

R Woman 781

Chapter 781: Didn't do anything to let you down

"Pretty, eh? I knitted this," Mrs. Mo beamed, "and those little shoes were knitted by your mom."

"The shoes are so cute!" Chu Jin picked up the shoes and said with a gentle smile, "Both of you moms, you should teach me sometime."

"Like you could learn something like this," Zhao Yan said while knitting a sweater, "not many young people nowadays can knit anymore."

Mrs. Mo agreed, "Times have changed. You can buy these things in stores now, so not many people learn anymore."

Zhao Yan nodded in agreement.

"Mom, I had no idea you were into this stuff." Mo Zhixuan sat down on the couch, his eyes flashing with disbelief.

In the past, Mo Zhixuan had never seen Mrs. Mo dealing with such things herself.

Mrs. Mo looked at Mo Zhixuan with a smile, "Your mom knows many things; you'll gradually find out."

"Jin, you went for a prenatal checkup yesterday, didn't you? What did the doctor say?" Zhao Yan looked up at Chu Jin.

Chu Jin smiled faintly, "Everything's good; all the indicators are normal."

"That's good to hear," Zhao Yan said, relieved.

Mo Zhixuan took out the 4D ultrasound and handed it to Zhao Yan, "Mom, look, this is the 4D ultrasound from yesterday's prenatal checkup. It's the first photo of the two little ones."

Zhao Yan took the ultrasound, her face full of smiles, "Oh my! Look how handsome these children are, so adorable. In-laws, don't you think this child looks a bit like Zhixuan?"

Mrs. Mo picked up her glasses and put them on, saying with much delight, "Little Yan, now that you mention it, I think they do look alike. Look at this mouth, these eyes..."

The two elderly were getting more and more excited as they discussed, ending up laughing so hard they couldn't even close their mouths.

Mo Zhixuan: "... " How could he not see it? These two ugly little things, looking like him?

Chu Jin also smiled softly, indeed, in the same world, under the same mother.

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The next day was the day Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi were coming back from the military zone.

The Shen family had also gotten up early.

To welcome Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi as guests to the Shen family, Mr. and Mrs. Shen really went all out. They hired one of the top chefs from the culinary world and even invited friends and relatives who were married into the Shen family, including Shen Haoguang's superior officers.

Their sole purpose was to let everyone know that Shen Haoguang was no longer the same person he used to be.

"Mom and Dad, really, you didn't have to go through all this trouble. My brother... it's not certain that he will come," Duanmu Sheng said, unable to hold back as she watched her busy mother.

She didn't want the Shen family to be disappointed, so she had to give them a heads-up.

"He will definitely come, Sheng Sheng, you're Little Zhe's biological sister after all, don't worry, Mom guarantees it!" Mrs. Shen patted her chest.

Duanmu Zhe had three sisters, the other two had married far away and wouldn't visit their natal home for a long time. Now, the only legitimate sister of Duanmu Zhe was Duanmu Sheng, so how could he possibly not visit his own sister's home?

Duanmu Sheng had only fallen out with her parents, not with Duanmu Zhe.

How could Duanmu Zhe possibly not come!

Mrs. Shen had indirectly inquired and found out that the sibling relationship between Duanmu Sheng and Duanmu Zhe was very strong, which is why she believed that Duanmu Zhe would definitely make an appearance tonight.

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Mr. and Mrs. Shen's calculations were precise and their plans thorough.

In the eyes of outsiders, inviting everyone associated with the Shen family was a mark of respect towards Duanmu Zhe.

Who could know that all this was just a setup?

Seeing her mother like this, Duanmu Sheng felt even more ashamed, "Mom, thank you. After all that my dad and mom did to you, you're still willing to..." Duanmu Sheng was ashamed and moved.

After all, Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin had insulted the Shen family parents, and she had never expected that the Shen parents would now be so forgiving and sincere towards her.

Whatever the case, she must make sure to invite Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi over today; she couldn't let the Shen parents lose face again.

"Sheng Sheng, I've already prepared breakfast for you, go eat," Mrs. Shen continued, "We're all family, it's only right to be more understanding of each other. By the way, where's Haoguang? That child better not still be in bed, right?"

"Mom, I'll go call Haoguang," Duanmu Sheng turned and walked upstairs.

Her heart was filled with bitterness. She couldn't understand why the Shen family's parents were so understanding, while her own weren't.

In this whole wide world, isn't it true that all parents wish for their children's happiness? Why was it that her parents...

The more Duanmu Sheng thought about it, the more aggrieved she felt. However, fortunately, she had met a husband who loved her and in-laws who understood her.

Upstairs.

Shen Haoguang had already gotten up and was standing in front of the mirror, adjusting his tie.

"Haoguang, you're awake?" Duanmu Sheng approached, "Let me help you."

"My wife is indeed virtuous," Shen Haoguang kissed her on the forehead.

Duanmu Sheng's face flushed with color.

"Sheng Sheng, what time is your brother's flight?" Shen Haoguang continued, "In a bit, I'll go with you to pick him up."

"I don't know either," Duanmu Sheng shook her head. Up until now, she hadn't been able to get in touch with Duanmu Zhe, so she was a bit worried.

Shen Haoguang's expression remained unchanged as he frowned slightly and looked at Duanmu Sheng, continuing, "Why don't you try calling him again? Maybe he can answer now."

"Alright," Duanmu Sheng nodded, "Then I'll make another call."

Duanmu Sheng walked out with her phone in hand.

This time, Duanmu Zhe answered the call quickly, "Hello, third sister."

Hearing the voice coming from the other side of the screen, Duanmu Sheng was overjoyed, "Little Zhe, you finally answered the phone. By the way, what time is your and Qingyi's flight? We'll come to pick you up."

On the other end of the phone, Duanmu Lei frowned slightly as if he had something to say, but he didn't speak it out. Instead, he continued, "It's an eleven o'clock flight in the morning. There's no need to go through the trouble, Qingyi and I can make our way back on our own."

Duanmu Sheng said with a smile, "It's no trouble at all, Little Zhe, I have some things to talk to you about anyway. See you at the airport in a while."

"Okay," Duanmu Zhe let out a single word.

After hanging up the phone, Duanmu Sheng walked inside with a beaming smile. Seeing her like this, Shen Haoguang knew that things had gone well, and he asked with a smile, "Sheng Sheng, did Little Zhe answer the call?"

Duanmu Sheng quickly nodded, "Mhm, he answered my call."

"I told you, you were just worrying over nothing before. You're Little Zhe's biological sister; how could he possibly ignore you?" Shen Haoguang continued, "Sheng Sheng, what time is Little Zhe's flight?"

"It's at eleven in the morning. Are you ready? Let's hurry down for breakfast, or we might run late," Duanmu Sheng urged.

"I'm ready," Shen Haoguang took Duanmu Sheng's hand, "Let's hurry downstairs now."

After breakfast, Shen Haoguang drove with Duanmu Sheng to the airport to pick up people.

It was nine in the morning, and there was plenty of time.

The airport was vast with many people coming and going.

Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang waited outside for a long time before they saw Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi coming out with their suitcases. Both wore large sunglasses that hid their eyes and were dressed in matching outfits. If it were not for someone close, they would not be recognized at first glance.

All the luggage was pulled by Duanmu Zhe, while Mo Qingyi walked beside him. Their fingers were interlocked, looking like a couple deeply in love.

"Little Zhe, Qingyi, you've finally come out," Duanmu Sheng greeted them, pulling Shen Haoguang along, with a full smile on her face.

"Sister Sheng Sheng, you must have waited for a long time," Mo Qingyi took off the glasses from her face and revealed a pair of cat-like eyes as she brushed a stray lock of hair behind her ear.

Shen Haoguang, who was beside Duanmu Sheng, was stunned. He hadn't expected Mo Qingyi to be so pretty, even more so than Duanmu Sheng!

He had assumed that Mo Qingyi was some kind of 'dinosaur'—extremely ugly, otherwise, she wouldn't have set her sights on Duanmu Zhe. But the reality was far from what he had thought.

Now, Shen Haoguang felt even more uncomfortable. If only Mo Qingyi were his girlfriend.

If Mo Qingyi were his girlfriend, he would treat her sincerely and wouldn't exchange her for a hundred Situ Yas!

Duanmu Zhe was really lucky!

To have such an outstanding girlfriend!

Beautiful and from a good family!

Why hadn't he encountered such good fortune himself?

Shen Haoguang looked at Duanmu Zhe, feeling like the sourness in his heart was about to brim over.

Duanmu Sheng clasped Mo Qingyi's hand, "We haven't waited too long. Come, Qingyi, let me introduce you, this is my husband, Shen Haoguang."

"Sister-in-law, hello, I am Shen Haoguang." Shen Haoguang said politely, extending his hand towards Mo Qingyi with a warm smile on his face.

Mo Qingyi nodded slightly, "Mr. Shen, hello." She didn't extend her hand, nor did she call him brother-in-law.

Seeing this, a trace of embarrassment flashed across Shen Haoguang's face, and he awkwardly retracted his hand.

Duanmu Sheng's expression also turned sour, she hadn't expected Mo Qingyi to refuse to give face like this.

"Little Zhe, this is your brother-in-law," Duanmu Sheng said, turning her attention away from Mo Qingyi towards Duanmu Zhe.

This time, Shen Haoguang didn't reach out his hand. First, he feared embarrassment; what if Duanmu Zhe also refused to shake hands with him? Once was enough for such a humiliating moment.

Second, he was after all Duanmu Zhe's brother-in-law. Even though Duanmu Zhe had now climbed up the ranks through the Mo family, in terms of seniority, he was still older than Duanmu Zhe. If there were to be a handshake, it should be Duanmu Zhe initiating it.

Otherwise, where would his face be?

On hearing this, Duanmu Zhe slowly took off his sunglasses, the corners of his lips curling into a sneering arc, "Sis, I'm not trying to criticize you, but your taste is pretty bad. This pretty boy, what qualifications does he have to be my brother-in-law?"

Duanmu Zhe's words didn't leave any face for Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang.

By now, he was very clear about Shen Haoguang's character. Yesterday at the military base, Duanmu Zhe had managed to get the full measure of Shen Haoguang's true colors.

"Little Zhe! Watch your words! Regardless, he is now your brother-in-law!" Duanmu Sheng spoke coldly.

Shen Haoguang's face turned very ugly; he hadn't expected Duanmu Zhe to be so arrogant!

Just because he had made connections with the Mo family, huh?

Did he really think he was something special?

"Oh dear, my foolish sister, do you not realize you've been fooled by this scumbag?" Duanmu Zhe said with a face full of frustration as he pulled out a photo from his wallet and handed it to Duanmu Sheng, "Look at this, what is it?"

It was a photo of Shen Haoguang and Situ Ya kissing while embracing each other, identical to the one Zi had shown Duanmu Sheng. However, at that time, Duanmu Sheng had torn up the photo without hesitation.

Although Shen Haoguang had tried to cover his tracks well, there were still slip-ups, so both Duanmu Zhe and Zi had found this photo.

As Shen Haoguang saw this photo, he froze completely, breaking out in cold sweat, yet still had to feign calmness.

How did Duanmu Zhe get ahold of this photo? What was going on?

Shen Haoguang nervously swallowed, looking at Duanmu Zhe, and said angrily, "Little Zhe, I know your family doesn't like me! But you don't have to stoop to such despicable methods to slander me, right? Situ Ya and I are just friends. Sheng Sheng, you mustn't listen to Little Zhe's nonsense! I haven't done anything to let you down! You have to believe me!"

Shen Haoguang's expression was very earnest.

"Pretending, still pretending," Duanmu Zhe said with a sarcastic smile, his arms crossed over his chest.

"Haoguang, there's no need to explain, I believe you!" Duanmu Sheng turned to look at Duanmu Zhe, questioning, "Little Zhe, did Zi Qi give you this photo? It's clearly doctored! Are you a three-year-old child? Can't you see through such tricks?"

Upon hearing these words, Shen Haoguang relaxed, and the smile on his face grew more triumphant. He hadn't expected Duanmu Sheng to trust him so much!

How foolish.

Duanmu Zhe was speechless, saying angrily, "Sis, I think you're the one acting like a three-year-old child! Zi Qi has warned you so many times, and you're still being deceived by this scumbag! Impressive! Do you need to anger our parents to death before you're satisfied? Hurry and come back with me to apologize to them!"

Duanmu Zhe grabbed Duanmu Sheng by the hand and pulled her toward the exit.

Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin both were so frustrated with Duanmu Sheng that it was beyond words, especially Zhou Jin, who was so angry she was bedridden and could only fall asleep with the aid of sleeping pills.

"Let go of me! You have no right to interfere with my life!" Duanmu Sheng swung off Duanmu Zhe's hand and shouted angrily, "I don't understand, why does everyone have to oppose my love! Did I do something wrong?"

"Duanmu, Sheng Sheng, both of you calm down a little," Mo Qingyi stood between them, trying to mediate with kind words, preventing their conflict from deepening further.

Fortunately, this was a VIP passage, so there were no onlookers.

Seeing Mo Qingyi made Duanmu Sheng even more furious. Why was everyone opposing her love for Shen Haoguang, while Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe's love developed so smoothly?

Was it because of Mo Qingyi's status?

That was just too unfair.

"Get lost!" Duanmu Sheng's anger flared in an instant, pushing Mo Qingyi aside, "Our family matters are none of your business!"

Duanmu Sheng pushed with such force and Mo Qingyi was unprepared; she had not expected Duanmu Sheng to use so much strength, and was shoved to the ground. Her hand landed on a sharp decoration, slicing open a long cut.

"Miss Mo, are you okay?" Shen Haoguang hurried to help Mo Qingyi, hoping to make a good impression in her eyes.

"Don't touch her!" Duanmu Zhe pushed Shen Haoguang away and anxiously grabbed Mo Qingyi's hand, "Are you alright? Does it hurt?"

"No, no, I'm fine." Mo Qingyi withdrew her hand and stood up from the ground, "It doesn't hurt at all." In fact, it really hurt, and by the looks of it, the wound was probably deep, but for the sake of Duanmu Sheng and Duanmu Zhe's sibling relationship, Mo Qingyi still pretended to be fine.

Duanmu Zhe, his face full of anger, turned towards Duanmu Sheng, "Duanmu Sheng! Have you gone mad?"

In that instant, Duanmu Zhe was truly terrifying, his face red with anger, his fists clenched, almost wishing he could beat Duanmu Sheng.

Seeing Duanmu Zhe like that, Mo Qingyi hurriedly tugged on his hand, "I'm fine, don't be harsh on Sister Shengsheng! She didn't do it on purpose."

Women in love are crazy, so Mo Qingyi understood Duanmu Sheng very well.

Besides, Duanmu Sheng was also so pitifully deceived by a man.

"I think you're the one who's truly gone mad! For a woman's sake, you treat your own sister and brother-in-law like this!" Duanmu Sheng pulled up Shen Haoguang from the ground and coldly looked at Duanmu Zhe, "From now on, I don't have a brother like you!"

Too much! This was just too much! It was bad enough that Duanmu Zhe teamed up with Zi Qi to deceive her, his sister! And now he even called her mad!

Indeed, a beauty's allure brings disaster!

Her relationship with Duanmu Zhe used to be good, they never even had a falling out! But now, for a woman, Duanmu Zhe nearly raised his hand against her!

"Fine, these are your words!" Duanmu Zhe angrily pointed at Duanmu Sheng, "Don't regret it later!" With that, Duanmu Zhe took Mo Qingyi's hand and turned to leave.

"Duanmu, don't be too impulsive! Let's talk this out..." Mo Qingyi held onto Duanmu Zhe.

No matter what, they were siblings, and a harmonious family prospers in all things.

She didn't want the siblings to become estranged because of her.

On the side, Shen Haoguang also held onto Duanmu Sheng, trying to mediate, "Shengsheng, let's talk this out. We're here today to take Little Zhe to our house as guests, not to argue."

Many guests were waiting at home.

If neither Duanmu Zhe nor Mo Qingyi showed up, where would the Shen family parents put their face?

With this, Duanmu Sheng also immediately realized the consequences, but once words are spoken, they're like spilled water, and now, how could she retract them?

But, not wanting to let the Shen family parents down, Duanmu Sheng still hardened her face and chased after them, saying, "Little Zhe, I didn't come today to quarrel with you, go back with me. My father-in-law and mother-in-law have prepared a feast, and they're waiting for you now."

Duanmu Sheng ignored Mo Qingyi the whole time, as if apologizing to Mo Qingyi might improve Duanmu Zhe's attitude.

"Miss, if I'm not mistaken, a minute ago, you and I were no longer related!" Duanmu Zhe's face was cold, "My girlfriend is hurt, and now I need to take her to the hospital. Please step aside!"

"Duanmu!" Mo Qingyi winked at Duanmu Zhe, signaling him not to be like this, but Duanmu Zhe acted as if he hadn't seen her hint.

That single sentence left Duanmu Sheng feeling utterly disheartened.

Shen Haoguang smiled and said, "Little Zhe, that was a bit too harsh. We're all family, there's no need to be like this."

"Who's family with you! Scram!" Duanmu Zhe shoved Shen Haoguang aside, "Someone like you, I would disdain even to have you as my driver!"

After saying that, Duanmu Zhe walked away with Mo Qingyi.

Duanmu Sheng trembled with rage, having never expected things to turn out this way.

Shen Haoguang was also full of disappointment. Could it be that the Duanmu Family really intended to give up on Duanmu Sheng?

If the Duanmu Family really gave up on Duanmu Sheng, wouldn't all his efforts have been in vain?

Thinking this, Shen Haoguang's face turned ashen, as he was genuinely concerned.

Surely not, right?

After all, Duanmu Sheng was the Duanmu Family's own daughter; they wouldn't be so heartless.

It must be just a momentary fit of anger.

Yes, it must be so, he was sure he would see the clouds part and the moon shine through.

Comforting himself with this thought, Shen Haoguang felt much better.

"Shengsheng, don't be too upset. Little Zhe surely didn't mean it. Let's go back," Shen Haoguang steadied Duanmu Sheng's arm.

"Haoguang!" Duanmu Sheng embraced Shen Haoguang and cried out, "Haoguang, they've really gone too far! What do we do now? Mom and Dad will surely be disappointed..."

Chapter 782: The Cost of Growth

The two elders had put a lot of effort into arranging the banquet, only to find that the protagonist was nowhere to be seen!

Just thinking about it made one feel incredibly heartbroken.

"It's okay, sweetheart, don't cry," Shen Haoguang consoled Duanmu Sheng while patting her back, "the banquet is not until tonight anyway, we can just inform everyone it's canceled then."

Now, there was only one thing to do.

"Haoguang, you're so kind, thank you." Duanmu Sheng held Shen Haoguang tight, crying and smiling at the same time.

Shen family.

After Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang returned and explained the situation, even though the Shen family's parents were quite disappointed, they all comforted Duanmu Sheng and told her it wasn't her fault.

Family is inevitably rough around the edges; at that moment, Duanmu Sheng felt even more grateful.

After comforting her, Shen's mother added, "Shengsheng, you and Little Zhe are siblings by blood; there can't be any hatred that lasts overnight between you two. You are his sister; you should be more generous. Call him tomorrow. In a few days, it will be the 18th—to miss such a significant event in Little Zhe's life is something you, as his sister, must not do."

Clearly, Shen's mother's words implied that Duanmu Sheng should apologize to Duanmu Zhe and then attend his engagement party with Shen Haoguang.

This was the Shen family's last hope.

If the Duanmu family did not even allow Duanmu Sheng to attend such an important event as an engagement party, it meant Duanmu Sheng would have no value to them whatsoever!

The engagement party was a gathering place for all the big shots from all three realms, where Shen Haoguang could not only vindicate his identity but also make connections with various officials and dignitaries, killing two birds with one stone.

Duanmu Sheng wiped away her tears, "I know my brother's temper; he was really angry today. Maybe, my brother and I have reached the end of our sibling relationship."

"Silly child," Shen's mother chided with a smile, "there's a saying, 'blood is thicker than water.' A brother is still a brother; how could he refuse to acknowledge his own sister? Your parents adore your brother so much; let him speak on your behalf in front of them. Then our two families could sit down peacefully for a family meal and hold a lively wedding for you and Haoguang. Wouldn't that resolve everything? Do you still want to continue like this with your parents and your brother?"

Shen's mother painted a rosy picture.

Duanmu Sheng also wished that things could turn out as Shen's mother described.

Unfortunately.

Her parents were nowhere near as understanding as Shen Haoguang's.

Shen's father also added, "Shengsheng! Your mother is right! A brother is a brother, and he surely won't disown his own sister. Besides, do you really want to be without your own family in the future? No matter how well your mother and I treat you, we can't replace your birth parents."

The Shen parents argued very sensibly, seemingly considering Duanmu Sheng's best interests.

Duanmu Sheng agreed they were making sense, nodding her head, "Mom and Dad, I understand. I will call Little Zhe tomorrow. Thank you for being willing to think about me like this. I'm going up now."

"Go on. I'll bring lunch up for you later, don't overthink things," Shen's mother said with a kind face.

"Okay." Duanmu Sheng nodded, and then turned to go upstairs.

The moment she turned, an impatient look flashed across the faces of both Shen Haoguang and his wife.

This Duanmu Sheng, truly useless! She couldn't even handle such a trivial matter!

Once Duanmu Sheng disappeared around the staircase corner, Shen's mother turned to Shen's father, whispering, "Liangxiao, do you think Duanmu Sheng is really up for it? Could Duanmu Canghai actually be serious?"

Shen's father also had a worried look. He took a sip of tea and continued, "Who knows? Let's wait and see; the engagement is only a few days away." After speaking, Shen's father looked toward the doorway and sighed, "Alas, Situ Ya hasn't visited in several days either, right?"

"Exactly!" Shen's mother frowned, "Ever since Duanmu Sheng moved in, Situ Ya hasn't come by at all! I've run out of my nutritional supplements!"

Situ Ya used to visit almost every other day, always bringing treats. The Shen parents hadn't thought much of it as it was a regular occurrence.

Now, with Situ Ya suddenly gone, Shen's parents were somewhat unaccustomed to her absence.

"Ah, that's not right!" Shen's mother looked at Shen's father, teasingly, "Didn't you use to look down on Situ Ya before? How come you're missing her all of a sudden?"

Shen's father sighed, "Looking at it now, Situ Ya really is the sensible one! Unlike this Duanmu Sheng, who does nothing but eat and sleep, and knows nothing about taking action. She's just like a wastrel!"

In truth, Shen's father had run out of his brand-name cigarettes, which Situ Ya used to buy for him.

Now without Situ Ya, and having to spend his own money to buy them, he did feel it was a bit of a pinch.

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Elsewhere.

Duanmu Zhe skipped going home and took a taxi directly to the hospital with Mo Qingyi.

At the hospital entrance, Mo Qingyi expressed her exasperation, "Duanmu Xiaosi, you're really making a mountain out of a molehill. It's just a little cut; I could have bandaged it myself when I got home. Besides, Jin is there; she's an expert in these matters."

Duanmu Zhe grabbed Mo Qingyi's hand, his brow furrowed, "The cut is so deep, and you're saying it's nothing! Does it hurt?"

Mo Qingyi smiled gently, "It won't hurt if you blow on it."

"This is no time for jokes!" Duanmu Zhe pinched Mo Qingyi's nose, though he still tenderly blew on her hand as he spoke.

Mo Qingyi smiled blissfully.

Unable to argue with Duanmu Zhe, Mo Qingyi reluctantly followed him into the hospital. Duanmu Zhe made a phone call and bypassed the need to queue for registration, going straight to the specialist's office.

"Doctor, how is it? Will my girlfriend's hand need stitches? Is it serious?" Duanmu Zhe asked the doctor anxiously.

Mo Qingyi, her face turning pink, was too embarrassed to look at the doctor.

The doctor, a kindly middle-aged woman, reassured them with a smile, "Young man, don't worry. The wound is a bit deep, but it's not serious enough for stitches. It is painful, though - she must have bled quite a bit, right? The young lady is pretty tough, not crying out in pain despite the injury."

Other young people might be already weeping with their boyfriend by their side, let alone dealing with the injury itself.

Although it hurt a bit, Mo Qingyi could endure it; after all, she was a soldier. The injuries she had sustained during training had been much more severe and she had never uttered a word.

Hearing what the doctor said, Duanmu Zhe felt even more distressed, "Are you an idiot? When my sister pushed you, you didn't even think to push back!"

Mo Qingyi gently looked up and smiled, "I didn't expect her to lash out suddenly, and besides, she didn't do it on purpose. If I had pushed back, wouldn't that have escalated the conflict? And to think you're a leader! Don't you know it's important to favor peace?"

Upon hearing this, a look of admiration flashed in the doctor's eyes. From these words, it was clear that Mo Qingyi was a sensible and good girl.

"Young lady, I need to apply some medicine now, which might sting a bit, so just bear with it," said the doctor with a smile.

"Okay," Mo Qingyi said with a smile and nodded.

"If it really hurts, bite my hand," Duanmu Zhe said earnestly as he extended his hand.

"Gross, who wants to bite your pig trotters," Mo Qingyi slapped Duanmu Zhe's hand away.

The doctor also had a face full of smiles, having not seen such a refreshing young couple in a long time; their way of interacting was quite pleasing to the eye.

"You have a good eye, young lady. Your boyfriend is very good to you," the doctor said while applying the medicine.

With a smiling face, Mo Qingyi said, "Doctor, you can't praise him. If you keep it up, his tail is going to wag up to the sky."

The doctor laughed along.

Duanmu Zhe then asked, "Doctor, when will my girlfriend's hand recover? We are getting engaged in three days and it won't interfere with our engagement party, will it?"

"Getting engaged? Congratulations to both of you!" said the doctor with a smile. "A small injury like this won't be a problem. You can remove the gauze tomorrow."

At that, Duanmu Zhe's face lit up with a smile. "Thank you so much, Doctor."

"What's there to thank me for," said the doctor, quickly wrapping up the wound, "it's our duty as doctors. Oh yes, tonight you should be a little careful, try not to get it wet so it heals faster."

"Okay," Duanmu Zhe nodded repeatedly, "We got it."

After leaving the hospital, Duanmu Zhe took Mo Qingyi back to the imperial palace, and then he went to his own home.

Because of Duanmu Sheng's issue, the atmosphere in Duanmu Family was not very good.

Zhou Jin lay in bed, while Duanmu Canghai sat in a chair, smoking restlessly, the ashtray already full of cigarette butts.

"Sir, the young master has returned," the butler greeted Duanmu Zhe and walked to Duanmu Canghai's side with a smile on his face.

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Canghai's expression changed, his eyes lifting in delight as he stamped out his cigarette in the ashtray, "Little Zhe is back! Is Qingyi not with you?"

"Dad," Duanmu Zhe began with a smile, "Qingyi went back home first, where's Mom?"

"It's good you're back. Your mom's upstairs, I'll take you to her," Duanmu Canghai got up from the chair.

Duanmu Zhe followed closely behind.

In the room, Zhou Jin, who had been lying in bed, perked up noticeably at the sight of Duanmu Zhe, "My Little Zhe is back."

Duanmu Zhe was the youngest child and the apple of Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin's eye.

"Mom, are you okay?" seeing Zhou Jin like this, Duanmu Zhe was very concerned.

"I'm fine, I'm fine," Zhou Jin said with a smile and a shake of her head, "I was just tired, so I slept for a while. You must be hungry, Little Zhe, I'll go make you something to eat."

With that, Zhou Jin was about to get out of bed, but Duanmu Zhe promptly stopped her, "Mom, I'm not hungry, you should rest."

Zhou Jin felt comforted seeing her son being so understanding, but her face soon filled with worry, "Little Zhe, did you see your third sister when you came back today?"

No matter what, Duanmu Sheng was her biological daughter. Even if she didn't recognize Zhou Jin as her mother, the blood ties could never be erased.

Duanmu Zhe nodded, "Yes, I saw her with Shen Haoguang."

"She's still with that bastard?" Duanmu Canghai was very angry.

His daughter was such a disappointment! The men in this world hadn't all died out, yet she insisted on clinging to that scum!

"Yes, I've tried advising her, and even showed her the evidence, but she refuses to believe it," Duanmu Zhe said calmly, instinctively hiding the fact that Mo Qingyi was injured.

Mo Qingyi had asked him to do so.

"Forget about her!" Duanmu Canghai sighed, "we've said all there is to say, but she just can't see the facts clearly..."

"Dad, don't be too sad," Duanmu Zhe patted Duanmu Canghai on the back, "my third sister isn't a fool, she'll see Shen Haoguang's true nature sooner or later."

Zhou Jin stood up from the bed, "Little Zhe is right. Just let things take their course. Sheng has always been stubborn since she was a child, never turning back until she hits the south wall. Let her go. Without experiencing setbacks, she will never grow up."

As a mother, she also grieved for Duanmu Sheng.

Duanmu Zhe poured a cup of water for Zhou Jin and spoke with a deep tone, "It's just that, isn't the price of growing up a bit too high?"

As a brother, Duanmu Zhe also didn't want to see his sister sink deeper into trouble.

Duanmu Canghai gave Duanmu Zhe a look, "Look at the state your third sister is in now, who can she listen to? Haven't we tried advising her? Now it's up to her."

Now, all they could do was watch Duanmu Sheng pay the price.

Because she steadfastly refused to see the truth, and also refused to walk out of the mire.

"Enough, enough, let's not talk about these unhappy things," Zhou Jin started smiling again, "Little Zhe, you're about to get engaged to Qingyi, so you must treat her well in the future and not create any scandals."

Duanmu Zhe nodded, "Mom, don't worry, I'll definitely take good care of Qingyi."

Chapter 783: don't worry

Duanmu Canghai looked at Duanmu Zhe, "You don't need to worry about the engagement party, your mother and I have already arranged the hotel, and the invitations have already been sent out. During this time, just take Qingyi around for a stroll."

"Exactly, exactly," Zhou Jin also nodded eagerly, "Take Qingyi out to have some fun during this time. You must be very tired from being at the military base all the time, right? Oh, and what would you like to eat? I'll go make it for you."

"Let's have dumplings, I haven't had them in a long time." Duanmu Zhe answered with a smile.

"Alright, then we'll make dumplings together."

The family of three went downstairs, joyfully making dumplings together.

During this time, Duanmu Zhe's phone rang once; it was a call from Duanmu Sheng.

Duanmu Zhe hesitated for a moment, then picked up.

"Hello, Little Zhe, it's me."

"I know." Duanmu Zhe's voice was slightly cold.

"Little Zhe," Duanmu Sheng hesitated before speaking, "At the airport just now, it was all my sister's fault. How is it? Is Qingyi okay?"

"Nothing's wrong, do you have something?" Duanmu Zhe didn't call her elder sister, as he still felt somewhat uncomfortable. After all, Duanmu Sheng shouldn't have lashed out at Mo Qingyi!

And those hurtful words she said.

Fortunately, Mo Qingyi didn't want to hold a grudge, otherwise, this matter wouldn't be over!

"I..." Duanmu Sheng hesitated, glancing over at Shen Haoguang beside her, then continued, "Little Zhe, we're all family, so there's really no need for things to be so tense. Oh, how are mom and dad? Are they okay?"

Duanmu Zhe glanced at his parents making dumplings, then pulled out a tissue to wipe his hands and walked towards the door, "Thanks to you, mom and dad haven't died of anger yet."

A fleeting emotion crossed Duanmu Sheng's eyes, "Little Zhe, I'm sorry... but now that things have gotten to this point, please let mom and dad be more open-minded. I'm doing well at the Shen family, isn't it a parent's hope for their children to be happy? I'm very happy now, so why can't mom and dad accept it? I really didn't want things to turn out this way either!"

Shen Haoguang sat to one side drinking coffee, a gleam appearing in his eyes.

If Duanmu Zhe was willing to answer Duanmu Sheng's call, it signified that the Duanmu Family hadn't given up on Duanmu Sheng!

"Elder sister," Duanmu Zhe said very seriously, "I'm advising you, leave Shen Haoguang as soon as possible, otherwise, you will definitely regret it."

"In this life, being able to marry Shen Haoguang, I will never regret!" Duanmu Sheng's expression was also very determined.

"Okay, no use talking when we don't see eye to eye. That's it, goodbye." Duanmu Zhe finished speaking and hung up the call directly.

"Li..." Duanmu Sheng hadn't finished her sentence when the other end of the phone was cut off.

"How did it go?" Seeing Duanmu Sheng hang up the phone, Shen Haoguang immediately walked up to her, his gaze full of anticipation.

Duanmu Sheng sighed and shook her head.

"It's alright, we'll take it slow." Shen Haoguang patted Duanmu Sheng's shoulder as a gesture of comfort.

Mo family.

After Mo Qingyi returned home, she found only the old lady of the Mo family there.

"Mom, where are my brother and sister-in-law?" Mo Qingyi followed the old lady into the kitchen.

Because Mo Qingyi rarely came home, the old lady wanted to personally make her noodles.

While washing the vegetables, the old lady said, "Today there seems to be a leader from Q Country visiting, and Jin is accompanying your brother to receive them, they should be back soon. Don't be in a hurry."

"Oh," Mo Qingyi nodded, "Hey, mom, your noodles are so delicious, can you teach me how to make them?"

Mo Qingyi was like a little princess, she couldn't even tell sugar from salt.

"My little lady, you just sit there nicely, the noodles will be ready in ten minutes." The old lady of the Mo family pushed Mo Qingyi out of the kitchen.

Actually, what she was most worried about was Mo Qingyi setting the kitchen on fire.

Similar incidents had hardly been infrequent with Mo Qingyi.

Mo Qingyi could only walk to the dining room feeling gloomy.

Just then, the living room door was pushed open, and Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin walked in from outside.

Seeing Chu Jin, Mo Qingyi's eyes lit up, and she immediately ran over, "Jin, you're back."

"Qingyi, when did you get back? Why didn't you call ahead?" Chu Jin thought Mo Qingyi would return the day before the engagement party.

"I just got home," Mo Qingyi reached out to touch Chu Jin's belly, "Jin, I haven't seen you for several months, and your belly is getting bigger and bigger. Babies, come say hello to your aunt."

No sooner had Mo Qingyi finished her sentence than the child in the belly gently kicked, as if interacting with Mo Qingyi.

Mo Qingyi was amazed, "Wow! Jin, did you feel that? The baby said hello to me! It's really incredible!"

Chu Jin smiled softly, "They've been able to do that for a while now, so you see, prenatal education does work."

The elderly Mrs. Mo carried a bowl of noodles out from the kitchen, and upon seeing Chu Jin, she directly ignored Mo Zhixuan and asked, "Jin, are you hungry? I made some noodles for Qingyi, do you want me to make some for you too?"

Mo Zhixuan: "... He probably isn't her biological child.

Chu Jin smiled and said, "Mom, I'm not hungry."

After eating, Mo Qingyi took Chu Jin out for a walk.

"Jin, what would you do if you found out my brother was being intimate with another woman?" Mo Qingyi sat on a swing, looking at Chu Jin beside her.

"Mo Zhixuan wouldn't dare, so there's no 'what if'," Chu Jin said with a smile in her eyes, gently swinging on the swing.

Actually, the most important thing is trust, she trusts Mo Zhixuan, and Mo Zhixuan also trusts her.

Mo Qingyi raised an eyebrow, "Wow! Jin, do you really trust my brother that much?"

Chu Jin glanced at Mo Qingyi with a gentle voice, "What's up? Having a tiff with Duanmu Zhe?"

"No, that's not it," Mo Qingyi blinked, "If he dares to get intimate with another woman behind my back, I'll cripple him!"

"Cripple him?" Chu Jin looked at Mo Qingyi, a teasing light flickering in her eyes, "Do you really have the heart to?"

"What's there to have the heart for," Mo Qingyi said carelessly, then continued, "Jin, let's put it another way, if you found out that other women secretly liked my brother, what would you do?"

In fact, she was deeply troubled by Xi He's situation because Mo Qingyi discovered that after she and Duanmu Zhe left, Xi He also asked for leave.

This Xi He, truly a headache.

"Hmm," Chu Jin thought for a moment, then said, "It's normal for others to like Mo Zhixuan; after all, he looks decent. I can't restrict other people's thoughts; whoever they like is their freedom. As long as it doesn't trouble us, having people like your brother means I have good taste. I think, that's not a bad thing." Chu Jin spoke sensibly. As long as the other party did not do anything excessive, merely liking and admiring, that wasn't unforgivable. This world is full of liking and being liked. If you had to be jealous over that—

Wouldn't you be busy all day long?

Mo Qingyi frowned slightly, then asked, "What if her actions have already troubled you? What would you do then?"

Chu Jin instantly understood, "Qingyi, are you going through something like this?"

Mo Qingyi didn't hide it and nodded.

"Then tell me about it, what exactly happened?" Chu Jin continued to ask.

Regarding Xi He, Mo Qingyi had not spoken to Chu Jin before, partly because she didn't want to spoil her relationship with Xi He, and partly because she thought she could handle Xi He herself.

But she hadn't expected Xi He to be so persistent.

Keeping this to herself had been quite distressing for Mo Qingyi, which is why she turned to Chu Jin. She and Chu Jin were like brothers; there were no secrets between them.

Mo Qingyi sighed, then said,

"Jin, recently there this woman who has been pestering Duanmu Zhe all the time, often in front of me, giving him gifts. When Duanmu Zhe and I are on a date, she would stealthily follow us around, and worst of all, she'd declare in front of me that she wants to pursue Duanmu Zhe. She's like a fly that can't be shooed away, and it's driving me crazy!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin's brows knit together, looking at Mo Qingyi with some disbelief, "There are people like that? That's quite disgusting!"

Mo Qingyi nodded, a grave look on her face, "Jin, you also know this person."

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin was even more shocked. "I know them, too? Who is it?"

"Guess?" Mo Qingyi said, winking.

"I really can't guess this one. Just tell me, I feel that in my social circle, there shouldn't be anyone whose values are so misaligned, right?" Chu Jin knew it was morally wrong to cling to someone who already had a girlfriend.

"Jin, you really do know her." Mo Qingyi was completely serious. "Jin, you'd better brace yourself. You'll definitely be shocked when I tell you."

"Alright, go ahead, I'm mentally prepared." Curiosity flickered in Chu Jin's eyes.

Mo Qingyi looked at Chu Jin and said slowly and deliberately, "It's Xi He."

Upon hearing this, Chu Jin thought he was hallucinating. "What did you say?"

"You find it unbelievable too, right?" Mo Qingyi gave a helpless smile. "But the truth is, it's Xi He. To get close to Duanmu Zhe, she used some method to join the army, and now she's in the military district where Duanmu Zhe and I are stationed. Now, we see her almost every day."

With this mention, Chu Jin remembered that Xi He had indeed sought Mo Zhixuan for help with this matter before. And it was indeed thanks to Mo Zhixuan's help that the assessment period was extended by one day, or else Xi He couldn't have entered the military district.

Chu Jin never imagined Xi He to be that kind of person...

"What exactly happened? Tell me everything from the beginning." Chu Jin knitted his brows slightly and looked at Mo Qingyi. He understood Mo Qingyi's character. Although sometimes domineering and careless, Mo Qingyi was a reasonable person, not one to stir up trouble unnecessarily.

Unless Xi He had indeed done such things.

Mo Qingyi sighed and told Chu Jin the whole story, including the incident from Duanmu Zhe's childhood when he saved Xi He.

After listening to Mo Qingyi's story, Chu Jin narrowed his eyes slightly and then asked, "What is Duanmu's attitude now?"

"In any case, he has never paid attention to Xi He from the beginning, nor has he accepted anything from her. He has also made it clear to her that he could never accept her. However, Xi He acts as if she hasn't heard a thing and still appears in front of us every day."

In fact, Xi He's behavior was chilling to contemplate, and it was fortunate that both Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe were no ordinary people, because no one else could endure such affection.

This behavior was verging on the pathological.

After all, who would want someone following them around every day, constantly monitoring them?

"As long as Duanmu Zhe isn't disturbed by her, that's good," Chu Jin continued. "Qingyi, there's something I must confess to you. Xi He could enter the military district partly because of me. At the time, since the assessment period had already passed, she came to Mo Zhixuan and me for help. I didn't know she had other intentions towards Duanmu, so I didn't stop her. Qingyi, I'm sorry."

No one would feel good encountering such a matter, and Chu Jin could understand Mo Qingyi's current feelings. But it was fortunate that Duanmu Zhe's stance was firm, or else he would have become a sinner for eternity.

"Jin, it's not your fault, you didn't do it on purpose. I'm already happy that you're being honest with me," Mo Qingyi was not unreasonable.

"When I get a chance, I'll talk to Xi He. Don't worry, as long as Duanmu Zhe truly loves you, even ten Xi Hes couldn't break the bond between you two." Chu Jin reached out and held Mo Qingyi's hand, gently comforting her.

"Okay," Mo Qingyi nodded.

"In a few days, it's your engagement banquet with Duanmu. Don't think too much about unhappy things at such a time. Just be a happy bride-to-be," Chu Jin pinched Mo Qingyi's hand.

Mo Qingyi smiled faintly, "Jin, do I look like the kind of person to wallow in sorrow? I just felt really uncomfortable keeping this inside, which is why I told you. Xi He alone doesn't count for much."

"That's good to hear," Chu Jin offered a shallow smile.

Now that Mo Qingyi had confided in Chu Jin about this matter, Chu Jin wouldn't just stand by. After all, he was partly responsible for Xi He successfully entering the military district. Moreover, no matter what, Mo Qingyi was one of his treasured brothers+best mates!

The next day, Chu Jin intended to reach out to Xi He for a chat, but unexpectedly, Xi He's call came first.

They agreed to meet at a VIP cafe.

When Chu Jin arrived, Xi He was already sitting by the window.

Xi He looked much thinner than before, but her face still bore a gentle and proper smile.

"Jin, over here," Xi He called out to Chu Jin waving her hand.

Chu Jin walked over slowly and spoke in an indifferent tone, "Sorry, I'm late."

"No, it's me who came early. Jin, what would you like to drink?" Xi He then asked.

"Hot milk is fine," Chu Jin responded with a light smile, revealing shallow dimples on his cheeks.

The hot milk was served, and Chu Jin took a sip before Xi He slowly began to speak, "Jin, actually, I asked you to come today because I have a favor to ask of you. This is something only you can help me with, please, you must help me."

Chu Jin slowly raised her eyes but didn't directly respond to Xi He. Instead, she continued, "Coincidentally, I also have something to tell you."

"Jin, you go first then," Xi He said, glancing at Chu Jin. She could feel that something about Chu Jin seemed different today.

A faint smile appeared on Chu Jin's lips, "You go first with your matter." Chu Jin suddenly remembered that at the last banquet, when Xi He was drunk, she too had said she had something to ask of her.

However, Xi He ended up passing out drunk, and that matter was left unresolved.

Now, with Xi He bringing up the old issue, it must be something important.

Xi He hesitated, then spoke, "Jin, could you...promise me first?"

Actually, the reason Xi He sought out Chu Jin was nothing other than the issue between her and Duanmu Zhe; she hoped Chu Jin could help her by persuading Mo Qingyi to leave...

As long as Chu Jin was willing to help, Mo Qingyi would surely listen to her.

"No," Chu Jin shook her head slightly.

"Jin, even if I beg you, would you please agree to help me?" Xi He looked at Chu Jin with a pitiful expression, very sincere in her plea.

"No, just tell me directly," Chu Jin said indifferently, her clear and serene face showing no unnecessary emotion.

"Jin..." Xi He bit her lip and continued, "You're my only good friend, so, I can only ask you for this favor. Please, you must agree to help me. It might seem like a small thing for you, but for me, it's a matter of a lifetime."

"Jin, things have gotten to this point, I'll just be honest with you," Xi He said, looking at Chu Jin, "I like Duanmu Zhe, I really, really like him. I can't live without him. Duanmu Zhe and I have known each other

since we were children. We grew up together, and he even saved my life once. So...could you please ask Mo Qingyi to let go of Duanmu Zhe and give him back to me?"

Chu Jin never expected Xi He to say such a thing; she frowned slightly, "I'm sorry, but I can't do such an immoral thing!" There was a slight chill in her tone.

"Jin!" Xi He looked up at Chu Jin, incredulously, "How can you say that? I knew Duanmu Zhe before anyone else! I love Duanmu Zhe, so I want to marry him! Jin, can't you help me? I really have no other choice; that's why I thought of you. Qingyi listens to you so much, whatever you say, she'll surely do it..."

If it weren't for Mo Qingyi, she would be the one with Duanmu Zhe right now.

"Xi He, please be rational," Chu Jin said, looking at her. "Love isn't about who came first. Moreover, it was Qingyi who grew up with Duanmu Zhe, not you! Duanmu Zhe is already with Qingyi now; what you're doing is immoral!"

Chu Jin didn't want to make her words too harsh. Xi He wasn't a bad person by nature; she had just temporarily entered a dead end.

But Xi He was not listening to anything right now. She grabbed Chu Jin's hand, begging non-stop, "Jin, please help me, can you? I really can't lose Duanmu Zhe! Jin, I beg you, ask Qingyi to give Duanmu Zhe back to me; I'll die without him! Feelings are cultivated over time; it doesn't matter if he doesn't like me now. I believe that one day he will come to like me!"

Xi He would give up everything for Duanmu Zhe.

Why couldn't Mo Qingyi pity her?

Why couldn't Chu Jin help her?

After all, before all this, Chu Jin was her best friend!

She treated Chu Jin as a true friend, which is why she spoke such words.

"Xi He," Chu Jin's frown deepened, and she spoke with a cold tone, "To put it nicely, your behavior is blindly obsessed, but to put it bluntly, it's shameful!"

Chapter 784: need a wake-up call

Since things had already progressed to this point, Chu Jin saw no need to show Xi He any mercy.

Xi He just lacks someone to awaken her.

Upon hearing this, Xi He looked at Chu Jin incredulously, "Jin, I thought you were my best friend, but this is how you treat me! Haha, shameless? Is loving someone shameless? Then what about you and Brother Nine? Before you and Brother Nine, it was Zheng Chuyi who was engaged to him. Aren't you shameless, too? Knowing full well that Zheng Chuyi existed, you still got together with Brother Nine! On what grounds do you accuse me of being shameless now?"

As Xi He spoke, she stood up, truly stung by the accusation of 'shamelessness'!

She was merely pursuing her own love. What right did Chu Jin have to call her shameless?

However, Xi He had forgotten that when Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan made their engagement, Mo Zhixuan had already broken off any relationship with Zheng Chuyi. Besides, Mo Zhixuan had never liked Zheng Chuyi.

The previous engagement was simply arranged by their parents.

But the situation with Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi was different. The two were genuinely in love and in a relationship. Xi He's behavior was indeed shameless.

After Xi He finished speaking, Chu Jin slapped her across the face.

"Xi He, I was willing to lend you a hand, considering our friendship," said Chu Jin, "but to my surprise, you're so ungrateful. Since that's the case, don't blame me for being merciless! I hope this slap can fully wake you up! Stop thinking about such disgusting things from now on!"

Those who are pregnant tend to be irritable, and Chu Jin couldn't control herself at that moment.

Besides, people like Xi He who are fixated on a dead end really need to be slapped awake.

Otherwise, they will never change.

Xi He, covering her left cheek, glared at Chu Jin, "Chu Jin, from now on, we sever all ties! We are no longer friends!" With that, she stormed out of the café.

Chu Jin's expression remained unchanged; she raised an eyebrow, took out the same paper bill from her wallet, placed it under the cup, and then left the café as well.

Outside, a car was waiting for her.

Chu Jin opened the car door and said indifferently, "Back to the imperial palace."

Sitting in the backseat, Chu Jin pressed her temples, feeling a headache coming on. She hadn't expected things to turn out this way.

She certainly hadn't expected the previously understanding Xi He to change into what she was now.

Love really does drive people crazy.

That saying is indeed true.

The car quickly arrived at the imperial palace.

Mo Qingyi had already been waiting at the gate for Chu Jin. As soon as the car stopped, Mo Qingyi hurried over to open the door, "Jin, how did it go talking with Xi He?"

Chu Jin shook her head, "She's too poisoned by her delusions; the results are far from ideal."

"It's okay, no worries," Mo Qingyi still smiled, "I've come to realize that Xi He's skin is thicker than a city wall! If she continues to follow me and Duanmu Zhe around, then I'll just have to slap her each time I see her!"

Mo Qingyi wasn't joking; after all, any normal person would find it hard to tolerate a stalker like Xi He.

"Don't worry," Chu Jin patted Mo Qingyi's hand, "Xi He won't show up in the military area anymore."

Mo Qingyi looked up in surprise, "Jin, you mean..." Excitement flashed in her eyes.

Chu Jin nodded, "Yeah, I've arranged for her to be transferred to the mountain area. She grew up in the mountains and will be better suited to that environment."

In such circumstances, Chu Jin naturally couldn't allow Xi He to be in the same military area as Mo Qingyi. Xi He was like a ticking time bomb; it was only a matter of time before something went wrong.

Things having escalated to this point, it was already a sign of Chu Jin's benevolence that she didn't kick Xi He out on the spot.

Hopefully, time would allow Xi He to wake up thoroughly.

"Jin, thank you," Mo Qingyi hugged Chu Jin, moved.

"You're welcome," Chu Jin smiled faintly, "Besides, I was the one who caused this mess."

"By the way, Jin, Duanmu Zhe has just had the dress sent over. Do you want to come to my room and check it out?" Mo Qingyi added.

Chu Jin turned to look at Mo Qingyi, "Sure."

The two of them headed to Mo Qingyi's room.

Mo Qingyi took out a bright red one-shoulder dress from an exquisite packaging box.

The train was long, trailing a couple of meters on the floor.

The style was also very modern.

"Jin, does it look good?" Mo Qingyi held the dress against herself, her face beaming with happiness.

"It looks good," Chu Jin nodded slightly, "Go change into it and let me see."

"Okay," Mo Qingyi, eager to try it on, promptly entered the changing room.

Ten minutes later.

Mo Qingyi emerged from the changing room.

"It looks so good!" Chu Jin couldn't help but stand up at the sight of Mo Qingyi in front of her.

The one-shoulder dress looked unexpectedly stunning on Mo Qingyi, accentuating all her best features. The red made her glow radiantly, and her skin appeared even fairer.

Mo Qingyi twirled in front of Chu Jin, "Jin, does it really look good? Don't lie to me!"

"Of course, it's true." Chu Jin nodded slightly.

Mo Qingyi stood in front of the mirror and said, vanity shining through, "Actually, I think it looks pretty good too! Haha, Jin, take a picture of me quick; I want to send it to Duanmu Zhe! Then blind his dog's eyes! Let him stop saying that I'm fat all the time!"

"Alright," Chu Jin said with a light smile, taking out her phone and snapping several photos of Mo Qingyi.

Time passed quickly, and before they knew it, the day before the engagement party had arrived.

The Shen family was very anxious because, even now, Duanmu Sheng had not received any invitation from Duanmu Zhe.

"Sheng Sheng, have you been in contact with Little Zhe these past few days?" asked Mother Shen, her face filled with anxiety, "What did he say? Did he ask us to attend his engagement ceremony?"

"No." Duanmu Sheng shook her head, "Mom, let it be. Since he doesn't want to acknowledge me as his sister, and my parents don't want to acknowledge me as their daughter, then let's not go. Why bother to make a fool of ourselves!"

Duanmu Sheng was now completely disappointed in her family, including Duanmu Zhe.

She had merely married the man she loved, and she couldn't understand why everyone was against her!

Was it just because the Shen family's background wasn't as prominent as the Mo family's?

Such mercenary relatives are not worth having!

Mother Shen said with a smile.

"You can't talk like that, child. Both our families are well-respected in the Superpower World. It's a joyous occasion for our children to marry. We can't let this cause any unhappiness or misunderstandings! Your brother's engagement is a big event. If our Shen family doesn't show up, people will say we lack manners! Our Shen family has always been a scholarly family, and in all our conduct, we've never given rise to gossip!"

Mother Shen appeared to be understanding and reasonable, but in reality, she simply wanted to attend the engagement party and, by extension, have the Duanmu Family acknowledge the marriage with the Shen family.

If the Duanmu Family continued to refuse to forgive Duanmu Sheng, then what was the point of Shen Haoguang painstakingly marrying Duanmu Sheng into their family?

The engagement party was the last chance for both the Shen family and Duanmu Sheng.

"Mom, I understand what you're saying," Duanmu Sheng looked up at Mother Shen and sighed, "It's not that we don't want to go, it's that they simply did not invite us! Mom, don't you understand? The Duanmu family no longer acknowledges me as their daughter!"

Mother Shen patted Duanmu Sheng's hand, "Sheng Sheng, it doesn't matter if they don't invite us. We can go on our own. There's a saying, isn't there? 'If the mountain won't come to Muhammad, then Muhammad must go to the mountain.' Maybe this is a test from your parents? In the Superpower World, who doesn't know that you, Duanmu Sheng, are the third young miss of the Duanmu family? I don't believe that if we personally go to congratulate your brother on his engagement, your parents will turn us away at the door!"

"Mom is right," Shen Haoguang entered from the outside, "Sheng Sheng, I've already prepared the congratulatory gift with your father. Let's go together tomorrow night."

"I'm not going." Duanmu Sheng turned her head, her tone tinged with a touch of anger.

Since the Duanmu family no longer recognized her, why should she insist on going!

One should have dignity!

"Sheng Sheng, don't be unreasonable!" Shen Haoguang took hold of Duanmu Sheng's shoulder, "Sheng Sheng, no matter what, those are your family members. The bond between you is thicker than water. Don't you want to have a wedding? Don't you want to receive your parents and your brother's blessings at the wedding?"

Shen Haoguang sighed and continued, "Sheng Sheng, we're doing this all for you! Since you don't appreciate it, then let's forget it."

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Sheng's expression changed, and she quickly grabbed Shen Haoguang's hand, "Haoguang, I know you're doing this for me, but it's just not worth it, because they're not going to appreciate it."

"So are you going with us or not?" Shen Haoguang persisted, his eyes filled with serious intent.

He looked as if he were truly considering Duanmu Sheng's feelings.

"Alright," Duanmu Sheng finally conceded, "then I'll go with you."

"That's more like it," Shen Haoguang's face softened into a tender smile, "Sheng Sheng, I've already prepared the gown for you to wear at the banquet. Let's all go as a family tomorrow; I'm sure your parents will be deeply moved."

Actually, the motives of Shen's parents were very clear.

They wanted to use this engagement party to force Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin to acknowledge this marriage.

After all, Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang had already tied the knot, and Duanmu Sheng couldn't marry anyone else besides Shen Haoguang.

In front of everyone, as long as they present the marriage certificate, the Duanmu Family would have no choice but to acknowledge it!

Unless they truly did not want to recognize Duanmu Sheng as their daughter.

But that seemed unlikely.

Duanmu Sheng nodded, "Okay, I understand. Thank you, Haoguang."

"Silly!" Shen Haoguang pinched Duanmu Sheng's nose, "How many times have I told you? There's no need for thanks between husband and wife."

Mother Shen teased from the side, "Look at how sweet this young couple is."

Duanmu Sheng's face flushed with embarrassment, and the look in Shen Haoguang's lowered eyes was one of irony.

**

The imperial palace.

Mo Zhixuan came home very early today.

The old Madame Mo went with Mo Qingyi to the hotel for the engagement party rehearsal, so now Chu Jin was at home alone.

Chu Jin was originally supposed to go with them, but she was refused by the old Madame Mo.

The reason: pregnant women should rest more at home and not overwork themselves.

And indeed, the rehearsal site was very noisy, so Chu Jin didn't go.

When Mo Zhixuan returned to his room, there was no one inside. He placed the gift box he was carrying on the table, and then walked towards the study next door.

Sure enough, as soon as he opened the door, the sound of light music came from the study.

Chu Jin was sitting in front of the computer, typing on the keyboard.

She sat up straight, her hands forming almost a blur on the black keyboard, the only sound was the clatter of the keys.

Seeing her like this, Mr. Mo, who had been weary from the day, immediately felt relaxed.

He very much liked seeing her at work.

Serious, focused, meticulous.

She exuded a sense of vitality.

Mo Zhixuan quietly walked in and sat down on the lounging chair, just watching her profile, a faint smile playing on his lips.

This woman was indeed intoxicating, no matter how much he watched, he couldn't get enough.

After about an hour, Chu Jin finally closed her laptop and went to Mo Zhixuan's side, bending over to leave a light kiss on his lips, "You're back?"

"Mm." Mo Zhixuan held her wrist, and with a gentle pull, Chu Jin was lying sideways in his embrace. He placed his hand on Chu Jin's belly, "Have the kids been good today?"

Chapter 785: Xi He sneaks into the engagement scene

"Very good." Chu Jin nodded slightly and then asked, "Have you eaten yet?"

"Not yet, you?" Mo Zhixuan turned to look at her and asked back.

"I haven't either, but I'm not hungry right now." Chu Jin rested her head on his chest and continued, "I have something to tell you."

"Go ahead." Mo Zhixuan said while playing with her fingers.

"A few days ago, I met Xi He..." Chu Jin slowly told Mo Zhixuan about her encounter with Xi He.

Because Mo Zhixuan had been quite busy lately, Chu Jin hadn't found the right moment to talk to him about it.

"I never expected Xi He to actually take a liking to Duanmu Zhe!" Mo Zhixuan spoke indifferently, "However, it's just a minor issue; don't worry too much about it. Qingyi and Duanmu will handle it well. The most important thing for you now is to take good care of yourself and deliver two healthy babies. Don't stress yourself out with this and that all day."

As he spoke, Mo Zhixuan bent down and kissed Chu Jin on the forehead.

Being able to kiss his lady whenever he wanted was such a wonderful feeling!

Chu Jin nodded slightly, "Yeah, I just feel like if I don't do something about it, I'd be letting Qingyi and Duanmu down. After all, we were the ones who caused this situation."

"As long as Duanmu Zhe truly loves Qingyi, even ten Xi Hes couldn't tear them apart," said Mo Zhixuan with a deep voice, "So, we don't need to feel guilty about this at all! In fact, they should be thankful to us."

If Duanmu Zhe really got swayed by Xi He, that would only mean that he didn't truly love Mo Qingyi.

This was merely a small test within their relationship.

Duanmu Zhe, well, he barely passed.

Chu Jin pinched Mo Zhixuan's face, "Has anyone ever told you that your skin is thicker than the corner of a city wall?"

"Apart from you, my ancestor, who else dares to run wild on me?" Mo Zhixuan grasped Chu Jin's hand, "Speaking of which, I brought you a gift."

"What gift?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly.

"It's in the room. I'll take you there." Mo Zhixuan lifted Chu Jin in his arms and the two walked to the adjoining bedroom.

Once in the room, Mo Zhixuan placed Chu Jin on the sofa and then picked up a gift box from the table to give to her, "Open it and see."

A rather large gift box, wrapped exquisitely

Chu Jin unwrapped layer after layer, and finally, from the innermost part, she took out a palm-sized gilded gift box.

With Mo Zhixuan's expectant eyes upon her, Chu Jin opened Little Qiao's gift box and took out an exquisite glass jar that sparkled with dazzling light.

"Nail polish?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly, a hint of disbelief in her eyes. She hadn't expected Mo Zhixuan to give her a bottle of nail polish.

Because Mo Zhixuan had never given her cosmetics before, and she never used them either.

"Do you like it?" Mo Zhixuan asked softly while looking at Chu Jin.

Chu Jin smiled gently, "I do, what made you suddenly think of buying this for me?"

"I saw the leader of Q Country buy it for his partner, and at that moment, I thought that if you wore it, you would be a hundred times more beautiful than her!" Mo Zhixuan took the nail polish and held her hand, "Come on, I'll apply it for you."

This nail polish was all-natural and eco-friendly, so there was no fear of harming the two little ones in the belly.

"Do you know how?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly and smiled faintly.

"I don't, but I can learn." Saying this, Mo Zhixuan freed one hand and took out his phone, opening a nail polish application tutorial video.

Seeing how serious he was, Chu Jin laughed and said, "Forget it, you klutz. I should do it myself."

"Let me do it. I help you once, and you help me once." The thought of Chu Jin's hands, freshly painted with nail polish, touching a certain part of his body, sent his blood surging.

Her hands were already beautifully shaped; with nail polish, they would surely be tear-jerkingly gorgeous!

Help him once too?

Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly. Could it be that Mo Zhixuan also wanted to try nail polish?

Uh...

That image was too beautiful; she could hardly imagine it.

If Miss Chu knew Mr. Mo's actual thoughts at this moment, she would certainly laugh and smack him for it.

Mo Zhixuan was clever. After watching the video once, he grasped all the tricks and began applying the nail polish to Chu Jin's hands.

He leaned down slightly, with all his concentration focused on Chu Jin's fingers.

From Chu Jin's angle, she could clearly see Mo Zhixuan's sharp features, the high bridge of his nose, and his eyelashes that fluttered like small fans.

It was baffling how a man could have such long eyelashes.

Chu Jin couldn't help but reach out and toy with Mo Zhixuan's eyelashes, smiling as she said, "Mo Zhixuan, what did you eat when you were young? Your eyelashes are so long!"

"People born with excellence, are excellent from birth," Mo Zhixuan said in a low tone.

In other words, his eyelashes were naturally long and not something achieved through aftercare!

"Vain," Chu Jin tugged at his ear, "You haven't even been complimented yet, and you're already gasping."

Mo Zhixuan chuckled, "The truth speaks louder than words. Don't worry, my good genes will definitely be passed on to our precious daughter. When the time comes, just wait for her to captivate countless young men."

Chu Jin: "Heh, if I remember correctly, just a few days ago, you were still complaining about how ugly your precious daughter was, even going as far as wanting to name her 'Ugly'."

The heart of a man, as unfathomable as the sea.

Mo Zhixuan, without changing his expression, said, "You must be mistaken, there's no such thing."

Thirty minutes later.

Looking at those sparkling nails, Chu Jin lifted her eyes toward Mo Zhixuan, "Speak truthfully, have you done the same thing for other women before?"

Otherwise, how could Mo Zhixuan, a beginner, do a better job than professional manicurists?

"I swear, absolutely not!" Mo Zhixuan held up three fingers seriously.

"You can do it this well without experience?" Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly.

Mo Zhixuan smiled slowly, "It's because I'm naturally talented."

"Have some shame, will you? Mr. Mo!" Chu Jin patted Mo Zhixuan's face with her hand.

Under the light, the nails shone like a starry night sky, reflecting a captivating luster.

Indeed befitting the name of this nail polish.

Starry Sky.

Chu Jin's complexion was already fair, and at this moment, it seemed as pale as milk.

If it were an ordinary person, they really wouldn't be able to pull off such a color.

"It's so pretty," Mo Zhixuan grabbed Chu Jin's hand and kissed it.

"Jin, I've just served you tirelessly, isn't it time for you to serve me?" Mo Zhixuan's eyes had a layer of unfading ink, staring straight at Chu Jin's hands.

Chu Jin raised her eyebrows slightly, "Really? You have such heavy taste?"

"What are you thinking?" Mo Zhixuan patted her head, "I meant, use your hand here." Saying that, he grabbed Chu Jin's hand and gently rubbed it.

Chu Jin pulled her hand back as if electrocuted and pointed at his head, "Mo Zhixuan! Mind your behavior, what are you thinking about?"

Mo Zhixuan looked at Chu Jin, his face full of deep affection, "Of course, it's filled with you. So, is it a deal or not?"

"Figure it out yourself; I'm hungry. Let's go downstairs to eat." Chu Jin glanced at him, then headed downstairs.

This man is really getting more and more improper.

Mo Zhixuan watched Chu Jin head downstairs with a look of grievance and followed her down, "Jin, when exactly is your due date?"

Chu Jin looked at him with disdain, "How can you be a husband like this? Not even knowing your wife's due date."

Approaching the stairs, Mo Zhixuan quickly wrapped his arm around her waist, "How could I forget? I'm just teasing you. It's the seventh day of March, right?"

**

The next day.

The engagement banquet scene.

Today, Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi are the focus, so they arrived early.

Along with them came many important guests.

As the bride's family, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan also arrived fairly early.

The makeup room.

Chu Jin sat on the sofa, chatting with Mo Qingyi.

"Jin, I'm a bit nervous. What should I say on stage later?" Mo Qingyi closed her eyes, allowing the makeup artist to work freely on her face, but her hands were tightly clenched together.

"Don't be nervous," Chu Jin patted Mo Qingyi's hand, "Didn't we have a dress rehearsal yesterday? Just follow the process."

There were many important guests at the engagement banquet, even foreign envoys, so they had a rehearsal the day before to avoid mistakes.

Mo Qingyi felt a layer of sweat in the palms of her hands, "What if I forget my words?" She didn't know what was wrong with her; she had faced life and death in the military without fear, but now she was scared and nervous about such a small event,

"It's okay, if you really forget your words, isn't Duanmu there?" Chu Jin said with a soft smile, "Let the man handle these kinds of things; if he can't even manage this much, then it just proves he's not worthy of you."

Hearing Chu Jin say this, Mo Qingyi felt much more at ease. She nodded, "Jin, you're right."

Chu Jin looked at Mo Qingyi, a ripple of emotion flashing through her clear eyes. Then, she took out the Tarot cards from her space, quickly shuffled them, and after arranging the cards, she handed them to Mo Qingyi, "Qingyi, draw a card."

Right at that moment, the makeup artist had finished applying makeup. Mo Qingyi opened her eyes and drew a card.

Upright: Third of Swords.

On the card, a red heart was pierced through by three intersecting swords, set against a stormy backdrop. The vivid red of the heart and the dim grey clouds contrasted sharply.

When the Third of Swords encounters love, it signifies that your romance has been invaded by a third party.

If left unattended, it will descend into endless pain later on.

All in all, it's not a very good card.

Chu Jin saw the card and a flicker of light passed through her eyes, but her expression remained calm as ever.

"Jin, what about this card?" Mo Qingyi's face was still brimming with a sweet and blissful smile, the light reflecting in her eyes, shining brightly.

Chu Jin smiled slightly, her gaze falling to the doorway, "It's quite good. Guess who's here?"

Mo Qingyi quickly turned around and saw Duanmu Zhe, dressed in formal attire, walking in from outside. A person in joy looks especially vigorous, and today Duanmu Zhe was exceptionally dashing.

"Ninth sister-in-law," Duanmu Zhe walked up to Mo Qingyi, hands on her shoulders, and greeted Chu Jin.

Chu Jin slightly raised an eyebrow, "You two chat for a while, I'm going to take a walk outside; it's quite stuffy in here." In truth, Chu Jin didn't want to disturb the couple's sweet moment.

"Jin, can you manage on your own?" Mo Qingyi grabbed Chu Jin's wrist.

Chu Jin was heavily pregnant, in a special period, and with people moving around outside, if some careless child bumped into her, it could lead to a disaster. Mo Qingyi was a bit worried.

"It's fine," Chu Jin glanced sideways, "Mo Zhixuan is still outside. I'm heading off now." With those words, Chu Jin turned and left, thoughtfully closing the door behind her.

After Chu Jin left, only Duanmu Zhe and Mo Qingyi remained in the makeup room.

The warm yellow light bathed the two, casting a romantic ambiance.

"Is there something on my face?" Seeing Duanmu Zhe staring at her intensely, Mo Qingyi was puzzled and raised her eyes to touch her own cheek.

"Qingyi, you look really beautiful today." Duanmu Zhe's heartbeat hastened as he watched Mo Qingyi.

Mo Qingyi rolled her eyes, "Are you implying that I'm not normally beautiful?"

Duanmu Zhe hurriedly said, looking at her, "Of course not, you are always the most beautiful in my heart!"

Mo Qingyi laughed lightly and pinched Duanmu Zhe's chin, "Duanmu Xiaosi, what's with you today, did you smear your mouth with honey? You're extra sweet with your words."

Duanmu Zhe took Mo Qingyi's hand and gently pulled her, instantly pinning her against the makeup table, "It is pretty sweet, want to taste it?"

With that, he pressed his lips to Mo Qingyi's.

The soft yellow light diffused a faint romantic hue.

Just as the two were about to get lost in the kiss, Mo Qingyi suddenly came to her senses and pushed Duanmu Zhe away, "Go out and call the makeup assistant. I need to change clothes, and we're running out of time."

The evening gown was elaborate, with layer upon layer, and required someone's help to put it on properly.

"You don't need to bother an assistant for such a small matter; I'll help you," Duanmu Zhe said as he picked up the evening gown and pulled Mo Qingyi towards the changing room.

Chu Jin walked into the wedding banquet hall.

The hall was bustling, with people in suits and gowns holding glasses of wine, weaving between the buffet tables.

Old Madam Mo was discussing something with the parents of the Duanmu Family.

Tong Zhi was being amused by Mo Fengxu, laughing heartily.

Everything looked peaceful, calm waters on the surface.

Chu Jin narrowed her eyes slightly, a glint of light flashing through her clear gaze. According to the clue from the Third of Swords, tonight's engagement banquet would not be ordinary; there would definitely be someone causing trouble.

It is often very calm before the storm.

However, as long as she was here, she would not let Mo Qingyi's life be marred with regrets.

Chu Jin withdrew her gaze from the hall and walked outside.

Seeing Chu Jin heading out, Mo Zhixuan hurriedly followed, "Jin, where are you going?"

"I feel something is not quite right, I'm going out to take a look, and get some fresh air," Chu Jin didn't hide it from Mo Zhixuan.

"Then I'll accompany you," Mo Zhixuan replied.

"Okay," Chu Jin nodded.

The two stepped outside the hotel, and Chu Jin looked at Mo Zhixuan with some unease, "Mo Zhixuan, I just did a reading for Qingyi, and the card was very ominous. Xi He won't give up so easily; she might have already infiltrated the engagement party."

The upright Third of Swords, if not handled carefully, could very well lead to mutual destruction.

Xi He was not an ordinary person to begin with.

If she really had snuck into the wedding banquet earlier, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Mo Zhixuan glanced at Chu Jin, "Don't worry, our people are everywhere here; she won't be able to cause trouble." Although Mo Zhixuan said this, a flicker of worry still passed through his eyes. He opened his communicator and directed towards Li Xunen on the other end, "Xun En, reinforce the security. Guests must show their invitations to come and go! Immediately escort out anyone who is not related! And arrange for more people to stay close to Qingyi! Tonight's engagement banquet is of utmost importance, we can't afford any slip-ups!"

Li Xunen's voice quickly transmitted from the other end, "Rest assured, sir, I've arranged for people to patrol in turns, and so far we haven't found anything unusual."

"All is well, don't worry unnecessarily," Mo Zhixuan wrapped his arm around Chu Jin's shoulder, offering words of comfort.

"Mm," Chu Jin nodded slightly.

"But I still can't set my mind at ease," Chu Jin continued, "You go ahead inside, I'll stay out here and check around a bit more."

"Then I'll stay with you." Mo Zhixuan followed Chu Jin's steps.

After staying outside for over ten minutes and not finding anything out of the ordinary, they returned to the banquet hall.

**

Makeup room.

Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe changed their clothes and came out.

Just then, there was a knock at the door.

"Who is it?" Duanmu Zhe frowned slightly.

"Hello, Mr. Duanmu, the engagement ceremony is about to start, I'm here to touch up Miss Mo's makeup," a gentle female voice came from outside the door.

Duanmu Zhe adjusted his tie, "Come in."

Sitting in front of the makeup table, Mo Qingyi picked up an eyebrow pencil to draw her brows, internally complaining that her hands, adept at wielding knives and guns, were failing to properly handle the eyebrow pencil. What should have been willowy brows became comically overdrawn.

A slender makeup artist walked in from the door, holding a black makeup bag. She greeted them courteously, "Mr. Duanmu, Miss Mo."

Mo Qingyi put down the eyebrow pencil and nodded slightly towards her, then slightly knitted her brows, "Did the makeup artist change? I remember it wasn't you just now."

The makeup artist smiled politely, "Miss Mo, the person who did your makeup earlier was my mentor; she had to leave due to an emergency, so she asked me to come and touch up your makeup. Is there anything you feel needs retouching?"

"Oh, I see," Mo Qingyi expressed her understanding, then continued, "Just help me with the lipstick and then redraw my eyebrows."

"Sure, Miss Mo." The makeup artist opened her makeup bag and approached Mo Qingyi, then looked at Duanmu Zhe and reminded, "Mr. Duanmu, if you could please step aside."

Duanmu Zhe stepped back subtly, then whispered in Mo Qingyi's ear, "I'll head over first and come back to get you later."

Mo Qingyi smiled and nodded, "Go ahead."

Duanmu Zhe pecked Mo Qingyi on the lips and then left.

"Miss Mo, you look really beautiful tonight." The makeup artist took out an unopened lipstick, twisted it open, "Do you like this shade?"

Mo Qingyi, her eyes alight with a smile, "Let me see it, please. Your mentor didn't use this shade earlier."

The makeup artist handed the lipstick to Mo Qingyi, who tested the shade on the back of her hand, then looked up at the makeup artist, "This color doesn't seem red enough, do you have a true red?"

Mo Qingyi's lips were a lush, freshly moistened crimson. The makeup artist stared at her lips, losing focus for a moment, with hands tightly clenched.

However, Mo Qingyi didn't notice this detail.

The makeup artist quickly recovered, looking at Mo Qingyi, she continued, "Yes, Miss Mo, what about this one?"

After testing the shade, Mo Qingyi, quite satisfied, said, "It's nice, I'll go with this one."

"Alright, Miss Mo, I'll start with your eyebrows," the makeup artist picked up an eyebrow pencil.

"Alright," Mo Qingyi nodded slightly.

Holding the pencil, the makeup artist gently supported Mo Qingyi's chin with one hand while sketching out the eyebrows with the other, instantly defining a delicate shape. Then she took the lipstick and carefully applied it to Mo Qingyi's lips.

"What brand is this lipstick? It smells really good," Mo Qingyi couldn't help but ask.

The makeup artist smiled faintly, "This is a lipstick I made myself, I'm glad you like it, Miss Mo."

Lipstick made by herself?

Upon hearing that, Mo Qingyi slightly furrowed her brows. Before she could think further, her mind grew heavy, as if all the strength in her body had been drained away.

The makeup artist quickly supported Mo Qingyi's shoulders, looking very anxious, "Miss Mo, what's wrong? Are you okay?"

Chapter 786: no turning back, never regret

Mo Qingyi struggled to stand up, waved the makeup artist's hand away, and narrowed her eyes, "Who are you really? What have you done to me?" At this moment, even Mo Qingyi's voice was weak.

By now, Mo Qingyi had realized something was off about this makeup artist, but she didn't recognize this person at all. What exactly was their intention?

The makeup artist smiled lightly and resumed her own voice, "You are indeed clever, but... you chose the wrong time to be clever."

Mo Qingyi was indeed clever, but she had realized it too late.

Now, in this makeup room, there was no one else except for her and Mo Qingyi.

At this moment, Mo Qingyi was like a trapped animal.

Completely at the mercy of others.

Hearing this voice as gentle as water, Mo Qingyi's brow twitched sharply as she demanded, "Are you Xi He?!"

"It seems you really do know me well." The makeup artist reached to remove the Human Skin Mask from her face, revealing delicate features.

This person was indeed Xi He.

Mo Qingyi stared intently at Xi He, leaning on the dressing table, and questioned, "Xi He, what exactly do you want to do?"

"I don't want to do anything," Xi He's expression appeared very calm, "I just want to be with Duanmu Zhe, that's all. Qingyi, considering we were once friends, can you just let me have this?" Her voice was laden with pleading.

Xi He didn't want it to be this way either, she wanted to forget Duanmu Zhe, but she just couldn't let go.

Even if Chu Jin said she was shameless, she would accept it.

Chu Jin was right; her actions were indeed shameless.

Seeing that Mo Qingyi was about to get engaged to Duanmu Zhe, if she didn't do something, she would certainly regret it later, so after much thought, Xi He planned to make her move during the engagement banquet.

At worst, it would end in a catastrophe for everyone involved!

She wasn't a saint; she couldn't just watch Duanmu Zhe being sweet and romantic with someone else.

Xi He had been lying low in this hotel for the past five days. Before, Chu Jin was always by Mo Qingyi's side, so she had no chance to take action. Chu Jin was so astute, she would surely spot Xi He's flaws at a glance.

Therefore, only after confirming that Chu Jin had left did Xi He decide to come in.

Indeed, while Mo Qingyi was intelligent, her vigilance was still not strong enough.

"Xi He, calm down. Love isn't a commodity; it can't be forced or freely given away." Mo Qingyi's expression remained unchanged as she continued, "I know many officers who are even more outstanding than Duanmu Zhe. I can introduce you to them. You are so outstanding; you will find someone better in the future. Why hang yourself on a crooked tree like Duanmu Zhe?"

These words were meant to stabilize Xi He's emotions, after all, Mo Qingyi was now under the control of the drugs administered by Xi He. Mo Qingyi had to stall for time until the engagement ceremony started, by which time Duanmu Zhe would come to look for her.

Mo Qingyi was also very afraid; she had no idea what Xi He might do.

"Qingyi, things have come to this point, I can't turn back now. I hope you won't blame me." As Xi He spoke, she walked forward.

Xi He still had a gentle smile on her face as she continued, "Since you say Duanmu Zhe is like a crooked-neck tree, then why can't you give him to me? There are so many men in this world, why do you have to monopolize Duanmu Zhe and not let go?"

The more Xi He spoke, the more agitated she became, her facial features gradually twisting into ferocity, her eyes filled with intense hatred.

What Mo Qingyi said was too simple; she didn't understand her at all, didn't know her pain.

"Qingyi, you said that there are so many young and handsome officers in the military, then why don't you go find one of them? You are so beautiful, you will surely find someone better than Duanmu Zhe, as long as you find someone else, wouldn't you be happy to fulfill my relationship with Duanmu Zhe?" Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself; Mo Qingyi was just too selfish.

Shaking her head, Mo Qingyi declared, "It's not possible, I love Duanmu Zhe..."

Xi He scoffed coldly, "You know about 'love'? Let me tell you, my love for him is only greater than yours! I love him so much, what right do you have to ask me to give up!? What right?"

By the time she reached the last few words, Xi He had erupted into a shout, unleashing all the resentments that had accumulated in her heart.

Why should these people treat her like this?

Her once good sister Chu Jin did not help her.

And now this Mo Qingyi was telling her to let go! Why? Why should she be the one to let go?

Mo Qingyi kept retreating backwards, "Xi He, calm down, love is mutual, Duanmu Zhe thinks of you only as a friend, he doesn't have romantic feelings for you, a melon forcibly twisted is not sweet, why are you so stubbornly clinging to this delusion? If you keep this up, you will only harm yourself..."

Mo Qingyi did her best to persuade kindly, because she knew that in such a state, people are prone to impulsive actions.

Today was her and Duanmu Zhe's big day, she didn't want any accidents to happen, nor did she want to have any regrets in her life.

Mo Qingyi's gaze flickered unintentionally toward the door, hoping that at this moment, someone would knock on it.

Xi He looked at Mo Qingyi and raised her voice, "If it weren't for you, the one standing by Duanmu Zhe's side right now would be me! This is all your fault! Duanmu Zhe and I have been childhood friends, we've known each other since we were little, why do you have to interfere!"

As she was speaking, Xi He pulled out a dagger that glinted with a cold light. Paired with that sinister smile on her face, the scene was more terrifying than a horror movie.

Retreating to in front of a sofa, Mo Qingyi stopped, her eyes filled with horror as she watched Xi He, then began to speak, "Xi He, don't be like this, what you're doing is against the law, and it will hurt you in the end, not to mention you won't gain love but could even endanger yourself, you are still so young, it's not worth it, let me go, and I'll pretend nothing happened, we can still be good friends, how about that?"

Right now, the most important thing was to stabilize Xi He.

Xi He's smile did not fade, she spoke softly, "Qingyi, since I have come here today, I'm not planning on leaving, don't worry, I will take care of everything cleanly, without leaving any trace, and after that, I will always be with Duanmu Zhe."

Toward the end, Xi He's eyes showed a longing look.

"Xi He..." Mo Qingyi looked at Xi He, wanting to say something else, but her voice grew fainter and fainter until she couldn't produce a sound from her throat; her limbs felt so weak, she couldn't muster any strength, and she collapsed limply onto the leather sofa behind her.

Xi He walked up to the sofa, bent down, and started to undo Mo Qingyi's dress, her face full of apology, "Qingyi, you're a good girl, I'm sorry, I didn't want it to be like this, but don't worry, after the engagement party with Duanmu, I will take good care of you."

No matter what, she owed something to Mo Qingyi.

Xi He's conscience had not completely eroded away; she didn't want it to be this way. But she just couldn't get over this hurdle.

She couldn't bear to watch Duanmu Zhe being happy with someone else.

If she did nothing this time, she would regret it for the rest of her life.

Mo Qingyi couldn't utter a word, she could only let Xi He undress her, her bright eyes filled with panic as she already knew Xi He's intention.

Xi He intended to replace her, to get engaged to Duanmu Zhe, and in the future, Xi He would continue to use her identity to stay with Duanmu Zhe, to marry him, bear his children...

And she herself would be forever controlled by Xi He, locked in a dark room, never seeing the light of day, until her death.

The more Mo Qingyi thought about it, the more terrified she became, her eyes quickly filling with a layer of mist. No matter how strong a person is usually, they have their moments of weakness.

And now was Mo Qingyi's weakest moment.

"Qingyi, don't cry." Xi He reached out to wipe the tears off Mo Qingyi's face, "Don't worry, I won't hurt you, I just want to be with Duanmu Zhe properly."

Mo Qingyi didn't even have the strength to frown, her tears uncontrollably streamed down her face.

Next, Xi He lifted Mo Qingyi's left hand, her gaze locked tightly on the amethyst ring on her ring finger, which was flashing dazzlingly under the bright light.

"It's really beautiful." Xi He gazed at the ring with fascination, her mouth curving into a faint smile.

Mo Qingyi watched Xi He, a foreboding feeling rising in her heart.

Sure enough, in the next second, Xi He reached for the amethyst ring, attempting to twist it off Mo Qingyi's finger. Although the ring seemed loose on Mo Qingyi's hand, it was surprisingly hard to remove, as if it had grown roots on her finger.

No matter how it was twisted, the ring would not budge.

But Xi He did not give up, she kept twisting the ring, frowning and muttering, "What's going on? What's happening?"

Mo Qingyi couldn't resist or cry for help, she could only watch helplessly as Xi He did all this.

"That's right!" In her panic, Xi He's eyes suddenly brightened as if she had remembered something, "A knife! If there's a knife, it'll do! Where's the knife? Is there a knife?"

Xi He stood up and started rummaging through the dressing room.

A knife?

Xi He was looking for a knife!

This crazy woman!

What happened to not harming her?

Mo Qingyi was panic-stricken, was she going to lose her left hand now?

Mo Qingyi stared intently at the door of the dressing room, desperately hoping someone would open it and take Xi He away.

One second, two seconds.

Mo Qingyi longed for it, but unfortunately no one came to open the door.

That's when Xi He found the knife.

"Knock, knock, knock." There was a knock on the door.

Mo Qingyi was overjoyed.

Xi He put away the knife and looked towards the door, "Who is it?"

Hearing this voice, Mo Qingyi's last sliver of hope vanished, because Xi He's voice was exactly like her own, not a bit different.

The talent for impersonation was simply too great!

Mo Qingyi's heart grew more and more frantic.

Was she going to spend the rest of her life buried here?

Mo Qingyi's gaze stayed fixed on the door.

Hoping for that sliver of a miracle.

The person outside answered respectfully, "Miss Mo, the engagement ceremony is about to start. Do you need any assistance?"

Xi He put the knife in the drawer, "Alright, I know. If I need help, I'll call you."

"Very well, Miss Mo, I'll stand guard outside. If you need anything, just let me know."

"Okay." Xi He responded, then lifted Mo Qingyi's chin, squinted her eyes and said, "Consider yourself lucky today."

After that, Xi He took off her own uniform to dress Mo Qingyi, and she herself put on the gown that Mo Qingyi had been wearing.

After changing, Xi He took out a blue porcelain bottle from the space, poured out a clay-like substance, and smeared it on Mo Qingyi's face.

Soon, Mo Qingyi's face was covered in white, obscuring her features.

**

The banquet hall.

As they hadn't found anything outside, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan returned to the main hall together.

Chu Jin checked the main hall, side hall, and restrooms, but found nothing amiss. Just as Chu Jin was about to leave the restroom, she ran into Duanmu Zhe, "Sister-in-law." Duanmu Zhe greeted her proactively.

"Duanmu? What are you doing here?" Chu Jin's eyebrows lifted slightly, "Weren't you with Qingyi?"

Duanmu Zhe smiled, "The engagement ceremony is about to begin, and as it happens, Qingyi needed to touch up her makeup, so I came out to check if there's anything that needs to be prepared."

Chu Jin nodded slightly, and then as if suddenly remembering something, she looked up at Duanmu Zhe, a cold light flashing in her eyes, "Are you saying Qingyi is alone in the dressing room now?"

Chapter 787: crying like a fool

She had looked everywhere, even personally inspecting the backstage kitchen, but she hadn't checked Mo Qingyi's dressing room.

Seeing Chu Jin like this, Duanmu Zhe was utterly confused, "But it's not like that, there are makeup artists inside, and there's a lot of bodyguards standing outside too."

"Little Zhe, come over here," Zhou Jin called in a gorgeous gown, her face beaming with smiles.

Chu Jin couldn't care about anything else now, she turned and walked toward Mo Qingyi's dressing room, with eyes like an unmeltable snow mountain, exuding an aura of frost all over her body.

Duanmu Zhe had never seen Chu Jin like this before, he couldn't care less about Zhou Jin's matter; he quickly turned around and followed Chu Jin's pace, "What's the matter, Ninth Sister-in-Law?"

"I suspect that Xi He has snuck in here, Qingyi might be in danger now. How long have you been away from the dressing room?" Chu Jin asked as she walked.

Hearing this, Duanmu Zhe also felt a jolt in his expression, "About ten minutes or so! Today, all guests can only enter with an invitation, the checks at the door are very strict, and we didn't invite Xi He."

Without an invitation, Xi He couldn't get in, had Chu Jin made a mistake?

Duanmu Zhe clung to a shred of hope.

He hoped Mo Qingyi was alright.

"Apart from the guests, some logistics staff can also easily come and go here," Chu Jin said coldly, her steps seemed slow, but in fact, she moved briskly with the wind in her stride.

In other words, Xi He could be anyone here.

With that said, Duanmu Zhe also became extremely tense, hurriedly catching up with Chu Jin's footsteps.

A minute later, the two appeared at the door of the dressing room, where eight bodyguards were still unharmed and standing there, both Chu Jin and Duanmu Zhe breathed a sigh of relief.

"Has anyone come in or out of here within the last ten minutes?" Chu Jin asked the bodyguards.

One of them responded, "Report to the Ninth Lady, no!"

Chu Jin nodded slightly, then reached out and pushed the door open, with Duanmu Zhe right behind her.

Inside the dressing room, Mo Qingyi was sitting in front of the mirror, carefully applying lipstick. Seeing Chu Jin and Duanmu Zhe come in, she spoke joyfully, "Jin bro, Duanmu, you're here."

The tone of voice, appearance, and manner were all no different from usual.

Chu Jin eyed Mo Qingyi and narrowed her eyes slightly, "Qingyi, has anyone come to see you just now?"

"No." Mo Qingyi stood up, looking up at Chu Jin, "Jin bro, how do I look with this lipstick on?"

"You're not Qingyi," Chu Jin said word by word, her gaze scrutinizing the woman before her with a grave intensity.

"Jin bro, what joke are you making?" Mo Qingyi laughed, "If I'm not Qingyi, then who could I be?" As she spoke, she walked over to Duanmu Zhe and took his hand, "Duanmu, what's going on with you and Jin bro? All of a sudden, what kind of joke are you playing on me?"

As she spoke, Mo Qingyi stood on her tiptoes, leaning in to kiss Duanmu Zhe's lips. But before she could touch the lips she longed for, Duanmu Zhe grabbed Mo Qingyi's wrist and twisted it behind her back, her slender arms locked and unable to move.

Originally, Duanmu Zhe hadn't noticed anything amiss and had almost been lost in the kiss; it was Chu Jin who awakened him.

The woman before him was certainly not Mo Qingyi.

There were several flaws.

First, she wasn't wearing the amethyst ring on her ring finger.

Second, the gown Mo Qingyi was wearing had been personally put on her by him; it fit perfectly, being custom-made. The woman standing before him wore it loosely, lacking any semblance of elegance, not comparable to his Mo Qingyi at all.

Third, Mo Qingyi never wore makeup, but the moment they opened the door, this woman was actually applying lipstick.

Fourth, Mo Qingyi rarely called him Duanmu unless there were other people present. Usually, she called him Duanmu Xiaosi.

"I really am Qingyi," Mo Qingyi cried out, "Duanmu, you're hurting me! Let go quickly! Jin bro, please persuade Duanmu!"

Chu Jin's brows furrowed slightly. She glanced around the room before her gaze settled on the wardrobe and walked over to it.

Seeing this, Mo Qingyi became even more anxious, struggling, "Jin bro, Duanmu! What the hell do you want to do? Let me go!"

"Stay still!" Duanmu Zhe kicked at Mo Qingyi's knee, causing her to kneel on the ground from the pain, going numb, and for a moment, unable to muster the strength to rise.

"Where's Qingyi? What have you done with her? Speak up! Or I'll blow your brains out!" Duanmu Zhe drew a handgun from his waist and pressed it to Mo Qingyi's head.

"Duanmu, believe me! I truly love you," Mo Qingyi, enduring the agony, raised her eyes to Duanmu Zhe.

She didn't answer his other questions, but instead, conveyed her love for Duanmu Zhe with deep passion in her eyes.

This man before her was the dream of her life.

If not for him, she wouldn't be alive today.

He was her obsession.

It was the dream she couldn't let go of.

"I'm asking you! Where is Qingyi!" Duanmu Zhe's eyes had already turned nearly crimson, desperate to immediately shoot the person in front of him.

"I am!" Mo Qingyi's eyes were filled with resolve; at this moment, she was indeed Mo Qingyi.

"Speak!" Duanmu Zhe grabbed Mo Qingyi's hair with one hand and held a gun in the other, his body emanating a fierce aura, "Where is Mo Qingyi! What have you done to Mo Qingyi?"

At this point, Duanmu Zhe could no longer control his temper! His rage had reached its peak.

Mo Qingyi bit her lip, remaining silent, her composure still relatively intact.

Chu Jin walked up to the cabinet, reached out to open the doors, but found them seemingly sealed by some force; no matter how much she pulled, they wouldn't budge. Since she was pregnant and couldn't use spiritual power, she could only glance at Duanmu Zhe, "Duanmu, come here for a moment."

Only then did Duanmu Zhe let go of Mo Qingyi's hair and, after delivering a harsh kick, walked over to Chu Jin's side.

Duanmu Zhe was not one to treat women delicately, so his kick spared no concern for Mo Qingyi; it made her head reel, blood immediately spilling from her mouth, her strength completely drained in an instant.

At this moment, Mo Qingyi's eyes were filled with a desolate look, having not expected Chu Jin and Duanmu Zhe to see through her so quickly.

But even if they did see through her, she had no regrets about her actions.

She had at least tried for the sake of her love.

If she could do it all over again, she would still choose to do the same.

Outside the door, several top bodyguards walked in and quickly subdued Mo Qingyi on the floor.

Mo Qingyi tried to speak, but as soon as she opened her mouth, a surge of blood spewed from deep within her throat; Duanmu Zhe had not held back at all.

Duanmu Zhe promptly opened the cabinet doors, and upon doing so, he saw Mo Qingyi bound hand and foot, tears streaming down her face as she stared at him.

"Qingyi!" Duanmu Zhe embraced Mo Qingyi in his arms.

Seeing this, Chu Jin sighed in relief. She stopped in front of 'Mo Qingyi', reached out to the side of her face, and viciously tore off the human skin mask.

"You've finally discovered it." Xi He looked at Chu Jin with a cold expression, her eyes bereft of any emotion.

Indeed, this 'Mo Qingyi' was Xi He in disguise.

"Xi He, at this point, you are still so delusional!" Chu Jin frowned slightly, looking up at the bodyguards, "Lock her up for now, and remember, keep your mouths shut about this matter; don't alarm anyone!"

"Yes!" The bodyguards bowed respectfully, grabbed a cloth, and stuffed it in Xi He's mouth before dragging her out the door.

Xi He did not resist, just watched everyone coldly, with sarcastic condemnation in her eyes.

Now, she was filled with regret.

Not for her actions, but for not having killed Mo Qingyi directly.

Why had she been soft-hearted?

If Mo Qingyi had died, Duanmu Zhe would have stopped focusing solely on Mo Qingyi.

She had lost.

She had been too compassionate.

If she were given another chance, she would certainly not be so merciful.

Xi He was quietly taken to the dungeon to be locked up, Chu Jin walked to the door, closed it, and warned the nearby bodyguards and staff not to leak this incident.

Those who had come tonight were all influential figures in the Three Realms; this matter, if leaked, would certainly become a laughingstock across the realms.

Neither the Mo Family nor the Duanmu Family could afford to lose face, neither Mo Qingyi nor Duanmu Zhe.

People's words are fearsome; some things sound one way when heard but become quite different when spoken aloud.

Therefore, this matter mustn't get out.

"Qingyi, are you alright? Does it hurt anywhere?" Duanmu Zhe held Mo Qingyi tightly in his embrace.

But because Mo Qingyi was drugged, she couldn't speak and could only look at Duanmu Zhe while continuously shedding tears.

"Qingyi, what's wrong? Say something..." Duanmu Zhe was very anxious, as Mo Qingyi seemed limp all over, as if she were asleep.

Mo Qingyi was truly frightened.

Especially at the moment when Xi He tiptoed to kiss Duanmu Zhe, she felt as if the sky were collapsing!

But fortunately, Duanmu Zhe saw through Xi He's disguise technique in time.

"Qingyi, I'm sorry, I failed to protect you! It's all my fault!" Duanmu Zhe was filled with self-reproach, blaming himself for not staying by Mo Qingyi's side, which could have prevented this incident.

Fortunately, they arrived early. If they had come a step later, who knows what might have happened...

Mo Qingyi wanted to comfort Duanmu Zhe, to tell him it wasn't his fault, but now, she couldn't utter a word.

The lipstick was poisoned, was she about to die?

If she died, she couldn't be with Duanmu Zhe. The more Mo Qingyi thought about it, the more panicked she became, and tears streamed down her face.

"Jin, come quickly and see what on earth is wrong with Qingyi," Duanmu Zhe had no choice but to turn his eyes to Chu Jin in helplessness.

Chu Jin took out a set of Golden Needles from her space and then said to Duanmu Zhe, "You go fetch a basin of water first."

"Okay, I'll go now." Duanmu Zhe gently placed Mo Qingyi on the sofa, then quickly turned and left.

Chu Jin pressed her hand on Mo Qingyi's pulse and took out the Golden Needle. As she prepared to insert it into Mo Qingyi's major meridians, she comforted her, "Qingyi, don't be afraid, the needle won't hurt, and you're fine. In a few minutes, you'll slowly regain your strength."

Mo Qingyi's emotions had gradually stabilized, and she blinked calmly at Chu Jin.

Only then did Chu Jin begin to insert the Golden Needles into Mo Qingyi's acupuncture points.

The Golden Needles seemed to be tinted with Spiritual Power, penetrating every cell in Mo Qingyi's body and instantly relaxing her.

Mo Qingyi stared fixedly at Chu Jin.

The mist in her eyes grew deeper.

Mo Qingyi could no longer remember how many times Chu Jin had come to her aid.

Every time, in her most desperate moments, Chu Jin would become that gleaming light illuminating every corner of her heart.

She felt very fortunate to have met Chu Jin in this life.

It was at this time that Mo Zhixuan and Duanmu Zhe walked in together.

"How is it, is Qingyi okay?" Mo Zhixuan had only been gone for a while and didn't expect such a serious incident to occur.

"It's nothing serious, just a bit of a scare," Chu Jin took the basin of water from Duanmu Zhe's hand, dipped her fingers into it, and gently applied it to Mo Qingyi's lips. Then she took out a clean cotton cloth and carefully wiped her lips.

In no time, the poisonous lipstick was wiped off Mo Qingyi's lips, revealing her pale lips.

Seeing this, Chu Jin slightly furrowed her brows, took out a black pill from her space, and fed it to Mo Qingyi.

Strangely, after taking the pill, Mo Qingyi closed her eyes and her entire body lost consciousness, her hands falling limply.

Seeing this, Duanmu Zhe immediately became very anxious, "Jin, what's going on? What's happened to Qingyi?" Duanmu Zhe nearly cried out.

"It's nothing, just a normal reaction, don't worry," Chu Jin said calmly, reaching out to remove the Golden Needles from Mo Qingyi's body.

"Men don't cry! What a disgrace! You are a soldier! How can you be sobbing like a woman at the first sign of trouble!" Mo Zhixuan scolded as he kicked Duanmu Zhe in frustration.

Since Chu Jin said there was nothing wrong, then there definitely wasn't. Mo Zhixuan had absolute trust in Chu Jin.

Although Mo Zhixuan said that, the worry in his eyes was unmistakable. He looked toward Chu Jin, "Jin, when will Qingyi wake up?"

Chu Jin, as calm as ever, stored the Golden Needles back in her bag, "She'll wake up soon. Thankfully, the medicine Xi He gave Qingyi wasn't toxic, it just temporarily paralyzed the nerves."

She was still grateful to Xi He for having a shred of conscience; if anything had happened to Mo Qingyi today, Chu Jin would not have let her off!

"That's good," Mo Zhixuan looked up at Duanmu Zhe with a disdainful face, "Alright now, I've told you it's nothing, so stop crying!"

"So what if I cry, brother?" Duanmu Zhe, while crying, rubbed his eyes and retorted, "When Jin's life and death were unknown, didn't you also cry like an idiot?"

Duanmu Zhe was truly scared.

He was afraid Mo Qingyi would leave him.

Men have tears too, but they don't easily shed them, only at the place of deep sorrow.

"What nonsense are you talking about! Stop crying, do you hear me?" Mo Zhixuan kicked Duanmu Zhe again in exasperation and then turned his eyes to Chu Jin, "Jin, don't listen to his nonsense. I knew you were fine, so I didn't shed a single tear. A true man never easily cries!"

He already had little dignity left in front of Chu Jin! To make matters worse, Duanmu Zhe, this pig of a teammate, had to rub salt in the wound!

Chu Jin slightly raised her eyebrows, a faint smile playing on her lips, seeing through everything but choosing not to point it out.

Just then.

Mo Qingyi slowly opened her eyes. Seeing this, Duanmu Zhe was revitalized, quickly helping her up, "Qingyi, you're awake, do you feel discomfort anywhere now?"

"I'm fine now," Mo Qingyi shook her head slightly and hugged Duanmu Zhe, "Little Zhe, thank you."

It was also at this moment that Mo Qingyi realized the power of love.

If not for Duanmu Zhe, my entire life would have been ruined by Xi He.

The moment Xi He took control, I was truly terrified; I feared I would never see Duanmu Zhe again, and I feared Xi He would take my place and continue living as me.

Fortunately.

Fortunately, none of that happened.

"Silly girl," Duanmu Zhe ruffled Mo Qingyi's hair, "It wasn't just my doing. If Ninth Sister hadn't discovered it in time, I wouldn't have known something had happened to you."

In Duanmu Zhe's heart, the person he was most grateful to was Chu Jin.

If it hadn't been for Chu Jin, he might have made a mistake that could never be mended in this lifetime.

After all, as her fiancé, I had been negligent.

"Alright, as long as you're okay, no need for mushy stuff," Mo Zhixuan stood up and then spoke, "Do you need me to announce the cancellation of the engagement ceremony?"

"No need, brother," Mo Qingyi dried her tears and looked up at Mo Zhixuan, "I'm fine, we can continue with the engagement ceremony." If the engagement ceremony is cancelled under these circumstances, surely even more rumors would arise.

To quell the rumors, we must act as if nothing had happened.

"Really, you're okay?" Mo Zhixuan raised an eyebrow, his eyes full of concern.

"Yes, brother, don't worry, I'm really okay," Mo Qingyi replied earnestly with a nod.

"Then all right, Jin and I will go out first; you all... clean up a bit, and I'll announce a delay for the ceremony. Don't worry about it," Mo Zhixuan said as he took Chu Jin and headed for the door.

Mo Qingyi's dress had been switched by Xi He to a makeup artist's uniform, and her carefully applied makeup was now ruined by tears, her eyes somewhat swollen...

Now was not the time to appear before everyone right away.

As Chu Jin was about to leave, Mo Qingyi ran over and hugged her tightly, "Jin, thank you."

Mo Qingyi of course knew that she owed a lot to Chu Jin this time.

Chu Jin was the benevolent figure in her life who repeatedly rescued her from dire situations.

Now, a simple 'thank you' could no longer express the gratitude she felt in her heart.

If ever the day came that Chu Jin needed her, Mo Qingyi would surely offer her own life without hesitation.

The things Chu Jin had done for her, one life was not enough to repay.

Chu Jin smiled faintly, patting Mo Qingyi's hand, "As long as you're okay. Are you sure you don't need to cancel the engagement ceremony with your current state?"

Mo Qingyi let go of Chu Jin, shook her head, and forced a carefree smile, "I'm truly fine." Although she had been quite frightened, Mo Qingyi was sensible about the bigger picture. The invitations for the engagement banquet had been sent out half a month in advance. The attendees were all influential figures from the three realms, and announcing a cancellation now would surely leave behind all kinds of gossip.

For the sake of both the Mo family and the Duanmu Family, the ceremony had to go on.

Chu Jin nodded, "Okay, we'll wait for you outside."

"All right," Mo Qingyi watched Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan leave.

At this point, Duanmu Zhe didn't leave Mo Qingyi's side for even a step; he stayed with her from changing clothes to redoing her makeup.

Fortunately, they had prepared two sets of formal attire, so there was no need to worry about not having a dress to change into.

Still, this engagement banquet was somewhat regrettable.

Duanmu Zhe wrapped his arms around Mo Qingyi's waist from behind and said in a deep voice, "Qingyi, rest assured, I will give you a complete wedding ceremony."

Having such an incident at the engagement banquet left them both feeling somewhat upset.

Duanmu Zhe felt even more remorse.

Mo Qingyi was the woman he loved the most in his life; if anything had happened to her at the engagement banquet, he would never forgive himself for the rest of his life.

Mo Qingyi grasped Duanmu Zhe's hand, "Little Zhe, this isn't your fault, I was the one who let my guard down."

She should have noticed Xi He's strangeness earlier.

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Shen family.

As night fell, the parents of the Shen family, including Shen Haoguang and Duanmu Sheng, all dressed up and took a limousine to the hotel where Duanmu Zhe's engagement ceremony was being held.

On the car ride, Duanmu Sheng still felt a bit nervous; she was afraid their parents wouldn't let them in when they arrived.

"Sheng, did you find out for sure if it's the hotel you mentioned? Don't go to the wrong place by mistake and miss the important ceremony. People will say our Shen family has no sense of time or decorum," Shen's mother said while touching up her makeup with a powder puff.

Chapter 788: Useless Duanmu Sheng

The Shen family was attending Duanmu Zhe's engagement banquet.

Madam Shen wasn't the least bit worried about the issue Duanmu Sheng was concerned about.

After all, Duanmu Sheng was Duanmu Zhe's biological elder sister; even if the Duanmu Family were heartless, they wouldn't refuse them to their faces in front of so many people.

Besides, although the Shen family did not have the illustrious reputation of the Duanmu Family, they were fairly well-known in the Superpower World themselves.

The Duanmu Family had no reason to look down on the Shen family.

The engagement banquet of the Duanmu Family and the Mo family was also an occasion for the Shen family and the Duanmu Family to acknowledge their kinship.

No matter what, the Shen family had to show their faces in front of everyone tonight.

"Mom, don't worry, this hotel was booked a month ago, and it was I who made the reservation personally, so there won't be any mistake," Duanmu Sheng assured as she glanced back at Madam Shen.

Upon hearing this, Madam Shen finally felt relieved, "That's good, that's good. Sheng Sheng, it seems you are indeed important in your parent's hearts. Otherwise, they wouldn't entrust such an important task to you."

The more Duanmu Sheng's parents valued their daughter, the greater the chances of victory for the Shen family tonight.

One way or another, they had to make the parents of the Duanmu Family acknowledge this connection.

They wanted every person in the three realms to know that from now on, there would be an unbreakable bond between the Shen family and the Mo family.

Even Mo Zhixuan would have to follow behind Mo Qingyi, calling Shen Haoguang "Third Brother-in-law!"

What glory it would be to be personally addressed as "Third Brother-in-law" by a leader from the three realms!

The mere thought of it excited Madam Shen beyond measure.

At these words, Duanmu Sheng couldn't help but smile sarcastically, "They never valued me at all. It was just an errand, nothing more."

By this time, Duanmu Sheng had completely lost all hope in Duanmu Canghai, Zhou Jin, and Duanmu Zhe. If her in-laws hadn't insisted on coming, she wouldn't have attended at all.

Since her own parents no longer wanted her, why should she even bother to come to Duanmu Zhe's engagement banquet?

After everything that had happened, Duanmu Sheng no longer felt any affection towards her parents.

"Sheng Sheng, you mustn't speak like that," Shen Haoguang followed up, "I think your parents definitely love you. In this world, which parents do not love their own children?"

With self-interest in mind, Shen Haoguang naturally didn't wish for Duanmu Sheng to break completely with the Duanmu Family.

Only if Duanmu Sheng reconciled with her parents would he have the chance to stand at the zenith himself.

Duanmu Sheng simply smiled without replying.

Soon, the car stopped at the entrance of the hotel.

This was the most luxurious hotel in the Superpower World, aside from the state guesthouse. The Duanmu Family had grandly booked the entire venue for the engagement banquet.

Therefore, the only people who could come here tonight, besides the staff, were the guests invited by the Duanmu Family and the Mo family, not any unrelated onlookers.

At the entrance to the banquet hall, two rows of armed guards stood.

The security was extremely tight, and admission was based strictly on invitations.

Without an invitation, one simply couldn't enter or leave the premises.

Duanmu Sheng followed behind her in-laws as they got out of the car, looking at the various luxury cars parked outside the hotel. Duanmu Sheng's lips curved with a trace of scorn.

It turned out that the wedding banquet was indeed being held tonight as scheduled.

She had still harbored a glimmer of hope because she thought that for such a significant event in Duanmu Zhe's life, her parents couldn't possibly fail to inform her. Now it seemed they never considered her as a daughter at all.

Nor had Duanmu Zhe considered her his sister.

Otherwise, they definitely would have told her about such a matter!

She had merely chosen her own love, she hadn't done anything wrong! How could they do this to her!

At this point, Duanmu Sheng's heart had completely died.

From now on, she had only her husband's family, not her own.

The Shen parents hadn't noticed the change in Duanmu Sheng's demeanor. They straightened their backs and walked forward with an air of self-importance as if they were about to ascend to the heavens.

Shen Haoguang also couldn't suppress the excitement in his heart, as he seemed to already see his own bright future ahead.

"Liangxiao, do you think they'll seat us at the main table tonight?" Madam Shen asked Shen Father, her face full of excitement.

"They should," Shen Father nodded, "After all, we are also considered elders to Nine Ye. Now that Zhe only has Sheng as his sister, they shouldn't neglect us."

Shen Father's thoughts were very pleasant.

The seating arrangements for weddings on the China mainland, including those of the three realms, are quite elaborate.

There is the main table and the secondary tables.

Sitting at the main table are the close relatives of the bride and groom, all of whom hold significant status.

If the Shen family could be seated at the main table, then from now on, in the three realms, the Shen family could indeed walk with their heads held high.

It is even possible that the Shen family's name could be engraved in history, for everlasting glory.

The happier the Shen parents thought about it, the straighter they walked towards the entrance of the banquet hall.

Duanmu Sheng and Shen Haoguang followed behind.

As the Shen parents proudly walked in, the uniformed men at the door crossed their arms to block their way, "Please present your invitations for inspection, honored guests."

"Invitations?" Madam Shen smiled and looked up, "Young man, don't you see who we are? Do we need invitations? Invitations are meant for outsiders, we are all family here, there's absolutely no need for invitations. Come on, let us in, and after the banquet is over, I will ensure that you get a healthy bonus."

Madam Shen spoke with the authority of the host, her words seemingly very convincing.

Indeed, these invitations were indeed meant for outsiders.

But the men in uniform did not let them in so easily because of Madam Shen's speech.

"I'm sorry, but without an invitation, no one is allowed to enter," the uniformed man said resolutely.

Madam Shen didn't argue with him, took a step back, and pushed Duanmu Sheng forward instead, "Young man, you should recognize this person, right? This is the third young lady of the Duanmu Family; I am her mother-in-law, this is her father-in-law, and this is my son, her husband. We're all family here."

Duanmu Sheng gave a faint smile and stepped forward, "Sir, could you possibly make an exception? I am Duanmu Sheng, the groom's older sister."

No matter what, she was a member of the Duanmu Family. Now that she had personally come, her parents should not reject her.

After all, she was their child, the person closest to Duanmu Zhe.

On such a joyous occasion, Duanmu Zhe surely wouldn't refuse his sister's blessings.

"How do we know you're the third young lady of the Duanmu Family?" The uniformed man observed Duanmu Sheng from top to bottom, his eyes full of scrutiny.

"What's wrong with you! Can't you be flexible! My wife here is Duanmu Sheng, the third young lady of the Duanmu Family! Could there be any mistake? Let us in!" Shen Haoguang said with a face full of anger.

The uniformed man replied coldly, "Sorry, that's the rule. If you don't have an invitation, please leave."

"What if I insist on going in? What can you do to me?" Shen Haoguang puffed out his chest, holding Duanmu Sheng's hand, ready to force his way in.

The uniformed man gave a signal to the guards beside him, and immediately two soldiers approached, their cold gun barrels pressing against Shen Haoguang's head.

"Don't be rash, don't be rash, those bullets don't have eyes," Madam Shen quickly intervened, her tone softening, "We truly are relatives of the Duanmu Family. After all, we're even elders of your Nine Ye. If you don't believe us, you can call and ask if Miss Duanmu Sheng here is the third daughter of the Duanmu Family. Could we really lie about something like this?"

Upon hearing this, the soldiers looked at each other and then turned their gaze to the man in uniform.

After exchanging glances, the uniformed man said, "Alright, then please wait a moment while I make a call."

Two minutes later, the uniformed man came out expressionless.

Seeing this, Madam Shen immediately approached and asked with a smile, "Young man, how did it go? Did you confirm it? Can we enter now?"

"Get lost! Get as far away as you can!" The uniformed man waved his hand impatiently, "The head of the Duanmu family said he has no third daughter!"

At these words, Duanmu Sheng felt her blood rushing in reverse, her whole body trembling.

She never expected her father to be so heartless—to actually disown her!

She had come with hope, yearning to reconcile with her parents and her brother, but instead, this was the result she faced.

How ironic.

Indeed, how bitterly ironic.

Duanmu Sheng couldn't control herself and burst into tears, covering her face as she ran away.

How could her parents do this? No matter what, she was still their flesh and blood. How could they treat her this way?

She had simply chosen her own love, yet how could they be so heartless?

The farther Duanmu Sheng ran, the quicker her silhouette vanished into the night.

She hated her parents, she hated Duanmu Zhe!

Why did they have to treat her like this?

If they were all their children, why did her parents treat her differently?

Shen Haoguang did not go after Duanmu Sheng; he just stood there, his face as pale as death. He had not anticipated that all his meticulous planning, even sacrificing his own love, would result in this.

Duanmu Sheng, this good-for-nothing!

This cheap woman!

All because of this useless Duanmu Sheng!

She had stolen his position as the husband, yet she brought him no benefit at all!

His dreams of a meteoric rise to power shattered, Shen Haoguang collapsed onto the ground, his eyes red with fury, fists pounding the ground in rage.

"Worthless woman! Worthless woman! Duanmu Sheng, you worthless woman!"

"Haoguang, get up quickly, there must have been some misunderstanding!" Shen's father helped him up. In front of such a crowd, it was unseemly to behave like this—Shen Haoguang was certain to face criticism.

Madam Shen was still not giving up, she looked at the uniformed man and continued, "Young man, this must be a misunderstanding. We truly are relatives of the Duanmu Family, elders of Nine Ye. Please let us in. Otherwise, if Nine Ye blames you later, you won't be able to bear it!" Her last words carried a tint of threat.

"Are you going to leave or not?" The uniformed man gestured, and instantly, seven or eight armed guards surrounded them, their guns pointed at the three members of the Shen Family.

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"Don't be angry, don't be angry, esteemed officers, we're leaving right now," Shen's father immediately conceded, dejectedly leading Madam Shen and Shen Haoguang away.

Although Madam Shen was reluctant, she had no choice but to leave.

"This useless Duanmu Sheng!" Shen Haoguang furiously slammed the car door!

He had hoped to show his face before those high-ranking officials tonight; little did he expect the Duanmu Family would be so ruthless as to disown Duanmu Sheng!

Now that the Duanmu Family no longer wanted Duanmu Sheng, she had utterly lost any value to him!

To the eyes of the Shen Family at this moment, Duanmu Sheng wasn't even as good as a servant.

"It's all your fault!" Shen Haoguang glared angrily at his parents, "If it weren't for you two, I could have married YaYa by now! Look what has happened now! Trying to steal a chicken only to end up losing the rice!"

He didn't get to marry Situ Ya, and instead, ended up bringing home a burden.

Since the Duanmu Family had made their stance so clear, there was no room for turnaround.

Duanmu Sheng had now become a useless piece, trash.

"Son! How can you blame us? We did it for your own good! How could we have known things would turn out this way?" Madam Shen defended herself with an innocent face.

Madam Shen continued.

"It's really odd about the Duanmu Family; our Shen Family is also well-known in the Superpower World. What right do they have to look down on us? To cut ties with Duanmu Sheng! Are they sick or what?"

"Ah!" Shen Haoguang slammed the car door again! So forcefully that he even made a deep dent in it.

Chapter 789: Be Careful

"Let's talk about it when we get back," Shen's father was still relatively composed, "Family scandals must not be publicized, there are too many eyes and ears here."

Shen Haoguang got into the car with an air of malevolence, and his mother also wore a face full of irritation.

No one had expected things to turn out this way.

The happier they had been at the Shen family, the more desperate they were now.

And the despair was complete.

"Have you ever considered Ya's feelings?" Shen Haoguang raised his eyes to his parents, then said, "Ya has endured humiliation and heavy burdens for so long, only to end up with this result. How do you expect me to explain this to Ya?"

Shen Haoguang had originally wanted to give Situ Ya a bright future. He never expected things to develop like this!

He was too ashamed to face Situ Ya!

Even if Situ Ya had the temperament of a saint, she couldn't tolerate such a thing!

Shen's father finally got into the car, slowly starting, "Things have developed to this point already, getting angry won't solve the problem. Fortunately, Ya is a good child; she will definitely understand us."

Compared to Duanmu Sheng, Situ Ya was now dozens of times better.

Hence, Shen's father was more inclined to accept Situ Ya than Duanmu Sheng.

Shen's mother echoed, "Exactly, exactly, Haoguang, don't be angry. After all, this hasn't caused us any loss. Just go and explain it to Ya properly when you get back. Ya is a good child; she definitely won't be angry."

Shen Haoguang was still seething with rage, clenching his teeth tightly, "Who says there's no loss? Marrying that bitch Duanmu Sheng, isn't that a loss? If it weren't for you, would I marry that bitch?"

Every time Shen Haoguang thought about how he had been bending over backward to please Duanmu Sheng these days, only to end up with this result, he felt sick to his stomach.

What right did that bitch Duanmu Sheng have to take everything that should have belonged to Situ Ya?

In the Superpower World, one could only marry once, which meant that Situ Ya would have to live in the shadows.

Why should his Ya suffer such indignity?

Hearing this, both Shen's father and mother sighed, "Things have already happened; what can we do now? Your father and I, we've done this for your good. Who knew it would turn out this way?"

"How about this," Shen's mother continued, "Haoguang, drive to Ya's house right now. Your father and I will go and apologize to her in person. Then we'll bring her back to our place. From now on, you two don't have to hide anymore. She is the legitimate daughter-in-law of our Shen family."

Upon hearing this, Shen's father voiced his concerns, "I'm afraid this may not be a good idea. After all, Duanmu Sheng is still living in our house."

"What is Duanmu Sheng worth! She can't even compare to one of Ya's little fingers!" Shen's mother said with a face full of scorn, "She has already severed any relation with the Duanmu family. Do we still need to feed and clothe her well? Who does she think she is! Son, go to Ya's house; we'll personally bring Ya back!"

Now that Duanmu Sheng was without any exploitable value, Shen's mother didn't even want to pretend anymore.

"Okay," Shen Haoguang's expression finally softened a bit, "Mom and dad, I'll take you there right away."

It doesn't matter. Without Duanmu Sheng, he still had Situ Ya.

Situ Ya was the one he loved most.

"No, that's not right!" Shen Haoguang seemed to suddenly realize something, "I'm married to Duanmu Sheng now, and I can't get a divorce. Must Ya always live in the shadow as the other woman?"

How could that be acceptable!

With Duanmu Sheng having lost her value, Shen Haoguang couldn't possibly keep Situ Ya in the shadows because of Duanmu Sheng.

Even if Situ Ya was generous enough not to mind, he himself couldn't bear it.

"Don't worry, my son." A sinister glint flickered in Shen's mother's eyes as she patted Shen Haoguang's hand, "Although there are no divorces here, we still have widowhood, right? Seeing Duanmu Sheng's way, you can tell she's short-lived, so, you don't have to worry."

Shen's mother's intention was very clear.

A waste of a life staying in this world serves only to squander it.

Shen Haoguang immediately understood, "Alright, mom, I get your point."

Shen's father joined the conversation with concern, "Duanmu Sheng is after all Duanmu Canghai's daughter. Are we not taking too much risk with our actions?"

"So what if she is Duanmu Canghai's daughter? Now she has been abandoned by the Duanmu family! With things as they are, do you still expect the Duanmu family to take Duanmu Sheng back?" Shen's mother looked at Shen's father with disdain in her eyes, "I say that Duanmu Sheng is probably not even Duanmu Canghai's biological daughter and is likely the green hat that Zhou Jin gave Duanmu Canghai!"

Duanmu Canghai was much older than Zhou Jin, and in terms of appearance, the two were not even on the same level.

Most importantly, what kind of biological parents would not want their own daughter?

They had knocked on the Duanmu family's door several times, only to be turned away each time! Perhaps, they were using their dissatisfaction with this marriage as an excuse to kick Duanmu Sheng far away!

"We can't just say anything carelessly!" cautioned Shen's father, looking at Shen's mother, "Today's Duanmu family is not the same as it once was!" In case he said something wrong and gave them leverage, it would be the entire Shen family that would suffer the consequences.

The Duanmu family had risen to the ranks of royal relatives, which was fundamentally different from ordinary people like them.

This was also why the Shen family had always been pushing Shen Haoguang to be with Duanmu Sheng.

Not everyone has the opportunity to establish connections with royal relatives.

What a pity...

Duanmu Sheng wasn't endowed with such a fate.

"Am I talking nonsense?" Shen's mother's eyes brimmed with a growing smirk, "The truth is right before your eyes. How could this be nonsense? This Duanmu Sheng definitely isn't Duanmu Canghai's biological daughter! Just like you, do you think you have only a few bastards out there? Don't pretend I'm unaware; I simply can't be bothered to mention it."

Upon hearing this, Shen's father felt somewhat guilty and lowered his head, no longer speaking.

On the surface, Shen's father was a master calligrapher, holding a place of prestige in the literary world.

But his private life was far from clean.

Even now, he was still involved with other women outside.

It was just that Shen's mother never confronted it head-on.

Such matters, like wildfires that never completely burn out, spring back with the breeze.

If it were truly exposed, others would only ridicule her for being unable to keep her husband.

Shen's mother had no interest in looking at Shen's father any longer, but patted Shen Haoguang's hand and continued, "Haoguang, listen to your mother, you're not wrong. Look at that Duanmu Sheng; even

her own parents don't want her, what makes her think we should provide for her food and drink? Just look at what she's done during her days in our house. Such a person is a waste of air when alive! Born with the face of a short-lived ghost, she would deserve it if she died early!"

For Shen's mother, killing someone was as easy as crushing an ant.

What's more, the Shen family never supported idlers.

"Mm, Mum, I listen to you," nodded Shen Haoguang. In some ways, Shen Haoguang was not much different from a mama's boy.

Shen's father didn't join in the conversation.

In fact, what Shen's mother said wasn't entirely without reason, since Duanmu Sheng remaining in this world served no purpose anyway.

If she didn't disappear, she would directly affect Shen Haoguang.

Because, in the Superpower World, illegitimate children do not have household registration, and as such, cannot be legitimized with honor.

Shen Haoguang would definitely not have children with Duanmu Sheng.

That eldest grandchild of the Shen family was bound to come from the womb of Situ Ya.

If Duanmu Sheng didn't step aside, Situ Ya would have no way to ensure the Shen family's succession.

Therefore, the choice laid out before Duanmu Sheng was a single character.

Death.

Meanwhile.

Duanmu Sheng was unaware of the Shen family's plans, even less so that the Shen parents and Shen Haoguang were already plotting her death.

Duanmu Sheng, heartbroken, ran to a riverside and wept.

She couldn't comprehend why, being born from her parents after a ten-month pregnancy, they would treat her this way.

Duanmu Sheng cried miserably, even forgetting the cold.

The evening gown she wore only served decorative purposes, offering no protection against the cold.

It was only when a warm jacket was draped over her shoulders that Duanmu Sheng, with a tear-stained face, looked up with a smile. But upon seeing clearly who it was, Duanmu Sheng's smile faded away, and she said coldly, "What are you here for? To laugh at me?"

She had thought the visitor was Shen Haoguang, but to her disdain, it was Zi Qi, the person she hated most.

The shameless Zi Qi had the audacity to stand in front of her!

Truly shameless!

Zi Qi was the person Duanmu Sheng hated the most, without a doubt.

"Sheng Sheng, you've misunderstood," Zi touched her nose, "That's not what I meant. I just saw you..."

Zi Qi happened to be passing by and, seeing Duanmu Sheng crying alone, couldn't help but approach out of compassion.

After spending time among people, Zi's heart gradually softened.

No matter what, Duanmu Sheng's experiences were pitiable.

People are devoid of intelligence in the face of love, so Zi truly sympathized with Duanmu Sheng.

However, that was just sympathy, nothing more.

"I don't need someone like you to meddle!" Duanmu Sheng threw the jacket to the ground, "If it weren't for you, my parents and I wouldn't have come to this point! You must be pleased now!"

All of this is Zi Qi's fault.

If it weren't for Zi Qi sowing discord in front of Duanmu Canghai and Zhou Jin, how could they have such a big prejudice against Shen Haoguang!

If it weren't for Zi Qi, things would not have developed this way.

Zi Qi is nothing but a duplicitous villain!

I really don't know how Chu Jin and Mo Qingyi can have such a good relationship with someone like that!

They say birds of a feather flock together, perhaps Chu Jin and Mo Qingyi are just putting on an act as well.

Thinking of this, Duanmu Sheng narrowed her eyes, suddenly remembering the last time she went to see Chu Jin, Chu Jin said that Shen Haoguang had the face of a "rebel"...

Later, Duanmu Sheng specially checked, and she learned that to have the face of a "rebel" means to be a treacherous and petty person!

Chu Jin has never met Shen Haoguang, so why did she say that Shen Haoguang is this kind of person?

Just because she's the lofty Madam of District Nine?

Without Mo Zhixuan, what kind of Madam of District Nine would she be?

On what grounds does Chu Jin, based solely on her first impression, determine the character of a reputable advertiser!

This must surely be a scheme concocted by Zi Qi and Chu Jin because Zi Qi likes me, and I like Shen Haoguang, so they resort to such scheming in front of me!

Luckily, I have a discerning eye and wasn't deceived by them!

The more Duanmu Sheng thought about it, the angrier she became, and she said with a sneer, "Zi Qi, I didn't fall for your trap. Are you disappointed? But you haven't lost completely, at least, my two unreasonable parents are now thoroughly disappointed in me! They didn't even let me into Little Zhe's wedding banquet! Zi Qi, are you pleased with yourself now?"

Duanmu Sheng stood there, looking at Zi with a mocking expression in her eyes!

Zi Qi seems to think he's very clever, but Duanmu Sheng sees right through whatever cunning plans he has in mind.

Not everyone in this world is a fool.

Seeing Duanmu Sheng like this, Zi was truly anxious.

He couldn't wait to pull Duanmu Sheng out of this situation.

But he never expected that Duanmu Sheng would sink deeper and deeper!

If this continued, no one would be able to save her.

Zi looked at Duanmu Sheng with a sincere expression and said.

"Sheng Sheng, I swear, everything I've told you is true! From the very beginning, Shen Haoguang has been deceiving you, and Situ Ya isn't any good either. She and Shen Haoguang have known each other for a long time. All of this is a trap they've set for you. Shen Haoguang's goal is to marry you and then take the opportunity to get close to the Mo family..."

Zi had investigated Shen Haoguang, so he was very clear about Shen Haoguang's plans and intentions.

But Duanmu Sheng couldn't take in a word of what Zi was saying.

"Enough!" Duanmu Sheng coldly interrupted before Zi could finish, "Zi Qi! Stop your lies! Shen Haoguang is my man; no one knows him better than I do! He's not the kind of person you describe. Do you think everyone in this world cares about power and influence? The Mo family? What about the Mo family? Can they cover the sky with one hand?"

Duanmu Sheng became more and more agitated as she spoke, nearly losing control of her emotions.

Everyone is like this.

Even Chu Jin had shown her worldly face.

Zi shook his head helplessly, picked up his suit from the ground, and continued, "Sheng Sheng, I am really... very disappointed in you."

"Who do you think you are?" Duanmu Sheng sneered coldly. "You're disappointed in me? Aren't I in this situation today thanks to you?"

Zi Qi really knew how to play his part! At a time like this, he still pretends to be the good guy!

Does he really think I'm a fool?

Zi looked up at Duanmu Sheng with a very solemn expression, "Sheng Sheng, one day you will see the truth of the matter."

"Don't call me sister! The thought disgusts me! Why on earth do scumbags like you exist in this world!" Duanmu Sheng shouted hysterically, "I've said it before, I don't love you. Haoguang is the only one in my heart. Why do you keep clinging to me!"

Duanmu Sheng was truly furious!

Zi, who had lifted his foot, put it back down again, turned around, and said seriously, "Duanmu Sheng, you are not a goddess, why should I like you! Even self-love should have limits! And one day, you will apologize to me for your behavior!"

Duanmu Sheng's face was full of mockery, "Self-love? Is it really self-love? Zi Qi, ask yourself! What have you done to me? Don't act like you're the only smart person in this world! Is everyone else a fool?"

Anyway, Duanmu Sheng was convinced that Zi Qi had fallen for her!

Because there can be no other reason.

Duanmu Sheng narrowed her eyes and continued.

"You teamed up with Chu Jin to deceive me, you think I don't know? Zi Qi, you're nothing but a mean person! I despise you! I utterly despise you! Someone like you doesn't deserve to be in the Superpower

World! And that Chu Jin! She's no different, to think I considered her a close friend. It's one thing if she doesn't stand by me, but instead, she had the nerve to humiliate Haoguang! Her kind of person has no right to be called the wife of the three realms!"

As these words were spoken, Zi's usually gentle face suddenly changed! Her eyebrows twisted in anger, she walked straight up to Duanmu Sheng, raised her arm, and delivered a slap.

"Duanmu Sheng! I've put up with your insults to me! But I absolutely will not tolerate you insulting Brother Jin! This slap is a warning! If you dare to say another insulting word about Brother Jin, don't blame me for turning on you!"

In that moment, Zi seemed like a different person, the childishness nowhere to be found, replaced instead by a strong masculine aura.

Kind of cool! And a bit MANLY!

If there were fangirls present at that time, they would surely scream out loud.

Zi was truly angry!

Duanmu Sheng had really crossed the line! Zi had been holding it in for a long time!

It was already bad enough that he insulted her, but Duanmu Sheng went too far, openly humiliating Chu Jin!

Zi would never allow anyone to insult Chu Jin!

Chu Jin was the legend in her heart!

"What's the matter?" Duanmu Sheng covered his left cheek, his voice dripping with sarcasm, "Did I hit a nerve and you got mad out of embarrassment? Let me tell you! People like you, I wouldn't give a second glance in this lifetime, the next lifetime, or the one after that!"

In Duanmu Sheng's eyes, Zi was merely trying to cloak her real feelings with that slap.

No matter what, she would never fall for someone like Zi Qi.

Even with Zi's usually good temper, Duanmu Sheng had now completely worn it thin, and he said harshly, "Duanmu Sheng, remember what you've done today. I'm laying it out here; if someday you don't regret it, then my name isn't Zi!"

Duanmu Sheng had brought it all upon himself to get to where he was today.

Everyone knew that Shen Haoguang was no good man, but Duanmu Sheng was like someone blinded by ghosts.

"Besides, if I ever hear you speak half a bad word about Brother Jin again, watch your life!" Zi wasn't joking with this threat.

After all, he had killed before, and if Duanmu Sheng dared to spout nonsense again, Zi wouldn't mind revisiting the past.

After speaking, Zi turned and left.

Once Zi had left, Duanmu Sheng sneered, wiped away his tears, no longer caring about the injuries on his face, and turned towards where Shen Haoguang's car was parked.

But when Duanmu Sheng arrived, he found that Shen Haoguang's car was gone; on his face was a look full of guilt.

He had let down the Shen family and Shen Haoguang, who had come with sincere intentions to celebrate Duanmu Zhe's engagement, only to be turned away at the door.

All of Shen family's relatives knew they had come to attend Duanmu Zhe's engagement ceremony tonight, and now that they had been turned away, the Duanmu Family was disavowing their own daughter...

The Shen family was a scholarly family, and tonight's events had brought them nothing but disgrace!

The Shen parents and Shen Haoguang must be so disappointed in Duanmu Sheng right now.

Tears streaming down her face, Duanmu Sheng knelt down on the ground and began to cry in anguish. She didn't blame the Shen parents for leaving her behind; everything was because of her. If not for her, the Shen parents wouldn't have suffered such humiliation.

It was all her fault...she blamed herself...

She had let down the Shen family and Shen Haoguang.

After a while, Duanmu Sheng stood up from the ground, stopped crying, and walked to an inn nearby; in her current state, she wasn't fit to return to the Shen family. Better to wait until tomorrow.

The hotel.

An hour later, the engagement ceremony officially began.

The host took the stage, delivered some opening remarks, and then invited the bride-to-be and groom-to-be to come out.

Onstage, Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe smiled sweetly at each other, showing no signs of the fear they had experienced before.

No one could tell what they had gone through prior to this.

The ceremony went smoothly with offerings of sweet tea, the tea ceremony, stepping on stools, wearing jewelry, and so on.

The process was quite interesting.

Sitting in the front row, Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan looked on. She gently squeezed Mo Zhixuan's hand, lowered her voice, and whispered in his ear, "Mo Zhixuan, don't you owe me an engagement ceremony?"

Back in the mundane world, when she and Mo Zhixuan had agreed to marry, they hadn't even met face to face.

At that time, Chu Jin was focused on revenge and had never imagined that she would end up together with Mo Zhixuan.

Thus, they'd never had an official engagement ceremony.

Chapter 790: can you explain?

"If you like, I'll make it up to you with another one later." Mo Zhixuan wrapped his arm around her shoulders, leaving a faint kiss on her cheek. His expression was serious, he wasn't joking.

"Who ever gets married before they have an engagement ceremony?" Chu Jin laughed softly, reaching out to pinch Mo Zhixuan's nose.

"As long as you like it, what's not possible?" Mo Zhixuan's tone was low and husky, oozing sensuality.

The two of them whispered sweet nothings, eliciting occasional pleasant giggles that caused onlookers to glance their way repeatedly, their eyes filled with envy.

Zi in the backseat felt like she was being force-fed dog food, reaching out to pat Mo Zhixuan on the shoulder, but halfway through, she retracted her hand and patted Chu Jin's shoulder instead.

Hmm, compared to Mo Zhixuan, Chu Jin felt more approachable.

Even after spending some time with Mo Zhixuan, Zi still felt somewhat afraid of him.

Chu Jin looked back puzzled, "What's wrong, Zi?"

"Brother Jin," Zi looked up at Chu Jin earnestly, "I really don't want to eat dog food anymore! Thank you!"

In the past, at least she had Mo Qingyi, the single dog, to accompany her, but now she was the only single dog left in this group of people!

Zi was on the verge of tears.

Chu Xiu, seeing Zi's distress, patted her shoulder, comforting, "It's okay, Brother Zi, you still have me."

"Brother Xiu, you're the best." Zi embraced Chu Xiu sadly, the two single dogs huddling together for warmth.

Chu Jin raised an eyebrow helplessly. When had these two become so close? They were even calling each other "brother."

The engagement banquet ended very successfully, and by the time it ended, it was already past ten at night. Mo Zhixuan took Chu Jin back first, while the elder Mrs. Mo stayed behind to discuss some matters with Mo Qingyi.

Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan didn't head straight back to the imperial palace but made a detour to the police station.

Xi He had been formally taken into custody.

The Superpower World might be special in some ways, but it was still a world governed by laws and regulations. After all, without rules, there's no circle; without a system, there's no country.

Xi He had committed attempted murder and illegal detention. Being delivered to the police station by a member of the Mo family, she was now formally detained.

Xi He was isolated in an enclosed cell.

She looked very weak, her complexion pale. Handcuffs specifically designed for her kind suppressed her Spiritual Power and special ability, so right now, she was no different from an ordinary person.

In fact, she was even weaker than the average person.

"Have you come to gloat over my misfortune?" Xi He sat on an iron chair, her eyes devoid of spirit as she looked at Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan.

"Xi He, even now, don't you understand that it's time to repent? If you are truly remorseful, I might be able to give you another chance," Chu Jin narrowed her eyes slightly.

She and Xi He had been friends, and she didn't want to watch Xi He fall into the depths of hell with her eyes wide open.

Xi He was still young, with plenty of youth ahead of her.

Xi He had harmed Mo Qingyi, and Chu Jin should have hated her, but at this moment, she couldn't summon any hatred.

Xi He was not a completely wicked criminal; she was just a pitiful person crazed with love.

If she could let go and start anew, she would have a bright future ahead of her.

Thus, Chu Jin wanted to give her a chance.

"For love, I have no regrets," Xi He's lips curled into a faint, pale smile. "I only regret that I didn't follow Duanmu to the ordinary world in the beginning."

Chu Jin sighed, "Why can't you let go of Duanmu Zhe? You're hurting yourself by doing this."

"If I could let go, then I wouldn't be who I am," Xi He's lips formed a slight smile. "Jin, I'm sorry for all the hurtful things I said before; that wasn't my intention. When people are impulsive, they don't have the ability to think." Her eyes gleamed with sincerity.

Chu Jin frowned slightly and remained silent. She could tell from Xi He's words that she still hadn't given up on Duanmu Zhe.

Releasing Xi He would only present a new threat.

She who can do the first of the month can do the fifteenth as well.

Xi He could not be spared.

Chu Jin stood up and then turned to leave.

"Wait, Jin," Xi He stood up as well.

Chu Jin paused, turning around to look at Xi He.

Xi He held onto the iron bars on the window and pleaded, "Jin, I'm begging you one last time, please never let me out again, just keep me locked up here forever. I'm afraid... once I go out, I won't be able to control myself and might do something to hurt Duanmu and Qingyi. I don't want Duanmu to hate me."

Uncontrollable emotions, it seems, were just like that.

Chu Jin didn't say much. After hearing those words, she turned around and left, with a plan already forming in her mind.

Mo Zhixuan was waiting outside. When he saw her come out, he draped the suit jacket he had been carrying over her shoulders, "It's cold at night, be careful not to catch a chill."

"Mm," Chu Jin nodded slightly and tightened the suit jacket around her. She followed Mo Zhixuan to the car.

"How is Xi He? Has she realized the gravity of her mistakes?" Mo Zhixuan's expression was somewhat stern. After what Xi He had done, she indeed deserved no forgiveness, but, after all, Xi He had been raised by the five Elders.

Now, with the Elders all falling ill, it wasn't just about respecting the monk, but also the Buddha.

If Xi He truly repented, for the sake of his old ties with the Elders, Mo Zhixuan would give her another chance to turn over a new leaf. He'd send Xi He far away, along with the Elders, never to set foot in the Superpower World again, sparing both Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe any further heartache.

Chu Jin shook her head; everything was said without words.

Given Xi He's current state, she was absolutely unfit to be released.

Or, just as she said, unless confined for life! Otherwise, she would never give up on Duanmu Zhe!

As long as she was set free, similar incidents were bound to occur in the future.

And perhaps, even more severe than this time.

Love drives people mad.

Even for the sake of Mo Qingyi and Duanmu Zhe, Xi He must not be given another chance to cause mischief.

Seeing Chu Jin's reaction, a deep look flickered across Mo Zhixuan's eyes.

It seemed that Xi He could not be saved after all.

"What will you do? How will you explain it to the Elders?" Chu Jin raised her eyes to Mo Zhixuan, well aware of his concerns.

The Elders had only Xi He as their kin.

Mo Zhixuan's worries were certainly justified.

"Don't worry about this. I will handle it," Mo Zhixuan said with a smile, holding Chu Jin's hand.

"Alright." Chu Jin nodded in agreement.

The two of them walked out of the police station together.

**

The next day.

Duanmu Sheng adjusted her emotions and walked out of the inn. She hailed a taxi, opened the door, and sat in the backseat, "Driver, take me to the Shen family on Wutong Avenue, please."

Having had a night to calm down, Duanmu Sheng's mood had settled quite a bit, and the redness on her face was no longer visible.

The Shen family was also somewhat famous locally; just mentioning the Shen family of Wutong Avenue was enough for people to think of Shen Liangxiao.

Besides the Shen family, Duanmu Sheng now had no other home to go to.

"Sure thing," the driver replied briskly, before adding, "Young lady, do you mind if I play some music?"

"I don't mind." Duanmu Sheng smiled and shook her head.

The driver pressed the music button.

Instantly, the car was filled with the melodious voice of a female singer.

"Happy breakup, wishing you happiness, you can find someone better. I don't want to endure the winter, tired of the heaviness..."

The driver was bobbing his head rhythmically along with the music.

This was a song by a singer from the mundane world.

Ever since Mo Zhixuan and Chu Jin's grand wedding, where they played "Marry Me Today," songs from the mundane world became a hit throughout all three realms.

The people of the three realms gradually began to accept those from the mundane world.

Some even took advantage of the occasion to develop tourism groups.

They organized trips for people to travel to the mundane world and learn about its culture.

Many people had become popular internet influencers, singers, and stars in the ordinary world...

In short, the relationship between the ordinary world and the Three Realms was becoming more and more appropriate.

The previous prejudices and arrogance had all vanished.

A mere wedding had changed the relationship between the ordinary world and the Three Realms.

People also grew more and more respectful towards Chu Jin and Mo Zhixuan.

After ten minutes, the car stopped on Wutong Avenue.

Duanmu Sheng took out a banknote from his wallet and handed it to the taxi driver, "Thank you. The song just now was lovely, no need for change."

Finished, Duanmu Sheng walked towards the Shen family's gate on her high heels.

As she approached the gate, she could hear bursts of laughter and cheerful voices coming from inside the house.

Duanmu Sheng slightly furrowed her brows, a glint of confusion passing through her eyes, as she walked over and pushed the door open.

With a 'creak', the laughter inside came to an abrupt halt as everyone's gaze shifted to Duanmu Sheng.

At this moment, Duanmu Sheng had not yet noticed anything amiss. She walked straight in, "Mom, Dad, Haoguang, you're all home! Ya Ya, when did you get here? Why didn't you let me know in advance?"

Recently, a lot had happened, and Situ Ya was her closest friend. Duanmu Sheng wanted to have a heartfelt talk with Situ Ya and share her troubles.

Now that Situ Ya was there, she didn't have to go find her herself.

At this point, Duanmu Sheng still hadn't realized why Situ Ya was so familiar with the Shen parents.

Previously, Shen Haoguang didn't like Situ Ya, and their relationship was only that of university classmates.

"Sheng Sheng is back," Situ Ya said with a sweet smile as she stood up, greeting her with a sugary voice.

When the Shen parents looked at Situ Ya, their faces were full of smiles, but when they looked at Duanmu Sheng, their faces were full of disdain.

"Ya Ya, I've missed you so much." Duanmu Sheng hugged Situ Ya directly.

Situ Ya responded with equal warmth, "I've missed you too."

"Now that you've seen Ya Ya, couldn't you at least pour her a glass of water?" Shen's mother turned coldly towards Duanmu Sheng as she spoke.

Thinking that Shen's mother was still angry about last night's incident, Duanmu Sheng quickly stood up, "I'll go pour Ya Ya some water right now."

Considering that she had caused the Shen parents such embarrassment last night, it was normal for them to be angry now.

After all, no matter who was in her place, they wouldn't be in good spirits.

Moreover, the position of the Shen family in the Superpower World was not low.

Situ Ya gave Duanmu Sheng a sweet smile and said with a gentle tone, "You're taking trouble for me, Sheng Sheng."

"Guests should be treated well, it's only right," Duanmu Sheng replied with a polite smile.

Situ Ya said nothing more and sat back down on the sofa, chatting with Shen Haoguang.

Duanmu Sheng's brows knit slightly as she walked, occasionally looking back at Situ Ya and Shen Haoguang. She remembered that Shen Haoguang didn't use to like Situ Ya that much. How come today they were sitting on the same sofa?

And not only that, but they were also sitting so close, even appearing quite intimate!

What in the world were these two doing!

Carrying various doubts in her mind, Duanmu Sheng brought over a cup of hot water and approached Situ Ya, "Ya Ya, your water."

"Thank you, Sheng Sheng," Situ Ya's lips curled into a smug smile as she reached out to take the glass. As soon as her hand touched the glass, she quickly let go, and before Duanmu Sheng could react, all of the hot water spilled onto Situ Ya's chest.

From someone else's perspective, it looked as if Duanmu Sheng had intentionally poured a glass of hot water on Situ Ya.

"Ah! It's so hot!" Situ Ya screamed, standing up with a cry that was tinged with sobs.

"Ya Ya, I'm so sorry, it wasn't intentional," Duanmu Sheng quickly pulled out tissues and clumsily wiped at Situ Ya.

"Is Ya Ya okay?" Shen Haoguang stood up anxiously and pushed Duanmu Sheng away, "You malicious woman! Get away from me!"

The Shen parents gathered around too, very concerned, "Ya Ya, are you okay? Does it hurt? Aunt Fu, hurry and get the burn cream!"

Duanmu Sheng was pushed to the ground by Shen Haoguang and felt a sharp pain in her lower abdomen. She looked up pallidly at everything happening in front of her, her eyes quickly reddening as she muttered, "I didn't mean to do it, I really didn't mean to."

At this moment, Duanmu Sheng's mind went blank. She didn't know how to explain the scene before her eyes, her father-in-law, mother-in-law, and husband were all fussing over Situ Ya.

No one cared about her!

Why did they treat Situ Ya so well?

She was clearly the Duanmu Family's daughter-in-law!

And Shen Haoguang, he had actually pushed her...

The former Shen Haoguang would never lay a hand on her!

What on earth was happening?

Was she dreaming?

In just one night, what had happened to the Shen family?

Situ Ya lifted her head, looking towards the Duanmu Sheng who had fallen to the ground, with a mocking smile curving her lips, and in the depths of her eyes, unconcealable triumph surfaced.

Seeing Situ Ya like this,

Duanmu Sheng's expression became rigid in that instant.

The image of that photograph suddenly surfaced before her eyes.

And in her mind echoed the warnings Zi Qi had reminded her of...

Could it be... that the truth of the matter was really like that?

Could it be... that all of this was a trap set by Shen Haoguang and Situ Ya?

No! It definitely couldn't be like that!

She had made a mistake!

She must have made a mistake.

All of it must have been her hallucination.

To this point, Duanmu Sheng still refused to believe Zi Qi and Chu Jin.

Or more precisely, she refused to believe the truth.

"You slut, you jinx! How can your heart be so ruthless! Look what you've done to our Ya Ya's arm, burning it like that!" Shen's mother approached, pulled up Duanmu Sheng, and directly slapped her.

Since Duanmu Sheng was now a useless piece with no value, it was better to vent some anger on her, and meanwhile cozy up to Situ Ya.

Duanmu Sheng was dazed by the sudden slap.

In disbelief, she looked at Shen's mother, "Mom! What are you doing?"

"What am I doing? You tell me what I'm doing!" A cold smirk curled on the corner of Shen's mother's mouth, revealing her repulsive true colors, "A woman like you doesn't deserve to be our Shen family's daughter-in-law at all. Not only are you flirtatious, but your heart is also so venomous! Did you want to scald Ya Ya to death? Come on, tell me, where did you run off to with some wild man last night and not come back? If you don't explain yourself clearly today, I won't let you off!"

It's easy to find a pretext to blame the victim.

Shen's mother was just looking for an opportunity to give Duanmu Sheng a good beating.

"Mom, what are you talking about? I don't understand?" As things developed to this point, Duanmu Sheng was still a bit slow to react. How could Shen's mother, such a kind person, say such things to her?

What on earth was going on?

Why did things turn out like this?

"You shameless slut!" Shen's mother slapped Duanmu Sheng's face again, "You were out all night, and you don't know what disgraceful things you've done? Let me tell you, you have no right to call me mom! And you have no right to be the Shen family's daughter-in-law!"

Shen's mother retaliated against Duanmu Sheng with harsh words and physical violence.

But, not a single person stepped in to stop it.

Shen's father, Shen Liangxiao, her former close friend Situ Ya, all seemed to be watching with rapt attention.

The Shen family, who used to give her warmth and affection, now offered Duanmu Sheng nothing but endless coldness.

However, Duanmu Sheng hadn't completely lost hope in the Shen family.

Misunderstandings aren't scary.

One just needs to clear them up.