about it, or at least, most of them have. It has caused quite a stir."

"I'm also surprised that Gu Qiwu and the Mu family are involved. I'm a little worried about Chairman Mu now that I think about Mrs. Mu's misfortune."

"Worrying doesn't change anything. From their respective standpoints, it's actually difficult to tell what's right and wrong. In most cases, it depends on how much they can tolerate each other, and it may not even be necessary to talk about forgiveness to live together peacefully."

...

As soon as Shen Yue said this, Xi Xiaye, who had been listening for a while, finally called out, "Grandpa, Uncle Lan!"

Shen Yue's face was gleaming with joy when he heard her voice. Upon turning around and seeing Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye standing not far away, his wizened face blossomed like a flower.

"I'm back!"

"Grandpa, Uncle Lan," Mu Yuchen also greeted them respectfully.



Lan Zilang smiled and nodded.

“Just the right time. Your parents went out to buy groceries, and they should be back soon. Come sit inside. It’s cold outside.” Shen Yue set his teacup aside and walked towards the corridor.

They went to the living room and sat down. Shen Yue could not resist inviting Mu Yuchen to a game of chess. Xi Mushan and Shen Wenna had just come back from buying groceries. The men got together and Xi Xiaye did not bother them as she went to help in the kitchen.

In the kitchen, Shen Wenna was cooking with Xi Xiaye there to help.

When Xi Xiaye was quietly washing the vegetables, she suddenly heard Shen Wenna’s voice. “A few days ago, Xi Xinyi came to see your father at home. I asked her to stay for dinner. When I saw her, it felt like she has changed a lot. Do you still remember all the things she’s done to you?”

Xi Xiaye was flabbergasted, but after a while, she said, “Those things are all in the past. There’s no point holding grudges.”

“It’s good if you can think that way, Xiaye. When you were growing up, I’ve always told you that losing is better than gaining an enemy. This isn’t a sign of weakness, but it’s important to look at the bigger picture. It’s part of the reason why things happened between Gu Qiwu and Doris this time. You should learn something from that.”

“I know, but, Mother, if you were Lingshi, would you forgive Gu Qiwu? Chen took Hui Gu from Gu Qiwu, and Gu Qiwu was willing to make Lingshi the heir of Gu family...”

Xi Xiaye rarely talked about these things with Shen Wenna. While she always had the impression that her mother was a smart and intelligent person, she rarely confided her concerns to Shen Wenna. However, a lot had changed within these two years.

“Sometimes, it doesn’t matter if you forgive a person or not. In fact, your heart already has an answer. Just follow your heart.” Shen Wenna did not explain any further.

...

Follow your heart...

How did one follow one's heart?

Xi Xiaye pondered and still felt lost. As the gentle rays of the street lights shone on her face, her eyebrows frowned.

"What're you thinking about? You seem out of it since dinner," Mu Yuchen, who was driving, finally asked after seeing her stay quiet for so long.

Xi Xiaye came back to her senses after hearing his voice. She turned to watch him driving the car, and he looked back at her in concern. "What's wrong?"

Taking a deep breath, she turned back to the front and leaned her head against his broad shoulder. He gently touched her head. "Tell me, what happened? What's bothering you?"

"It's nothing. It's just that I told my mother about Lingshi, and I learned that Xi Xinyi went to our parents' a while ago."

"Are you overthinking?"

"I won't tell you, or you might accuse me of being worried for no reason again! But, Mr. Mu, it's Christmas Eve. We haven't had a night out for so long. Let's go out and have some fun, shall we? Let's call Zitong and Suchen too. And also Qi Lei, Su Nan, Ruan Heng, and the rest!" Xi Xiaye suggested as she admired the vivid lights outside.

Upon hearing her suggestion, Mu Yuchen raised his eyebrows and glanced at her. "Really?"

"Of course, you need to stop the car now. Give them a call and ask them out. I'll call Su Nan. Hurry up!"

Xi Xiaye had already reached out for her cell phone to call Su Nan.

...

Mu Yuchen looked at her helplessly, his deep affection for her apparent in his dark eyes. He slowed down the car, took the phone, and called Su Chen who was at home at the time.

He had just come back from dinner at the old residence and was smoking a cigarette leisurely while reading through some information he had just received from the headquarters. He heard his cell phone vibrate, so he quickly picked it up.

"Come out and let's have fun. At the same old place at Huangtian's. Bring Ji Zitong along," Mu Yuchen said very simply.

"Have fun? That's rare!" Su Chen puffed on his cigarette and grinned.

"Hurry up, I'll be there with Xiaye." Mu Yuchen hung up after that.

Su Chen raised his eyebrows and looked at the phone screen that gradually darkened. Only then did he close the file in his hand. He grabbed his jacket, stood up, and walked out of the study. He shouted, "Zitong, change into some warm clothes. Let's go out to have fun."

"Go out? Do we have any plans?" Ji Zitong had just cut some fruits. She looked at Su Chen in confusion.

"You'll find out when we get there. Now, hurry up and change into something warm."

Su Chen took a piece of apple and stuffed it into his mouth. Then, he took the fruit bowl from her hand, and signaled her to quickly get changed.

Despite frowning, Ji Zitong had no choice but to trust his words. She quickly changed into a light-colored long skirt layered with a beige knitted cardigan, which looked very warm and made her seem very attractive. When she walked out of the bedroom, Su Chen did a double-take.

“Missus, I realize your taste has improved a lot lately!”

#### Chapter 1394. Grief and Indignation 3

Su Chen leaned against the door frame as he squinted at her, then smiled with admiration while playing with the car keys in his hand.

“Are you saying that I didn’t have taste before this?” Ji Zitong rolled her eyes and reached out to take the car key from his hand, then tossed her handbag at him.

Su Chen caught it accurately and frowned at the woman who had already turned to walk towards the door. He felt something.

Ji Zitong seemed to be less and less courteous with him now, and she had quite the temper, but when did he start to put up with her and even willingly hold her handbag for her?

He did not think too much as Ji Zitong’s slender figure already vanished out the doorway, thus he could only follow after her.

After a while, the black Land Rover slowly drove out of the villa area. Ji Zitong drove while Su Chen sat leisurely in the front passenger seat with his arm as a pillow.

“This thing with Ah Mo has finally come to an end, hasn’t it? It’s quite surprising to me that Doris would make a move on him,” Ji Zitong could not help but say.

Su Chen glanced at him. “What’s so surprising? It’s even hard to believe that she was the mastermind behind the incident six years ago. You should know that because of that accident, Ah Chen blamed himself for six whole years. When it first happened, the calm that he showed scared even me and Zimo. We almost never left his side for more than a month.”

When he recalled the past, Su Chen still had lingering fears. "Rich and powerful families have got so much conflict and grudges going on. Sometimes, I really think that it's simpler to be us common bosses. You don't have to rush to refute me. I'm not targeting you. I'm just saying that it's mostly like that, especially when facing a huge amount of assets and all sorts of temptations."

Ji Zitong seemed to understand this because when she thought about it, she could not help but think about her tragedy back then. Did that man not choose another woman because of her mediocre family background?

Su Chen could keenly sense this too.

When Ji Zitong said that, his sharp gaze looked over and instantly caught the darkness that flashed in her eyes.

"That's because you met all the highest qualities, like us Su family and the Zhou family would. As for Ah Chen, I think the others are just plotting against him. The entire Mu family should be his. When he joined the military academy back then, Grandfather Mu had already made that very clear. All three of us buddies didn't join the academy to go down the path of the army and government. Our elders just thought we were too full of youthful vigor and needed to discipline our will," Su Chen said.

Of course, he did not think that he would change his career and return to be in the Traffic Bureau. It was not a great thing to be a government official. If you did not know your stuff, the people above would look down on you, and if you did not perform things well, the common people below would criticize you, so it was not easy.

In fact, in a large city such as City Z, there were so many establishments for office bearers. Just the traffic police department alone was overwhelming to him.

When he thought about this, Su Chen paused a while, then said to Ji Zitong, "Next time, don't let our child be a government official. It's not a great job. Teach him to do business."

Ji Zitong was surprised by his words. After a while, she reacted. Having thought about what he said, she then responded, "We'll talk about it when we have one."

Initially, they decided on having a child next year, so they should make plans in advance now. "It's best to control your consumption of alcohol and cigarettes. I notice that you've got quite a cigarette addiction. That's not good for your health."

Upon hearing that, Su Chen, who was about to reach into his pocket, paused, thought about it, then kept his hand away again. "I don't have many interests to while the time away. I only have that habit usually, but I'll do my best to smoke less." He compromised for once.

...

Su Chen and Ji Zitong rushed over. When they found the private room, Su Nan and Ruan Heng were already there. Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye sat together, and the four of them were playing mahjong. On the side, they had already ordered tea, fruits, and pastries, as well as some red wine, which was not as strong as whiskey. Inside the private room, slow and soft music wafted in the air.

When he saw Su Chen and Ji Zitong walk in, Mu Yuchen handed his cards to Xi Xiaye beside him, then waved to Su Chen. The buddies sat and drank together. Just when they were about to pour another round of drinks, Mu Yuchen's phone buzzed. He picked it up and saw that it was Zhou Zimo.

Before Mu Yuchen could answer, Zhou Zimo's voice came through, "Mmm? It's me. Quickly pick me up. I'm at the airport. Prepare some food. I'm starving!"

Initially, he thought that he could return for Christmas, but now that the days went on, he managed to rush back before New Year's Day. Otherwise, he really could not stay put any longer.

Even though Zhou Zimo was reckless and loved freedom, he still missed City Z. It was only when he returned to City Z that he felt at home. Even if some questions were frustrating, this did not stop his love for the place because, to the buddies, their friends and kin had all met here.

...

Mu Yuchen kept his phone away, but he did not pick Zhou Zimo up personally. He thought about it for a moment and wanted to call Qi Lei. Because they were both not too far away from the highway from the airport, the glorious task of picking Zhou Zimo up was handed to Qi Lei.

When Qi Lei reached the airport by car, from afar, he could see Zhou Zimo wrapped in a black coat while his assistant, Ya Yan, was beside him.

“Quickly get into the car!” Qi Lei lowered his car window and said to Zhou Zimo.

“How did you come over?” Zhou Zimo was shocked to see Qi Lei sitting in the front passenger seat.

Zhou Zimo nodded and pulled open the car door to sit shotgun. Xu Yayan quietly opened the door to the backseat too. He was about to slide in when an urgent and sad voice was heard, “Qi Lei! Wait up!”

Everyone subconsciously paused. Qi Lei and Zhou Zimo exchanged a look, then looked to where the sound came from.

Not too far away from the car, dressed in a white faux fur coat with long hair was a lady who held the back door to another car open, and she had a little girl with her...

When he saw the little girl, Qi Lei was stunned. He looked up to see the long-haired woman who held her hand.

Gu Lingsha...

Why was she here?

Qi Lei subconsciously frowned.

“Qi Lei, bring me to the police station, please! The flight was delayed. I couldn’t find the person who was meant to pick me up from the airport! I...” Gu Lingsha looked exceptionally wan and sallow whereas her initially alluring voice had turned raspy now...

Chapter 1395. Grief and Indignation 4

Qi Lei had never seen Gu Lingsha so upset and anxious before.

Without waiting for Qi Lei's reply, she followed him into the car after forcing Qi Weier in. "Please take me to the police station. Please!"

Qi Lei and Zhou Zimo were in a daze after hearing her pitiful pleading.

This woman had always maintained her poise and elegance just like her mother, Doris. However, right now, she was upset and not her usual self. Doris's incident must have hit her hard. Her bright blue eyes that resembled her mother were clouded with concern.

Qi Lei seemed conflicted. He glanced at her before turning to look at Zhou Zimo beside him.

Zhou Zimo frowned and contemplated for a moment. He then answered, "Forget it. Let's go. It's on the way anyway. Send Assistant Xu back first."

Upon hearing that, Qi Lei nodded and started the car without saying anything.

Gu Lingsha let out a sigh of relief. Her teary eyes were still a little red and swollen. After learning what happened to Doris, she could not sit still. She bought a plane ticket and flew straight to City Z. During the journey, she could not control her tears. She finally started to feel the discomfort in her eyes now.

The cell phone that Gu Lingsha had just turned on started vibrating shortly after the car started. She glanced at the screen to see that it was a call from Qi Feng.

Her eyes became cold and she took a deep breath. She did not answer the call and immediately put her phone on silent.

Along the way, they did not speak much. The atmosphere in the car was depressing. In the front, Zhou Zimo greeted Qi Lei, but everyone else was silent.

Xu Yayan's home was near the city center, so Qi Lei stopped the car on the side of the road.



“Take a break for the next two days and return to work next Monday,” Zhou Zimo turned and said to Xu Yayan.

“Yes, Mr. Zhou! Here’s the complete information on the company,” Xu Yayan said, handing Zhou Zimo a black briefcase which the latter quickly took.

It was late, and Xu Yayan was a family man, so naturally, Zhou Zimo was understanding and empathetic towards his subordinate.

After Xu Yayan got out of the car, they continued their journey.

Gu Lingsha looked at Qi Lei who had been driving intently in front of her. Her lips trembled and she was trying to say something, but she stayed silent after struggling for a while.

The car finally stopped in front of Imperial Sky Entertainment City.

“Alright. Send her there first and I’ll wait for you inside.” Zhou Zimo pointed at the side of the road ahead and motioned Qi Lei to drop him off.

Zhou Zimo had actually been observing Gu Lingsha and Qi Lei along the way. Gu Lingsha looked somewhat pitiful while Qi Lei was just cold.

“I know that you both had a connection before. You don’t need to put too much pressure on yourself. She’s still your sister-in-law, so please be cautious. The call just now was probably from Qi Feng, but she didn’t answer it. You should just be more careful,” Zimo leaned over and said when he saw Qi Lei’s troubled expression.

Qi Lei finally loosened up a little. He glanced at Zhou Zimo and saw him nodding encouragingly, then he slowly pulled the car over.

“Okay, I’m going in. Come here as soon as possible! I’ll wait for you!” Zhou Zimo responded and shot Gu Lingsha a vague glance before getting out of the car.

Qi Lei continued driving while Zhou Zimo watched the car gradually disappear from his sight. He shook his head helplessly, took out his phone from his pocket, and dialed a number.

The car continued to speed down the road. The atmosphere in the car felt even more depressing now that even little Qi Weier could feel that something was wrong in the car. She looked at Qi Lei, then turned to look at Gu Lingsha again. She clenched her clothes with her little hands, and her blue eyes were filled with anxiety and fear.

Qi Lei inadvertently glanced in the car mirror and caught Qi Weier's anxious expression. He hesitated for a moment, then reached out to turn on the radio. The joyful tunes of Christmas carols broke the air.

Qi Weier listened for a while and slowly felt more relaxed. Soon, the tension in the car seemed to ease a little as well.

"Qi Lei, about my mother..." Gu Lingsha started tearing up again.

Qi Lei looked gloomy. While he calmly looked at the bright road ahead of him, he said, "She kidnapped me and Ah Mo, locked us up for a month, and then held Mu Lingshi captive. If it wasn't for the police and their quick actions, Mu Lingshi might be the one dead instead. I think Qi Feng probably told you about this."

As Gu Lingsha listened, she could feel her eyes burning, but she seemed to have no more tears left to cry. She suddenly did not know what else she could say.

"My mother did this to save my father. I still can't accept the fact that Lingtian and Mu Lingshi are my brother and sister. Lei, would you be able to accept it if it were you?" Gu Lingsha sounded lonely and bitter.

"Even if I don't want to accept it, what else can I say? At least, before this, you were so much happier than me. I won't hold you accountable for this. I also hope that this will pass and nothing will happen again. Lingsha, you're smart and you should be able to understand what I mean. You have chosen Qi Feng, so just stay by his side. You should always be able to stand firm as the head of the Qi family. Don't think too much. Perhaps contentment in life will make you happier." Qi Lei never wanted to tell her that much, but now that he actually said those words so calmly, he was surprised by his own composure.

Gu Lingsha did not utter a word while her eyes still burned. She lowered her head and listened quietly.

“Shasha, we are actually in a similar situation, but you are luckier than me. You have enjoyed at least decades of love and warmth from your family, but I...have nothing...I don’t mind suffering if it is worth it.”

“Isn’t Aunt Wang also having trouble with Uncle Qi because of Qi Kai? Lei, you’re actually mad as well, aren’t you?” Gu Lingsha refuted after hearing Qi Lei’s words.

“I admit that my mother wants Qi Kai too, but she has never thought of killing Qi Feng. You also need to know that Qi Kai is all of my mother’s hard work and assets. It was Qi Qiming who tried to take it away from her first.”

Chapter 1396. Grief and Indignation 5

At this point, Qi Lei changed the topic and looked at Gu Lingsha. “But do you know what your mother has done? I can’t believe that she was the one behind the car accident six years ago! Is there anything more ruthless than including her daughter in her schemes?”

“What did you say? That accident from six years ago...wasn’t that an accident? How does it involve my mother?” When Gu Lingsha heard Qi Lei, she was surprised and her eyes widened. Those dry eyes were large and filled with disbelief. “What nonsense are you spewing, Lei!?”

Upon seeing her reaction, Qi Lei only frowned and a sneer flashed at the corner of his lips. “Looks like Qi Feng didn’t tell you these truths. Right, I’m sure this thing was quite a blow to him too.”

“What truths?! Spit it out properly!” Gu Lingsha leaned forward slightly and stared at Qi Lei.

“I should just let Qi Feng tell you himself. These things have got nothing to do with me now,” Qi Lei said coldly and slowed down the car. He braked, and the car made a huge turn before it stopped.

Before Gu Lingsha could react, he ordered, “Get out!”

Surprised by his order, she looked up in a daze and realized that they had reached the police station.

Qi Lei wanted Gu Lingsha to quickly get out the car, but it seemed like it was not quite up to him because as soon as he said that, he looked up and out the window to see Morrison walking over!

“Second Master!” Morrison walked over to knock on the door. Qi Lei’s gaze sank while Morrison had already reached to pull the car door behind open.

“Missus, please get down. Our people were looking for you at the airport. First Master was worried for a long time too. We thought that you must’ve come here first, so we just came over and waited for you for a while,” Morrison’s lowered voice came through.

Gu Lingsha glared at him. She thought about it, then looked at Qi Lei in front. She wanted to say something but hesitated. In the end, she only sighed to herself, got down from the car silently, and brought Qi Weier along.

Bam!

The car door closed! Qi Lei did not say a word. He was about to start the car when Morrison’s voice was heard once again, “Second Master, First Master says thank you! Also, New Year is coming soon, and he hopes that you can make a trip home as it’d be good to have a reunion dinner together.”

Upon hearing that, Qi Lei’s handsome face could not help but be colored with a sneer of disdain. He stepped on the accelerator right after his voice, which was as cold as ice, stated, “No, thank you. I’m worried that the dishes might be poisoned. I don’t want to die yet.”

...

Then, the black car swiftly vanished in the lights ahead.

Morrison squinted and looked in the direction where the car had vanished as a smile flashed across the corner of his lips. He had a steely gaze...

“Let’s go, Missus. First Master’s just ahead, waiting for your return! My condolences. Please don’t be too sad. After all, life and death are fated.”

After a while, Morrison gathered his gaze and looked at Gu Lingsha with reddened eyes. His voice relaxed a little, and he was about to pat Qi Weier's head, but the little girl's eyes were filled with fear, panic, and loss. She evaded his touch before looking at Morrison in shock.

Morrison awkwardly pulled his hand back. In fact, he noticed that Qi Weier seemed duller than when she had first left...

It seemed like her illness had gotten worse.

Gu Lingsha walked over, and indeed, she saw not too far away on the wheelchair, Qi Feng was staring at them.

When Qi Weier saw Qi Feng, she ran over. His handsome face widened with a warm smile as he opened his arms to pull her into his embrace.

"Did you miss me now?"

Along the way, Qi Weier, who did not say a single word, finally called out softly now, "Father..."

Qi Feng's dark eyes were loving as he gently patted her head and lowered his head to kiss her little face. His raspy voice was filled with tenderness. "Weiwei, my baby! Father missed you so much!"

"Father..." Qi Weier called him softly again as she shrunk tightly into his embrace.

Qi Feng patted her back, and after a while, he pulled her out of his embrace to examine her. Then, he looked up and saw Gu Lingsha already standing before him in a sorry state.

"Let's go in," Qi Feng said calmly.

Morrison then walked over to wheel Qi Feng in.

...

When she saw Doris lying in the cold deep freezer, Gu Lingsha could not help but cry out loud.

She could not have expected that just a short while ago, her mother, who had arranged for her to leave and wait for her in England, was now suddenly lying here lifelessly. Her pale appearance still looked so exquisite, but why did she leave so suddenly?

"Mother!" Gu Lingsha cried bitterly as she looked at Doris who had passed away. Her legs gave way and she was about to fall.

"Shasha!" The sharp-sighted and deft Qi Feng quickly reached out to hold her. Morrison rushed over to help too.

"Why...? Mother, how could you just leave like this?! What do I do? What should I do?! Mother...please don't die...Mother..." Her wails sounded exceptionally sad and mournful. Even Morrison could not help but feel sad for her.

Qi Feng hugged her and quietly held her in his arms. As he patted her back, his raspy voice was gloomy. "You still have me, Shasha...You still have me! Don't be too sad now. Mother left freely and at ease. She wouldn't want to see you like this."

Perhaps, it was only at times like these that Gu Lingsha could feel a hint of warmth from this cold and reserved man. When she heard him consoling her, she felt even weaker, so she cried even louder...

"Don't be too sad! I'll always be here. I'll take good care of you and Weiwei. Don't be sad now," Qi Feng softly consoled and hugged her tightly.

"I really can't believe that Mother's gone just like that! Why?! Why did it turn out like this? Why did she have to take on this path? Did they force her to this point? Did she? I was waiting for so long in England, but I didn't get any news about her, and I tried to ask around. That's when I heard Mother's passport was banned and they couldn't even get out of City Z! It was them who forced her into a corner and to

her end! And Qi Lei was spewing nonsense earlier! That accident six years ago was because of Mu Yuchen's cruelty of not wanting to spare us mercy. It's got nothing to do with Mother!"

#### Chapter 1397. Grief and Indignation 6

Gu Lingsha screamed at the top of her lungs. Her swollen blue eyes were full of pain and grief. "Qi Feng, tell me the truth! They made her do it, didn't they?! Qi Lei is lying, isn't he? Isn't he?! Say it! Just tell me!"

Qi Feng's dark eyes deepened and he looked down. He stayed quiet for a while before he met her swollen eyes and said solemnly, "Did Qi Lei tell you that?"

"Did he lie to me? It's impossible that my mother would've done such a thing. She and Lingtian have no grievances at all. She treated Lingtian well from the beginning. Have you forgotten about that? How could she have attacked him? What's more, I'm her daughter! The chances of her attacking me are close to none! This is absolutely impossible!" Gu Lingsha reacted very badly and she shook Qi Feng violently.

Qi Feng was in a daze because of her reaction. In actual fact, even he was unwilling to face the truth, let alone Gu Lingsha.

After finding out the truth about what happened six years ago, along with all the things Doris had done before her death, he did not know what he should think of Doris, his mother-in-law...

"What Qi Lei said is true. He didn't lie to you. What happened six years ago was indeed mother's orders," Qi Feng stated calmly.

"That's impossible! You're lying! You're lying to me too! Mother would never have done anything to me! That's crazy! That's just crazy! I don't believe it! I don't believe it!" Gu Lingsha screamed hysterically immediately while holding on to Qi Feng's arms tightly and stared at him wide-eyed.

"Let's get out first. We'll take it slow and I'll tell you everything. Things are going to take some time here, so the funeral can only be held in three days." Qi Feng patted her on the shoulder and comforted her, "I don't want to believe it either, but whatever has happened has already happened. When you were away from City Z, so many things happened and you may not know about them all. Listen, take a good rest. What you need the most now is rest. Leave everything else up to me. Right now, I just hope you can trust me as you did before. Long before this, I promised Mother that I'd take good care of you for life, so don't worry."

“Let’s head back first and we’ll take care of things here, Missus! Miss Weiwei is still waiting outside.” Morrison also stepped forward and held Gu Lingsha who still had tears on her face.

Gu Lingsha cried out loud and finally glanced at Doris. Tears were streaming down her face and her exhausted body could no longer bear the grief and anger at this very moment. Her legs went weak and the lights suddenly went out.

“Shasha!” Qi Feng called out anxiously and hurriedly reached out to hold her. Morrison held her tightly, and Gu Lingsha was finally safe in their arms.

“Take her home immediately and get Dr. Wang to come over and have a look.” Qi Feng looked at Gu Lingsha, appearing conflicted. He did not know how to describe what he was feeling because he could sense the uneasiness in his heart growing ...

“Yes, Master!” Morrison quickly held Gu Lingsha, who was still unconscious, by her waist, and the bodyguard outside who was dressed in black also quickly followed Qi Feng.

...

The wind was very cold in the middle of the night. On the wide empty road leading to Grand Lake Villa, a black car was parked on the side. The engine had been running for several hours.

Ding!

Another cigarette butt was thrown out from the car window of the driver’s seat, and the faint smoke wafted in the air. Even the oddly bright street lights could not seem to penetrate that haze.

“Cough cough!” Qi Feng felt his head aching as he coughed.

After sending Gu Lingsha off, he did not go to Imperial Sky Entertainment City to meet Mu Yuchen and the others. Instead, he drove aimlessly for a long time and then started driving home without realizing it. As he got closer to the Grand Lake Villa , he pulled over and parked there.



He had lost count of the cigarettes he had smoked. He had never smoked so many cigarettes like he had tonight. After all, he hardly smoked these days.

He thought of Qi Qiming who came over today, as well as Gu Lingsha, Morrison, and Qi Feng...

Death.

It was a word he feared.

Nobody knew if death could erase all grievances.

He had felt so calm when he met Qi Qiming today, and it made him think that maybe he did not hate Qi Qiming as much as he thought. Was it because he had found peace with himself?

He took a deep breath and could not help but cough a few more times. When he reached out to the side to get some water, he felt a flat and hard item beneath his fingertips instead. He turned around and looked to see something reddish- brown...

[The Bible]

Dongfang Liuyun had given it to him.

Dumbfounded, he stared at the book for a while before reaching out and grabbing it.

He opened the thick book, and the first thing that caught his eye was Dongfang Liuyun's signature. It was strong and precise just like her.

When he turned to the second page, there were a few lines of words that she had written: "I hope that my future is like the sea where the depths of endless uncertainties will be the unknown that is filled with surprises. There is no need to be afraid of stormy seas for as long as there is a lighthouse that never goes out in my heart, I will never lose my way."

Was this how this woman motivated herself?

As Qi Lei read this, the corner of his mouth turned up slightly in a smile and he could not help thinking about Dongfang Liuyun's beautiful face.

"Well, it should be. Looking at her and talking to her, I immediately feel calmer and relaxed," Qi Lei thought.

He also thought that if she were to be a teacher in psychology, she would definitely be able to produce great students. However, since she already had high achievements, he felt that she must be someone with rich experiences. Even though she did not admit it, the depths of her eyes could not fool anyone.

He suddenly became interested in her. This was the first time he felt intrigued to get to know a woman.

No, it should be the second time!

The first was Xi Xiaye!

Xi Xiaye was the kind of woman with poise and elegance, unlike Dongfang Liuyun's mysterious and intelligent personality that would sometimes keep him on his toes!

After thinking about it, Qi Lei suddenly started the car!

He had to go home while there was still time and turn on the computer to go online. She could probably still be fighting hard now!

He had not been online for a long time!

As Qi Lei thought about it, he floored the accelerator and the car zoomed away like the wind.

Chapter 1398. Not Important Anymore 1

When they left Entertainment City, it was already midnight.

The entire city lights looked desolate. Standing at the top of Entertainment City's staircase, Xi Xiaye could feel the wind whistling past her ears, and she could not help but shrink a little.

The man, who stood beside her, very knowingly handed over the car keys. When she heard the jangle, Xi Xiaye looked down and quickly took them.

The buddies were all quite boisterous from drinking, so this was also the benefit of bringing his wife along. They could drink recklessly and did not have to call the assistant over in the middle of the night or get someone else to drive for them, and they could bond happily.

"Go home then. Xiaye and I will send Zimo home," Mu Yuchen put an arm around Xi Xiaye's shoulders, then turned to say to Su Chen and Zimo in a lowered tone.

Su Chen nodded as he lifted a hand to massage between his brows. Even though his head was not as heavy as before when he drank those hard liquor, he did drink quite a bit, and the alcohol levels in him were probably way over the legal limit. He felt very sleepy and did not stay any longer.

"We'll go home then. I have a meeting at the headquarters early tomorrow too. Since the New Year's coming soon, you can all happily go on a holiday while we have to suffer. Let's gather again after the New Year," Su Chen said as he held Ji Zitong's hand.

Mu Yuchen nodded and said, "Okay."

"Be careful on the road," Xi Xiaye reminded.

Ji Zitong smiled. "Don't worry. You too. Goodnight!"

"Goodnight!"

"Su Nan, Ruan Heng, both of you go home too."

“Mmm, thank you, Chairman Mu, Xiaye! We had a lot of fun tonight. It’s been a while since we did! Remember to call us along for your next gathering! We’ll go home now since we have work early tomorrow too! Remember to wash up and then rest when you get back!”

“Alright, bye-bye!”

...

When they were done bidding their goodbyes, Xi Xiaye took the car keys out and walked ahead.

“Let’s go too.”

Upon seeing that his woman had gone over to the car, Mu Yuchen looked at Zhou Zimo. When he noticed the fatigue in his eyes, he said in concern, “You really do have the potential to be a workaholic.”

“It’s all your fault!” Zhou Zimo’s handsome face flashed with dissatisfaction. He clenched his fists and lightly punched Mu Yuchen’s shoulder.

Mu Yuchen smiled. “Well, your IQ has been dropping recently. Certain indexes are dysfunctional.”

“Please! Don’t throw shade at me. Speak like a normal person!” Zhou Zimo could sense the meaning in between Mu Yuchen’s words, and he could not help but roll his eyes at him.

Soon, Xi Xiaye drove the car over.

Mu Yuchen pulled open the back seat door and got in first. Zhou Zimo followed suit, and Xi Xiaye became their personal driver. The car sped into the night.

“Explain to me in human words what you were trying to say earlier! What is it? Also, you seemed to be insinuating things to me tonight. About those things you said to me, what did you mean?” Zhou Zimo

was the kind of person who had to get to the bottom of things, so when Mu Yuchen did not finish his words, he felt extremely dissatisfied and continued asking about it.

Mu Yuchen looked at him calmly. "A few days ago, I went to the City Bureau and bumped into Chief Zhang. They said that their family member, Zhang Yue, will be back for the New Year for the Spring Festival."

When Mu Yuchen finished, Zhou Zimo immediately understood. He widened his eyes and looked at Mu Yuchen incredulously. "That crybaby? Why's she back? Didn't she decide on permanently residing in Canada?"

"I don't know about that either. You can ask her yourself when she's back."

"Please! What's her return got to do with me?" Zhou Zimo gave Mu Yuchen a scornful look. "I'm telling you, I won't mess with that woman. Back then, it wasn't just me who messed with her, so why should I be the one to handle things?"

"Because Su Chen and I have our wives," Mu Yuchen said nonchalantly by Zhou Zimo's ear.

"Chen, you're despicable! Do you realize that you will ruin me like this!?"

"Well, that's better than me being dragged into it."

"You evil, selfish b\*stard!" Zhou Zimo practically said those last few words through gritted teeth. When he thought about how he had suffered for so long on that end and think about what this fellow wanted to do now...

"Ever since you and Su Chen got married, you've been pressuring me about this. Even my family has been doing the same. Chen, do you think it's that hard for me to find a woman?"

"I know it's not hard, but the column for a spouse on your household registration booklet remains empty. I didn't want to bring this up too, but among us buddies, only you are left. Especially after this incident, I think it's best if you have a sense of belonging. A few days ago, I bumped into Aunty Zhou at

the hospital, and she couldn't help but talk to me about you again." Mu Yuchen brought this up with Zhou Zimo once more.

Zhou Zimo then fell silent. He hesitated for a moment, then turned to look at the scenery of the street moving outside the car window. "They're like that, and I've gotten used to it."

"Are you still thinking about the past?" Mu Yuchen squinted at him and said softly.

Zhou Zimo shook his head. "No."

"Whether or not you are, please forget them. We can't turn back time. We can only look ahead. If Su Chen knows about this, he'll definitely nag you again." Mu Yuchen's tone was lowered to the point that only the two of them could hear each other, but Xiaye continued to focus on driving ahead. She did not eavesdrop on them.

"That's true. That would be what he'd do. Alright, I'll take note of this matter, so don't worry about it. I understand. If I meet someone suitable, I won't let them go. Anyway, we don't have to bring up those things anymore unless you want to laugh at me!" Zhou Zimo said as he held a fist up at Mu Yuchen.

Grinning, Mu Yuchen held up his fist and bumped it with his too.

"The incident with Doris has come to an end. You don't have to hold onto that matter anymore. At least, you'll be able to live a little more peacefully after this."

"I've still got a bunch of things to handle before I can live a little simpler. I'll have to take it one step at a time. It's futile worrying about this now."

"Mmm, you probably need some time to handle Doris' funeral too. Be careful, I think Gu Lingsha's not in the right state tonight. Hopefully, she wouldn't hold a grudge against you for this. If revenge breeds revenge, will there ever be an end to it? I can't bear to see it go on any longer."

"Well, even if you can't, we'll have to keep going."

Upon hearing that, Zhou Zimo smiled helplessly and patted his shoulder.

## Chapter 1399. Not Important Anymore 2

It was already the next morning when Gu Lingsha woke up.

She woke up feeling groggy despite sleeping all night. Her whole body was weak, but all the memories from yesterday were constantly running through her head. Even in her sleep, she still could not forget the bad news that had taken her by surprise.

"Missus, you need to eat something. Master will go to the police station to deal with Miss Doris's funeral. He will be back to have lunch with you at noon. You must take care of yourself," Mary became worried after she had seen Gu Lingsha's haggard face and dazed expression.

Gu Lingsha raised her eyes weakly and looked at Mary who was standing in front of her. She leaned back softly on the sofa while her hoarse voice sounded a little weak. "I'm fine. Where's Weiwei?"

"Miss Weier went out with Master and they'll be back together at noon. Please don't worry, Missus. The most important thing you need to do now is to take care of your body. Dr. Wang came to see you yesterday and your condition isn't great. Master even got angry about it. Dr. Wang has prescribed various medicated diets to replenish your body. I just boiled some for you. I'll bring it over,"

Mary quickly went downstairs and soon brought a bowl of bird's nest porridge and some nutritious food. "Missus, have some."

Gu Lingsha looked at the steaming hot food, but she did not have any appetite. How could she possibly have the appetite to eat after what happened to Doris? As she sighed unconsciously, she looked up at Mary and said, "You said Master lost his temper yesterday?"

Mary nodded and replied, "Yes, Missus. Yesterday, Dr. Wang said that your condition wasn't good, and if you don't do anything about it, your body will be seriously burned out. Master threw the teacup in his hand and it shattered into pieces. He blamed us for not taking good care of you. So, Missus, you shouldn't get angry with Master. He still cares about you and Miss Weier."

In the past, Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha had their fair share of differences that Mary had always known. During these times, Qi Feng was always moody and poor Qi Weier had to go through all that. Because

Mary was a loyal servant, she certainly did not want to see Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha turn against each other!

"Furthermore, the whole time you left, Master hasn't been in a good mood. Missus, we have seen the relationship between you and Master for the past few years, and we can all feel it. He truly loves you, and I think since both of you have experienced so many things together, the relationship you both share won't change so easily," Mary added after thinking for a while.

Gu Lingsha's eyes darkened. She could not help but sigh lightly. "Did he ask you to tell me this?"

"No, Master is the kind of person who doesn't really know how to express himself. He wouldn't let me tell you all these. I was just worried so..." Mary murmured while her tone sounded a little cautious.

Gu Lingsha smiled sadly. "Mary, I'd know if he loves me or not. Besides, you may not know everything between us. What you saw was probably just the surface. All I can say is I can sense his feelings towards me fading away. I think maybe we'll never go back to where we started..." Her face became a little pale as she said this. She did not seem to have any energy left in her.

"But, Missus, I don't believe that a strong relationship like that can be erased so easily. If Master doesn't care about you, he wouldn't have lost his temper. He also knew you weren't happy, so he let you have your own space for a while. As they say, third parties see most of the game, Missus."

"We can't go back. We really can't. I know it." Gu Lingsha's lonely blue eyes flickered, and she was absolutely frustrated.

"You can if you really want to!" A cold, hoarse voice cut her off before Mary could react.

Gu Lingsha suddenly turned her head and looked at where the voice came from. She saw Qi Feng motionless by the door. He seemed to have been standing there for a while.

"Master!" Mary greeted him respectfully.



“Put the things aside. You may leave first,” Qi Feng said in a low voice while rolling the wheelchair and moving towards Gu Lingsha.

“Yes, Master!” Mary obediently put down the tray in her hand and walked out.

Qi Feng looked at Gu Lingsha who was in front of him, but she lowered her head and did not utter a word.

After a while, he looked away and reached out to pick up the bird’s nest porridge Mary made. He tested the temperature for a moment, took a spoonful, and held it close to Gu Lingsha’s pale lips.

The faint and alluring scent startled her. When she looked up and saw Qi Feng’s expression, her heart immediately softened and she could feel her eyes burning. She let all her sorrow and pain out. Suddenly, everything crumbled and she could not hold back her tears.

As long as she could remember, he would only treat her so tenderly when she was sick and at her lowest. Those times made her feel like he loved her deeply, but how did they end up like this?

Qi Feng paused for a while after seeing her cry. After a long time, he said huskily, “There, there, don’t cry. We’ll put the past behind us. Let’s be like how we used to. Nothing is going to change.”

“Feng...I’m sorry, don’t leave me! Please don’t leave me...I’m really scared...I have nothing left. You and Weiwei are all I have...” Gu Lingsha could not stop crying and Qi Feng had never seen her like this before.

“I’m terrified at the thought that eventually, you will leave me too. I really can’t bear the pain. I’m really scared...That’s why I can only watch cautiously when Xi Xiaye and Mu Yuchen are in love. I shouldn’t be so jealous. I knew you were forced to! Feng, please don’t be mad...I promise I will never act like that again. I’ll always trust you, Feng...”

Gu Lingsha began crying even more as she wrapped her hands around Qi Feng’s neck and melted into his embrace.

Chapter 1400. Not Important Anymore 3

When he felt the faint warmth in his arms, Qi Feng felt his heart ease a little.

He sighed slightly and gently put the things in his hand back onto the tray beside him. Then, he patted her back gently. His raspy voice contained some elements of tenderness as he explained, "I never blamed you. Even though I find it hard to keep up with you, as long as we are willing to turn back and be a little more confident with each other, all of this will be worth it."

Qi Feng's words were sensitive as he sighed. Unexpectedly, Gu Lingsha felt joy that she thought she had lost and just regained.

"Ah Feng...I'm sorry. I wasn't content, and I was too stubborn. Next time, I'll trust you more. I just hope that you would stay true to me." Gu Lingsha choked on her sobs as she blinked those teary, blue eyes and looked at Qi Feng with a faint light reflected in them. "At this point, I've got no other choice. Everything that I used to rely on is now all lost. Ah Feng, are you sure that you still want me? I...really have got nothing left anymore..."

Qi Feng paused with a sigh and lowered his head to kiss her on the head while his dark eyes flashed with a faint tenderness. He said in a low raspy voice, "Don't think too much. No matter what happens, you still have me. Just let all those other things past. I admit that I do admire Xi Xiaye, but that's just an admiration for an opponent just as how I admire Mu Yuchen. On the other hand, you are different from all the other women. Not only are you my wife, but you are also my daughter's mother."

At this point, Qi Feng suddenly stopped and reached out to hold Gu Lingsha's hand. "You should know best how I feel about relationships between men and women. I've got no time for those things, and I'm determined not to go down my father's path to avoid hurting so many women. In the end, he doesn't seem to do any better. My mother was just one of the pitiful women who ended up with him. I found out from Morrison's investigation that she loved him deeply. Perhaps, he did feel something for my mother before this, but no matter what, it couldn't compare to Wang Qin. Right from the start, she was fated to never be able to join the Qi family..."

"When I grew up, I told myself that I have to be smart, and I wished for true love. First, I'd have to be prepared to give up a lot. It's not a bad thing to be a cold person. Many times, only when we live a little more selfishly can we lower the chances of getting hurt. This is first time I'm saying these things to you, and hopefully, it'll be the last too," Qi Feng said in a lowered tone, making Gu Lingsha feel gloomy too.

She had forgotten that someone as prideful and unfathomable like Qi Feng would never bring up all these unhappy things to her. Even if she had been by his side for many years, this was her first time hearing him bring up his mother and all the unhappy past.

She thought that perhaps such realization only hit hard since he had experienced it himself.

However, it made her feel sad to see Qi Feng like this.

It was also at this moment when she suddenly felt like there was no need to be as stubborn as before. She should trust him, the way Xi Xiaye seemed to trust Mu Yuchen so much. After all, should her relationship with Qi Feng not be able to stand the test?

“But, Ah Feng, it was also because my mother was worried about these things and because of me that...I’m afraid we only have Weiwei as our only daughter. How could the Qi family...? I can’t figure out why would Mother have been behind it? How could it have been her? I can’t think of a reason it’d be her! Could it be just because of Hui Gu? Why did Mother hold back when she found out about Father and Lingtian’s relationship seven years ago?” Gu Lingsha asked in disbelief as she lifted a hand to wipe the tears on her face away.

Qi Feng froze for a while, then smiled. “I don’t know why either. Perhaps apart from these things, there were other reasons. Anyway, these answers have all left with her and they are now an unsolvable riddle. Actually, I was thinking, Mother might have had feelings for Father. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have ended up on this path. Before she passed away, she said that she hated Father. If there was no so-called love, there wouldn’t have been such strong hatred.”

Qi Feng had always been very indifferent to romantic feelings, but for some reason, Gu Qiwu and Doris’s matter moved him. He thought to himself that standing from Doris’s perspective, might he have done the same in the end?

“She never thought of dragging you into it, so this time, she chose to do this to make it up to you.”

As Qi Feng said this, he slowly let go of Gu Lingsha with a downcast expression. “Finish your food first, then come to the study room. I’ll let you take a look at how the whole incident went down. The doctor said you’re not doing too well, so you need to be more careful. Otherwise, you’ll be the one who suffers,” he said, and then wheeled himself around and went towards the study room.

Gu Lingsha sniffled when she watched Qi Feng's figure vanish gradually into the study room. Then, she sighed and numbly took over the steaming bowl of bird's nest soup, finishing it downheartedly.

...

After she rushed to finish half the tray of food, Gu Lingsha felt her spirits recover and she quickly got up to walk towards the study room.

Inside the study, Qi Feng was already sitting silently before his work desk, flipping through a document, seeming gloomy and unhappy. His brows were furrowed into a knot too. When he saw Gu Lingsha walk in, he handed a document to her.

"Take a look at this. This is how the whole incident is said to have gone down, including Mother's initial suspicions of Lingtian, the incident from six years ago, and everything that has happened recently. I think once you've looked through this, you might be able to understand why Mother did that. When I put myself in her shoes, it might not be hard to understand why."

Qi Feng tossed the document onto the table with a sigh and calmly picked up another set of documents before continuing to flip through them.

Gu Lingsha wavered for a moment. She bit her pale lip, then a while after, she walked over silently to pick up the document.

"Her subordinate, Glenn, is still nowhere to be found. Since the incident was exposed, police have been looking for him everywhere. If Glenn contacts you, it's best to ignore him so that you don't get implicated too. This issue is too sensitive at the moment, so we'll have to be vigilant at all times. Don't make rash decisions on other things that you can't handle either. Just leave them to me."