

## Loving 481

### Chapter 481. Mysterious Man Before The Tombstone (1)

When she thought about this, the anger in Wang Qin's heart was about to burst. There was a slight pain from her palm, but that could not compare to the sharp hurt she currently felt in her heart!

Why?

Wang Qin was the real lady of the Qi household. In fact, she was an influential person in Qi Kai. Qi Lei was also Qi Qiming's biological son, so why did Qi Qiming reject Qi Lei so much?

If it was because of the marriage that resulted in him not being with the woman he loved and he resented her for that, she could understand. After all, she did not love Qi Qiming either, but since they already got married and even gave birth to Qi Lei, why could he not be a little kinder to Qi Lei?

Ever since Wang Qin joined the Qi family, the person who owed her big time was Qi Qiming!

All these years, because of Qi Feng, even though she had felt unhappy, she accepted Qi Feng's identity quite openly, did she not? Apart from the knot in her heart, she had never troubled Qi Feng for anything!

Instead, it was Qi Lei. Ever since he was born, she had never witnessed Qi Qiming fulfill his duty as a father!

Back then, because of that shameless witch, Gu Lingsha, Qi Lei became ignored and unliked by Qi Qiming. Wang Qin had taken all of these in. She wished the two of them could quickly die. After that car accident, she thought that Qi Feng and that cheating couple would have died, but unexpectedly...

Wang Qin felt herself fall limp. A complicated cold light became dense in her beautiful eyes. Even when Yang Sheng called out to her quite a few times, she did not respond.

Now that she thought about it, the Gu family and Qi Qiming must have known that Gu Lingsha was still alive. In fact, they must have been the ones who rescued them. After that, there had been no news at all. They did not know whether Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha were still alive. Out of the blue now, Gu Lingsha

suddenly appeared in a picture. All sorts of information pointed to the possibility that Gu Lingsha was still alive too. Qi Feng must have come out unscathed too.

If that was the case, then he would definitely return. Qi Qiming would let him do that, and if that happened, then Qi Kai...

What about Qi Lei?

Qi Feng was just an illegitimate child. What basis did Qi Qiming have to let Qi Feng take over Qi Kai?

He called out to her quite a few times, yet he did not hear her answer. Yang Sheng took a look at the rearview mirror to see how things were behind. Wang Qin's expression had turned extremely pale while her eyes burned with anger and unhappiness. He quickly slowed the car down and asked with concern, "VP Wang? VP Wang? Are you okay?"

Then, Wang Qin finally snapped back from her daze. She was stunned for a moment before she took a deep breath and shook her head. "I'm fine. Let's quickly go to the Grand Waves Villa," Wang Qin responded tiredly. She bent down to pick up the tablet that she had dropped.

She took a good look at the e-mail which did not contain any message. She thought about it, and then her gaze darkened.

Who was the one who sent her this e-mail?

What was this person trying to achieve?

The contents of the information were quite complete. In fact, they seemed to know Wang Qin would be interested in this matter. They must know her rather well then, so who could this person be? Or rather, was this a friend or a foe?

The many questions circled Wang Qin's mind, forcing her to finally take her phone out uneasily and make a call.

“Hello, it’s me. There’s something I need you to check for me.”

When the car slowly drove into the Grand Waves Villa area, it was just in time for lunch.

At this moment, inside the kitchen of Qi Lei’s luxurious villa.

Pa!

Bam bam!

The sound of ceramic breaking shattered the air. The floor was covered in destroyed pieces of ceramic.

Qi Lei lowered his head, frowning as he looked at the plate that had met the end of its life. Helplessness could not help but surface between his brows. He casually pushed the ceramic pieces aside. Then, he continued to stir the noodles in the pot with his chopsticks. You could not see the original soup base because it was practically a one-pot meal.

He put noodles, all sorts of ingredients from the fridge, vegetables, slices of meat, and anything he thought would be quite delicious in, and created the gaudy pot in front of him. Even now, he seemed to be adding more and more ingredients.

His chopping board and sink were already extremely messy.

Master Qi actually did not know how to cook. Young masters like him who led an easy life with everything provided was already used to being served since he was young. Usually, he would ask someone to deliver him food or he would go out to eat. However, since he had an off day today, he suddenly had an urge to cook himself a meal, yet every time he stepped into the kitchen it would be a huge disaster!

He definitely did not know how to cook any delicate dishes. Even just cooking himself some noodles would result in him creating something weird.

Just as Qi Lei was leisurely stirring his pot of noodles, he heard the door open and then there was the sound of footsteps.

The resounding sound of heels clanked onto the floor as Wang Qin's voice came. "Xiao Lei?"

"VP Wang, Master Qi is in the kitchen!"

Yang Sheng keenly picked up the aroma of food, and he instantly smiled.

The kitchen?

With a frown, Wang Qin quickly put her handbag down and walked to the kitchen. The sight of Qi Lei standing before the stove greeted her. When she looked down, she did not miss the ceramic pieces that shattered on the floor. Her brows furrowed even deeper then.

"Xiao Lei? What are you doing?"

Wang Qin looked around in puzzlement whilst a flash of concern colored her eyes. She quickly walked over and examined Qi Lei carefully. "Are you okay? Did you hurt yourself anywhere?"

Qi Lei silently looked at her, but he did not stop what he was doing. "I was hungry, so I'm making some food."

When he finished, Wang Qin then looked at the pot he was working on.

It was a mishmash of food. She did not know what he was cooking!

She then frowned and swiftly took his chopsticks. Her voice became gentler. "Alright, you've never cooked. You only barely learned how to cook porridge after I taught you quite a few times. You could've just asked someone to deliver you food? What are you cooking by yourself here?"

Qi Lei's handsome brows raised, but he did not mind her comments and pulled his hand back. He was about to say something when Wang Qin had already turned the stove off, and efficiently arranged the chopping board. As she turned to get some ingredients from the fridge behind, she said, "Xiao Lei, how about you move back home? You have family, and you won't have to do this yourself. Now that you've living alone and you don't like to hire servants, I'm quite worried about you."

When Wang Qin said that, Qi Lei answered calmly, "No need for that. I'm doing just fine here. I quite like the peace and quiet."

He did not miss that home a single bit. There was no point in staying there!

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However, just as Qi Lei said this, Wang Qin's heart could not help but sting. It was a feeling that she could not explain. She remained startled for a while before she continued washing the ingredients.

"Xiao Lei, no matter what it is, you're still a part of the Qi family. As your mother, I know that even though you look like you don't care, you're actually just laid back and don't bother to bicker, but you must know that sometimes, even if you let go and tolerate them, they won't let go of you. Do you understand?"

When Wang Qin said this, her expression seemed solemn. She did not turn to look at Qi Lei. Instead, she sighed and continued, "It has always been the strong and powerful who have the rights to speak. It's even more so in the business world. Think about it. If I had handed my shares to your father to handle back then, how would things look like today? Son, you'll be controlled by others if you aren't powerful. Then, it'll be too late to regret when that happens. You will lose all your power to hit back."

Wang Qin was very worried. Even she herself felt that all her life, she was like a warrior who kept on fighting. This female warrior could only compromise the family's interests with fate, sacrificing herself. Perhaps when it came to love, kinship, and her best interests, she had chosen the latter two, and given up on love.

Actually, there was not much to talk about here. It was not a heinous thing to give up on love and choose kinship. To the innocent her back then, the two of them were equal in position. She could not possibly deny or part with her parents for the sake of a relationship.

With regard to relationships, love, kinship, friendship, and many more, everyone would have different views and different priorities, so Wang Qin had never regretted her decision back then.

She chose her own journey, and she would finish it even if she had to kneel all the way. She did not mind having to deal with Qi Qiming and the rest because she needed to fight for something for the sake of her son.

“Mother, you think too much. You and the old man built Qi Kai together. It turned out so grand and formidable. A halo like that is too dazzling. It’s simply too garish to me. I don’t need you two to give me my own halo either. The old man has never liked me anyway. You two can go and be the so-called strong and powerful while I’ll be the audience. I’ll, you know, hype you up from time to time.”

Qi Lei’s tone sounded weird, yet you could also hear the plain sarcasm in it.

“Xiao Lei, what are you saying? I’m only doing all this for... Never mind. I don’t want to pick a fight with you. It hasn’t been too peaceful recently, so I hope that you can come home for a while. In fact, I hope that you can get to know Xian Er. I personally think she’s quite nice. She’d be perfect for you since she’s from a prestigious family. We’re well-matched. Qi Qiming would have to agree too. It’s time you find a woman to marry and live your life properly.”

“If you want to marry someone, you can let the old man do that, or you can do it yourself too.”

When this matter was raised, Qi Lei smiled coldly. He looked in disdain at Wang Qin, then turned to leave the kitchen.

“Xiao Lei! You...”

Wang Qin always had no way of dealing with Qi Lei’s temper, and now...

But no matter what, she definitely could not let that witch, Gu Lingsha reappear and disrupt things, that woman looks simple, yet she extremely ingenuine, even Wang Qin felt uneasy!

This woman could almost make the Gus, the Mus, and the Qis tear into each other years ago. Mu Lingtian had even died tragically while Mu Lingshi was disfigured. Qi Feng and Qi Lei had also...

She still did not know whether the Gu family was involved in shameful, shady business. Whatever it was, she definitely would not allow such a dangerous woman to get close to Qi Lei again!

She could not tell Qi Lei about the news!

...

A brief and perfect wedding and their honeymoon passed by in the blink of an eye. After a short weekend, the husband and wife continued their usual routine. They woke up for work together, had lunch together, and went home together in the evening. After the short enthusiasm faded, they returned to their calm and simple life from before.

Mu Yuchen could not bear to let Xiaye work too hard, so he made arrangements for the projects that she had been supervising previously. Now, she was just focused on the South River project. Of course, she seemed to be following Mu Yuchen everywhere!

After a long period of time, he seemed to be calling her up to his office for all sorts of work reasons, so the company employees finally found out about their relationship.

Even though the husband and wife were very low-profile, if they reached work, she would get down from the car first, and then when work ended, he would work till quite late. When he came over to fetch her, the entire office would be empty. Still, every time she got into the elevator, the employees would look at her ambiguously and oddly. Some glanced at her with envy, some with gasps of admiration. She was not quite used to all of this, yet this was all thanks to a certain someone.

Just like right now—

Xi Xiaye was working on a blueprint. With a pen in her hand, from time to time, she would mark something down. Suddenly, her phone rang, startling her. Without even looking up, she picked the phone up.

“Hello?”

“Director Xi, come to my office right away.”

She already knew who it was before he finished. Without waiting for her answer, he hung up.

Xi Xiaye frowned. She held her hurting head with her fingers, then sighed after a while. She packed the blueprint up and walked out of the door.

She took the elevator and reached the highest floor. Then, she walked to Mu Yuchen’s office before she realized that no one was inside. He was nowhere to be found even after she looked around. She glanced at the door to the resting lounge that was shut tightly before she leisurely sat down on his chair before the desk. She began to browse through the information on his laptop.

After a while, when she had only browsed through a few lines, there was a faint fragrance that tempted her nostrils. Before she could react, a stalk of blossoming blue rose was put before her, taking her by surprise. She quickly turned to look beside her, then she saw his handsome face brimming with a heartwarming smile as he silently watched her.

A gentle light flashed in her eyes. She smiled and swiftly took it before she planted a kiss on his cheek. “Are you happy about something? How rare of you to gift me a flower in broad daylight! Usually, you give these sort of things to me at night, and would let me bring it home to put in the vase.”

She lowered her head to sniff it before she peered up at him in wonder.

He pulled her up and sat down before he drew her to sit on his lap. “I have good news for you. I’m sure you’ll be really happy hearing it.”

“What good news?” she asked, puzzled.

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“I’ve just received a call from Ah Mo. There’s hope for Mother’s recovery, but she’ll need to stay there for a while. Father will stay there for a while too. Grandpa returns tomorrow, so we’ll pick him up from the airport in the afternoon the day after tomorrow,” Mu Yuchen spoke quite calmly.



However, just as he said this, Xi Xiaye's starry eyes immediately lit up. She subconsciously held his hand and said a little nervously, "There's hope for recovery? There's really hope? That means that Mother will be able to see the light again, right? I just called Mother yesterday. She said she was going for a check-up at the hospital today."

"Mmm, this is good news, so be happy. Once Grandpa gets back, I'll arrange for people to guard them over there since only Father and Mother will be there."

As he said this, he looked meaningfully at Xi Xiaye.

Xi Xiaye smiled happily and gently nodded. "I truly hope that when they return, their relationship will go to the next level. If Mother recovers, then Father lectures together with her at University A, and no one disturbs them, that is something worth looking forward to!"

"It was always supposed to just be temporary loss of sight. Don't always be so worried and scare yourself too much."

"Mmm, right, when's Ah Mo coming back then? Lingshi's been quite busy these two days. She's planning on renovating the Imperial Sky Entertainment Club office. In fact, Grandmother and the rest have begun to get her and Ah Mo moving. I think we'll be able to anticipate another round of good news."

Xi Xiaye played around with the flower in her hand, and she laughed gently.

"They are truly childhood sweethearts. They should've been married by now. Ah Mo is a rare honest man. Lingshi won't lose out being with him. Just like us, Grandmother and the rest have long been looking forward to their marriage, and now that you're their sis-in-law, encourage Lingshi a little. It's a glorious thing. I think you and Lingshi get along quite well. She rarely talks to me about anything, but she did tell you quite a bit."

Obviously, it would be best for Lingshi to have one or two people that she could talk to. Actually, Lingshi was quite similar to her sometimes. Perhaps they could empathize and get along with each other better because of their similar personalities.

“There are some things that you can only tell your good friends and not your other half. Right, tomorrow I’m going to go over to Lingshi’s. The things that I brought from the Mu residence are still at home. I should deliver it to her tomorrow.”

“Mmm, I’ll send you and go over to see Su Chen for a bit.”

They were beginning to get some clues regarding the incident at the wedding banquet, so there were some things they needed to discuss and delegate.

“I almost forgot. Tomorrow is Lingtian’s birthday. Xiaye, tomorrow morning come with me to the cemetery. After our wedding, we should go take a look.”

After a momentary silence, Mu Yuchen’s handsome face suddenly flashed with a sorrowful expression. He turned around and his gaze turned toward the sky outside through their window. It was slightly gloomy, and the mist outside made one feel a sense of loneliness.

There was a ridge from his past that was hard to get over. Xi Xiaye had always known this.

That ridge was Mu Lingtian!

Xi Xiaye did not know what she could do right now. She could only hope that Detective Zhang would be able to get the news she needed sooner. She had already given him quite a few calls, yet it kept showing that his phone was switched off, which only made Xi Xiaye rather anxious.

She hoped to be able to get some clues by understanding the Qi family.

Upon seeing a hint of loneliness in his eyes, Xi Xiaye could only nod. “Mmm, you don’t have to be so hard on yourself. Even though I don’t know what exactly happened, I know that our lives have just begun, so let’s not let the past overshadow us. As the ones who are still alive, what we can do for the dead is to keep on living and remember them.”

When he heard her dish her sermon and felt that it sounded quite familiar, ease colored his face and he smiled. “Are you lecturing me right now?”

"It's not necessarily just the teachers who have things to teach students. Sometimes, there are many things that are worth learning from the student too. This truth disregards seniority and hierarchy."

She smiled slowly. Somehow, she started to have a habit like him. She liked to touch his head and messed up his neat hair before tidying it again.

"Hey, Mr. Mu, why do you think people are so afraid of dying? Is it just because they're afraid of the pain that comes with death and the helpless struggle?"

She tilted her head and thought about it for a while. Suddenly, she looked puzzledly at Mu Yuchen, hoping to get an answer from him.

When he heard this, he looked at her in astonishment and teased, "What? Mrs. Mu, have you begun to explore the meaning of life now?"

"I'm just having a moment. I asked you, so just answer!"

"Your Mr. Mu is just an ordinary man. He's not some master who searches for the meaning of life, so how would I know? But now that you asked, apart from what you've said, my main answer would be that perhaps we're afraid of being forgotten and that we'll no longer be able to have the things we own. So, being forgotten after death is truly when you lose everything."

When Mu Yuchen said this, his gaze hardened a little.

She understood very well that he could not let himself forget Mu Lingtian, so he was destined to continue suffering.

Her fingers interlocked with his as she suddenly asked softly, "Mr. Mu, Mu Lingtian... Was he a good person?"

Upon hearing this, he was astonished for a moment. Then, he shook his head and said softly, "I don't know..."

“You don’t know? Why not? I remember you telling me that someone who treats you well is a good person. Otherwise, they would be a bad person. Isn’t that so?”

She raised her brows at this juncture.

The curve on the corner of his lips widened as he reached out to rub her head and did not say anything for a while.

“Xiaye, sometimes, I really wish to still be simpler like you. Before I met you, I always felt like I was tired of holding up, and I always felt like I was living a rather lonely and boring life, but now...”

He did not continue, yet in his profound eyes, he had already shown his feelings that were concealed in the depth of his eyes.

She went blank for a moment, then she thought about it and smiled.

Actually, was she not the same?

From meeting to getting to know each other and falling in love, it was all a very wonderful journey. Now that everything had steadily progressed and continued on, she felt extremely grateful.

She was about to say something when the sound of rushed footsteps came from outside.

“Master!” Li Si’s impatient voice interrupted them!

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Xi Xiaye instantly slipped away from Mu Yuchen’s lap and stood beside him when Li Si came in.

He swiftly went to Mu Yuchen’s table. “Master, Missus!”

“What’s the matter?”

A faint light flashed past Mu Yuchen’s quiet and sharp eyes. He was looking right at Li Si’s face.

Li Si bowed slightly as his anxious expression faded a little. He glanced at Xi Xiaye beside Mu Yuchen with a complicated expression while Xi Xiaye gave him a doubtful look as well, waiting for what he was about to say.

“Master, well...” Li Si was hesitant.

Xi Xiaye understood what Li Si meant. She took the flowers and said, “You guys can talk. I’ll go back down...”

Before she could finish her sentence, Mu Yuchen grabbed her small hands and looked at Li Si. “You don’t have to, Xiaye. Just say it. She’s not an outsider anymore.”

Li Si nodded and quickly handed Mu Yuchen the document he had in his hand as he spoke quietly, “We’ve got urgent news from Ah Mo! The woman whom we suspected to be Gu Lingsha has gone missing. We checked with the immigration and realized she has already left Los Angeles, so...”

Mu Yuchen’s eyes darkened as his expression turned cold as well. “Did you find out anything about Qi Feng?”

Mu Yuchen’s tone was still calm, but it was hard to not notice the hardness in his tone.

Li Si shook his head apologetically. “I’m sorry, Master. I haven’t found out anything about Qi Feng. Gu Lingsha doesn’t seem to be in contact with anyone. From what we know, she was pursuing a Master in Business and Administration at a university abroad, and she performed spectacularly in a huge company in Los Angeles. We investigated her social connections and didn’t find anything about Qi Feng. I suspect that Qi Feng didn’t go abroad, or he did but has since returned to City Z.”

Mu Yuchen glanced through the document. He took a deep breath as he felt a headache coming on. He leaned back against the chair and closed his eyes. Then, he went quiet for a long while with his eyes closed shut.

Xi Xiaye frowned.

Gu Lingsha was missing?

Qi Feng was still not found. With so many incidents lately, she felt very uneasy. She could not help but feel useless when she saw his depressed expression. However, she had no idea how to help, so she pressed her hands onto the back of his hand.

"You..." she said quietly while Li Si remained silent.

He slowly opened his eyes and looked at her. "I'm fine."

He raised his head and looked at Li Si as he gave it some thought. "Ask the people over there to return. Keep an eye on immigration over here. We can't avoid what's about to come."

"Master, should we still investigate on Qi Feng?" Li Si asked doubtfully.

"No need. We've been passive all along, but this time, I want to reverse the roles. We'll react to everything that they do. I want to see what they're trying to achieve."

Mu Yuchen analyzed as he took a sip from the cup of tea, "Get our people to return and keep an eye on things here as well as the Gu family's movement. I don't think they can stand up to the pressure unless Qi Feng has no intention of taking over Qi Kai and is willing to give it to Qi Lei. Otherwise, he would've returned sooner or later. Qi Feng is a very ambitious person. I believe he'll be taking action soon. Otherwise, Qi Qiming's actions so far would have been meaningless."

Li Si nodded. "Yes, Master, I know what to do now!"

“How’s the investigation of the wedding banquet incident?”

“We found out that the people in the car Qi Lei followed that night are two thugs staying on North Bar Street.”

“North Bar Street? I remember that before Qi Kai went clean, that was where they were managing things, weren’t they?” Mu Yuchen squinted his eyes and looked at Li Si.

Li Si nodded. “Yes, Master! That was indeed their area before. I tried to look for those two people but didn’t manage to find them. They must’ve hidden somewhere if they were the ones who initiated that incident.”

“Does Qi Lei know what happened?” Mu Yuchen asked.

“Probably not. Because they were noticed, we noted the car plate number down, and when we found the car owner, we realized the car was stolen and we still can’t confirm the two people’s identities. We barely managed to find them after we asked Master Su Chen for help to look at the security camera footages.”

Li Si and the others spent a lot of effort figuring this out. Luckily, with full support from Su Chen, they were able to identify their identities.

“So, does that mean it might be Qi Qiming after all? But... This is impossible. I’ve never had any conflict with Qi Kai or Qi Qiming, so there’s no reason for him to go after me.” Xi Xiaye was confused.

“Could it be because of Fu Hua?”

That felt odd as well. Shen Yue hardly invited any guests at the wedding, and only a handful of people knew she was Shen Yue’s granddaughter. Moreover, Shen Yue and Qi Qiming were both very low-profile, and they were not connected in any way.

Xi Xiaye looked at Mu Yuchen who closed his eyes and did not say a thing.

After some time, he sat up straight and looked at Li Si. "You can go and do as I instructed for now."

"Yes, Master!" Li Si gave a brief reply and left quietly.

Only Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye remained in the office.

Mu Yuchen suddenly stood up and walked towards the window to peer outside at the evening sky. It was getting dark, and clouds were afloat in the vast sky. It was a peaceful scenery to gaze at.

"Are you alright?" Xi Xiaye went beside him and gave him a concerned look.

He turned towards her with a smile and put his arms over her shoulder.

Chapter 485. Mysterious Man Before The Tombstone (5)

It was a rare occasion but the couple took time off from work early this evening.

A lot of things had piled up after their wedding. Xi Xiaye did not have to worry about anything except follow up on the South River project as well as help Mu Yuchen out. He had a lot of work piled up. After many days, the two of them finally completed all of that.

That was why Mu Yuchen wanted to go home earlier and make a lovely meal to reward his wife.

Of course, Xi Xiaye was pleased. She felt that the food outside was never as delicious as his cooking. After all, she had gotten used to the food he made no matter where she went.

She had to admit that Mu Yuchen had total control of her stomach now.

However, the discouraging conversation at the office today still weighed on his heart, so he did not talk much throughout the night.



Mu Yuchen went upstairs after dinner. When Xi Xiaye went up after she was done with the dishes, he had already taken a shower and was reading a book as he lay down on the bed. He had prepared the water for her in the tub.

She had a simple bath and came out with her sleeping robe on.

“What are you reading?” she called out to him when he seemed so focused. She handed him a cup of flower tea that she had brewed as she sat down on the rattan chair beside him and gazed outside at the lonely moon up in the sky. It seemed pretty chilly.

She had forgotten the last time she had watched a moon so quietly. With a deep breath, she turned toward the man who did not respond and smiled as she grabbed the remote control and pressed it. The whole bedroom turned dark and the only faint light in the room came from the lone moon outside.

“Every night in my dreams, I see you, I feel you. That is how I know you go on...”

Her singing reached him, and he turned around to notice that she was watching a music video on the tablet. It was the theme song of the classic movie “Titanic”.

He had heard it before and recalled it had rave reviews. However, he had never seen it since he never liked romance films. Not only did he think the romance in such movies were too unrealistic, but it was also because it was a tragedy and he never liked tragedies.

Life was already hard enough. To him, watching movies was a way to relax and one should watch inspirational films.

Nonetheless, if she wanted to watch them, he would watch them with her.

He turned around and put his arm over her shoulders. “I heard the film is pretty touching.”

“Mmm, actually, I’ve never seen it before, but the song left a huge impact on me.” She smiled.

He hugged her casually and asked right beside her ears, "Why don't you watch it then?"

"Su Nan and Ruan Heng went to watch it. Su Nan almost drowned in her own tears when she came back. Her eyes were all red the next day. I'm afraid that I'll cry like her too," she gave a straightforward reply.

"It's enough to just know that they are delivering a good message. Some people might vanish from this world, but as long as you remember them, they'll live here forever, so we should strive to live better than before."

As she said this, she gently held her chest with her slender hands. Her gaze reflected the faint blue light from the screen as she quietly watched him.

He chuckled when he saw her serious and determined expression.

He had to admit that she did give him strength at times, such as a time like this. As he looked at the determination and the encouraging light in her eyes, he could feel the darkness within him fade.

He smiled and hugged her tightly. His voice was low and sensual. "Xiaye, I remember that you said before you'll protect me, right?"

"Why are you raising that question now?" She looked at him in doubt.

"Answer me." He closed in closer to her ears and buried his face into her hair. Her refreshing scent filled up his nose and activated the beast within him.

She raised her brows and pressed his hand which was exploring underneath her clothes. Curiously, he looked at her when his hand was stopped. "Hmm?"

"Yes," she replied seriously.

He smiled and lifted her chin with a finger. A kiss landed swiftly on her lips. "I'm not worried about anything. I just don't want our simple and peaceful lives to change."

“But... Mmm...”

Before she could say anything, his kiss drowned her.

The next day, Xi Xiaye woke up with aches all over. The sun was already up high in the sky.

Last night was intense. She even thought that he had accidentally consumed some kind of drug because he was so aggressive that she passed out, but he did not let go of her just like that. He seemed to be entirely different from the usual cold and indifferent side of him.

Xi Xiaye was helpless against him.

It was already 9 a.m. after they had a simple breakfast and were prepared to leave. The sky seemed a little cloudy as a handful of sun rays were struggling to shine down.

They drove to Qingshan Cemetery and bought two bouquets of beautiful lilies from the florist at the bottom of the mountain.

“You guys can wait down here. We’ll head up ourselves,” Mu Yuchen suddenly said when they were at the splitting point of going upwards.

“Master, we’re worried.” His bodyguards expressed their concerns.

“Don’t worry. It’s just a short while. Just wait here.” Mu Yuchen left them with a simple order before dragging Xi Xiaye up the staircase.

The bodyguards did not say anything else and just stood by the car. They found a position that enabled them to monitor what happened up there. Meanwhile, Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye each held a bouquet of lilies in their hands as they walked up the staircase.

At the same time, amidst the thousands of tombstones, there was a man in a black suit laying two bouquets of white lilies down before the tombs of Mu Lingtian and Mu Zixi.

The man wore a pair of large sunglasses and he seemed to have an average build. His face was hidden and he gave off a quiet vibe.

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He was looking at the two tombstones quietly as he remained stationary for a long time with his head remained lowered. He looked at Mu Zixi's faded photo as the depressing aura around him intensified as if he was remembering the past.

After a while, he turned his gaze to Mu Lingtian's tombstone. He bent over and tried to remove the spots of dirt on his photo.

"Stop right there!"

As they walked forward, Mu Yuchen's voice reached her ear as he pulled her backward.

Startled, Xi Xiaye turned around and looked at him in doubt. She then noticed that his eyes were staring forward, so she looked over to see someone there. If she was not mistaken, that was the location of Mu Zixi and Mu Lingtian's tombstone!

"Who's that?"

Xi Xiaye was alert. From the appearance, neither did it seem like Mu Tangchuan nor Mu Yinan, so who else could it be?

Xi Xiaye looked at Mu Yuchen whose expression was still calm as usual, but his eyes were restless. He stared at that figure for a long time. Then, he put on a cold grin as he went forward with her in tow.

However, that man in the black suit was on alert as well. At almost the same moment they walked towards him, he looked at them. With the large sunglasses covering his face, they could not get a good look at his face.

He seemed to have noticed Mu Yuchen and Xi Xiaye from afar too. He turned around to leave swiftly.

“Stop right there!” Xi Xiaye yelled anxiously. She let go of Mu Yuchen’s hand as she chased the man!

“Stop! Who are you?!” she demanded while she chased.

That man was fast. In just the blink of an eye, he swiftly went down the other side of the stairs. Then, he slipped behind another tombstone. When Xi Xiaye and Mu Yuchen arrived, there was no sign of anyone.

Xi Xiaye looked at the empty spot and asked, “Who was that person?”

Mu Yuchen did not say anything. They went back to Mu Lingtian and Mu Zixi’s tombstone. They then noticed that there was a bouquet of white lily before each of their graves.

Only a handful of people knew Mu Zixi and Mu Lingtian liked white lilies, so who exactly was that?

“Why would he come and visit Auntie and Mu Lingtian’s grave? And he even knew that it’s Mu Lingtian’s birthday today!”

Xi Xiaye frowned as she looked at the birthday cake left before Mu Lingtian’s grave. “It doesn’t seem like someone we know.”

Mu Yuchen put the white lilies down as he stared at the other white lilies and the cake for a long time. The faint light in his eyes became stronger. Xi Xiaye followed his example and put the bouquet of white lilies before Mu Zixi’s grave as well.

“It should be someone related to Lingtian,” Mu Yuchen voiced out his thought.

“It must be. There’s no other way he would remember Mu Lingtian’s birthday... Could it be his friend? Or...” Xi Xiaye frowned. Although an answer appeared in mind, she did not say it. She just looked at Mu Yuchen in silence.

“Lingtian was pretty introverted and didn’t socialize much, so he had very few friends. Apart from Ah Mo and Lingshi, the others were only the two brothers from the Qi family.” Mu Yuchen gave a simple explanation.

Xi Xiaye nodded. “Who do you think that person is?”

“Not many people know that Auntie and Lingtian liked white lilies...”

“Do you mean that that person... might be... but we didn’t get to see his face clearly just now, so maybe it’s just a friend?”

Xi Xiaye could not believe it. “I remember that you told me you’ve investigated many times and you couldn’t locate Ah Shi’s biological father. That person... Auntie’s photo was obviously cleaned just moments ago. Look, it’s very clean now.”

Mu Yuchen nodded. “That’s right. This time, maybe...”

He quickly took his phone out and dialed the bodyguard near the car. “Go to the entrance and look for a man in a black suit with large sunglasses. Stop him on sight. At the same time, note down the car plate numbers nearby. Be quick!” He hung up on the call after giving his order.

Xi Xiaye took a deep breath as she looked at the eternally beautiful smile on the tombstone. “Did Auntie never leave any information regarding Ah Shi’s father at all?”

Mu Yuchen was suddenly reminded about their wedding in the small town and his conversation with Mu Lingshi on the balcony that night.

Mu Lingshi had always wanted to look for her biological father, but how could she do it? Mu Zixi had never said anything about him, so there were no leads at all.

After so many days, it was unknown whether she had any progress on this. Although he promised to help her, he almost forgot about it with all the work piling up recently.

"My parents would've found him already if there was. We have zero ideas about that man," Mu Yuchen replied.

Xi Xiaye sighed. "It's been almost thirty years. That man... Has he never appeared? I think he must know about Lingtian and Ah Shi's existence. Otherwise, Ah Shi wouldn't..."

"Mmm, I'll investigate this thoroughly."

Mu Yuchen then glanced at the direction that the mysterious man disappeared. "I hope what we saw today will be a breakthrough!"

Xi Xiaye understood exactly what he meant, so she nodded and looked over in the same direction as him. "I hope so too. Looking at his back and attire, he didn't seem ordinary. He's probably someone with high status, but I couldn't see his face clearly and gauge his age. He did not seem to want us to know about him, that's why he left so quickly. If he knew us, he would've at least greeted us before leaving," she analyzed.

Mu Yuchen nodded. "Mmm, that's right! He doesn't wish for us to know of his existence, which is what caught my attention."

Chapter 487. Yellowing Picture (1)

As Xi Xiaye listened, she frowned and stared in that direction for a long while. When she turned back to Mu Yuchen, she realized that he had already averted his gaze and was now quietly staring at Mu Lingtian's picture on the tombstone. Loneliness and sorrow were evident in his expression.

Xi Xiaye walked over and gently pulled him up.

"Five years passed by just like that, but the incident didn't fade with the passing of time. Instead, it became even clearer. Those who live don't necessarily feel better than those who have passed," he suddenly said, his tone sounding like a sigh.

"Mmm, you need a lot of courage to keep on living, but this is something that can't be helped. Just as you said, life goes on. Otherwise, what else can we do?" Xi Xiaye softly responded.

Mu Yuchen allowed himself a tiny smile as he slowly took a cigarette box out from his pocket. He lit three cigarettes and laid them on Mu Lingtian's tombstone. Then, he lit one up for himself too and leisurely took a drag. Squinting at Mu Lingtian's picture, he said in a low voice, "Happy birthday, Lingtian."

Xi Xiaye did a slight bow to the tombstone too.

She stared at the words on the tombstone for quite a while and suddenly lamented, "When he left, he was still very young."

Mu Yuchen took a glance at the words carved on the tombstone too and he smiled sadly. "Mmm, he was only 23, so that's why I feel..."

He did not continue, but Xi Xiaye knew what he meant too.

She held his hand tightly and sighed. "Pray that they are doing well on the other side. Let's go. It's a little chilly here."

Then, she looked up at the haze in the sky. The wisps of pale light were struggling, yet they could not seep through the thick layer of clouds.

With a nod, he finally took one last drag before he put the cigarette out. He held her hand and then turned to walk downstairs.

"Master, Missus!"

The husband and wife had just walked to the car when the bodyguards in black suits walked up to them.

Mu Yuchen stopped walking and looked at them before he spoke, "Did you see that person earlier?"

"No, Master! We have been guarding here, but we didn't see the man that you mentioned."



When he heard this, Mu Yuchen's gaze subconsciously darkened. Then, he looked up contemplatively at the empty staircase. After a while, he still did not say anything.

Xi Xiaye calmly looked at him before she spoke softly, "Let's return first. We'll think of a way to investigate afterward. If he really wants to hide from us, we can't do anything about it. Note down all of the car plate numbers around here and get them checked. See if you can find out anything."

"Yes, Missus! We've already noted all of them down."

Xi Xiaye nodded and followed Mu Yuchen into the car.

The car sped all the way. He did not say anything throughout the journey. Xi Xiaye thought about it before she spoke up, "Let's make a trip back to the old Mu residence. We've been so busy recently and haven't had the time to go visit. Instead, Grandmother came over to the Maple Residence for quite a few times. We can also see if Ah Shi needs anything else. Then, we can bring everything to her tomorrow at a go."

The man, who had been gently leaning back against the seat and shut his eyes to rest calmly, nodded without opening her eyes to look at her.

...

Ever since Wang Qin and Qi Qiming had had that huge argument, she had been going over to Qi Lei's place often, especially after she received that e-mail which made her even more uneasy. She could not help but be more vigilant.

In Qi Lei's yard at the Grand Waves Villa on a dazzling afternoon.

Wang Qin lay down on the recliner as she flipped through some proposals of collaborations with other companies when Yang Sheng suddenly appeared.

"VP Wang, Master Qi says he won't be coming home tonight."

When Yang Sheng finished, Wang Qin immediately frowned. She looked up and her sharp eyes glared at Yang Sheng as she asked coldly, "Why not?"

"Master Qi says he has plans tonight. He might make a trip out of the city, so he won't be returning," Yang Sheng responded carefully.

Wang Qin's expression clouded over and she fell silent for a while. She replied calmly, "What's the progress of that investigation?"

"VP Wang, we've found out that the girl is indeed Miss Gu Lingsha. The actual information about her is still being consolidated and will be sent over very soon."

Wang Qin closed the document in hand as her expression was solemn. She told Yang Sheng sternly, "You cannot let Xiao Lei know about this. Do you understand?"

Gu Lingsha had always brought the most harm to Qi Lei, so Wang Qin had always been extremely against her. This woman was scheming and unpredictable. She had never had a good impression of Gu Lingsha. No matter what, she could not let her affect Qi Lei again.

"Yes, VP Wang! I understand!"

Yang Sheng's expression turned slightly serious too. He knew about those things well. In fact, all these years by Qi Lei's side, he could already more or less understand some of his emotions. Gu Lingsha had always had a special place in Qi Lei's heart. All these years, Qi Lei had never forgotten her, so...

Wang Qin took a deep breath. She could not help but sigh again. "Xiao Lei, sigh, why can't he just understand I'm doing all that for him? Who else do I worry about? He's just too naive. A vicious person like Qi Feng who isn't what he seems and would never let him have it easy. If only years ago, Gu Lingsha didn't... Sigh, I'm not the only one who's against her, hmm!"

"VP Wang, if Master Feng didn't die, then how come there were no words from CEO Qi at all? All these years, the Qi family and the Gu family haven't been in contact much either. Outsiders have all guessed that the three families have had a fall out because of the car accident. Especially Mu Lingtian's death..."

Initially, we thought that the Mu family would definitely wreak havoc with the Gu family and the Qi family,” Yang Sheng probed carefully.

“Ha, the Mu family lost Mu Lingtian. How are the Qis and the Gus going to speak up? At first, this all stemmed from Qi Feng and Gu Lingsha taking things too far, but I do find it weird. How did Mu Lingtian get involved?”

Yang Sheng shook his head. “VP Wang, I find this weird too. After all, doesn’t Mu Yuchen want to understand what happened years ago too? That’s why all these years, just like VP Wang, he has never given up on looking out for news on the two of them. Now that we know Miss Gu Lingsha is still alive, perhaps we could let him know. That way, we might be able to find out a thing or two from him!”

“Mu Yuchen?” When Yang Sheng brought up this name, Wang Qin’s expression seemed startled.

“Yes, VP Wang! I’ve noticed that he has also been brooding over the incident years ago. Even if he did leave City Z for many years, he never gave up on trying to find out news about Master Feng and Miss Gu Lingsha, so I think he, more than anyone else, would want to know the truth about what happened years ago.”

Chapter 489. Yellowing Picture (3)

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye’s brows furrowed into a knot. She could tell that Mu Zixi must have been quite an unyielding person.

“Now that we think about it, it was our fault back then. We failed to guide her. Otherwise, the tragedy wouldn’t have happened.”

When Mu Yinan talked about this, he could not remain calm. His aged eyes were filled with indescribable pain and struggle. “This incident has always been a thorn in your grandmother’s heart. It’s best if you never talk about this in front of her. Xiaye, you’re a sensible child. Just be good and stay by Chen Er’s side. Don’t think about all of these things of the past anymore. It’s not a bad thing to be able to live a calm life like you do now. Knowing too much about some things will only make it become a kind of burden.”

“As the eldest brother, Chen Er has always been very protective of Lingtian and Lingshi, but Lingtian... This incident... Everyone knows that we can’t blame him because...”

“What are you two talking about? Xiaye, you were free to come back today!” This sudden cheerful voice interrupted Mu Yinan’s words. The two of them quickly turned and saw that Wang Hui was walking over to them.

“Grandmother!” Xi Xiaye immediately stood up.

“Sit, sit. I’ve been waiting for you two to come by for a while now. I was quite surprised to hear the butler say that you were back. You must’ve been extremely busy recently. What do you want to eat? We’ll make it for the two of you.”

“Don’t busy yourself now, Grandfather and Grandmother. We’re just back to visit you two.”

Xi Xiaye smiled. “Let me go back to pack up some of Ah Shi’s things first. She asked me to take a few books for her.”

“Go then, but have dinner here before going back.”

“Mmm, okay.” Xi Xiaye responded before turning to leave.

...

“What did you say to her? What about Lingtian? Why did you talk about these things to her? Are you trying to add trouble for her?”

Wang Hui had vaguely heard them mention Lingtian earlier, so she shot Mu Yinan a warning glare.

“It’s nothing. Ah Chen has never forgotten about Lingtian’s incident. Today is Lingtian’s birthday, and they’ve just been to Qingshan Cemetery... Sigh, I keep feeling that perhaps this matter should just be talked about openly. Do you think that the children would be willing to just let it be if we don’t talk about it?”

Mu Yinan sighed as he got up and walked to the other end of the corridor with his arms behind his back, looking frustrated.

Wang Hui's expression darkened and shifted while she followed him too.

"It's been so many years now. The children have all grown up and are sensible now. We can't just keep interfering and controlling them. A few days ago, we already received news. We know that Lingshi was trying to find out about Zixi. You should know very well why," Mu Yinan expressed softly.

"Hmph, so what if we found that person? She's already dead! What's the point of finding out who he is? The biggest failure of my life was giving birth to such a disappointing daughter! I let you down!" Wang Hui took a deep breath. The pain that surged up her chest was so suffocating that she could barely breathe, causing an indescribable tightness of distress.

"That's enough. What are you saying now? You didn't have the child alone. If we are to blame, we can only blame ourselves for caring about her too little back then, and for indulging her too much."

"I just feel quite bad... I..."

"Enough, let's not talk about this anymore. It's in the past now, so why are we talking about this now? Only causing trouble!"

Mu Yinan turned to look at Wang Hui with a sigh. "Just let the children worry about these things. We don't have to care. Our grandson would have the fortune of a descendant. Let's just see how it goes."

...

On the other end, after Xi Xiaye heard Mu Yinan speak, she did not manage to get anything useful, so she kept feeling a little disappointed, yet she also understood that Mu Yinan did not actually want to let her know too much about the past. Just as what Mu Yuchen said, this topic was practically a taboo in the Mu family.

Xi Xiaye pushed open Mu Lingshi's door and followed the instructions from Mu Lingshi's call earlier. She began to pack the things to bring over.

It was just a few books and a gift box from the drawer.

The book was about music and a huge stack of musical scores was slotted in between the pages. Xi Xiaye naturally could not read it.

While the gift box contained a very unique pen, it had white porcelain as its body and blue gems embedded it all over. It looked rather expensive.

"That was a present that Auntie gave him during Lingtian's first birthday. When he did the one-year-old grab [1], she hoped that he would be a learned and knowledgeable scholar when he grew up."

Just as Xi Xiaye was lost in thought as she stared at the pen in the gift box, the man's deep and calm voice was suddenly heard. She turned and saw that he was standing behind her.

"This pen is beautiful," Xi Xiaye exclaimed, handing the gift box to him.

"Mmm, this is also the only present that my aunt left for Lingtian who always treasured it. After he passed away, Lingshi safeguarded it. This gift has a unique meaning to them. Back then, Lingtian didn't even allow anyone to touch it."

Mu Yuchen reached out to take it. He held the pen and carefully examined it while the gem flickered and sparkles reflected in the light. It looked a little lonely and bleak when the light bounced off his handsome face.

"That means Lingtian should be quite protective of Auntie." As Xi Xiaye said this, she picked the pen up and carefully scrutinized it. "Mmm? What do these two letters mean?"

She had stroked it for a while when she suddenly noticed that there seemed to be two little letters 'ZX' engraved into the inner part of the cap.

“Zixi?”

She thought for a moment before handing the pen to Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen took it and studied it for a while too. His handsome brows furrowed slightly as he pondered for a while before putting it back.

“Quickly pack up.” He closed the gift box and handed it back to her.

“I’m almost done. Ah Shi doesn’t have many things.”

Xi Xiaye looked around the empty bedroom. Mu Lingshi’s entire room was a gloomy coffee-colored design and suited her personality.

“I remember when this room used to be filled with all sorts of toys and dolls. Lingshi loved Barbie dolls. She also loved collecting all sorts of musical boxes, and now...

“She’s probably grown up, so she doesn’t play with those things anymore. I used to love folding stars too. Now that I think about it, I think it was quite corny, so don’t think too much into it.”

When she realized what he would say next, her beautiful face flashed with a smile and she quickly interrupted him, “Stars?”

He squinted as he seemed to recall something before he stared at her in amusement. “Back then, you were all little girls, so you liked playing with these things, especially to give to boys that you admired. Did you also do the same?”

Chapter 489. Yellowing Picture (3)

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He squinted as he seemed to recall something before he stared at her in amusement. "Back then, you were all little girls, so you liked playing with these things, especially to give to boys that you admired. Did you also do the same?"

Chapter 490. Yellowing Picture (4)

Xi Xiaye wanted to refute his statement. However, a scene played back in her mind.

On a certain night on Han Yifeng's birthday, she did give him a full jar of folded paper stars, and then...

She went quiet.

He already knew the answer just by looking at her reaction.

He had to admit that he was jealous of Han Yifeng. What had he done to deserve so much attention from her?

"If I had met you earlier, I would've folded tonnes of paper stars for you." She sighed after a while as she looked at him seriously.

He smiled and patted on her head. "With that determination of yours, it's a much better gift than tonnes and tonnes of folded paper stars."

She leaned against the side of his body and smiled. "Well, I can start folding later..."

He chuckled as he patted her more firmly. "We're not young anymore. Do you still think you're a teenage girl?"

"Who said only young people can do that? Well, I do think we're still pretty young after all."

Xi Xiaye stared at him. Then, she went to the table after casually grabbing a thick book and flipped through it. It was a collection of poems. The pages still felt pretty new. After flipping through several pages, just when she was about to close it, a photo slipped out and gently fell beside her feet.

Frowning slightly, she squatted down to pick it up. Then, she realized it was a photo that had turned yellow. It was kind of blurry, but the people in the photo were still identifiable — Mu Zi, also known as Mu Zixi!

It seemed to be a photo of a gathering. The photo consisted of her and three other people, one woman and two handsome-looking guys with sunglasses on. They seemed to be pretty close to Mu Zixi.

When Xi Xiaye wanted to get a better look at it, a large hand came over and grabbed the photo.

“It’s Auntie... and some others. Can you recognize them?” Xi Xiaye looked at him and asked.

Mu Yuchen stared at the photo for some time as he pondered quietly. The light in his eyes faded a little and he shook his head. “It’s not very clear.”

They wore sunglasses and hardly any facial features could be distinguished although they did look rather handsome just like that.

“Auntie was really beautiful when she was young!” Xi Xiaye studied the woman in the photo. Indeed, she was a charismatic lady.

“My grandparents were really good-looking when they were young too. Of course, my aunt inherited it from them,” Mu Yuchen replied as he kept his eyes glued onto the photo.

“Can we find the woman inside the photo? She seems very close to Auntie. We might be able to find something out from her,” suggested Xi Xiaye after giving it some thought.

Mu Yuchen frowned slightly. He grabbed a chair and sat down as he held a corner of the photo and continued staring at it without replying.

“There are some words on the back!” Xi Xiaye glanced over and saw a line of words on the back. Immediately, Mu Yuchen flipped the photo over and saw the line which looked like the handwriting of a woman.

At times, you look at me. At times, you look at the clouds. I think that it's far when you look at me, and it's near when you look at the clouds.

Xi Xiaye snuggled over and read the text out loud. She was surprised. "This is very familiar. It sounds like Gu Cheng's 'Far and Near', but what does it mean?"

Mu Yuchen had some doubts. He studied the photo back and forth several times and still could not figure it out.

"Is this Aunty's handwriting? Or Ah Shi's?" Xi Xiaye raised her eyebrows as she asked.

He took a deep breath as he put the photo on the table. "It should be Aunty's. Lingshi's handwriting is really illegible."

"Mmm, the ink looks like it's been there for many years. Why is this photo inside here? And this line of words..."

"Let's not think about it now. Pack up and check if there's anything else we need to bring." Mu Yuchen put the photo back into the book and left it there. "Remember to take this book out later on."

Xi Xiaye nodded while her eyes were still focused on the book. "Can we find out a bit more? That lady just now looked a little familiar. Maybe she's a good friend within the industry."

"We'll find out soon. Are you done?" He went up to her as she carried a thick stack of books.

"I'm done. Let's go. There's nothing much here, just a few books. As for these music scores, I don't understand them either. Hmm, did Ah Shi inherit her musical talent from Aunty as well? I remember that Aunty has a nice voice. She was very highly praised in the industry for her marvelous singing. Many of the popular songs that were trending back then were written by herself. To a certain extent, she was really talented in music too."

Xi Xiaye somewhat remembered some of the information that she had read up on Mu Zi.

“Mmm, she’s indeed musically talented. She joined many competitions while she was still in school and easily won numerous awards. My grandparents were really proud of her.”

“Ah Shi seems like her now. She’s really enjoying being a DJ, and she’s managing the Imperial Sky Entertainment Club well.”

“As long as she likes it. After all, she learned a lot from working in several clubs in New York and France in the past few years, so it’s best for her to apply what she’s learned.” Mu Yuchen felt comforted when they talked about this and his face softened.

She followed behind him with a stack of books as she said, “How can you not worry about leaving a girl like her at those places?”

“Lingshi is strong, and always being reliant on others isn’t going to last long. Most importantly, she needs to know how to protect herself,” he replied as he put an arm over her shoulder and his other hand into his pocket as they strolled.