

## Toxic Ex 371

### Chapter 371: You Look Good in a Cheongsam

Lin Yixun rarely wore a cheongsam, and seeing Ouyang Hao staring at her intently, she couldn't help but feel a bit nervous, "Do I look very strange?"

"What's strange?" The man raised his lips and smiled lightly as he gave her a thumbs up, sincerely saying, "You look beautiful in the cheongsam."

"Really?"

"However..." The man suddenly furrowed his brows, "It seems like something is missing."

He turned around and walked towards the display case by the door, saying to the shop owner, "Could you please take out this hairpin for me?"

"Sure thing!"

The shop owner followed Ouyang Hao's instructions and took out the hairpin from the display case. The hairpin was made of jade, with a pendant, designed simply yet elegantly and antique.

"You have a great eye, sir. This hairpin was made by our most skilled master."

Ouyang Hao took the hairpin from the shop owner and walked to Lin Yixun's back. The familiar masculine scent made Lin Yixun nervous again. She instinctively wanted to avoid him, but Ouyang Hao pressed her shoulders to keep her still.

"Don't move!"

Lin Yixun didn't know what Ouyang Hao was about to do, but she followed his instructions and stood still. In the moment when Lin Yixun was lost in thought, she heard the man's low and bewitching voice near her ear.

"All done."

The man held Lin Yixun's shoulders and brought her to a full-length mirror. In the mirror, Lin Yixun saw her own reflection. At some point, her hair, which had been let down, was now pinned up with the hairpin. Even though her hair barely reached her shoulders, it had been styled into a beautiful bun. She had no idea how Ouyang Hao managed to do it.

"Doesn't it look even better now?" Ouyang Hao bent down, resting his chin on her right shoulder.

Lin Yixun stared at her reflection, her gaze involuntarily shifting to the man's face behind her. In the mirror, he wore a gentle smile, his eyes bright like stars in the night sky. The tenderness in his eyes was enough to make her drown in them.

She forced herself to pull away from the trance and moved a bit to put some distance between her and Ouyang Hao. In a low voice, she said, "It's getting late, we should go back."

An emptiness filled the man's embrace, and his heart felt hollow. Ouyang Hao's eyes darkened, and he said in a low voice, "Yixun, can you stay with me here a little longer?"

Ouyang Hao's look of despair made it impossible for Lin Yixun to refuse. She hesitated for a moment and then nodded. She silently told herself, if they were destined to part, why not fulfill Ouyang Hao's wish before they say goodbye?

Seeing Lin Yixun nod, Ouyang Hao couldn't hide his joy. He took her hand and said with a smile, "Yixun, I want to take you somewhere."

"Where to?"

Ouyang Hao winked at her, "You'll know if you follow me."

As they left the shop, Lin Yixun initially planned to return the clothes, but Ouyang Hao stopped her, "No need to change, you look great in the cheongsam. It's warm today, it's not cold outside."

Lin Yixun thought for a moment and agreed, deciding not to change. They hadn't noticed in the shop, but when they stepped outside, it was completely dark.

Lin Yixun followed Ouyang Hao as they walked, finally arriving at an arch bridge. After they crossed the stone arch bridge, Ouyang Hao seemed to be in an exceptionally good mood.

"The locals gave this arch bridge a name. Do you know what it is?"

"What?"

"Lover's Bridge. They say that any couple who crosses this bridge hand in hand will stay together for a lifetime."

Chapter 372: Ouyang Hao, Are You a Fool?

Lin Yixun lowered her eyes to the two tightly held hands, and unconsciously exerted a little force, trying to pull her hand out of Ouyang Hao's, "Those are just folk legends, not to be taken seriously."

Ouyang Hao's fingers suddenly tightened, holding her hand firmly, his eyes burning as he looked at her, "But I'm willing to believe in them."

"Ouyang Hao, actually..."

Lin Yixun opened her mouth to say something, but her voice was interrupted by a passerby's exclamation, "Look, what's that on the river over there?"

The words on her lips, Lin Yixun couldn't bear to say something decisive at this moment. She thought that since it was a farewell, it was better to leave the best memories for each other.

"Yixun, what did you want to say just now?"

"Nothing, nothing." Lin Yixun smiled faintly, pointing to the specks of light on the river not far away, and asked, "Are those river lanterns?"

"Yes." Ouyang Hao nodded, "Today is the annual river lantern festival here. This is just the beginning; there will be more to come later."

Sure enough, as Ouyang Hao said, the specks of light seen at the bridgehead were just a prelude. As the night deepened, more and more river lanterns appeared on the river's surface. Coincidentally, the weather tonight was very good; a full moon hung high in the clear sky, and the silver moonlight poured down, shining on the calm river, making the specks of light on the river even brighter.

"Shall we also release one?" Without waiting for Lin Yixun's answer, the man had already taken her hand and walked towards the riverbank.

When they first entered the ancient town, there weren't many people, but when they reached the riverbank, they found that many couples had gathered there, presumably to see the river lanterns.

Ouyang Hao bought a river lantern from a shop by the river and handed it to Lin Yixun, "Here, your river lantern."

The river lantern was designed to resemble a lotus flower, mostly white, with a candle in the center and a silk strip. Lin Yixun took the river lantern from Ouyang Hao and asked, her gaze falling on the silk strip, "What's this?"

"This is for making wishes. The shopkeeper said the River God here is very responsive."

Seeing Ouyang Hao's serious expression, Lin Yixun couldn't help but laugh, "Fool, you believe everything the vendors say. They say these things to trick you into buying lanterns. Besides, I'm an atheist. Even if there were a River God, if he had to fulfill every wish, he'd be overwhelmed."

Although Lin Yixun didn't believe in gods and spirits, she still wrote a wish on the silk strip. She thought, maybe many people know that gods don't exist, but they still wish, just because the wish is impossible to come true.

As she placed the river lantern into the water and watched it drift away with the current, Lin Yixun slowly withdrew her gaze and turned to look at the man beside her, "Ouyang Hao, do you know what wish I made just now?"

Ouyang Hao shook his head. He didn't know and didn't dare to guess, because that wish was destined not to include him.

But he was wrong.

Actually, Lin Yixun's wish was for him, but she didn't dare to tell him. However, whether she told him or not didn't make a difference, because after tonight, they would part ways.

The two of them stood silently by the river, not saying a word, just greedily enjoying the beautiful scenery, unwilling to waste a single moment.

They stood by the river like this until the last river lantern on the water went out.

After a long time, Ouyang Hao turned to look at Lin Yixun beside him, "It's getting late; let me walk you home."

### Chapter 373: Ouyang Hao, Take Me With You

The car stopped outside the ancient city. The two walked out of the ancient city, and Ouyang Hao turned to Lin Yixun and said, "Wait here, I'll go get the car."

Lin Yixun nodded, watching the man's back. Ouyang Hao was very tall, a full head taller than her. Having been fond of fitness for many years, his physique was always excellent. However, in the dim light, his back looked so desolate and lonely.

Lin Yixun's fingertips trembled slightly as she gazed at Ouyang Hao's back, feeling an indescribable heartache. She didn't know if it was because the night was too quiet here or the street lights too dim, but she felt her rationality crumbling bit by bit.

At this moment, her body had already made a choice for her. By the time she realized what she was doing, she had already called out Ouyang Hao's name loudly.

"Ouyang Hao!"

The man stopped abruptly and turned to look at her, a charming smile still in his eyes. "What's wrong, Yixun?"

A single "Yixun" conveyed more than a thousand words, and his smile caused Lin Yixun's last shred of rationality to also drain away. Her legs moved uncontrollably forward, her steps quickening until she was running, and finally, she threw herself into his arms from behind without hesitation.

Over the past few years, she had always been living for others, but this time, she wanted to throw away all her burdens and live for herself. To hell with Ouyang Che's threats, to hell with Leng Yixiu's revenge!

Lin Yixun's sudden embrace left Ouyang Hao stunned. As an experienced person in relationships, he never thought that one day he would be rendered speechless by a woman's single action.

"Yixun?"

"Ouyang Hao, take me away. This time, I won't leave you again."

"Are you serious?" The man looked back at Lin Yixun, his heart struggling to contain the surge of joy. "Have you really thought this through?"

"I have never been so clear-headed. I love you, I want to be with you!" No matter what happens in the future, she would face it together with Ouyang Hao.

Ouyang Hao thought he was hearing things. He cautiously asked, "Yixun, say what you just said again!"

Lin Yixun looked at him steadily. "I said, I love you, I want to be with you. I want to be selfish for once and live for myself!"

As soon as she finished speaking, she suddenly felt her body lighten as the man lifted her up directly, followed by his jubilant voice.

"God, did you see that? Yixun agreed to be with me, she agreed to be with me!"

"Ouyang Hao, put me down quickly, you're making me dizzy!"

"Alright, alright, I'll put you down."

Lin Yixun watched him laugh like a child and couldn't help but say, "You don't look like a big star now at all; you look like a big fool."

"In front of you, I'm willing to be a fool for life."

"Sweet talker, smooth talker!"

"I'm serious."

Lin Yixun lowered her head and couldn't help but smile. Wasn't it so? She said Ouyang Hao was a fool, but wasn't she just the same? She knew how hard it would be to convince Ouyang Hao's family, and she knew that this choice would invite Leng Yixiu's retaliation, yet she still cast aside her rationality and resolutely chose the hardest path, just because Ouyang Hao was on that path.

At the time, she thought that as long as she worked hard, no matter how many difficulties lay ahead, she and Ouyang Hao could overcome them together. However, she soon realized how pathetic and laughable her thoughts were back then.

In front of the ancient city, the two were jubilant, but at this moment, Half Mountain Villa was shrouded in Leng Yixiu's oppressive atmosphere.

Chapter 374: Nightshade

The man glanced at his watch. It was already past twelve, and his handsome face became even colder.

Sister Yi came out of the dining room, walked cautiously to Leng Yixiu, and asked, "Sir, do you need me to reheat the food on the table?"

"No need." The man played with the phone in his hand and said in a deep voice, "Sister Yi, it's late. You should go rest."

Sister Yi sighed in relief and said softly, "Very well, sir. You should rest early too."

"Hmm."

When Sister Yi went to the dining room to clean up the food, she heard the sound of a car engine roaring outside. Shortly after, she saw Old He get out of the car, looking rather troubled.

"Sir, the nurse at the hospital said that Miss Lin did not go there tonight. Later, I went to Miss Lin's company, where a night-shift colleague mentioned that she was picked up by a man after work in the afternoon."

The man's eyebrows furrowed slightly. "A man?"

"Yes, I heard the man was quite stylish. However, since he was wearing sunglasses and a mask, no one saw his face clearly."

With Old He's report, Leng Yixiu already had the answer. Among the men Lin Yixun knew, who else but Ouyang Hao would cover himself up so tightly?

The man curled his lips sarcastically, glanced at the phone screen, and muttered, no wonder her phone was always off. She was with Ouyang Hao all along.

"Alright, I understand. You've worked hard. Go rest now."



Though the man's face held a faint smile, Old He sensed danger and began to worry for Lin Yixun. Yet, despite his concern, this was a matter between his boss and Lin Yixun, and he had no right to intervene.

After Old He left, Leng Yixiu went to the study, took out a box from a drawer under the desk. Inside the box lay a delicate bracelet.

The man took out the bracelet, stared at the lavender pattern on it, and murmured, "Lin Yixun, don't disappoint me, otherwise..."

He didn't even know what he might do.

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Whether it was a coincidence or just bad luck, on the way back from the outskirts to the city, the sports car broke down halfway.

"What kind of car is this? Such a good road, and it breaks down? In the middle of the night, what do we do now?"

"What do we do? We chill!" Ouyang Hao shrugged, lazily sat on the hood, looking extremely pleased with himself.

"Call someone to come and fix the car."

Ouyang Hao jumped off the hood, took out his phone, but found that there was no signal. With a devious smile, he said, "No signal. Don't you think the heavens are really on our side?"

"You're lying. How could there be no signal here? Give me the phone." Lin Yixun thought Ouyang Hao was teasing her, but when she took the phone, she found there indeed was no signal.

"What do we do now?" Lin Yixun frowned.

Here, there was no village in front nor a shop behind, only pitch-black lavender fields on both sides of the road. Even if there were nearby residents, they were probably all asleep by now.

"Why don't we just spend the night in the car?" Ouyang Hao tentatively asked.

"What else can we do?"

The two returned to the car. Ouyang Hao took out a blanket from the trunk and placed it over Lin Yixun. "It's late. Don't catch a cold."

"What about you?"

"I'm a big guy. I won't get cold." Ouyang Hao reclined the seat and lazily lay down.

Chapter 375: Yixun, it's not too late to call it off now

Lin Yixun saw Ouyang Hao close his eyes, looking so relaxed, and couldn't help but lower her seat as well, quietly lying down. Through the windshield, she could clearly see the moon and stars in the sky.

Without the influence of the city's neon lights, the stars in the suburbs were especially bright, and the sky was a deep blue. Lin Yixun could even see constellations.

"Ouyang Hao, are you asleep?"

"No." The man slowly opened his eyes, turned to look at her, and smiled, "With you by my side, how could I sleep?"

"Smooth talker."

"I really can't sleep, you know, I am a normal man."

Even though there was some distance between them, he could still feel Lin Yixun's presence. Her scent was faint but very pleasant to him, God knows how irresistible this scent was.

Lin Yixun had initially wanted to wake Ouyang Hao to look at the stars, but she didn't expect the conversation to take this turn. For a moment, she didn't know how to react, so she simply pulled up the blanket and softly said, "I'm not talking to you anymore, I'm going to sleep."

"You woke me up, yet you're the one going to sleep. That's too domineering, isn't it."

"So what if I'm domineering?" Lin Yixun hummed lightly.

"Alright then, you used to seem so gentle, but now you've turned into a female bandit. Looks like I need to reevaluate you."

"Return me?" Ouyang Hao suddenly turned over, pinning Lin Yixun beneath him, his handsome face coming close, "How could that be possible? I finally got you, I wouldn't let go even if I were beaten to death."

In the confined space, Lin Yixun was pressed under Ouyang Hao, their faces very close, almost nose-to-nose. She could clearly feel the breath he exhaled, with a faint minty smell that seemed to enchant her, causing Lin Yixun to momentarily lose herself.