

Loving 601

Chapter 601. Reluctance (2)

On the 27th floor of the Galaxy Tower, up on the rooftop.

It was a breezy day. Even though the sun was still up, it was still chilly up there. The cold wind made the shirt hems flutter and the whooshing sound by one's ears only made the place seem even quieter.

Qi Lei liked tall places like this since he could feel closer to the sky and freedom. Everything at the bottom looked so small. Then, he could feel that he was not as tiny as he thought. At least, right there, he could still gaze upon the whole city and even the world.

Some time ago, Yang Sheng asked him if he was feeling lonely. Actually, he did not really feel lonely because he did not want to use loneliness as an excuse to self-indulge. Overall, he just felt tired.

A contented person would never feel lonely. Even if there was such instance, it would just be a little spice in life.

Qi Lei had always hoped he could become someone like that.

He was always wondering if there would ever be such a person who felt the same way as him. He did meet an amazing girl who was beautiful and elegant many years ago. She was very understanding and recognized everything that he felt. However, she did not belong to him.

Many years later, he got the same feeling from another girl. It made him realize that the happiness or sadness felt in the past should not be lingered on, and was only temporary.

He thought about people struggling on the verge of death or poverty. At the very least, he knew that he was far luckier than them.

He suddenly realized that he was not struggling as much as he thought anymore. Even though he could not ask for much, he could at least protect what he had right now. Hence, he made a phone call to Mu Yuchen.

A smile appeared on Qi Lei's face. He took a pack of cigarettes out and lit three of them before putting them onto the railing. Then, he lit one up for himself before handing the pack over to Mu Yuchen.

Mu Yuchen glanced at him. His sunglasses were hiding his eyes. While he did not take the pack of cigarettes from him, he looked at the three cigarettes on the railing instead. His expression was shaken up slightly. The wind blew, making everything seemed unreal.

He knew very well who it was for.

Between them, there was only one person worth remembering.

"Lingtian didn't like to smoke," Mu Yuchen spoke up suddenly after a long silence.

"He was very much addicted to smoking by the year he passed away."

Qi Lei casually put the pack of cigarettes back into his pocket. Then, he released a puff of smoke and watched it fade quietly away in the air. "To be honest, although you call yourself his brother, you don't really know him that well. I know you two aren't on the best of terms. I thought you'd be unaffected by his death because you do look like a cold-blooded person from our perspective." His tone was not very friendly.

Mu Yuchen faced his accusation with ease, his expression still appearing calm as usual. "I've always thought of him as a brother. He's my legal younger brother."

Qi Lei turned towards him and asked with a tint of sarcasm in his tone, "Do you mean that he didn't see you a brother?"

"I don't want to talk about Lingtian's past with me. He's already dead, and I don't have anything to say if you want to blame all of it onto me. What's done is done. I've never regretted what I've done. If I could turn back time and make a choice again, I would do the exact same thing." Mu Yuchen took off his sunglasses and revealed his eyes.

“Do you have no feelings for Shasha at all? If not, why did you agree to marry her? I don’t believe nothing happened during the period of time when you stayed with the Gu family. Otherwise, it didn’t make sense for Qi Feng to rush and run away with Shasha. You’re the one who agreed to marry her.” Qi Lei voiced out his doubts and hoped Mu Yuchen could provide him an answer.

“Didn’t you ask me the same thing before? I cannot answer you, but I can tell you one thing. Aside from my woman at home right now, all the others look the same to me. I’m not a Casanova like you.”

“Xi Xiaye doesn’t seem any better than Shasha. I don’t have faith in your taste,” Qi Lei ridiculed.

“Do you think I’m Qi Feng or you? I need an amazing woman to be my partner. I think Gu Lingsha can’t even compare to her fingertip.” He suddenly became very protective of her as he could not stand people criticizing her.

Qi Lei’s expression changed when Xi Xiaye’s face suddenly appeared in his mind. He instantly noticed his words were a bit harsh. “I don’t mean that Xiaye is bad. They are different kinds of women after all, so they can’t be compared.”

“According to my sources, she has returned. If you can’t move past that, then you can go and meet her. As a partner, I should remind you that Gu Lingsha can be as dangerous as any other man, so you’d better be careful.” Mu Yuchen seemed impatient when Gu Lingsha was mentioned.

“I can sense your sincerity, and I’m recognizing you as a partner. I know you guys have been investigating on Mr. Wen, and you suspect Qi Qiming to be Mr. Wen. I asked my mother and found out that Qi Qiming did call himself Mr. Wen in secret before because my grandfather forbade him from fooling around as the First Master of the Qi family. Sis Lan, who’s on the verge of death in Hospital T, was one of his lovers. Unfortunately, she was just a replacement because she resembled Qi Feng’s mother.”

Qi Lei smirked. “The woman Qi Qiming loved the most was Qi Feng’s mother, but sadly, she died. Qi Qiming got together with many other women afterward although they were all her replacements. They all resembled that woman one way or another.”

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Mu Yuchen could hear the grimness from his tone, yet when he looked at him, he saw a cold and demonic smile.

He fell silent for a moment, then said calmly, "I have long heard about your esteemed father and your mother within the circle. I rather admire your mother, Mrs. Wang's courage."

"She's just a tragedy too." Qi Lei had huge prejudice against Wang Qin. When he said that, it was just an indifferent mockery. Only he understood his own feelings as he turned away a little annoyed, and gazed into the blue sky.

Mu Yuchen turned to the side and studied him. "Everyone chooses their own way to live, whether it's a tragedy or comedy. It's the way others see it. If they all have different focuses, the same things might not seem the same to the people involved."

Mu Yuchen obviously knew about Qi Qiming and Wang Qin. Ah Mo had long done a thorough investigation on the Qi family. Qi Qiming and Wang Qin were just marriage partners at most. They did not have any affection between them. Both had people that they fancied before they were married, and because of this marriage, the two of them were tied down to each other. It must not have felt like the best option, but since they wanted to benefit from some things, they needed to first give up on others.

Without love, perhaps they did not have too much of the so-called pain. The fight for benefits was really a conflict of truth between them.

"Mu Yuchen, sometimes I admire you. There's an advantage to being a cold person since you have less to worry about than people like us. I remember that Shasha told me very long ago that you're a very indifferent person. You seem gentle, but in reality, you're the most hostile. I've thought about it this time. No matter what, working with you wouldn't be a bad thing. Even if we can't work together, we should at least coexist peacefully, so I'll accept the things you've handed me. Consider me owing you a favor, but I do want to know why you're helping me. You know that I'm prejudiced against you."

Qi Lei fixed his eyes on Mu Yuchen. Even though he roughly knew the answer, he still would like to see how this man would answer.

Mu Yuchen calmly averted his gaze and reached out to hold onto the cold railing. "I'm preparing for a rainy day."

He knew that he was just asking even though he already knew the answer, but he still admitted it very magnanimously. He never worried about being seen through. Since it would be a win-win situation, why not fight for it?

“In fact, Master Qi, I, Mu Yuchen, am just a businessman. I have principles towards my partners, that is that I wouldn’t let them suffer a loss. Of course, I can’t be on the losing end too. If I can meet both conditions, I would do it. Of course, I’m assured to be working with you too. My Missus... She says you’re a good person.”

As Mu Yuchen said this, his honorable and handsome face flashed with a plain smile, and you could see some sincerity in his dark eyes.

When Qi Lei heard this admonition, he was momentarily stunned. Xi Xiaye’s bright and beautiful little face flashed in his mind.

A good person?

Was he a good person?

He suddenly remembered that time on a rainy day near her apartment, and that night she collapsed beside her car.

Some things were actually quite intriguing. Even if he did not deliberately try to remember them, they would have a way of unintentionally staying in his heart. When he thought about these things, Qi Lei felt at ease for some reason. The smile could not help but widen on his handsome face. “She told you that I’m a good person?”

She did not even admit it to him. What a petty woman!

Mu Yuchen did not answer him. His gaze that was full of depth turned to face Qi Lei. “I said you’re a pretty good person, and after that, she reluctantly agreed. In fact, she’s my woman. She even has my child now. Can you be less enthusiastic whenever you hear her name? If I wasn’t raised so well, you would’ve been unscathed right now.”

When Mu Yuchen said this, Qi Lei was stunned for a while. He never would have thought that the great Master Mu would actually have a dry sense of humor too. After he stared at him for a while, he turned away and laughed. "What a petty man! If I made a move first, you wouldn't even have a chance! Back then, the Xi family was determined to give her to me, and then you showed up unexpectedly and ruined my plan. Now that I think about it, I really can't quite accept it!"

"She wouldn't fancy you." Mu Yuchen's calm and unaffected voice came, his voice filled with confidence.

"You'll never know. How can you be so certain? I, Qi Lei, have never failed whenever I set my heart on going after a woman."

"I do know, just based on the fact that my name is in the column as her spouse," Mu Yuchen answered calmly. He looked up to the faraway sky, paused, and then continued, "Have you never thought of looking for Qi Feng? The entry-exit details show that Gu Lingsha returned alone."

Qi Lei then stopped smiling. "Why should I go look for him? It's only good news to me if he never comes back."

He had also heard the news about Gu Lingsha returning to City B before wandering back to City Z, but he did not find out more. Even though he was not sure what he was afraid of, it had been so many years. Would some things not have changed too?

He was uncertain. He was only sure of himself, sure that he had changed...

Mu Yuchen squinted at him and then nodded. "I'm not agreeing to some beliefs to be so self-sacrificial. Many times, you can only talk about these things if you're capable enough. Things that you have the power to grasp shouldn't be left to others to change. Don't cling onto going after what's right or wrong. There's actually a very simple way of proving this. Compare the version of you that has a goal to achieve with the version of you right now. As long as you're living better than you are right now, then it would've been right for you to persist all along."

Then, he suddenly turned away, smiled, and walked towards the stairs.

“But I still wish you all the best. You’re a person worth being good friends with. Let’s gather more in the future.”

Then, he walked down the stairs from the balcony and his tall and lean figure soon vanished at the staircase. Only Qi Lei was left on the empty balcony.

When he saw Mu Yuchen’s figure disappear, Qi Lei suddenly shouted after him, “Hey, give me an Imperial Sky Entertainment City VIP card!”

Mu Yuchen instantly stopped walking and suddenly turned to look at him. He smiled coolly. “Next time, when you come over to my company, I’ll get Xiaye to give you one.”

Then, he finally vanished too.

With an amused smile, Qi Lei reached up to brush his nose.

It felt pretty satisfying to take a little advantage of Mu Yuchen!

Chapter 603. Reluctance (4)

Mu Yuchen did not plan to stay very long. He was aware that even though Qi Lei looked like a playboy, he was still a very dedicated person.

With regard to the past, he did not want to talk about Gu Lingsha, Qi Feng, or even Lingtian anymore. If possible, he did not want to recall these memories.

Even though he had always wanted to stay out of all that happened between them, life had a way of rolling him into this mess.

He did not tell Qi Lei that the person who had actually stayed with the Gu family then was not him, but Lingtian.

Since he could not break off the engagement, he was not one to delay things either. Without staying, he confronted Gu Qihao strongly and then stormed off. Meanwhile, of course, the Gu family would not let

such news be leaked, so they just announced to the outside world that Mu Yuchen had stayed for a while with the Gus to develop his relationship with Gu Lingsha when actually it was just to protect the Gu family's dignity. Because of this, Lingtian had even fought with him and stayed with the Gu family while he secretly returned to City Z, and considered himself having done Lingtian a favor.

After that, Gu Lingsha rushed over from City B with Lingtian and stayed at the Mu residence. He was still busy familiarizing himself with Glory World matters then. Where did he have the time to care about such irrelevant people?

Nonetheless, it must have been at that moment when he became their chess piece. From then onwards, Lingtian slowly began to hate him as a brother.

He kept thinking about it, but then suddenly he did not want to anymore. He was worried that the answer he would find afterward would be one that hurt his heart, so...

Mu Yuchen sighed, and suddenly his head felt slightly heavy and achy. He lifted a hand to hold his forehead and wanted to soothe his temples when a faint fragrance suddenly slowly came from behind. He was just about to turn to look when a pair of cool and gentle hands were already on both sides of his temples, massaging him with gentleness and the appropriate force.

"You're frowning like an old man. Who made you unhappy now?"

The soft voice contained concern. He slowly shut his eyes and circled one arm around her thin waist. His heart instantly softened as he quietly enjoyed the moment and softly responded, "It's nothing."

"I thought you were Superman, that nothing could trouble you." She sighed softly and quietly applied more force which eased his tense expression.

He did not respond immediately. The husband and wife fell silent for quite a while before he said, "You can."

When she heard his reply, Xi Xiaye stopped what she was doing, then chuckled softly. "Should I say then that this is a blessing I earned from my past eight lives?"

He laughed softly without a word and allowed her to sit on his lap as his hand hooked around her frail shoulders. He fixed his eyes on her with a gaze that was gentle but a little overbearing. She blushed shyly and did not know what to do.

She could only turn away and say awkwardly, "Stop looking at me like that!"

When he heard her plea, he suddenly laughed. She could not handle his gaze when she was clearly about to be his child's mother. She was still like a shy little girl. No matter what, he would have the rest of his life to remember all her beauty, and take in all of her headstrong ways because he had told her without hesitation back then that he would not let her suffer by getting married to him.

For this, he was willing to suffer.

"I, Mr. Mu, only know how to look at you like this."

Her elegant and fair face instantly blushed even deeper as she quickly poked at his handsome face with her slender fingers. "Do you think I've become uglier recently? I've been slovenly dressed and I don't look as neat as before."

After her baby bump began to show, out of convenience, she would wear loose clothing and her hair was casually pulled into a ponytail, so she began to look a little languid and disorganized.

"I still like you, but are you starting to dislike yourself now? You're already married to me. There's no need to be so gorgeously dressed. No matter what, you're already mine unless you want to bring me some love rivals."

"Can't I dress nicely to uplift your reputation?"

"Missus, you're naturally beautiful. That's already great for my image." He patted her head and planted a kiss on her forehead. Then, he peered up at the pretty sunset outside, then hugged her. "The sunset looks spectacular. Let's go out for a walk."

"You haven't packed your things yet."

“There’s nothing much to pack. Everything’s over there. I just have to bring the documents with me.”

...

They walked around the scenic areas of the villa and it was already late when they got home. Mu Yuchen prepared a modest dinner, and with his coaxing, Xi Xiaye ate two bowls of rice. After that, they snuggled up on the sofa to watch two movies before washing up and then retiring to bed.

Because the two of them were light sleepers, they slept till 4 a.m. before they could not fall asleep anymore, so they just lay in bed and chatted.

“Yesterday, I called my parents. I told them that you’d bring the things over for them, and then you should get Father to do a full body checkup. Every year around this time, when I remind Grandpa to do his body checkup, I also want to remind him too, but...”

Xi Xiaye suddenly remembered that she had to accompany Shen Yue to the hospital for a full body checkup in another two days. She had been accompanying Shen Yue for the past few years and would only feel assured knowing the state of his health, but her previous relationship with Xi Mushan was different. It would be surprising if they even shared more than a few words.

He hugged her and softly replied, “Mmm, I will tell Mother to let him know. I heard the people there say that Father obeys her. I probably guessed right. The sun is really setting. If we’re lucky, you might even have a younger brother or sister after this.”

She immediately rolled her eyes at him. “In your dreams! After Mother gave birth to me, Father already got a vasectomy. Back then, it was a difficult birth for my mother, so Father couldn’t bear to let her suffer again.”

Mu Yuchen’s movements turned stiff as he quickly said softly beside her ear, “Then, let’s only have one too. Once the child is born, I’ll go...”

Before he could finish, she lifted a hand to stop him. “I don’t want to. I already said I want two. If you can’t satisfy me, then I will... get someone else to give birth with!”

“You’d dare to?!”

“You can try me!”

“You’ve really grown bold! What’s so bad about having one daughter? Once we marry her off, we’ll be free. If it’s a son, you’d have to worry about getting him a wife. Why do you have such low awareness?”

Chapter 604. Gift Flowers? (1)

In the dark, Xiaye widened her eyes at his handsome face. She could not believe that he was saying these things!

“What do you think your child is? You make him or her sound like a burden. Father and Mother didn’t turn their backs on you. Instead, it’s you turning back on them. Besides, how are you sure that I’m bearing a daughter? What if it’s a son? Do you plan on not loving him?”

She got up at once and propped herself up to look at him.

“That’s not what I meant. I was just concerned that you’d be burdened with worry in the future. Sons are closer to their mothers... Your job won’t be easy in the future. If you don’t teach your son well, they could cause grand disasters. At least, we can pass our daughter to her future husband to watch over, just like you and me now.”

Master Mu was filled with all sorts of anxiety right now. Back then, before she was pregnant, he was looking forward to her being pregnant, but now that she was, he was hoping that...

Without a doubt, Master Mu was ridden with father-to-be mania.

“You really think so far ahead! Your son’s the one who’ll cause grand disasters! My son will definitely be an excellent man in the future. I want to send him for training in the army. It’d be best if he can serve for life and fulfill my unachieved dreams. If it’s a daughter, I won’t let her suffer all of that.”

“Wouldn’t your son be my son? Fine. Consider it a slip of the tongue. Anyway, the sun’s about to come up. Sleep a little more.”

...

When Xi Xiaye woke up once again, the sun was already up and bright. The man beside her was already gone and the pillow was cold too, but there were still remnants of his scent in the air.

When she tidied up and went downstairs, she realized he left very early in the morning. It was almost 11 a.m. right now, so the plan probably took off a long while ago.

Xi Xiaye was quite relaxed in the next few days. She would either go back to the Mu residence or the Shen residence while Ji Zitong remained closely by her side.

That evening, Xi Xiaye returned to Maple Residence earlier since she had work the next day and had to spend some time arranging the information. The meeting in the next morning would be to conclude the season's report. Obviously, she had to be more well-planned.

When Ji Zitong sent her through the Maple Residence gates, Xi Xiaye suddenly said, "Zitong, you can go back earlier. Just wait for me at the office tomorrow."

Ji Zitong would come over early in the morning every day. In fact, Xi Xiaye also understood that she stayed quite far away from Maple Residence. Since Glory World was in the middle of them both, there was no need for her to be exhausted rushing from end to end.

"Don't worry, Director Xi. Manager Ah Mo has arranged a place for me to stay at the Grand Waves Apartment area. It'll take less than 10 minutes to get here. I was just going to pack my things and move over tonight. That way, it'd be more convenient."

Ji Zitong got to know Xi Xiaye much more and found that she was not as cold as before. In fact, she was rather friendly.

"Mmm, go back earlier then. I'll tell Ah Mo to get someone to help you move your things."

“Thank you, Director Xi. I only have one box, so I’ll do it myself. There’s no need to trouble them. I’ll leave now.”

Xi Xiaye nodded gently before Ji Zitong took a bow and slowly turned around.

Argh, she still had to send things over to that annoying man!

When she thought about this, Ji Zitong felt disgruntled. She opened the car door and turned to look at the paper bag on the front passenger seat for a long while before she sighed and started the car.

The car whizzed past like a hurricane and drove away from Maple Residence.

The night gradually fell and the entire City Z was lit up with streetlights. The whole city was engulfed in dazzling lights.

Inside the Deputy Chief’s office in the North Traffic Control Bureau of the city.

Su Chen sat in his work chair, while a hand leisurely clipped the freshly lit cigarette and the other held a pen. He was scrawling on the document before him at a tremendous speed. From time to time, he would take a drag with the heavy police coat simply draped over his shoulders. The weather at night was turning colder with each day.

He was very focused. Even Mu Yuchen admired this aspect of him, saying that Su Chen was truly the kind of person that made the distinction between personal and professional. When he worked, he would ignore everyone. If anyone disturbed him when he was concentrating on work, he would be very unhappy, but after work, he was up for fun.

As his secretary, Assistant He understood this habit very well, so whenever he knocked, he would be very careful and not dare be too loud in fear of disturbing the Deputy Chief who busy working at full focus inside.

A long pause after the knock, Su Chen calmly answered, “Come in!”

“Chief Su, there’s a lady named Ji Zitong asking for you outside!” Assistant He spoke very respectfully.

“Let her wait!” Su Chen said, and without even looking up, he flipped another page of the document and began to seriously browse and review it again.

“Okay, Chief Su! Right, Chief Su, with regards to the Bureau Chief’s son speeding and hitting someone, the Chief called again. He wants you to...” softly reminded Assistant He while carefully watching Su Chen’s expression.

“I can’t do anything about it. If anything happens and I’m targeted by the disciplinary board, will he take responsibility? Tell him to watch his spoiled child instead. The last time we got the other party to agree to resolve it privately after many negotiations, not only did he not learn from his lesson, but he did even worse this time. I would’ve punished him if someone like him were in my troop!” Su Chen did not wait for Assistant He to finish before he put on a stern face and spoke coldly. His handsome, steadfast face seemed a little sunken, terrifying Assistant He.

“But, Chief Su, the Bureau Chief said...”

“Tell him to go talk to our Bureau Chief himself!”

Master Su had some angry youth [1] blood in him. He had so many things to deal with on the daily. The fact that they kept looking for him annoyed him to no end. He really did not understand these people. How could they reason after hitting someone?

“The Bureau Chief is abroad for work and will only return next month, Chief Su. The Bureau Chief especially asked for you to handle this well. Well, Bureau Chief Yu and the Bureau Chief’s friendship goes a long way, so...”

“If that’s so, let the fellow be locked up for a few more days first.” Su Chen swiftly signed his name, and then closed the document. “Send me the files for drunk driving in the first half the year tomorrow. Our colleagues in the Publicity Department want us to help them out with a campaign. Pick a few important case studies and edit out some representative videos for a Powerpoint. Send it to me the day after tomorrow,” he instructed as he got up to tidy the table.

Assistant He nodded. "Okay, got it, Chief Su."

"Okay, go home earlier."

"Yes, Sir!" Assistant He responded and then slowly retreated.

Su Chen swiftly tidied his things to put into his black briefcase and then walked out of the office in huge strides.

He had just marched out of the office when he saw Ji Zitong sitting on the sofa waiting for him from a distance.

The sound of his leather shoes clacked against the shiny floor and immediately alerted Ji Zitong who was browsing through the Road Safety Manual.

Chapter 605. Gift Flowers? (2)

Ji Zitong slowly looked up. Su Chen's tall and lean figure greeted her sight. His steadfast and handsome face still vaguely carried some stiffness from work while his coat was simply draped over his shoulders, and he was still carrying his black, heavy briefcase. His eyes briefly glanced at her as he walked past her.

"Let's go!" Su Chen ordered before his tall figure marched away.

Ji Zitong quickly got up and followed him with the paper bag in her hand. "These are your clothes. I've cleaned them!"

Obviously, she wanted to leave after handing the bag over, but Su Chen walked away very quickly, so Ji Zitong had to run after him in small steps all the way until the parking lot in front of the Traffic Management Bureau. When she saw Su Chen open the car door to a Land Rover and toss his briefcase in, she wanted to chase after him and pass the bag to him. However, the phone in his pocket unexpectedly buzzed.

He swiftly took out his phone to answer.

As expected, it was the elder calling.

He took quite a few breaths and tried hard to calm himself before he answered the phone. "Hello? Grandfather?"

"You punk! Do you realize your grandfather's still alive? Where are you right now? What's the time now? What is it? Tell me!"

Su Chen had just spoken when the elder's furious roar came from the other end accompanied by the sound of a table being slammed. Almost immediately, the elder's fierce demeanor flashed in Su Chen's mind.

Su Chen suppressed his impatience and tried his best to answer calmly, "There's been a lot of work at the bureau. I just returned from a break and my hands are full. I just got off work."

When he heard this, the elder's tone took on a cooler note. "Hmph, work is important, but you can't forget appointments you've made. Since you can't make it in time, you should at least give them a call, shouldn't you? Look at the time now! It's 8 p.m.! Almost 8 p.m.! Miss Mary is still at the restaurant. She's been waiting for almost an hour now! How many times have I told you that Miss Mary is Bureau Chief Hu's daughter? Her grandfather was even my superior years ago, and I still owe him a favor or two. You doing this is just embarrassing me.

"Miss Mary asked about you herself. She's pretty sweet and has always fancied you. When you returned, she's been trying to go after you and call you Bro Su Chen. I'm happy with her. Go see her right now. If you're okay, then marry her. Get married before the year ends so that I'll get great-grandchildren next year. I don't care about whatever happens after that! Got it? This is a military order! An order! Watch how I settle you if you don't do this. Ah Chen's about to be a father. Why are you so immature?"

Elder Su was hasty about seeing some improvements as he scolded Su Chen again. He was more worried than him. Right now, he was pacing around the house and anxiously nagging, "33! Do you think you're still young? You should be done with messing around!"

Before Su Chen could say anything, the scolding and nagging comments came rattling out in a bunch. At that moment, he remembered meeting Mary Hu.

Mary Hu was 11 years younger than him and she was a little girl, the kind that blindly loved the military. They had met a few times. Previously, she had a huge crush on Mu Yuchen too, but he was cold and distant and ignored her. Then, she set her eyes on Su Chen. Sometimes, she would look for Zhou Zimo too. She was reaching for both ends of the string so much that they evaded her like she was a scorpion. The Elder fancied her, and she would rat on Su Chen from time to time, much to his irritation!

He finally heard that she had gone abroad for her studies, but it had not been a year. How was she back already?

He nagged a lot and then realized that Su Chen did not even answer, so the elder then grumbled, "Do you hear what I'm saying to you? Why aren't you responding?"

"I'm going over right now," Su Chen impatiently huffed and then hung up!

Mary Hu! It looked like he really had to make her give up. Without Mu Yuchen and Zhou Zimo around, if that woman clung to him, he would die!

Su Chen needed a mature and charming woman as a wife. Why would he marry a naive little girl? And one that was so clingy too?

They had such a huge age gap. In fact, there were probably several generation gaps between them. He would not be able to handle her.

He swiftly put his phone away and was about to get into the car when Ji Zitong finally reached him from behind. "Hey, I'm returning your shirt to you!"

She casually handed the paper bag to him, inciting him to raise his brows. He then remembered the incident from a few days ago. As he glanced at the icy cold Ji Zitong, his gaze only stopped for a second on the paper bag. Then, he looked at her elegant face. Suddenly, something flashed in his eyes and a smile spread across his lips.

"You're quite punctual. I'll forgive you for your high awareness, but you'll have to follow me to a place. Consider it compensation for my spiritual loss!"

Then, before Ji Zitong could agree, he swiftly pulled the car door open and stuffed her into his front passenger seat.

Ji Zitong was caught off-guard. Narrowing her cold eyes, she swiftly hooked Su Chen by the arm. "Move away. I don't have time!"

"It won't take much of your time. I'm sure you won't bite the hand that feeds you, right, Officer Ji Zitong?" Su Chen's gaze was pressuring her. It was so sharp that she was stunned.

Su Chen looked gleefully at the silent girl before he closed the car door and then returned to the driver's seat. "Don't worry. I won't sell you off. Put on your seatbelt!"

Meeting his sharp gaze, Ji Zitong hesitated for a moment before finally pulling the seatbelt and buckling it up while he started the car.

The car sped past and made its way around the plaza at the Traffic Management Bureau, driving toward the busy roads. It was rush hour right now, so the traffic jam was quite bad.

It was very quiet in the car as the two of them did not say much. Su Chen focused on driving while Ji Zitong remained cold as she examined him. She was filled with doubt and was on edge. He felt scrutinized so oddly, and suddenly the air in the car felt weird, so at the first traffic light, Su Chen started to play some music.

The music was all rather graceful foreign music which held a certain charm to it. Ji Zitong did not understand anything, but she just felt like the tune was rather enjoyable.

"This is a Mongolian song. The year we retired with your Instructor Mu, we went to Mongolia and it wasn't easy to get this CD."

Chapter 606. Gift Flowers? (3)

Noticing the doubt in Ji Zitong's gaze, Su Chen calmly explained the origins of the song to her.

When she heard his explanation, Ji Zitong could vaguely pick up the notes of a foreign tune. It was a little distant and ethereal.

"I didn't expect you to like this kind of music too. I thought you'd at least like that kind of passionate and bold music or even army songs. I remember you lost to a cadet back then, and you sang 'Legend', and earned quite a lot of applause."

Ji Zitong's memory was always very surprising. When Su Chen said this, this information flashed in Ji Zitong's mind while her cold gaze continued to look probingly at him.

She thought that they would fight again this time, but unexpectedly, there was no gunpowder in the air.

"Legend? Genghis Khan?"

A light suddenly flashed in Su Chen's eyes as a happy smile curved on his lips. "You have a pretty excellent memory. This was a figure that your Instructor Mu always loved using as an encouraging figure, the pride of a generation, Genghis Khan."

"But the next generations have different praises and criticisms of him."

"There is no perfect person. If we can get a little inspiration from the journey of his life, that would be what you reap," Su Chen said, and then suddenly sped up his driving.

After a while, the Land Rover that was bathed in blurry lights reached a high-class restaurant.

"Get down!"

Su Chen got down from the car and tossed his keys to the valet while he walked straight up the stairs of the restaurant.

Doubtful, Ji Zitong was on-guard as she watched his back. She had no choice since that letter of guarantee that she signed was still with him, and she needed to get it back from him!

However, by the looks of it, this man seemed to have come over for dinner. She remembered the call he answered in the car, yet she thought something was odd. Before she could overthink, the valet had already gone to open her door, so she could only get down and follow him.

“You, right! Yes, you, come here!”

Su Chen had walked up a few stairs when he suddenly stopped and waved to a middle-aged lady selling flowers from a car on the side. The lady quickly beamed and took two bouquets before walking over.

“Mister, would you like to buy some flowers?”

With a nod, Su Chen looked at the bouquets in her arms, and then his gaze fell onto the blooming champagne roses. He reached out to fix the wrapping paper a little before saying, “This one... How much?”

“\$299, Mister!”

Su Chen swiftly paid for it and took the flowers from the lady. He looked down at them for a moment before suddenly passing it to Ji Zitong who reached him.

Ji Zitong was stunned. She looked at the unexpected bouquet and was amazed for quite a while. She then looked up at Su Chen skeptically and said coldly, “What’s this supposed to mean?”

“It’s for you. Hold it.”

Su Chen stuffed the bouquet into her arms. “Help me out. Then, consider me owing you a favor.”

He massaged the space between his brows feeling a little annoyed. Then, he slowly walked towards the restaurant, leaving the bewildered Ji Zitong behind.

Flowers?

Ji Zitong looked puzzledly at the bouquet. She could not understand what this guy was trying to do.

Help?

He did not even give her a chance to reject him.

Ji Zitong thought about it for a while and could not figure anything out. After some pondering, she held the bouquet and followed him uneasily. Her brows furrowed into a knot while her bright eyes were filled with an alarm and wariness.

The two of them walked only a few more steps when a waiter came up to them. "Mister, do you have a reservation?"

"Table 009."

"Okay, Mister and Miss. Please follow me this way."

The waiter quickly guided them in.

Ji Zitong just followed him from behind. At that moment, the restaurant was full. It was the kind of very classy Western restaurant with soothing and gentle sounds of a violin filling the entire restaurant. The gentle and warm light set the tone. It was clearly the kind of typical Western restaurant for couples.

"Bro Su Chen! Bro Su Chen! Right here! I'm right here!"

Just as Ji Zitong's sharp eyes were examining her surroundings, she suddenly heard a sweet voice filled with joy coming from the front. She subconsciously turned and looked toward the voice to see a very beautiful girl was waving at Su Chen.

The girl looked quite young and was probably in her 20's. She had a fair, oval face, and seemed quite pretty. Her eyes lit up at the sight of Su Chen.

Ji Zitong was about to turn to Su Chen when she suddenly felt a weight on her shoulders unexpectedly. To her shock, she saw Su Chen's strong arms circled around her shoulders and he pulled her towards him. Ji Zitong subconsciously wanted to struggle away, yet Su Chen's deep voice softly entered her ear. "Cooperate with me and I'll consider my spiritual loss compensated. Then, I'll owe you one. How about that?"

"Why should I help you? Don't forget that the grudges between us aren't that simple!" Ji Zitong sneered in disdain. The bouquet that she held before her chest hid the disgust that surfaced on her expression.

"I'll apologize for all the things in the past. I'm sure you wouldn't ruin this for me, will you? The letter of guarantee is still with me. Don't you want it back?" Su Chen reminded.

Ji Zitong paused and turned to stare at him for a long time. "Instructor Su, are you begging me right now?"

When she said that, Su Chen's expression shifted. The hand that laid idly by his side tightened before he sighed and then lowered his voice to say, "Yes, consider me begging you."

Ji Zitong lowered her gaze. Even though she did not answer, she did stop struggling.

Su Chen smiled, and then pulled her over to greet the young woman.

"Bro Su Chen, who is she?" Mary Hu studied Ji Zitong whom Su Chen held as they walked over. Her face immediately sank and her tone instantly became cold as she glared Ji Zitong hostilely.

Su Chen gently let go of Ji Zitong and pulled a chair open chivalrously.

"This is my date, Ji Zitong. Zitong, this is Miss Mary Hu, but you can just call her Mary," introduced Su Chen elegantly with a smile.

Ji Zitong shot Su Chen a look. Seeing his calm expression all happy, she could not help but sneer on the inside, yet her beautiful face shone with a cooperative smile as she reached a hand out to Mary Hu. "Hi, Miss Mary. I'm Ji Zitong. It's very nice to meet you!"

Stunned, Mary Hu's gaze went back and forth between Su Chen and Ji Zitong. In that instant, a raging fire was lit within her. She took her bag from the chair on the side and glared furiously at Su Chen. Her expression was terrible. "Bro Su Chen, what is the meaning of this? I'll find Grandfather Su for an explanation!"

Chapter 607. Missing You Is A Required Course (1)

Bam!

When Mary Hu walked past them, she even bumped into Ji Zitong who sharply caught her arm as she evaded her.

"Go away. It's not nice to meet you!"

Mary did not hide her annoyance for Ji Zitong at all as she shot her a cold glare and then left in a fury with gritted teeth.

She was quite hot-tempered. In fact, she seemed quite naive in personality and could not quite conceal her feelings, everything she felt would be written across her face.

"Sit down." Su Chen did not even glance at Mary. He just sat down in Mary's seat and called for the waiter to attend to them.

Ji Zitong finished ordering and as she handed the menu back, she asked, "Your girlfriend? Are you an old cow trying to eat young grass?"

Su Chen unbuttoned his sleeves and rolled them up. He wiped his hands and raised his brows to object, "What do you think?"

“What do I think? Of course, I’d think that. Otherwise, what could you have meant earlier? I’m not interested in being your excuse. You can return the letter of guarantee to me now, Instructor Su!” Ji Zitong’s tone was distant, and there was even a hint of sarcasm.

Su Chen pulled at the tie on his collar as he said plainly, “Mary’s like that. Just ignore her. Eat first. I’m hungry. I can’t remember where I put the thing. Maybe I’ll remember when I’m full.”

“You...”

Ji Zitong subconsciously clenched her fists tightly. She was afraid that she would punch him. Instead, she tossed the bouquet of flowers onto the table. “You’d better not be playing tricks with me. This is not the army camp anymore!”

“If we were in the camp, I wouldn’t be this polite.”

Su Chen smiled nonchalantly. His smile seemed piercing to Ji Zitong. She almost could not hold herself back from wanting to beat this guy up!

Compared to the storm on Su Chen and Ji Zitong’s end, Xi Xiaye’s night was not quite peaceful either.

Xi Xiaye sat at the dining table while Sis Wang swiftly served her a bowl of rice. She picked up a delicious-looking dish and wanted to eat it, yet before she could put it into her mouth, the aroma of it made her nauseous, so she quickly covered her mouth and ran to the washroom.

She puked it all out. Following her, Sis Wang was also worried. Her expression shifted as she quickly went up to help her and handed a glass of water to her. “Missus, you’ve been having bad reactions. Have you been too tired these past two days, or does the food not suit your taste? How about I call Dr. Zhong to come for a visit?”

Xi Xiaye lifted a hand to stop Sis Wang. She rinsed her mouth and then sighed as she held onto her baby bump. “It’s fine. I’ll just have to take it easy.”

"I find that you're becoming thinner. If this continues, I wouldn't know how to explain it to the Master," Sis Wang said anxiously with a tinge of sadness.

Even though there was a break these few days, she did not see her getting enough rest. Through the windows, she could see that late at night, the study room lights on the second floor would still be on.

"Missus, please rest well in the next two days. Nothing is more important than the baby."

Xi Xiaye nodded gently. She pulled her hair back and washed her hands, then slowly went out.

She returned to sit back down at the dining table before softly saying, "I know my own body. It's fine." She gripped her chopsticks tightly while looking at the dishes before her. A few seconds passed before she finally managed to force herself to eat it.

"Missus, I'll prepare some more plain and nutritious Crucian carp soup for you... Or how about you tell me if there's anything you want to eat? I'll make it for you..."

She wanted to eat his honey sauce pork ribs...

But...

She paused before shaking her head. "Anything's fine. Do as you see fits. I don't have many thoughts about it, but, Sis Wang, your cooking is quite similar to his. It's much better than the restaurants outside. All these home-cooked food are done quite well. I enjoy them."

Xi Xiaye gingerly picked up a piece of sweet and sour pork ribs as she smiled at Sis Wang.

"Earlier, when I was helping Master in the kitchen, I would sometimes gauge the recipes. Furthermore, Master told me about your preferences."

Sis Wang smiled and looked Xi Xiaye with some admiration. She thought about it before continuing, "Missus, Master is so good to you. I've never seen such a considerate man such as Master. Missus, you've really lucked out!"

When she heard this, Xi Xiaye could not help but smile. She slowly swallowed the food and wiped her mouth before she responded, "It's not just you. He also said to me that our happiness is sometimes built in the eyes of others, but I must admit he does treat me quite well."

"Master didn't use to like talking much. I've been looking after him every day even since before he left City Z. When Maple Residence was set up, I came over too. I feel like ever since you joined the family, Master has changed a lot."

"Hasn't he been the same? How has he changed?" Xi Xiaye felt like he was a two-faced profiteer, but he did not previously reveal himself. She had always thought he was a stiff and decent kind of person.

"Master was quite hostile back then and didn't like to talk much, but he's different now. A day before Master left, he even gave me directions for breakfast, just the way you like it."

Sis Wang sighed and paused. "Especially after Master Lingtian's incident, even though I don't know what exactly happened, but that one time, Master must've been heartbroken. After something happened to Master Lingtian, Master fell very sick. On the seventh day of Master Lingtian's passing, he was even drunk and had a high fever. Master Ah Mo and I were so worried. I was still a nurse then with Dr. Zhong in the intensive care unit."

Upon hearing all of this, Xi Xiaye was stunned. She could not help but feel pain in her heart. She stopped what she was doing, and thought about it, then sighed. "He's like that. Even if he was incredibly upset, he wouldn't say a word. In the end, it's only him who suffers."

Nonetheless, he seemed to have told her many of his problems. Still, when he had shared them with her, his tone was mostly calm.

Sis Wang nodded. "Yes, that's how Master's like. But, Missus, ever since he married you, Maple Residence has become livelier. Everyone's waiting for the arrival of your little master or little princess. Master even told someone to set up two swings in the backyard two days ago, just right underneath the flower porch. They should be done quite soon."

“Swings?” Xi Xiaye raised her brows in puzzlement.

“Yes, Master says that the backyard is quite huge, so we could just set up a simple playground.”

Chapter 608. Missing You Is A Required Course (2)

Xi Xiaye went back upstairs after a simple dinner. She then put on her sleeping robe and went to the study room after showering. After that, she started working on the data Lan Zilang sent to her on the computer.

However, not too long after she sat down, an icon popped up at the bottom right corner. In a glance, she noticed it was Su Nan.

She clicked it open—.

Su Nan: Xiaye, I’m heading to the hospital tomorrow to wait for the delivery. There was a tiny accident yesterday, and when I went to the hospital for a check-up today, the doctor said I might have to deliver prematurely. I’ve been advised to be hospitalized immediately.

Xi Xiaye frowned when she read her message. She quickly replied: What happened? Where’s Ruan Heng?

Su Nan replied: I kind of slipped on the staircase, but it’s no big deal actually. My estimated delivery date is pretty close. Ruan Heng has forbidden me from using my phone in the past few days so...

Xi Xiaye stopped replying and made a call instead.

“I thought you were asleep!” Su Nan’s cheerful voice reached her ear.

“I don’t really sleep early. Plus, I have some work to do. What’s wrong? What did the doctor say?” Xi Xiaye asked.

Su Nan took a deep breath before letting out a sigh. "I'm fine. I'm in the hospital now. I'm just talking to you because I'm feeling bored, so bored that I think I'm getting sick! By the way, Xiaye, I forgot to tell you that Ruan Heng mentioned Yue Lingsi is hospitalized here as well. I heard she can't walk anymore as someone severed her hamstrings. She'll need to spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair. Xi Xinyi didn't seem to care about her. She's pretty much useless now. I feel so relieved!"

Su Nan only found out about what happened to Yue Lingsi earlier that day, but Xi Xiaye was aware of it a long time ago. The information she got from Mu Yuchen was far more accurate.

Both her legs could not walk again and one of her hands was severely injured. Her mobility would be extremely limited in the future. However, it surprised her that Yue Lingsi accepted her new reality very easily. She thought she would be ranting and complaining now that she had become disabled!

"But Xi Xinyi had it good. I heard she moved into the Han Residence. Her baby's full moon celebration should be around the corner. Ugh, she's just like a cockroach! I don't know how she's still able to survive. I just don't get it! Han Yifeng is such a coward. How could he still accept a woman like her? He must be blind." Su Nan started scolding her and making her feel uncomfortable.

Xi Xiaye just smiled. "Alright, stop getting angry. Set a good example for your baby!"

"How can I not be angry? The film she's been working on with Qi Kai is going to be released soon. She might make a comeback with it! It's a wonder that she could make it through all that."

"Just leave her be. As long as she doesn't overstep my boundaries, I don't really care. She's pretty tame right now. Mu Yuchen told me to not get into trouble with her. I'm sure he has a plan of some sort in mind. As for you, just stay in the hospital and wait for your safe delivery. I'll visit you tomorrow."

"No, don't come. Come only after I've delivered. It's a hassle coming here. Where's Master Mu? He's letting you work at night?"

"He went abroad. Alright, Nannan, you should rest now. I have an incoming call. Bye."

...

It was not hard to guess a certain man would call her at this time since he should be just done with breakfast now.

“Why did you take so long to answer the call? Not sleeping yet?”

The man’s gentle voice reached her ear. He would call her every day at this time, and send her a text message every morning.

She suddenly felt his presence as she heard his familiar voice. Since she was unable to see him, she felt a bit empty inside especially when the little thing inside her stomach was being mischievous. She hoped he could appear before her instantly.

“What’s wrong? Not going to say anything?” He sounded concerned when she did not say anything. “Are you feeling uncomfortable? Sis Wang told me your nausea was pretty strong just now. We can ask Dr. Zhong to come tomorrow, or even ask them to take you for a check-up at the hospital. I can make the arrangements.”

“I’m fine.” She leaned back into the chair as she spoke in a child-like tone, “I’m just not used to it... When are you coming back?”

He smiled and felt a little bit helpless. “It’s only been a few days. I told you to come with me, didn’t I? Who insisted on staying back there? If you’re afraid, I can ask Mother or Grandmother to stay with you for some time.”

“I’m not afraid. I just feel that something isn’t right. Something is making me uncomfortable. I miss you, Mr. Mu. Do you miss me?”

It was so easy to express how much she missed him now. In the past, Xi Xiaye would never believe that she would act like this one day. Her eyes started to warm up as her voice turned hoarse.

It was hard for Mu Yuchen to hide how happy he was on the other side of the phone. He sighed. “Missing you is a required course. What do you think?”

“Do you think that I’m becoming unreasonable now? I don’t know why I’ve become like this. It’s all your fault!”

“Yes, it’s my fault.”

Xi Xiaye knocked her own head. “Good that you know. Lei Ya wants us to raise its points. I spoke to CEO Lei today. He isn’t very well-mannered, so the negotiation broke down...”

“Let it be then. I know about that person. Didn’t I ask Vice President Wen to meet him? How did it end up becoming you? If something like this happens again in the future, just throw the dining plates at his face. Understand?” Mu Yuchen sounded unhappy and he used some harsh words.

“Vice President Wen is sick and took leave. Plates? I’m not as violent as you, Mr. Mu. Somehow, I can imagine the way you would smash plates. Oh, you’d definitely look like a mad lady...”

She chuckled when she imagined a scene of him smashing plates with a hand on his waist.

He laughed. “Does your elegant Mr. Mu look like someone who’d do that?”

“I remember someone admitting that he’s despicable and shameless...”

“I am what you say I am. You should now pack up and go to sleep this moment. Take care of yourself and be good. Then, I’ll bring back some gifts for you, alright?”

“Gifts? Do you think I’m still a little girl?”

“Didn’t you just turn 18 this year?”

“You...”

Chapter 609. Death (1)

In the end, she still obeyed him obediently and went to bed right after she hung up on the call.

As she lay down on the bed in the empty bedroom, she stared at the ceiling. She could feel a part of herself missing as she reached her hand out to the spot beside her. The usual figure was not there for her to touch and she could not feel his warmth.

This feeling...

It was difficult for her to get used to. The quality of her sleep was terrible during this period of time. She slept lightly, and even though she slept quite long, she would wake up many times in the middle of the night.

She was too used to being around him. With him here, she was not worried at all. He always prepared her outfit in the morning or even help her to change into it, and she found it difficult now that he left. Her old independent self was gone.

She sighed. How could she have become like this?

...

It was getting late when she left the restaurant after dinner. Ji Zitong swiftly walked down the staircase, but she suddenly remembered the letter and halted mid-step. Swiftly, she turned around and glared at Su Chen with her steely eyes. "You can hand me back the letter now, Officer Su! I'm very busy and don't have much time for you. Don't forget about tonight. You said that you owe me one!"

Su Chen put his hands into his pockets as he raised his eyebrows and looked at the woman staring at him. "Doesn't treating you to a meal tonight cancel that out? Moreover, do you think a careful person like me would just carry the letter everywhere with me? Come to my place next weekend to take it. I'm going abroad tomorrow and won't be in City Z for the next few days."

Ji Zitong's expression darkened instantly. Her patience ran out as she clenched her fists and stared at Su Chen furiously. "Su Chen! You're just messing with me. Are you really this pitiful to stoop down to bully a woman? Aren't you embarrassed?"

“Bully a woman? Embarrassed? Why didn’t you think of yourself as a woman when you assaulted me? I’m very satisfied with the outcome today, so I’ll give you back the letter. Tell me when you’re available and we’ll meet.”

Su Chen glanced over at her before walking down the stairs. He waved his hand at the valet. The little guy quickly drove his car over for him.

His car arrived moments later, and he walked past Ji Zitong.

“You really didn’t change much from back then. No man would like you like this. No wonder back then...”

“Shut up! It’s none of your business! Don’t always act like you know everything!” Ji Zitong’s expression worsened. There was no doubt that Su Chen had stepped on her old wound.

Su Chen shrugged without giving her a second look and went straight into his car. As he was about to leave, the door to the front passenger seat opened suddenly as Ji Zitong entered and slammed the door.

“Send me back to get my car,” Ji Zitong said unhappily. There no way would she take a cab back!

He took her there, so he had to send her back!

Su Chen squinted at her, but he did not decline as he swiftly started his car.

“Why didn’t you apply to be a military officer afterward? I remember that you were qualified, and I even heard that you have the full rights to pass instantly. You’ve gathered a lot of achievements, haven’t you?”

He felt the surrounding air suffocating him as they were on the way back, so he tried to start a conversation.

Su Chen found out from Ah Mo that she was working as Xi Xiaye’s bodyguard.

Ji Zitong seemed to be lost in her thoughts after she heard Su Chen's question. Her eyes darkened as she turned her head and looked outside the window. She stayed quiet for a long while as lights flashed past her face.

Su Chen did not say anything else and just sped up as she remained silent.

After some time, Ji Zitong finally spoke up, "I was worried that he'd be waiting for too long. I wanted to save the relationship. That's why I gave up."

Su Chen did not expect to hear her answer. He thought she was not going to answer him at all.

He shook his head and sighed. "Now, do you know why this occupation doesn't earn the understanding of others? How could a man who needs you to compromise be a good man? Just take it as a lesson."

"Yes, all men are trash! Their mouths are full of lies."

Ji Zitong laughed coldly and sucked a deep breath in. "But I can only blame myself for being foolish. I was too naive to believe in him so easily."

Su Chen smiled. "That's some good insight for you, but that man looks like trash anyway. I don't understand how your eyes work. What attracts you to that man? His looks? Power? Money? And what do you mean by all men are trash? Isn't Instructor Mu a good man? Most of the men around me are great. You just haven't met them, so be more impartial."

Su Chen could not help but defend his brethren.

Ji Zitong was stunned for a moment when he mentioned Mu Yuchen. She was reminded of how caring he was towards Xi Xiaye and had to admit that Chairman Mu was indeed a good man and a good husband. She always thought he was an aloof man during her days in camp and she could not understand why a man like him would join the army! However, a person of his calibre was very charismatic with his quiet personality, especially when he wore his uniform.

Nonetheless, Ji Zitong still thought Mu Yuchen's current identity suited him better. Perhaps she thought being in the business world could further utilize his wisdom and charisma.

"I'm afraid there aren't many men like Chairman Mu in the world. He's a special sample with extraordinary genes," Ji Zitong replied.

"That's some harsh bias there. I'm representing the whole male population to protest against you. Ji Zitong, your mindset is very dangerous!" Su Chen frowned.

Ji Zitong raised her eyebrows, shooting daggers at Su Chen sullenly as he questioned her opinion.

Chapter 610. Death (2)

Work gradually fell in place in the next few days.

Xi Xiaye went out early and came back home late at night as usual. She had a very busy schedule, and Ji Zitong stayed by her side at all times.

In Xi Xiaye's office.

Xi Xiaye was reading through the report submitted by the Finance Department on her table. One of the assistant managers was standing in front of her.

"How are things going with the New Era Plaza? Are the events and festive seasons doing well?" Xi Xiaye scrawled her signature at the bottom swiftly as she asked without even raising her head to look at the assistant manager.

"From the data, the effect looks great. Ms. Caitlyn even appeared at the event personally. The crowd was hyped up. In addition to the effort of the Administrative and PR Department, the event was a huge success." The manager sounded pleased.

Being able to work in Glory World was a fortunate turn of events for him. As long as one put the effort in, there would be opportunities to soar higher and get recognized, and the vast number of industries Glory World is involved in was something his competitors would be jealous of!

Of course, he would be delighted that his company's business was doing well.

Xi Xiaye nodded with a smile. She handed the document back to him as she raised her head. "You guys have done well. The collaboration between each department is superb. I'll be sure to ask Chairman Mu for a reward when he gets back."

"Thank you, Director Xi!" The man took the document from her gratefully.

Xi Xiaye nodded. She pointed at the door elegantly, signaling that he could leave now. The manager left with a smile on his face.

However, he bumped into Xiao Mei at the door as she was about to come in.

"Director!" Xiao Mei rushed into the room in a panic.

"What's wrong?" Xi Xiaye frowned slightly when she saw Xiao Mei's expression full of anxiety.

"We just received a call from XX rehabilitation center. They... they say that your grandmother, Madam Deng, can't hold on any longer. She regained consciousness and said she wants to see you." Xiao Mei's voice was trembling slightly. She took a deep breath and managed to finish her sentence.

Thud!

Xi Xiaye's pen slipped out of her hand as she was stunned for a moment.

Deng Wenwen?

Her condition did not look well after the operation last time, and she could not have really lasted long anyway, but...

Xi Xiaye was feeling sentimental. It was not exactly sadness she was feeling, but she did not feel great. After staying quiet for a little while, she stood up and grabbed her coat as Xiao Mei quickly called Ji Zitong.

When Xi Xiaye arrived downstairs, Ji Zitong and two other bodyguards in black suits were already waiting for her. Xi Xiaye did not say anything and went straight into the car.

Ji Zitong turned around from the front passenger seat and asked Xi Xiaye, "Director Xi, where are we going?"

"XX Rehabilitation Center."

Xi Xiaye put a hand onto her forehead in exhaustion. She massaged the space between her eyebrows and looked outside the window, wanting some silence.

It was around noon when they arrived at the rehabilitation center and the sun was still up, but the cold wind kept on blowing. Xi Xiaye wrapped herself up with her coat to withstand the wind around her as she walked through the corridor quietly with Ji Zitong and the two bodyguards behind her.

When she arrived at Deng Wenwen's room, she noticed someone else outside. It was a familiar figure.

"Ms. Xiaye!"

Xi Xiaye then realized it was Han Yifeng's assistant, Secretary Wang!

Xi Xiaye nodded and turned around to look inside the room. Secretary Wang then said, "Ms. Xinyi is inside. Elder Madam regained consciousness just now and said she wanted to see you, so the hospital gave you a call. We can't reach Mayor Xi's phone..."

Xi Xinyi?

Xi Xiaye's eyes darkened, but they soon returned to normal.

Father should be sleeping at this moment.

Without pausing, she went in together with Ji Zitong while the two bodyguards in black suits waited outside the door.

There was a suffocating atmosphere inside the room. Accompanied by the sound of the machine beeping and her heavy breathing, she seemed to be struggling.

Xi Xinyi was standing beside the bed. She had almost fully recovered after nearly a month of rest and seemed very well right now. She should be enjoying her life pleasantly as of late with her child's full moon celebration around the corner.

Xi Xinyi turned to the door when she heard footsteps, and she saw Xi Xiaye in an all-black outfit.

She tied her hair into a clean bun while the large coat totally hid her belly. With her usual elegant face and indifferent expression, Xi Xiaye glanced over at her before walking towards the other side of the bed.

Deng Wenwen looked extremely weak. Perhaps because she noticed Xi Xiaye's arrival, she slowly opened her eyes, hardly able to focus, and could only see Xi Xiaye's blur figure. She blinked several times as if she was trying to gain clarity in her sight.

Xi Xiaye watched Deng Wenwen from above with her expression still indifferent. At that moment, she felt she seemed comical and lamentable, but she could see a tint of regret in Deng Wenwen's eyes!

Regret!

She had started to regain a little bit of consciousness since the operation last time, but she never visited again since then. Now, she was truly reaching her end.

Deng Wenwen had worked so hard all her life, used up all kinds of tricks and strategies, and this was what happened to her in the end. Was this not sad and ludicrous itself?

Xi Xiaye's eyes turned dull. She was not sure what she felt right now, but the situation did make her feel oddly uncomfortable. How should she be facing Deng Wenwen right now?