

Loving 1891

Chapter 1891. Coax Him (2)

“The soup is almost done.”

Qi Lei said this as he lowered his head and looked at her silently.

At this moment, Dongfang Liuyun suddenly sighed helplessly and lowered his eyes. “I wasn’t thinking of having dinner with him.”

“When you said that you were going to Cloud Residence, I knew that you were going to meet him. I didn’t care too much about it. Based on your previous relationship, it’s naturally good to clarify some things in person,” said Qi Lei.

“Then why... Are you now...” Dongfang Liuyun asked in surprise.

“I’ve made things clear. Don’t see him in the future. I wanted to go over to pick you up, but I didn’t think you’d be happy, so I came home early.”

“How would you know that I wouldn’t be happy about it if you didn’t come?” Dongfang Liuyun asked back.

Qi Lei was silent. He did not seem to know how to answer.

Behind him, Dongfang Liuyun took a deep breath. Suddenly, she stood on her tiptoes and planted a kiss on his lips. Before he could react, she had already retreated and reached for the bag in his hand.

“Alright, don’t be angry. I’ll take care of dinner and the dishes tonight, okay?”

Qi Lei was stunned for a moment. He could not react in time, but Dongfang Liuyun’s slender figure had already disappeared at the kitchen door.

At this moment, Qi Lei was in a daze. He subconsciously raised his hand to touch his lightly pursed lips. His handsome face softened, but he did not chase after her. Instead, he turned around and returned to the living room.

However, just as he sat down on the sofa in the living room, he noticed the pot of blooming petunias on the table. He quickly brought it over to take a closer look.

...

The dinner was not too sumptuous, but they were all good dishes that Qi Lei liked to eat.

Dongfang Liuyun's culinary skills were not bad to begin with. Furthermore, Qi Lei usually gave her face when she personally cooked.

"The pot of petunias on the table in the living room..."

When he finished a bowl of rice, Qi Lei looked at Dongfang Liuyun, who was holding the bowl for him. Finally, he could not help but ask.

"I bought it for you. I don't think I've given you any gifts before."

Before he could finish, Dongfang Liuyun answered directly.

"Do you like it?" As she said this, Dongfang Liuyun raised her eyes and looked at him quietly.

"Of course I like it, but why did you suddenly think of giving me flowers?" Qi Lei took the rice from her and asked.

"Because I was feeling guilty. When you heard that I was going to Cloud Residence this morning, your gaze wasn't quite right."

Dongfang Liuyun did not hide his thoughts. "In order to make my life better in the future, I have to think of a way to coax you."

"Your honesty really makes me want to..." Qi Lei gnashed his teeth as he muttered. He glared at her, but he could not say a word of reprimand. Furthermore, Dongfang Liuyun had picked up a piece of meat and stuffed it into his slightly opened mouth.

"Don't worry. I'm just trying to clarify things so that we won't end up in trouble in the future. Since I'm already married to you, I won't look back. There's no need for you to be so jealous over these things. You, Qi Lei, are unique. So many women want to be with you? I'm one of them."

"At least you know your limits."

Qi Lei narrowed his eyes at her. His tensed heart finally calmed down.

Dongfang Liuyun chuckled when she heard that. She suddenly looked at him with interest. "Why? Are you that nervous about Fujiwara?"

"He's my number one love rival. If I don't guard against him, do I have to support him?"

Qi Lei did not hide his dissatisfaction with Fujiwara at all—

"Yang Sheng has mentioned him to me before, and I've seen him before. I admit that he's very handsome. He's just a little less handsome than me, and his family background is about the same as mine. But to be honest, his personality and charm are definitely not on par to me. He often has a cold expression on his face, and it's not like he's trying to be cool!"

The more Qi Lei spoke, the angrier he got. He was so angry that his hand that was holding onto his chopsticks was trembling. "When it comes to talking, he doesn't have my grace. When it comes to being magnanimous, he doesn't seem to be more magnanimous than me. I really don't know how you fell for him in the past."

Hearing this, Dongfang Liuyun was stunned. She looked up in surprise at the man who was scolding him with some sarcasm. This was the first time Dongfang Liuyun had seen him lose his composure like this

From her impression, Qi Lei had always paid attention to maintaining his image, but now...

However, seeing him like this, she found him a little cute.

"You're also a fool for liking a person like him."

As he said this, Qi Lei saw that she did not respond and was quietly drinking her soup, so he could only say this in a muffled voice.

At this moment, Dongfang Liuyun raised her head to look at him and said quietly, "Since you know that I'm quite stupid, why are you still so angry? President Qi, do you have to be angry with a fool?"

This sentence made Qi Lei speechless. When he met her interested gaze, he gritted his teeth and said, "Because I'm also the second dumbest after you."

Qi Lei's tone sounded helpless and disappointed when he said that. After he said that, he looked away.

Dongfang Liuyun chuckled.

"Thank you for your concern, dumbass!"

Qi Lei looked up and glared at her, ignoring her.

"I'll definitely ask for your permission next time. I'll act after you approve it." Dongfang Liuyun thought for a moment and said.

"This condition isn't good. If I approve it then, I'll be unhappy. If I don't approve it, you'll be unhappy too. If you leave such a difficult problem to me, I'll think you're just giving me a hard time."

Qi Lei was not stupid. After being with this woman for a long time, he could gradually understand her unusual thought process.

Dongfang Liuyun listened and raised her eyebrows. "What else do you want?"

"You should think about it yourself. I can't restrict you. You're free. Alright, let's eat. The food is already cold. I'm making a big deal out of this. You don't have to take it to heart. I know about what happened between the two of you. I..."

"We're just a matter of the past. That's a memory that I never wanted to awaken. I told him that my future is with you."

"With me?"

Qi Lei muttered in a low voice as she stared at him quietly.

Dongfang Liuyun nodded. "I won't deny that we had an unforgettable relationship, but the rest of my life is about you, so you don't have to mind it. I hope that you can have faith in me."

"I..."

Qi Lei mumbled softly and did not say anything else.

"Please believe in my loyalty. I've already decided that you'll be the one for the rest of my life."

Dongfang Liuyun suddenly reached out to pull him back and said firmly.

"If that's the case... then I'll... give it a try."

“Yes, we’ll live in peace and happiness.” Dongfang Liuyun replied.

Chapter 1892. Coax Him (3)

The unhappiness that had gathered in each other’s hearts finally dissipated. After dinner, it was indeed Dongfang Liuyun who washed the dishes.

By the time Dongfang Liuyun was done with her work, Qi Lei had already showered and was sitting in the living room of the suite watching television. Of course, after packing up, he did not forget to put the water in for Dongfang Liuyun.

Dongfang Liuyun also took a comfortable bath. When she changed into a clean nightgown and walked out of the bedroom, she noticed that Qi Lei was on the phone.

It should be Mu Yuchen who was on vacation overseas.

At this moment, he was at a seaside cottage on a holiday island on the other side of the Pacific Ocean.

Mu Yuchen was standing in the corridor of the cottage. He was holding his phone and calling Qi Lei while Xi Xiaye was lying on the rattan chair reading a book.

The sunlight outside was just right. The courtyard in front of them was filled with colorful flowers.

“Vice President Zhang Lan told me that the project is going well. Thank you for your hard work.”

Mu Yuchen’s deep voice traveled over, and Qi Lei’s voice soon came back from the other end—

“Just come back and treat me to a meal. You’ve been living quite comfortably these past few days, haven’t you?”

“A second honeymoon. What do you think?” Mu Yuchen chuckled softly.

“You and Xiaye are like a celestial couple. We’re very envious of you too, but fortunately, now everyone doesn’t have to be envious of anyone anymore. I heard about what happened with Zhou Zimo. He even drank with Su Chen a while ago. He brought it up.”

Naturally, he knew what Qi Lei meant.

Mu Yuchen did not know how Zhou Zimo and Qin Su were doing. When he thought about it, Mu Yuchen decided to give Zhou Zimo a call. Zhou Zimo had called him once in the past few days. He did not seem to be in a good mood then either. It was obvious that it had something to do with Officer Qin.

“Wait for me to get back. The few of us should get together.” Mu Yuchen suggested.

“Mmm, make the arrangements. It’s late on my end, so that’s it for now. Oh, right, we have to do what we agreed before.”

“What is it?”

“Mu Xiaocheng has to marry my daughter from now on,” said Qi Lei.

“That depends on whether your daughter is charming enough to charm Mu Xiaocheng.” Mu Yuchen smiled.

“I’m just afraid that your son won’t be able to take my daughter.”

Qi Lei said this before hanging up.

Mu Yuchen looked at the darkened phone screen and instantly smiled. He subconsciously turned to look at Xi Xiaye who was reading a book.

As if she noticed his gaze, Xi Xiaye slowly looked up as well

"I noticed that you seem to care a lot about Qi Lei. Usually, when you're out on business, you don't talk to me for so long on the phone."

Xi Xiaye's clear voice sounded.

"I'm just asking him to look after the project." Mu Yuchen replied and slowly walked over as well. He reached out to take the book in her hand.

"Qi Lei has changed a lot in the past few years. Now, it's more like the life he should be living. I've talked to Dongfang Liuyun before. I can see that she's quite a big influence on Qi Lei. Mr. Mu, if it's possible, let's pay a little attention to the Dongfang Group's matter. This way, we might be able to make their lives a little more peaceful as soon as possible."

Xi Xiaye naturally knew about Dongfang Liuyun's problem.

When he heard this, Mu Yuchen glanced at her, "What's there to worry about? Do you think Qi Lei can't handle these things? Don't forget what the Qi family started from in the past. They have a lot of resources, and it's not as simple as it looks. Wang Chun is a very profound person. He's Qi Qiming's confidant, and he's by Qi Lei's side now. If we're not wrong, the Lin family's matter should be his doing."

"You're saying that the current boss behind the Lin Corporation is Qi Lei?" Xi Xiaye raised her brows and asked in surprise.

"What else do you think? Do you think that the South River Project was given to the Dongfang Group just because of the Dongfang Group's ability?"

Mu Yuchen glanced at Xi Xiaye and said in a low voice, "Qi Lei is paving the way for Dongfang Liuyun. Just you wait and see. After the South River Project, Dongfang Liuyun might very well be the executor of the city east's plan. Su Chen had told me a few days ago that Qi Lei had been working quite hard with the government. With his connections, it would not be difficult for him to take down this project."

"City east? Is it the project that the Jin family wants to develop?"

Xi Xiaye vaguely remembered that she had heard the two of them mention this topic before.

“Mmm, I estimate that the film base will be completed in another year or two. The South River Project will probably last for a few more years. The city east project won’t be approved so quickly. I’ve asked father about it before, and that project hasn’t been put on the agenda yet, but it’s imperative that it’s implemented. It’s naturally best to make sufficient preparations beforehand.”

“Qi Lei can’t handle such a big project by himself. Grandfather mentioned it to me before and told me to pay more attention.”

“Of course, I still have the South River Project and a few other big projects on hand. Even I can’t handle them alone.” Mu Yuchen replied.

Xi Xiaye frowned. She thought about it for a moment before saying, “Then, when I go back, I’ll go look for Qi Lei.”

“Mmm, I’ll help you guys clear up the government’s affairs. Father has been quite critical these past few years. It’d be best if you can help him out.”

“Actually, I’m a little surprised. A gentle person like father actually...”

“He can actually rise to such a high position?”

Before Xi Xiaye could finish, Mu Yuchen had already cut her off.

“Mmm...”

“Who could truly be simple innocent people in politics? Didn’t father used to be the mayor of our city too?”

Speaking of these things, Mu Yuchen did not shy away from it—

“Father is an honest and upright official. He’s also a person with principles. He’s just like mother. He rarely talks about favors. In the past, when he fought for some projects, he wanted them to help, but in the end, he did not ask them to. I know you’re trying to find a way to break through from them. Don’t worry. Even if I don’t get their help, I can still find a way.”

When it came to Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong, Mu Yuchen was very calm. He understood his parents’ bottom line very well, so he was never willing to cross that bottom line. Because some things would actually hurt their feelings once he opened his mouth to ask.

“I didn’t mean that. Father and Mother are in high positions, so they have to pay more attention to their words and actions. We can’t drag them down and become a burden. I understand that. It’s just that some time ago, I heard Mother say that she wanted to step down, especially when Grandfather and Grandmother left like this. The children also...”

Chapter 1893. Visit (1)

“Step down?”

Mu Yuchen looked at Xi Xiaye in surprise. “When did she tell you that?”

Zhuang Shurong was a person who valued her career very much. It was not easy for her to reach this position. Theoretically, she could still keep on for a few more years, but now...

“The night before we set off for our vacation.”

Xi Xiaye took a sip of the tea beside her and sighed softly, “To be honest, I really admire Mother. When she told me that back then, I still could not believe it. She said that with the situation back home, she did not want the house to be so empty. Moreover, Xiao Rui, Wei’er, and Xiao Cheng are still so young. We’re usually busy, we can’t just leave our children with Aunt Fang and the others. Mother wants to personally take care of the children. They are gradually growing up and becoming more sensible, their education is very important.”

“Moreover, by stepping down like this, she could take better care of Father and have Father worry less about the matters at home, as well as us.”

When he heard Xi Xiaye's words, Mu Yuchen suddenly fell silent. A moment later, he took the tea from Xi Xiaye's hand and drank it in two gulps, "It's naturally for the best if she thinks that way. It looks like the death of Grandfather and Grandmother has dealt a huge blow to Father and Mother. Mother isn't the kind of person who would give up her career so easily. I think that apart from us, she's doing this mainly because of Father."

"Mmm, I think so too. Father and mother's relationship had always been like this where they raised a case and treated each other with respect, but from the way they looked at each other, one could always catch those deep feelings. I think they're probably the ones who understand love the most. Sacrifice and fulfillment."

As Xi Xiaye said this, her eyes suddenly lit up and she took a deep breath—

"Mr. Mu, I really hope that when we're old, we can be like them."

"Of course."

...

In fact, when Xi Xiaye mentioned this to Mu Yuchen, Zhuang Shurong had already submitted her resignation. For the past few days, Zhuang Shurong had been staying at home with Mu Xiao Cheng, every day, she would send Qi Wei'er and Mu Zirui to and from school.

Zhuang Shurong was usually a strong woman who did not smile. She was very uptight and serious, but now that she had spent so much time with her grandson, she suddenly felt that this kind of life was something she had been looking forward to for a long time.

Just like this moment.

After coaxing Mu Zirui and Qi Wei'er to sleep, Zhuang Shurong carried Mu Xiao Cheng to take a shower.

Mu Xiaocheng had been sleeping with Zhuang Shurong and Mu Tangchuan for the past few days.

The little fella was a smart person. Because of him, the haze of Mu Yinan's departure had dissipated a lot.

"Come, Xiao Cheng, come to Grandfather!"

Mu Tangchuan had already showered and was lying on the bed reading a book. Mu Xiao Cheng was playing with Zhuang Shurong's glasses with a focused look on his face.

When he heard his grandfather calling him, the little guy turned to look at Mu Tangchuan.

"Call me Grandfather, come!"

"Grandfather... hug..."

Mu Xiao Cheng climbed over in a friendly manner, but his little eyes stopped on the pair of glasses on the bridge of Mu Tangchuan's nose.

Mu Tangchuan was not that good at playing with babies. Looking at this little guy who resembled his father, Mu Yuchen, and hearing such a tender call of 'grandfather', Mu Tangchuan felt his entire heart go soft!

"Give me a hug! Come here, let Grandfather give you a hug."

Mu Tangchuan pulled Mu Xiao Cheng into his arms. He was extremely precious.

"Grandfather... I want ride a big horse..."

"Okay, we'll ride a big horse!"

...

Zhuang Shurong came out of the bathroom and heard the old and the young playing happily on the bed. Mu Xiao Cheng was riding on Mu Tangchuan's neck while Mu Tangchuan was...

"Don't spoil him too much! Your neck isn't good anymore, don't torture it too much."

Zhuang Shurong walked over in a few steps and carried Mu Xiao Cheng down. However, Mu Xiaocheng held onto Mu Tangchuan tightly and looked at Zhuang Shurong unhappily. "Grandmother is bad!"

"Oh, my little devil, Grandmother is bad now? The way you look when you're angry is so much like your father when he was young. When your father was angry, he behaved like you too."

"Daddy, Mommy..."

Now that Mu Yuchen was mentioned, the little guy immediately thought of Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye when he mentioned 'Daddy'. He looked around and was obviously looking for Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye. When he did not see them, he immediately rolled over and slid off the bed. Then, he walked towards the door with his little arms and short legs

"Daddy... Daddy... Mummy..."

As she walked forward, she was still thinking about Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye.

When the little guy missed his parents, he would go straight for Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye's room. His memory was very good, and he was very smart too. He could even recognize his parents' rooms.

He found the room a few times and went in to look for a long time. When he did not find Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye, the little guy started crying. Zhuang Shurong coaxed him for a long time before she stopped him.

"What did you suddenly bring up his father?"

Mu Tangchuan glanced at his wife and quickly got up to follow her out.

“I didn’t realize.”

Zhuang Shurong was annoyed and quickly chased after him.

...

It was not easy to coax Mu Xiaocheng to sleep. Mu Tangchuan and Zhuang Shurong were a little tired, but when they looked at Mu Xiaocheng who was sleeping soundly on the bed, their eyes were filled with gentleness.

“Tangchuan, I’ve already submitted my resignation report. In just two days, the results came out. I can finally take good care of the children at home and accompany you along the way. I’ve been married to you for so many years, but I’ve never fulfilled my responsibilities as a wife. All these years, it’s all thanks to your parents. Now...”

Hearing this, Mu Tangchuan reached out and put his arm around her shoulders, patting her gently, “We’re an old married couple. There’s no need to say these words. You’ve always done well, but I feel like I owe you too much. You’ve given birth to such a good son for me. It’s also been very hard on Ah Mo and the others. It’s really hard on you to step down now.”

“What are you talking about? I’ve been wanting to step down. I’ve been in politics for more than 30 years. I should be used to it. It’s naturally best for me to step down now. It’s time for me to fulfill my obligations. The children have been working hard, so we have to be considerate of them.”

Zhuang Shurong smiled. “Actually, things are pretty good now. You don’t have to worry about work. It’s really nice to accompany the children and you.”

“When we have some free time later, shall we go on vacation too? Let’s go to the surrounding cities. I’ve been too busy these years, I haven’t been taking you out for holidays.”

“You, if you’re on vacation, just stay at home and take care of your health. You’ve lost a lot of weight compared to before. The waters in the circle are too deep, and both you and I have had such a hard time walking through it. I’m really worried about you.”

“What’s there to worry about? In a few years, I’ll retire too. I’ll also be home to accompany you, the children, and enjoy life.”

Chapter 1894. Visit (2)

The husband and wife chatted until the middle of the night before finally falling asleep.

Two days later, Zhuang Shurong’s application was finally approved. Su Chen received the news and specially came to visit. Of course, Ji Zitong also came along.

Ji Zitong’s pregnancy is a few months in now and she was showing. Su Chen was very nervous and waited on her carefully. Zhuang Shurong could not help but tease him—

“Su Chen, you’re quite a warm-hearted father-to-be. You’re doing a better job than Ah Chen.”

“He’s just making a mountain out of a molehill. Auntie Zhuang, please don’t laugh at him.”

Ji Zitong was also a little shy. She rolled her eyes at Su Chen and sat down opposite Zhuang Shurong.

“She’s a treasure now. The old man gave a strict order to take care of her. I don’t dare to neglect her.”

Su Chen sat down next to her.

“It’s naturally best to take care of your wife. Your father treated your mother the same way, so you should be like him. This is a good thing. Just drink some flower tea. Xiaye asked them to bring it back. The weather is a little cold, so this one is warming.”

Zhuang Shurong poured tea for Su Chen, Ji Zitong, and the others as she spoke.

“Thank you, Auntie Zhuang.”

“Why did Auntie Zhuang think of retiring? I heard from my father that Auntie Zhuang is very likely to be promoted another level up, especially now that Uncle Mu is also...”

Su Chen asked with some doubt.

Hearing this, Zhuang Shurong sighed softly, “I’m not someone who views politics as a lifelong pursuit. After decades of ups and downs in politics, it should be enough. I didn’t let myself down in this life of mine. Now, it’s time for me to stop and live a new life. All these years, I haven’t taken good care of my family. I’m not like your mother, who can take good care of her family and take good care of your father.”

“No, Auntie Zhuang and Uncle Mu have always been a model couple. We often envy you. My parents, they don’t have such a tacit understanding with each other. It’s just that Auntie Zhuang’s decision is admirable. Not everyone can think like you.”

“There’s nothing we can do about it. With Grandfather Mu and Grandmother Mu gone, the family will need someone to take care of them. The children are still so young. I can’t be at ease if I don’t look after them. Ah Chen and Xiaye are also so busy.”

“Actually, it’s good for you to retire earlier. You’ve worked hard for so many years. You should get some rest. My mother is the same. If it weren’t for Zitong being pregnant, she would probably need to take over my mother’s company now.”

“Auntie Zhuang, you don’t have to worry. Xiaye and Chairman Mu will understand, even if you insisted.” Ji Zitong thought about it and replied.

“I’m good right now. I’m quite happy to be with the children. Also, your Uncle Mu needs someone to take care of him. He’s been working too hard these past few years, and his health isn’t very good. I have to give him some guidance.”

“Su Chen, you and Ah Chen are so close. I’m very grateful to you both for taking care of him all these years. I’m afraid your Uncle Mu and I aren’t qualified parents either...”

“Auntie Zhuang, please don’t say that. Ah Chen has always been very grateful to you both.”

“We can all feel the distance between him and us. But it’s still okay. His father and I are also proud of him to have turned out the way that he is today.”

Zhuang Shurong still felt a little guilty towards her son. Su Chen and Ji Zitong also felt a little heavy when they talked about this topic. The couple exchanged a look before Ji Zitong asked—

“Auntie Zhuang, where are Xiao Rui and Xiao Cheng?”

Zhuang Shurong quickly calmed down when her grandson was mentioned.

“Xiao Rui and Wei’er are already in school, but Xiao Cheng is still asleep...”

“Grandmother...”

Just as Zhuang Shurong finished speaking, a tender voice suddenly entered their ears. They quickly looked towards the source of the voice and realized that the little guy was climbing down the stairs.

“Oh my, my little devil!”

Zhuang Shurong cried out in surprise and quickly stood up to rush over—

Su Chen also exchanged glances with Ji Zitong and they smiled at each other.

...

Knowing that Dongfang Liuyun was going to bring Qi Lei back today, Dongfang Shurong got Ah Cai to give Song Siting a call early in the morning, asking her to make a trip back to the old mansion.

Since Dongfang Shurong had given the order, Song Siting naturally did not dare to disobey and rushed back quite early.

Before Qi Lei and Dongfang Liuyun returned to the Dongfang old mansion, Song Siting had already rushed back. She was sitting on the sofa in the living room watching TV while Dongfang Shurong was reading the newspaper at the side.

Dongfang Shuman instructed the kitchen to prepare some of Dongfang Liuyun and Qi Lei's favorite dishes.

"I heard that Fujiwara went to look for you?"

Dongfang Shuman asked faintly.

"Other than that one time, we haven't contacted each other since then," Song Siting replied.

"Do you know why I called you over?"

Song Siting naturally did not know that Dongfang Liuyun and Qi Lei would be back today. Now that she had come over to see Dongfang Shuman's serious expression, she thought that it was because they did not have a good conversation the last time and had asked her to come over again.

"I'm not in the mood to repeat the same old things to you. I've already said what I should say. What you want to think and do are your own matters. It's your own choice. I asked you to come back today because of Liuyun and Qi lei. They'll be back later. Since being married for so long, this is their first time visiting."

As Dongfang Shuman spoke, she looked up from the newspaper to look at Song Siting.

At this moment, Song Siting looked at Dongfang Shuman in surprise

“Liuyun and Qi Lei? They’re coming back?” Song Siting was naturally surprised.

“What do you think? They’ve been married for so long. I thought that as a mother, you should understand some basic etiquette.”

Dongfang Shuman’s tone was very impolite.

“Mother, I...”

“It’s not that I, Dongfang Shuman, want to make things difficult for you. You have to be a good and holy person, but you’d better not forget your duty. They’ve been married for so long. Even if they’re not sensible, shouldn’t you know better?”

Dongfang Shuman’s tone was filled with reproach.

“Have you ever thought about what kind of impact this matter will have if it gets out? If Qi Lei didn’t come forward to admit it, do you plan to keep it a secret?”

“We didn’t mean that. Her father had already decided to bring them back, but something unexpected happened at the last minute, so...”

Song Siting explained, “Besides, hasn’t Mother always been loyal to Fujiwara...”

“You’re quite good at reading my thoughts.”

“I don’t dare.” Song Siting replied softly.

“I don’t want to cause any trouble in this matter. It’s best for you to fix your attitude.”

“I don’t understand what Mother means.”

Song Siting raised her eyes and looked at Dongfang Shuman.

Chapter 1895. Visit (3)

As soon as Song Siting said this, Dongfang Shuman glanced over.

“What do I mean?”

Dongfang Shuman muttered, “You, Song Siting, are a smart person too. There are some things that you shouldn’t overdo. I’ve seen Qi Lei before, and Liuyun has resolutely chosen him. I shouldn’t have gotten involved in the matters of young people, but Liuyun is a member of the Dongfang family after all. Her marriage will naturally attract attention.”

“You and I are not on the same page, it’s an issue with history, but you still need to consider the matter in principle. Liuyun is your daughter, and with your relationship with her in this state, don’t you think you should self reflect?”

Dongfang Shuman was still as direct as ever. Without a doubt, her words pierced Song Siting’s heart and hit the nail on the head.

Song Siting’s face instantly turned pale. The hand that was holding the cup instantly tightened. She suddenly did not know how to answer.

“You’re not a young person anymore. It’s useless even if I object to the matter between you and Ah Gan. You’re still a wife and a mother. When will you be able to truly play your role? From now on, the person in charge of the Dongfang Group will be Liuyun. If you keep doing this, do you think she’ll be able to rise to the top smoothly? It’s not like you don’t understand the internal situation of the Dongfang Group. When have you ever truly thought about the father and daughter pair?”

Dongfang Shuman was not someone who liked to reason with others. She had always been extremely domineering. If her employees were so stubborn, she would have long told them to pack up their things and leave. However, sitting in front of her was her daughter-in-law, what could she, Dongfang Shuman, do about the woman her son loved?

"I'm old and I'm pestered with illness. I'm afraid that I don't have much time left to live. I don't object to you protecting your justice. You're a big shot. I'm afraid that ordinary people like us are nothing to you. However, this is a family. I can't change it myself. You're always asking Ah Gan and Liuyun to make sacrifices, someone like you who shines alone is really not suitable to marry into our Dongfang family."

Dongfang Shuman coughed a few times. There was a hint of disappointment in her old eyes, "Forget it. It's useless to talk about these things. Qi Lei has done a thousand times better than you in this aspect. Now that it's in a precarious situation, I'll accept this matter. I'll arrange a wedding for them after the New Year. You should put away your thoughts too. That's all."

"Mother... But..."

Song Siting struggled internally for a while. She seemed to have understood something, but...

"No buts. This matter is settled. Pay attention to your boundaries. You'd better take what I said to heart and reflect on it. Otherwise, don't blame me for being rude."

"Mother!"

Song Siting's expression changed. She wanted to say something, but Ah Cai's voice suddenly came from the door

"Fourth Lady, Master, you're back! Come in quickly, it's cold outside!"

As soon as Ah Cai said this, Dongfang Shuman and Song Siting stopped their thoughts and looked towards the door.

They saw Dongfang Liuyun and Qi Lei walking in in pain, followed by a black-shirted bodyguard carrying a bunch of things.

"Grandmother, Mother!"

Dongfang Liuyun greeted first, and Qi Lei also bowed modestly.

Dongfang Shuman nodded and put away the newspaper in her hands. "I've been waiting for you for a while. Come and sit. Ah Cai, get the servants to prepare a few hot towels."

"They're ready."

As Ah Cai spoke, the servants had already sent the hot towels over. The two of them took them and wiped their hands. The coldness on their bodies finally eased a little.

"Today's weather is even colder than yesterday's. The end of the year is coming soon, so it's getting colder every day. Right now, it's snowing heavily in the north."

Ah Cai was rather friendly to Qi Lei and Liuyun. She naturally knew that Dongfang Shuman had already tacitly acknowledged their relationship to a certain extent.

However, speaking of which, even if she did not acknowledge it, what could she do?

Master Gan did not listen to her back then either, did he?

So now, Dongfang Shuman was very open-minded. Now that she saw how protective and considerate Qi Lei was to Dongfang Liuyun, she was a little moved.

"It's a little colder than usual this year. When I came here, I didn't see anyone go out for a run. Usually, there are many people on the track who get up to do morning exercises. How's Grandmother's health these few days?"

As Dongfang Liuyun spoke, she sat down.

"She's fine. I asked your mother to come back. This is the first time the both of you are coming back together. Later, your First Uncle and Second Uncle will be back too. We have to meet up as a family. Qi

Lei, if you have time, you have to come home often. You have a project to work on with the company. Liuyun has just taken over these matters. Since you're her husband, you have to watch over her."

Dongfang Shuman's attitude towards Qi Lei was rather amiable and calm. This surprised Dongfang Liuyun. Before she came, she had been wondering if Dongfang Shuman would make things difficult for Qi lei. She did not think that now, it seemed like the two of them were quite calm.

Now that she thought about it, it was probably that the two of them have met earlier that eased the pressure now.

However, when she looked at her mother, Song Siting, who had been sitting silently by the side, Dongfang Liuyun could clearly see that her expression was not quite right. There was a hint of sadness in her eyes as well. Presumably, it must have been because she had been unhappy with her grandmother, Dongfang Shuman.

Qi Lei nodded modestly. "Don't worry, Grandmother. I will."

"I can handle the company's matters. Grandmother, you don't need to put so much pressure on him."

Dongfang Liuyun knew too well about the undercurrents within Dongfang Group, so she had been unwilling to push Qi Lei to the center of the undercurrents. At this moment, she said this in a protective manner.

"For some things, even if you want to stay out of it, others can't control you. I hope that you'll be on your guard and support each other. Don't be like some people who not only can't help but cause trouble instead."

Dongfang Shuman's words naturally had a hint of reprimand. Qi Lei and Dongfang Liuyun could naturally hear it, and Song Siting's expression did not look too happy.

"We know. Grandmother, don't worry. Mother, are you better? You have a checkup in another two days, I've already made an appointment with the hospital. I'll go over tomorrow morning, I'll go pick you up with Liuyun."

Qi Lei exchanged a look with Dongfang Liuyun before saying calmly.

Song Siting took a deep breath before her expression eased up a little. "Okay."

After replying, she quietly lowered her head and drank her tea. She looked a little absent-minded.

"Did your father call home?" Dongfang Shuman asked.

"No. I just gave him a call yesterday morning. If things go smoothly, he'll be back by the end of the year."

Chapter 1896. Visit (4)

Dongfang Liuyun replied indifferently.

When Dongfang Shuman heard this, her heart also became somewhat solemn—

"Regarding the mine, you should also pay more attention to it. The current situation is not like a few years ago. You should be making more plans. These resources will eventually dry up. Moreover, it will also be very passive. A transformation is something that will happen sooner or later."

"However, a transformation is not an easy thing, especially for a family business like ours. You should have such an awareness now."

As Dongfang Shuman said this, she lowered her gaze and took a sip of tea.

Dongfang Liuyun's elegant face was also stained with some solemnity. After thinking for a moment, she replied, "I've discussed this with Father before, but this is not something that can happen overnight."

"It's good that you know. It's not easy to transform a company, especially a family business with many problems. I've been trying to slowly transform the company over the years. I've been busy for most of my life, and I'm a little exhausted now. It's up to you guys to carry out this task."

“This is a big project. Grandmother doesn’t need to worry too much. We’ll take it to heart. Recently, Vice President Zhang and Father have been working hard too. Grandmother should be very clear about this matter.”

“You still need to get used to the company’s matters. It’s not easy to get to this point, and I don’t want anything to go wrong. Otherwise, I won’t be biased. After lunch, the two of you come to my study.” Dongfang Shuman thought for a moment and said.

“Okay,” Dongfang Liuyun responded and exchanged a look with Qi Lei. Qi lei nodded at her.

...

The wind was very strong outside. When Dongfang Liuyun pushed the door open, a strong cold wind blew against her face and rolled up the curtains on the floor.

Outside her room’s balcony was the backyard of the Dongfang old mansion. Standing in front of the railing, she could see half of the backyard below.

Dongfang Liuyun stood in the cold wind and silently looked at everything below. The pavilion at the side and the winding corridor...

When Grandfather Dongfang was still alive, he always liked to fiddle with some flowers and plants in the corridor, or he would personally put new iron wires on the fence at the side to fix it.

Now, those by the small fence beside the pavilion was all planted by Elder Dongfang himself, but now it looked a little pale.

Hearing the footsteps behind her, she slowly turned her head and saw the man standing behind her.

“What are you thinking about? This place is a little cold.”

As he said that, a coat draped over her shoulders.

Dongfang Liuyun reached out to pull the coat and said indifferently, "It's nothing. I haven't seen this place for a long time. I just feel a little nostalgic."

"Didn't you say that you don't like memories?"

"Not liking them doesn't mean that they won't come back to me. In this house, the only person who could leave a deep impression on me was my grandfather. It's a pity that he left quite early. Otherwise, if he were still here, he would definitely like you very much."

Dongfang Liuyun's tone was calm. Listening to her, one could hear a hint of disappointment.

"How do you know that he would like me? Maybe he's like Grandmother and has some tests for me as well?" Qi Lei chuckled and asked in return.

Dongfang Liuyun gave him a sidelong glance, "Grandfather isn't like Grandmother. He's like Father. He's a very easygoing person. He never really forced me to accept anything. As long as it's something that I like, he'll always agree to it. In my eyes, he's always been a gentle and refined old gentleman. He's a true aristocrat. He dotes on and tolerates Grandmother. He also treats Father and Aunt with both gentleness and firmness. He's the most humble and courteous elder I've ever met. He's the best father."

Elder Dongfang had a deep impact on Dongfang Liuyun. Now that she recalled it, Qi Lei could feel the heartfelt respect from her. He could not help but feel a little surprised at this Elder Dongfang who he would never meet, but even more, he felt a respect for him.

To be able to make someone like him feel respect, they must be an extraordinary person.

"May he rest in peace. Don't think too much. As long as that's the case, I'm afraid all we can do is remember them."

Qi Lei seemed to sympathize with her on this point.

“Yes, sometimes, it seems to be the case. The things and people we care about are not something that we can truly protect. When Grandfather was still alive, he often asked me to come back. I didn’t think too deeply about it back then. When he left, I realized what I had missed.”

“My grandfather passed away when I was very young. From what I remember, he doted on me very much. Even then, I wasn’t sensible and didn’t put much effort into remembering him. Now that I think about it, my memory is a little blurry.”

As Dongfang Liuyun finished speaking, Qi Lei said faintly.

“I am a little luckier than you. I admit that.”

Dongfang Liuyun smiled calmly and allowed him to hold her shoulders. She subconsciously reached out to grab his hand and said, “But now, we seem to be equally lucky.”

Qi Lei paused for a moment before smiling. She let him hold her and looked down at the pavilion.

“I didn’t expect Grandmother to accept you like this. What did you say to her that day? And Father, how did he stand on your side? He was...” Dongfang Liuyun probed.

“That’s is our agreement. You just need to know that we can handle them,” Qi Lei replied with a mysterious smile without revealing anything.

Dongfang Liuyun rolled her eyes at him. “Where’s your sincerity?”

“It’s gone.” Qi Lei replied with a chuckle.

“When you meet them later, there will inevitably be some gossip. You...”

Dongfang Liuyun thought of the meeting later and was worried that Qi Lei would...

“Do as you see fit. Don’t betray me just because you hear something. I’m a person who holds grudges. Otherwise, I’ll have ways to deal with you when I get home.”

Dongfang Liuyun’s tone became a little serious. As she spoke, her face was stern. It was the first time Qi Lei had seen her like this.

Qi Lei raised his handsome brows and quickly expressed his loyalty. “Don’t worry, Mrs. Qi. I wouldn’t dare!”

“It’s good that you wouldn’t dare. We’ll soon enter a state of deep suffering. You haven’t fought those people head-on, so you won’t know how powerful they are. I hope they can behave themselves.”

Dongfang Liuyun was naturally used to such a life, so she did not feel anything at the moment, but Qi Lei...

“Fourth Lady, Master, President Shu wants you to go take a seat downstairs!”

Just as Dongfang Liuyun finished speaking, the voice of a servant came from outside.

Chapter 1897. Trying To Take Advantage? (1)

When the couple went downstairs, there were a few more people in the living room. They were Dongfang Ren, Dongfang Yi, and Lin Yuanyuan.

Ever since Qi Lei announced his relationship with Dongfang Liuyun to the media, everyone had been wary of Dongfang Liuyun. After all, Qi Lei’s identity was there.

However, they did not hear about Qi Lei’s visit later on. Everyone had doubts in their hearts. Unexpectedly, the Elder Madam suddenly informed everyone to come back. When they saw Qi Lei and Dongfang Liuyun appear together, everyone was a little stunned.

Jin Sheng and Dongfang Rou’er had rushed back just before lunch. When they saw Qi Lei and Dongfang Liuyun, they were naturally a little surprised. Dongfang Rou’er even tried to get close to Qi Lei. Qi lei only nodded politely in response, his attitude was a little distant.

Lin Yuanyuan did not know her place and brought up the matters in the city east, which caused Dongfang Shuman to be dissatisfied—

Dongfang Shuman was not a person who liked to discuss business at a wine table, and it was during a time like this too, so she was naturally a little unhappy.

After lunch, Dongfang Ren and Dongfang Yi went to Dongfang Shuman's study. Jin Sheng, Dongfang Rou'er, and the rest sat on the sofa in the living room, drinking tea. Qi Lei and Dongfang Liuyun were also there.

"I heard that Third Aunt was hospitalized a while ago. Because I was busy with work, I couldn't visit often. I wonder if Third Aunt's health is better now?"

The one who spoke was Dongfang Rou'er. As she spoke, she looked at Song Siting and exchanged glances with Lin Yuanyuan.

"Much better. Thank you for your concern." Song Siting replied coldly.

In her heart, she naturally knew that the mother and daughter definitely did not have any good intentions.

"Lawyer Song has seen all kinds of storms and waves. Isn't it just someone seeking revenge? Lawyer Song's spirit of upholding justice will naturally protect the safety of a good person's life. So, there definitely won't be any major problems. Don't you think so, Lawyer song?"

As soon as Song Siting finished speaking, Lin Yuanyuan could not help but speak up. It was not difficult to catch a trace of hatred in her sharp and mean tone.

"Mother!"

Dongfang Rou'er glanced at Jin Sheng and Qi Lei who were already frowning. She glanced at Lin Yuanyuan with some dissatisfaction.

Lin Yuanyuan would definitely not be able to remain calm whenever she met Song Siting. After all, the Lin family's hatred towards Song Siting was very deep and there was no way to reduce it.

"What kind of look is that? Don't tell me what I'm saying is unreasonable?"

Lin Yuanyuan returned Dongfang Rou'er a disapproving look, and her gaze instantly landed on Song Siting.

Song Siting did not seem to have much of a reaction to Lin Yuanyuan's provocation. She had long treated Lin Yuanyuan's provocation as a common occurrence. Keeping silent was Dongfang Liuyun's way of making Song Siting persevere.

"I heard that the Lin family's situation is not great. Since First Aunt has the time to care about us, I assume that the situation is much better now?" Dongfang Liuyun asked indifferently and threw a concerned look at Lin Yuanyuan.

These words undoubtedly hurt Lin Yuanyuan. Everyone knew that the Lin family had been in a terrible state recently. Lin Yuanyuan had quarreled with Dongfang Ren several times because of it.

"I've always known that First Aunt is warm-hearted and loving. She's a good person, and I've always respected her."

When Dongfang Liuyun said this, she looked at Qi Lei, who looked at her tacitly. He nodded happily. "When you're free later, First Aunt can come over to visit our place."

After this friendly remark, Lin Yuanyuan coughed and did not continue. Instead, she glanced at Qi Lei with a gloomy look. Her gaze shifted to Dongfang Liuyun, who was leisurely pouring tea, her gaze could not help but turn gloomy again.

"Thank you. I'll go over when I have time. I'm afraid I'll be busy with Ah Sheng and Rou'er's wedding. I don't know when President Qi and Liuyun's wedding will be. I've never heard of the two of you before. This surprise is really quite big."

Lin Yuanyuan was putting on a fake smile. Up until now, she still could not believe that Qi Lei was married to Dongfang Liuyun. Based on Dongfang Liuyun's personality, she could not have married Qi Lei just like that, she had a feeling that something was wrong.

She had even asked someone to check at the Civil Affairs Bureau. After confirming that Qi Lei had given Dongfang Liuyun information about his marriage, she had no choice but to accept this fact. However, she had a feeling that things were not that simple.

"It won't be too long. The wedding will be held at the beginning of spring. When that time comes, I might need your help."

"Is that so? That's good too. Lawyer Song hasn't taken care of these matters much. Besides her work, she hasn't paid much attention to these matters in the past few years. Naturally, she doesn't have much experience. If there's anything you need, just let me know."

Lin Yuanyuan still could not change its insinuation. There was always a thorn in Song Siting's heart when she heard these words.

"Of course I care about my daughter's marriage. Besides, I only need to care about these things once. I don't want to worry about it so many times and make a fool of myself every time. What do you think, sister-in-law?"

On the Lin family's side, Lin Yonghua had gotten married and divorced a few times before. He was also a marvel in the circle. Song Siting had always been very disgusted with the Lin family. They had all been scum. She was naturally very satisfied with the downfall of the Lin family, especially Lin Yuanyuan. They had always made things difficult for her and would not let go of her.

Upon hearing this, Lin Yuanyuan's expression changed drastically.

Dongfang Liuyun was not in the mood to watch the show. She glanced at the few of them and slowly stood up. She patted Qi Lei on the shoulder and walked out.

Qi Lei followed suit.

The cold wind was still blowing outside. Dongfang Liuyun had just walked down the stairs when her mother, Song Siting's voice came from behind him

"Liuyun, come to my study for a while."

As soon as she said that, Dongfang Liuyun turned around and saw that Song Siting had already walked into the corridor ahead.

Dongfang Liuyun frowned and subconsciously turned to look at Qi Lei. Qi Lei nodded. "Go. I'll wait for you in your room later."

At this moment, Dongfang Liuyun took a shallow breath, "Alright then. You can walk around too. The scenery in the garden is not bad either. It's not inferior to the Qi family's old residence. When Grandmother was young, she liked flowers too. Grandfather had the servants plant many plum trees and some flowers to keep out the cold, so you can still see many flowers in full bloom in winter here."

"Yes, I know. Don't worry. We'll go back earlier later, I think you look quite tired too."

"It's all your fault."

Dongfang Liuyun gave him a sideways glance, then turned and walked to the corridor ahead.

Chapter 1898. Trying To Take Advantage? (2)

Qi Lei stood in the corridor and watched her disappear around the corner. He then retracted his gaze and walked down the stairs.

After turning through the winding corridor, Qi Lei arrived at the pavilion he saw outside Dongfang Liuyun's bedroom balcony.

The pavilion was clean and tidy. The stone tables and chairs were covered with a thick blanket. There were also some petals and fallen leaves at the bottom of the stairs in front of the pavilion. It looked very quiet.

“This pavilion was designed by Grandfather personally. Also, the fence here was built by Grandfather himself. Doesn’t it look good?”

Qi Lei had just walked up the stairs when a familiar voice suddenly came from behind him.

Qi Lei turned his head and saw Dongfang Rou’er standing elegantly on the cement path not far below. Her soft white wool gown made her skin look even fairer and more alluring. At this moment, there was a smile on her face.

When she saw Qi Lei looking over, she continued walking forward. In the blink of an eye, she arrived at the stairs in front of Qi Lei. She raised her head slightly to look at Qi Lei.

Qi Lei sized her up before saying calmly, “Fortunately, Liuyun mentioned it to me before.”

After saying that, he retracted his gaze and walked into the pavilion.

Dongfang Rou’er thought for a moment before following him. She only stopped when she reached Qi Lei’s side.

“I never knew that President Qi had such a relationship with Fourth Sister.”

Dongfang Rou’er said softly as she turned to look at the cold-looking Qi Lei. “Can you tell me how you got together with my Fourth Sister?”

Dongfang Rou’er’s tone was filled with sincerity. If Qi Lei had not known that Dongfang Liuyun did not have a good relationship with this woman, he would have been moved when he heard that.

“Has Fifth Lady always liked sharing the process of her feelings with others?” Qi Lei asked back without looking at Dongfang Rou’er.

“Besides, there’s no need to report this to Fifth Lady, is there?”

Qi Lei's tone was very calm, but it sounded bleak and harsh to Dongfang Rou'er's ears. Naturally, she could hear that Qi Lei seemed to have some hostility toward her.

Initially, she wanted to ask about the situation at the city east, but from the looks of it, Qi Lei did not have a good impression of them. She was afraid that it would not be beneficial. Of course, Dongfang Rou'er quickly blamed Dongfang Liuyun for this matter.

If it was not for Dongfang Liuyun's pillow talk, Qi Lei would not be like this.

"President Qi, you're overthinking. I'm just concerned about Fourth Sister." Dongfang Rou'er smiled faintly.

"Fourth Sister is actually not having it easy. Although there are some misunderstandings between us sisters, as Grandmother said, family is still family. Of course, I also hope that she can live well. Especially these years, she really haven't had it easy."

Speaking of these things, Dongfang Rou'er's eyes dimmed.

In fact, Dongfang Rou'er's feelings towards Dongfang Liuyun were complicated. Other than the hatred that she could not avoid, there was also some admiration and some jealousy.

Dongfang Rou'er admired Dongfang Liuyun's ability and personality, but...

"From what Fifth Lady said, she seems to understand my wife very well."

Only then did Qi Lei turn his head and glance at her.

Hearing this, Dongfang Rou'er smiled—

"We can be considered sisters who grew up together. She's fourth in the family, and I'm fifth. We're cousins. How can we not be familiar with each other?"

"Fourth Sister has been doing very well since she was young. She's also very beautiful. She's a very outstanding person. I've been following in her footsteps all along. When she was young, she had a strong personality, but she didn't like to talk much. She was a quiet girl. In fact, many of the female students in the class don't really like her."

As Dongfang Rou'er spoke, she chuckled and took a deep breath before continuing, "You know, that's just a girl's jealousy."

"Fourth sister and I aren't that close. She's a bright pearl, and many people are fascinated by her. She's had many suitors since she was young. I think you've heard of Lan Xiu and Fujiwara, right?"

Dongfang Rou'er looked at Qi Lei, but she did not see any change in his expression. She took a deep breath and lowered her eyes. "They're very good friends, and they've all been in love with Fourth Sister for a long time."

"Fifth Lady seems to be quite concerned about Liuyun's feelings. But what do you mean by what you're saying now?"

Qi Lei raised his handsome brows. He looked at Dongfang Rou'er with a meaningful gaze.

"I don't have any intentions. I'm just happy to see that President Qi and Fourth Sister are doing well. Of course, I hope that you can treat her better. After all, when I think of what Fourth Sister went through, it makes me feel a little uncomfortable."

Dongfang Rou'er sighed softly. "President Qi should be very clear about the Dongfang family's situation by now."

"I don't know what's going on. I'm not interested in understanding or getting involved in the Dongfang family's matters. The only person I married was Dongfang Liuyun. She's now my wife, Mrs. Qi. It has nothing to do with the so-called Dongfang family or the Dongfang Group."

As soon as Dongfang Rou'er finished speaking, Qi Lei cut her off.

"If Fifth Lady is here to chat with me because of what happened in the city, then I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint Fifth Lady. The research project is now under the jurisdiction of Vice President Wang Chun of the company. If you really want to do this project, you can go directly to Vice President Wang Chun to understand the situation. "The evaluation team will evaluate the project. If all the indicators are feasible, then the project can be discussed. Otherwise, I can't do a loss-making business, what do you think? Fifth Lady?"

Qi Lei's tone was indifferent as he looked at Dongfang Rou'er calmly.

"The feasibility of the project is certain. However, I hope that there are some things that you can take care of. Now that we're still a family, we naturally won't let our own people do a loss-making business. Otherwise, Grandmother won't agree. You heard what Grandmother said at the dinner table just now, didn't you?" Dongfang Rou'er said.

"Fifth Lady is also considered half a merchant. Don't you understand the rules of the sea of commerce? Don't think so highly of me. I'm a very traditional merchant. I only seek profit. The more spacious the road to riches, the better. No one is willing to seal the road."

"President Qi doesn't trust me, or does he not trust the Dongfang Group?" Dongfang Rou'er asked.

"Don't trust you? May I ask, why should I trust you?"

Qi Lei looked at Dongfang Rou'er in surprise.

Chapter 1899. Trying To Take Advantage? (3)

Dongfang Rou'er did not expect Qi Lei to ask this. She was stunned and could not answer. She could only frown at Qi Lei. Her eyes were still filled with awkwardness, and her beautiful face was slightly red.

"It seems that President Qi doesn't treat us as his own people. We've been to Vice President Wang Chun's place before, but it seems that he... is probably under Fourth Sister's special care, right?"

Dongfang Rou'er smiled bitterly and took a deep breath. "She's always been like this. I should have guessed it long ago. Fujiwara was the same before. Other than relying on these things, can't she show off her true abilities?"

As she finished speaking, Dongfang Rou'er's voice seemed to contain some resentment. She unconsciously clenched her fists, and her entire being seemed to be in a tense state.

"Relying on these? I don't think there's anything wrong with a woman relying on her own man. Fifth Lady, with your personality, you're not very likable in front of men. Your words insinuate other things. I've seen many women like you. A humble smile and a reserved manner, and doing things realistically will make your temperament better. Don't treat people as dolls with low IQ. At least, I don't think highly of you on this point."

Qi Lei's deep tone was filled with coldness.

Hearing this, Dongfang Rou'er's expression became even uglier. She pursed her lips. Even though she wanted to say something, looking at Qi Lei's calm expression, she understood that Dongfang Liuyun was probably not ordinary in Qi Lei's heart.

Moreover, just based on the fact that Qi Lei dared to announce their marriage to the media and even gave a large portion of Qi Kai's shares to Dongfang Liuyun as a dowry, just based on this, she was envious of Dongfang Liuyun's charm and ability!

Was Fujiwara not the same?

That lunatic would probably fall out with the Fujiwara family for Dongfang Liuyun and give up everything!

Thinking of this, Dongfang Rou'er suddenly felt an imbalance in her heart.

She was also the pearl of the Dongfang family, but her grandfather cared about her more than anyone else. Many people favored her, but she...

Even though Jin Sheng was already engaged to her and was about to get married, he still had his guard up against her. Furthermore, the two of them could not be considered to be in love. With such a transactional marriage, would she, Dongfang Rou'er, really be happy?

“Consider me misspoken. However, since President Qi is already married to Fourth Sister, please treat her well. You’re not the only one who has such deep feelings for Fourth Sister. It’s really hard to explain things like feelings. The person who once had deeper feelings and loved her may not be the one she ends up with. Fourth Sister let go quite frankly, how would she know the pain and suffering of others?”

As she said this, Dongfang Rou’er sighed softly. She turned her gaze to look at Qi Lei’s handsome face, which was still as calm as water. Finally, she smiled, “It seems like President Qi is confident in the relationship between the two of you. In that case, I wish you both happiness and good luck.”

“Thank you,” Qi Lei replied with this last sentence. He gave her a sideways glance and suddenly walked down the stairs with some disinterest, “I appreciate Fifth Lady’s kind intentions. It’s just that you’re thinking too much. My marriage to Liuyun has nothing to do with anything else. It’s only about the relationship, some things aren’t as self-righteous as you think they are. The Fifth Lady will soon become a member of the Jin family. I hope you can be a good Mrs. Jin.”

When Qi Lei said this, Dongfang Rou’er paused for a moment. She had a vague feeling that something was wrong, but she could not pinpoint what it was.

By the time she snapped out of her daze, Qi Lei had already walked down the stairs. His tall and straight body slowly passed through the plum blossom forest in front of him. After a while, he disappeared in front of her.

...

At this moment, in Song Siting’s study.

Song Siting’s expression was not looking too good. Dongfang Liuyun was sitting on the sofa opposite her. Song Siting wanted to get up to make tea, but Dongfang Liuyun was one step ahead of her. She reached out to stop her

“Let me do it. You’re recovering from your wound. Don’t drink these things for now. Just drink some hot water.”

As she spoke, she poured some water for Song Siting. Song Siting raised her eyes and glanced at her before quietly reaching out to take it.

“What did Grandmother say to you earlier? You don’t look too well.”

Dongfang Liuyun leaned back on the sofa behind her. She looked at Song Siting and asked in a low voice.

Song Siting’s dark eyes flickered when she heard this. She calmed down too. She lowered her eyes and looked at the steaming cup in her hand. A long while later, she finally said in a low voice, “It’s nothing, just repeating the old saying. I’m used to it. You know that my relationship with your grandmother is so tense. There’s no way to improve it.”

“No way to improve it? It’s something that you don’t want to improve, right? There are many things that you insist on if you think that you are right. I admire that about you. However, one must always consider one’s stance when considering any matter. I don’t want to comment on the so-called right and wrong. You can be as happy as you like. You can do whatever you want.”

When Dongfang Liuyun spoke about these things, her tone was filled with weariness and annoyance. Song Siting was not a fool, so of course, she could tell.

“I know that you’ve always disliked our Dongfang family’s profane style. It’s not as noble and righteous as what you insist on in your heart. But this is my life, my father’s life, and the life of the entire Dongfang family. Our life is a big dye vat. I’m not afraid of letting you know too that as long as I still want that position, I won’t be able to stay too honorable in time.”

“So, is it true? If one day, I’m also targeted, as a mother, will you personally send me to prison?”

As she said this, Dongfang Liuyun stared intently at Song Siting’s eyes. Her pitch-black eyes had a hint of desolation in them—

“That’s actually what grandmother meant. She hoped that you could consider father and me first before thinking about anything else. After so many years, can’t you see what she means? She has always hated the bad effects caused by internal strife.”

Dongfang Liuyun spoke word by word, and when she heard it, it was like a gust of cold wind that gradually blew away the haze in Song Siting's heart.

"So, you and your father have been dissatisfied with me all these years, but you just endured it and didn't say anything?" Song Siting asked in a daze.

"You know my attitude very well. As for father, he just cares about you and doesn't want you to feel wronged."

Chapter 1900. Care (1)

When they left the Dongfang mansion, it was already past three in the afternoon. Before they went back, Qi Lei and Dongfang Liuyun were called to the study by Dongfang Shuman.

However, they did not talk much. Most of the time, they only talked about the background of the two families.

Although their attitude was still cold, it was obvious that they did not have any hostility toward Qi Lei. It could be considered a tacit agreement.

Dongfang Liuyun already felt that it was rare for her to be in such a state. Before she came, she had already imagined all sorts of awkward and helpless situations. She thought that if it really did not work out, she would drag Qi Lei away. She did not expect things to be so smooth right now, her mood had eased up a lot.

Song Siting also left with them.

At this moment, the person driving in front was Qi Lei. Dongfang Liuyun and Song Siting sat in the back.

"If those words made you feel bad, just pretend that you didn't hear it. After all, it's been like this all these years. When Father and I talked on the phone, he didn't forget to ask us to take care of you. Mother, Father is really good to you. After so many years, no one knows how he persevered better than you do."

As Dongfang Liuyun spoke, Dongfang Gan's loving face could not help but appear in her mind. She could not help but feel sorry for her father, "Some time ago, Father told me that he was getting older and would often feel very tired these days. I think that he was tired not just physically, but mentally too. The situation I've been in all these years has caused him to worry so much. I admit that I'm very unfilial. That's why when he asked me to take over the Dongfang Group, I didn't resist at all. I knew of my fate, I would have to act sooner or later."

"I know what you mean. I've been thinking a lot lately... as a wife and mother, I'm afraid I've neglected my duties. I thought I should persevere... forget it, now that things have come to this, it's meaningless to say anything else."

Song Siting's heart was filled with bitterness. She could not tell what exactly she was feeling.

"Should I be proud and happy to have a mother who is full of justice and responsibility then?"

Dongfang Liuyun finally retracted her gaze from the street scene outside and silently looked at the gloomy-looking Song Siting, "You can't even protect yourself, and now you're a public figure that attracts criticisms easily, what sense of justice and responsibility do you have to talk about? To put it bluntly, it's a burden. If I said it like this, would you listen?"

"A burden?"

Song Siting was stunned. She looked at Dongfang Liuyun in disbelief. "Who are you calling a burden?"

"You don't have to doubt your own ears. I'm talking about you. You're right, a burden. You probably don't know how Father has been helping you deal with these things after all these years, right? Because of these matters, the kind of difficult problems Father had to face. Have you thought about all of these?"

As Dongfang Liuyun said this, she coldly took out a document from her briefcase and handed it to Song Siting, "Father doesn't want you to know about these things, but I think that only you can know. Perhaps you will understand what Father has been through all these years. Why would Grandmother reject you so much? If it were me, I think I would also be very dissatisfied with such a daughter-in-law."

Dongfang Liuyun's words were like a heavy hammer, hitting Song Siting's heart hard.

Song Siting looked at her in a daze. After a long while, she took the document and started flipping through it

However, the more she flipped through it, the paler Song Siting's face became. Towards the end, she was more and more in disbelief, until the end, she who had always been as strong as a rock suddenly started to tear up.

Dongfang Liuyun quietly observed her expression. It was only when she saw the redness in her eyes that she took a deep breath and looked out of the car window.

Song Siting took a deep breath and calmed down for a long time before she said in a hoarse voice, "Your father... is really thoughtful... I'm the one who let him down... I'm the one who let him down. All these years..."

"I don't mean to blame you. I just hope that you and my father can enjoy your old age in peace. You've been through a lot for so many years, and you should have had enough of the chaotic world outside. In the future, you should accompany Father and take good care of him. This request shouldn't be too much, right?" Dongfang Liuyun asked in a low voice.

"I thought about it a lot too. Under such pressure, I'll finish the case in hand. When you two have a child, I'll hand the law firm to the people under me. I'll fade out of this circle and take care of your children. But now..."

Song Siting sniffled and wiped the tears from her eyes. After a long while, she said, "When are you and Qi Lei going to have a child? It'll be good for me..."

"We'll just let nature take its course. I know you don't want to stay at home like this. You've worked with Father before, so I've already mentioned to Vice President Zhang that I'll prepare an office beside Father's office for you. You can help Father with some matters. I think he will be very happy."

Dongfang Liuyun naturally knew her father very well. Dongfang Gan's entire heart had been tied to Song Siting all his life. All these years, he had never seen him take a second look at any other women.

Perhaps this was inherited from his grandfather, Dongfang. His grandfather also had a deep affection for her grandmother.

Emotional self-discipline had always been Dongfang Gan's rule. Dongfang Liuyun suddenly remembered that all these years, whenever there was a social event, if it was not her mother, Song Siting, or her, Dongfang Liuyun, Dongfang Gan would always attend it alone.

It seemed that he had always been like this, a person who only knew how to give quietly.

After Dongfang Liuyun said this, Song Siting fell silent. She thought for a moment and finally nodded. "You make the arrangements. I'll make the arrangements for the matters of the law firm for the time being. From now on, I'll guard you well."

There was no dissatisfaction in her low and slow voice. Instead, there was a sense of relief.

At this moment, as Song Siting spoke, she kept the document in her hands into her bosom and pressed it tightly against her chest.

Hearing this, Dongfang Liuyun lowered her eyes and looked at her fingers that were lightly interlocked. After thinking for a moment, she said, "Mother, I'm sorry. If this arrangement makes you unhappy, please forgive me. I'm a little tired. Just consider me selfish. I hope that you and Father will be fine and stand on our side and support us unconditionally. This way, I can feel at ease."

"What can I say? In my heart, you guys are the most important. I thought everything I've done all these years was..."

Qi Lei, who was driving in front, did not speak. At this moment, it was best for him to remain silent.