

## Toxic Ex 496

Chapter 496: Offering Help When Not Asked, Up To No Good Or Thievery

Shi Yi glanced at the plate in front of her and muttered to herself, this isn't steak, it's a hot potato.

She turned her eyes to little Xiao Yi Xun beside her, only to see her blinking hopefully at her, as if just eating the food on the plate could really bring her a little brother.

Sometimes, the innocence of children is the most embarrassing thing.

However, at this moment, a man's words rescued her from her embarrassment, "Miss Shi, have you been in the United States all these years?"

"Yes, if it weren't for necessary business, I hardly ever come back to the country." In Shi Yi's view, she was telling the truth. For the past four years, she had indeed been in the United States.

The man's fingers holding the knife and fork paused slightly, then he continued to ask, "Are Miss Shi's parents also in the United States?"

"My parents..." Shi Yi frowned. She had no impression of her parents at all, only to hear her say in a deep voice, "My parents are not around me."

Not only were they not around, she even had no idea where they were now. Of course, she wasn't about to tell Leng Yixiu that she had lost her memory. For some reason, she felt an innate resistance towards this man.

"So, are Miss Shi's parents in the country?"

The man's constant questioning made Shi Yi's eyes gradually grow colder, and a mocking smile appeared on her lips. "Mr. Leng, are you checking the household registry?"

The man detected Shi Yi's resistance and stopped asking. He glanced at Shi Yi deeply, wiped his mouth elegantly with a napkin, and said in a deep voice, "I'm sorry, I was just a bit curious. If I offended you, Miss Shi, I hope you don't take it to heart."

"Of course not." Since he had put it that way, what else could Shi Yi say? She just had no more appetite. She put down the knife and fork in her hand and said to the man, "I'm full and have some matters to attend to, so I won't disturb you any longer, Mr. Leng."

Saying this, Shi Yi got up and prepared to leave. She was really afraid that if she stayed here any longer, the man would dig up all her past.

It's not a good thing for a competitor to know everything about you, especially a competitor like Leng Yixiu. Although he saved her last night, he still couldn't dispel Shi Yi's guard against him.

In Shi Yi's view, Leng Yixiu was a cold and ruthless cheetah, cold and sharp. If you relax your guard against him even a little, you might end up dead without knowing how.

As soon as Shi Yi stood up, she heard the man's deep voice, "I'll take you home."

"No need, it's easy to get a cab."

"It's mealtime, the roads around the area will be very congested."

"Taking your car will be just as stuck." Shi Yi retorted.

"At least it will be more comfortable." The man insisted.

At this moment, little Xiao Yi Xun suddenly spoke up, "Mommy, let daddy take you."

Shi Yi furrowed her brows in frustration. This pair of parents were so in sync, yet the most ironic thing was that she couldn't refuse Xiao Yi Xun's request.

OMG, what was happening to her? Could it be that after being called "mommy" a few times by Xiao Yi Xun, her maternal instincts were truly overflowing?

In the end, Shi Yi still got into the man's car. As the man had said, there was some traffic near noon, and the man's driving skills were good. Sitting in the spacious Bentley was indeed more comfortable than taking a cab. However, due to her hangover, Shi Yi's head was still aching a bit.

The man looked at Shi Yi in the back seat through the rearview mirror, seeing her lazily leaning against the leather seat, continuously rubbing her temples, and furrowing his brows.

"In the future, don't drink alone in such places."

Shi Yi's fingers paused slightly. She slowly opened her eyes and looked at the back of the man's head in the driver's seat. What did Leng Yixiu mean by this? Was he showing concern for her?

But they had only met a few times, not even friends, let alone familiar with each other. For him to say this kind of thing to her, Shi Yi only felt it was very strange.

Her mind suddenly recalled the man's various actions towards her in the dining room earlier, making her feel even more bizarre. Could it be... that this man wanted to court her?

But soon, Shi Yi denied this idea. That day in the car, when she asked about Xiao Yi Xun's mother, the man's reaction couldn't deceive her. A man deeply in love with a woman couldn't possibly fall for another woman in less than a month. It just didn't make sense.

Unless...

Shi Yi narrowed her eyes. This man's attentiveness towards her, could it be that he was up to no good?

"Yesterday was just an accident. That kind of thing won't happen again in the future." Shi Yi said half-heartedly, half-seriously.

She had already taken a hidden loss once and didn't want to experience it again.

Without realizing it, they had arrived at the Lei Man building. Shi Yi couldn't help but let out a long sigh of relief and quickly got out of the car. In her view, staying away from this man was the most urgent matter.

However, just as she was about to turn around and leave, the man suddenly called out to her, "Miss Shi!"

Shi Yi's shoulders stiffened. Although she was very reluctant, she still turned around and forced a fake smile at Leng Yixiu, "Mr. Leng, do you have any other matters?"

"You said you wanted to thank me for last night. Shouldn't you show a bit of sincerity?"

Shi Yi heard this, and the corner of her lips twitched involuntarily, "Mr. Leng, in your opinion, what would count as sincerity?"

The man rested his chin on his hand, thought for a while, and suddenly said, "How about treating me to a meal?"

"Mr. Leng, for someone as busy as you, earning money by the minute, wouldn't you be making a loss by having a meal with me?"

"Hehe... Not really. I'm not busy lately, so I'm always free."

The man's words instantly choked Shi Yi's follow-up remarks. What else could she say? She could only go along and invite him. After all, it's just a meal, it wouldn't kill her!

"Alright then, as Mr. Leng said. But... I'm a bit busy lately, so I'll call you when I'm free, how about that?"

Shi Yi thought, I'll call him when I get back to the United States. By then, Leng Yixiu wouldn't fly to the United States just for a meal, right?

Seeing the man nod, Shi Yi looked at her watch, pretended to be in a hurry, and said to Leng Yixiu, "Mr. Leng, I have some matters to attend to, I'll go inside first, we'll keep in touch."

Actually, what Shi Yi was thinking at that time was that she didn't want to keep in touch again.

The man watched as Shi Yi's figure faded into the office building. Only when she disappeared did he slowly retract his gaze and start the car engine.

Who was Leng Yixiu? Of course, he could see the rejection and unwillingness in Shi Yi's eyes. But compared to the previous deep hatred, this outcome was much better.

#### Chapter 497: Do You Have Feelings for Leng Yixiu?

In fact, Shi Yi didn't have any urgent matters at Lei Man, she just wanted to quickly get away from that plague Leng Yixiu. However, since she had already come to Lei Man, she decided to go to Shen Xu's office to get an update on the new branch project.

"Here, these are the designs I had the construction institute rush out, take a look." Shen Xu threw a stack of materials in front of Shi Yi.

Shi Yi glanced through the designs briefly, finding them incomprehensible, "I work in computing, I don't understand these things, looking at them is like a waste of time."

"Then why did you come here?"

"I'm just bored." Shi Yi shrugged, adding, "Besides, as your boss, it feels wrong to be on a leisurely vacation while you're working overtime, so I decided to come and check on you."

"Check on me?" Shen Xu chuckled, "I think you should skip the checking, if you really feel guilty, why not give this worker a raise, or something more concrete."

"A raise? I don't have that authority, the shareholders have to agree. In the end, I'm just a worker too, not much better off than you."

"Stop pretending to be pitiful in front of me."

Shi Yi didn't want to get entangled in this topic with him, so she suddenly changed the subject, "By the way, how much do you know about Leng Yixiu?"

"Why are you suddenly interested in Leng Yixiu?"

"Isn't he our competitor? I need to understand him, or is there a problem with that?"

Shen Xu stared at her for a few seconds, "After being in T City for so many years, if I didn't know about Leng Yixiu as a competitor, I would have wasted my time here. However, do you want to know about business or personal matters?"

"Half and half, tell me everything."

Shen Xu suddenly leaned towards Shi Yi, "You're interested in Leng Yixiu's personal matters too? I smell gossip. Could it be that even the iron tree will bloom?"

Shi Yi pushed him away with a palm, "Don't overthink, I'm not interested in that person at all. I just have some doubts in my mind that can only be cleared up by understanding everything about Leng Yixiu."

"Is that so?" Shen Xu was half-believing, he paused, then suddenly became serious, "Since you put it that way, I won't guess anymore. Let's start with business. Leng Group was founded in Leng Yixiu's grandfather's generation. Initially, it didn't focus on electronics, but by selling industrial products, they accumulated considerable wealth. It wasn't until Leng Yixiu's father's generation that Leng Group transitioned to focusing on electronics. Starting early with few competitors, Leng quickly established itself in A City. Leng Yixiu's father was also very ambitious, his vision wasn't limited to A City, he wanted to expand and grow bigger. However, in his haste to expand, he fell into someone else's trap, pushing Leng Group to the brink of bankruptcy. In the end, unable to bear the pressure of debts exceeding assets, Leng Yixiu's father jumped from the Leng Building and died. With his father's death, Leng's former competitors were eager to devour the faltering Leng Group. Just when everyone thought Leng

was doomed, the former mayor of A City unexpectedly extended an olive branch to Leng Yixiu, using his connections and power to successfully revive the dying Leng Group."

"The former mayor of A City? He was just a politician, why would he help Leng Group?"

"You don't know, this is the most legendary part of the whole affair. The former mayor of A City, although an outstanding politician who was fair and just, was an obsessive daughter-doting father. He helped Leng Yixiu not because they had any friendship, but because his precious daughter was madly in love with Leng Yixiu, willing to marry no one else."

"Just because of that, the former mayor helped Leng Yixiu?"

"Yes, but in helping and reviving Leng Group, Leng Yixiu had to pay a price. The condition the mayor set for helping Leng Yixiu was for him to marry his daughter. And Leng Yixiu did keep his promise, marrying the mayor's lovesick daughter. But that marriage didn't last long, just a year later, they divorced, and Leng Yixiu even personally sent his ex-father-in-law to prison."

Shi Yi stared with wide eyes in disbelief, "Why did Leng Yixiu do that?"

"Why? I don't know why, probably out of a man's sense of pride. After all, he was forced by circumstances to marry the mayor's daughter."

Shi Yi suddenly sneered, "They didn't put a knife to his neck, forcing him to marry the mayor's daughter, why did he have to take things to such an extreme?"

"Some men's thoughts you can't understand. Leng Yixiu is such a proud man, with resentment and hatred in his heart, sometimes it's understandable to act out in extreme ways."

Shen Xu could understand, but Shi Yi still couldn't. After listening to Shen Xu, her impression of Leng Yixiu worsened, and she was more convinced that staying away from him was the right choice.

"So, what's with Leng Yixiu's daughter? Who's her mother?"

"That's an even more legendary story." Shen Xu smiled, drinking some water to moisten his throat, "Although Leng Yixiu is cold and heartless, almost a prime example of a scumbag, there are still many women who like him. Among the women around him, there are two main ones: his ex-wife, the former mayor's daughter, and his ex-fiancée—the superstar Cheng Ying. You know the superstar Cheng Ying, right?"

Shi Yi shook her head, asking, "Leng Yixiu's daughter, was she born to Cheng Ying?"

"No, no, no, she was born to his ex-wife. And it's laughable, the child wasn't born during their marriage, but five years after they divorced."

"Five years after their divorce?"

"Yes, indeed. Even I have to admire the former mayor's daughter, her heart must be so big to willingly have a child with her enemy, especially when Leng Yixiu had a fiancée at the time."

"Then, didn't his ex-wife become the other woman?"

"That's what's so incredible, the ex-wife became the other woman, and the other woman became the fiancée, officially making her the victim."

"That's complicated enough." Shi Yi nodded thoughtfully. For some reason, somewhere deep in her heart, a dull ache began to stir.

#### Chapter 498: My Encounter with Him, Thrilling

Shi Yi thought, if she were in the position of Leng Yixiu's ex-wife, there was no way she would willingly give birth to Leng Yixiu's child. She wasn't a saint; even if she loved him deeply, she wouldn't forget the pain just because the wounds had healed.

However, Shi Yi was somewhat puzzled by Leng Yixiu's attitude towards his ex-wife. If Leng Yixiu were truly heartless towards his ex-wife, why would he treat their daughter like a treasure? If Leng Yixiu were affectionate towards his ex-wife, then why, after stabilizing Leng's, would he ruthlessly deal with his father-in-law?



This was really complicated, leaving Shi Yi utterly perplexed. She pondered for a while and then asked, "So what happened later?"

"Later? The outcome was quite tragic. Cheng Ying kidnapped Leng Yixiu's daughter. To save her daughter, Leng Yixiu's ex-wife was pushed off Seaside by Cheng Ying, who then leapt to her death."

This outcome caused Shi Yi's heart to tremble slightly. She didn't expect this outcome. No wonder when she asked about Xiao Yi Xun's mother, the expression on Leng Yixiu's face was so sorrowful. It turned out that his ex-wife was long gone.

Shi Yi did not sympathize with Leng Yixiu. She wasn't clear about his attitude towards his ex-wife, but even taking a step back, even if he loved her to no end, even if he regretted it deeply, all of this was his own doing.

It was his ridiculous and pathetic pride that led to this. He repaid kindness with enmity, he was fickle and promiscuous, leading to such a tragedy. By comparison, Shi Yi felt some sympathy for the former mayor's daughter; in her eyes, even Cheng Ying was a victim of this farce.

But, poor Xiao Yi Xun.

Thinking of how Xiao Yi Xun chased after her, calling her "mom," Shi Yi couldn't help but feel heartache for her. She was still so young yet had lost her mother. It was truly pitiful.

"So, men shouldn't be too greedy. Otherwise, when facing someone as ruthless as Cheng Ying, it will be too late for regrets. Speaking of which, Cheng Ying was really pitiful too. A double award-winning actress, beautiful with a great figure and a prestigious university degree, she had a bright future ahead. Why did she hang herself on a single tree, sending herself to a dead end? Sigh... women, sometimes, really are hard to understand."

"What do you mean women are hard to understand? We're not a complex math problem." Shi Yi rolled her eyes fiercely at Shen Xu.

After gaining some understanding, Shi Yi felt that her previous intuition was correct. Leng Yixiu was too dangerous, too heartless; it would be best for her to stay away from him. She didn't want to end up like those other women.

As soon as she walked out of Lei Man Office Building, her phone rang. Shi Yi fished out her phone and glanced at the screen, her elegant brows furrowing tightly in the next instant.

Feng Chengyu has been quite idle lately?

Although she was extremely reluctant to deal with Feng Chengyu, she still answered his call. After all, she owed him; she had been a coward in the face of power back then. Look, this was the price she paid.

"Hello, Mr. Feng, what can I do for you?"

"Do you have any plans for tonight?"

"What if I say I do?"

"Then cancel them."

Shi Yi unhappily rolled her eyes. She knew it would end this way. With a wistful tone, she asked, "May I know what orders Mr. Feng has for me this time?"

"Grandma wants you to come over for dinner tonight."

Upon hearing this, Shi Yi's heart sank. "Mr. Feng, did you return to T City?"

"Just got off the plane."

Upon hearing this answer, Shi Yi felt a bit helpless. Four years ago, during her time in the mountain villa, Feng Chengyu would return at the shortest intervals of one to two months, and often it was half a year or more. This time, he returned in less than a week. How come?

If he continues to return to T City this frequently, doesn't that mean she would have to accompany him to the mountain villa to visit Grandma Feng every few days?

OMG!

For a moment, Shi Yi felt a sense of disarray like leaves in a storm. She ruffled her hair and could only silently tell herself that this time it was just a coincidence, only a coincidence! Someone as busy as Feng Chengyu couldn't possibly travel to T City every few days.

Thinking this, Shi Yi's mood finally improved a bit. Lazily, she said, "Alright then, I'll be there soon."

"I'll send the driver to pick you up."

Shi Yi instinctively wanted to refuse, but considering the heavy security outside Feng Chengyu's villa, and that he didn't seem keen on others knowing his address, she agreed.

She was truly scared that if she took a taxi, it might implicate the driver. Encountering the situation from four years ago again would be terrible. It was bad enough that she nearly became a German Shepherd's meal; she couldn't let innocent people get dragged into it.

When Shi Yi arrived at the villa, she didn't see Feng Chengyu in the living room. Instead, Old Madam Feng was sitting on the sofa, seemingly waiting for her.

"Granddaughter-in-law, you're here." Seeing Shi Yi, the old lady's eyes immediately lit up with a smile. "Come, come, have a seat."

Shi Yi was taken aback by the term "Granddaughter-in-law." Although she had agreed to pretend to be Feng Chengyu's girlfriend, she still wasn't used to this role.

She moved her feet stiffly, coming to Old Madam Feng's side, and asked with a smile, "Grandma, where's Feng... Feng Chengyu?"

Hearing this, Old Madam Feng pointed in the direction of the study upstairs. "He went straight upstairs after coming back. He's probably discussing business."

"Oh..."

Shi Yi nodded blankly, but her heart was murmuring complaints. This guy left her alone downstairs; how was she supposed to deal with this sharp grandma now?

If she accidentally slipped up later, he shouldn't blame her.

"My boring grandson said you're now the CEO of an IT company. I didn't expect my granddaughter-in-law to be so capable at such a young age." The old lady smiled warmly at Shi Yi, showing more affection as she looked at her. She pushed the fruit platter on the coffee table towards Shi Yi, "You must be hungry after working all day. Have some fruit to tide you over."

The older lady's enthusiasm was overwhelming. Unable to refuse, Shi Yi picked a peach from the fruit platter and began nibbling at it absentmindedly.

In fact, Shi Yi had her own little scheme; she hoped that by eating, her mouth would be too occupied to hold a conversation, sparing her from answering too many questions from Old Madam Feng.

As the saying goes, 'the more you say, the more mistakes you make.' By saying nothing, she wouldn't make any mistakes.

However, she was too naive. Even if she was eating, if Old Madam Feng wanted to ask something, she still would.

"Granddaughter-in-law, how did you meet my boring grandson?"

Shi Yi's hand paused, and memories of her first encounter with Feng Chengyu flashed through her mind. Even after four years, the thought of that event still made her uneasy.

Thinking back to four years ago, she lost her appetite completely.

She put down the peach she was holding, forcing a stiff smile, and said slowly, "How did we meet? Well... our meeting could be described as thrilling."

Chapter 499: Acting?

"How was it heart-stopping? Tell me all about it." Grandma Feng's face was full of gossip.

No matter how influential Grandma Feng was in her younger days, reaching her late seventies or eighties, her mind gradually regressed, making her a bit like a child.

"Well..." Shi Yi was at a loss for words, so she pretended to be shy and tossed the ball to Feng Chengyu, "Grandma, you better ask Feng Chengyu about this."

"Alright, alright, I know you're shy, I won't make it hard for you."

Shi Yi muttered to herself, she wasn't shy, she just couldn't say it. Just then, Feng Chengyu seemed to have handled his business and came downstairs, with a handsome young man by his side.

The moment the man saw Shi Yi, his charming eyes sparkled, and he slightly curled his lips, saying to Feng Chengyu, "So, this is why you were in such a hurry to come back?"

Feng Chengyu's narrow eyes slightly narrowed dangerously, and he said coldly, "If you don't speak, no one will mistake you for a mute."

Upon hearing this, the man's eyes lit up even more with interest, "Oh, our Young Master Feng is angry?"

"You can leave now," Feng Chengyu issued the eviction order.

"Hmph, you're so heartless. You called me over just after I got back, and now you want me to leave. Is my face so easily dismissed?" Although the man said this, there was no trace of anger in his tone.

"If you don't leave now, won't your confidantes come looking for you?"

Upon Shi Yi's reminder, the man suddenly remembered his date with a beauty tonight. He checked the time and frowned. "Today, you're lucky. I won't hold it against you. Next time you call me over without even providing a meal, I'll deal with you properly."

After saying this, the man didn't waste any more words with Feng Chengyu and quickly walked out of the villa. As he passed by Shi Yi, he winked at her, his seductive eyes especially captivating.

"Beauty, I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Chu Feng. I have some urgent matters today, so I can't dine with you. See you next time." As he spoke, the man didn't forget to glance ambiguously at Feng Chengyu not far away, "Yu, beauties are in high demand, you better hold on to her."

Actually, when he came downstairs, Chu Feng had recognized Shi Yi at a glance. Lately, he had overheard some rumors about Shi Yi and Leng Yixiu, which is why he said what he did to Feng Chengyu. After all, Leng Yixiu was not an ordinary competitor.

"You can get lost now." Feng Chengyu's face was full of impatience.

"Fine, fine, I'm leaving!" Seeing Feng Chengyu about to lose his temper, Chu Feng wisely stopped.

From the interaction between Feng Chengyu and the man named Chu Feng, Shi Yi could easily see that the relationship between Feng Chengyu and Chu Feng seemed quite good. She didn't take Chu Feng's words to heart. After all, she was currently playing the role of Feng Chengyu's girlfriend.

However, Feng Chengyu's mood seemed a bit off today. The cold aura around him made Shi Yi unaware whether it was due to business matters or something else. She thought that now wasn't the best time to provoke him. She only wanted to finish the meal quickly and leave.

This meal was a bit oppressive, and throughout the meal, Feng Chengyu didn't say a word to Shi Yi. Thinking back, it seemed he hadn't spoken to her since they met just now.

The atmosphere was indeed strange.

At this moment, Shi Yi was somewhat grateful that Grandma Feng was also at the table. Grandma Feng would occasionally ask her some questions, preventing the atmosphere at the table from becoming too awkward.

However, knowing what kind of person Grandma Feng was, she naturally sensed that something was off with her grandson tonight. Instinctively, she attributed it to Shi Yi, believing that the couple was experiencing some kind of disagreement.

So, as soon as the meal was over, she tactfully went upstairs, intending to leave the young couple some space to communicate. Young people, a good talk would solve everything.

Before leaving, Grandma Feng suddenly leaned close to Shi Yi's ear and whispered, "Have a good talk with my grumpy grandson. Young people, a fight at the head of the bed and reconciliation at the foot, open your hearts, and everything will be fine soon."

Grandma Feng's words left Shi Yi speechless. It turned out that in the old lady's eyes, the conflict was between her and Feng Chengyu, which was why Feng Chengyu hadn't spoken to her throughout the meal.

This...

Although she felt a thousand horses galloping in her heart, Shi Yi still forced a smile and nodded, "Okay, Grandma, I understand."

Grandma Feng gently patted Shi Yi's shoulder with a look of "I have faith in you." Shi Yi wanted to cry but could only force a smile in return.

After Grandma Feng left, the dining room was left with just Shi Yi and Feng Chengyu. Since the meal was over, Shi Yi had no reason to stay and decided to leave early.

"Well... Mr. Feng, I'll be going now."

Without waiting for the man to respond, Shi Yi got up and prepared to leave. She thought her mission was complete and the man wouldn't stop her. Who would have thought that as soon as she turned around, the man's cold voice came from behind.

"Wait!"

Shi Yi's back stiffened. She turned to look at the man behind her, "Mr. Feng, is there something else?"

"Come with me for a walk."

The man's tone was indifferent, though it was clearly a suggestion, his tone was extremely firm. The implication was, "I'm not negotiating with you, whether you want to or not, you have to come with me."

"Now? But it's already late." Shi Yi tried to make a final struggle.

"It won't take much of your time."

...Shi Yi had nothing more to say. She couldn't wait for the man to bring out his German Shepherd or point a gun at her before agreeing, right?

A wise man doesn't fight when the odds are against him. In the end, Shi Yi surrendered to Feng Chengyu's oppression and went out of the villa with him.

Shi Yi previously lived in the villa for eight months and visited several times. She knew one side of the villa was against a mountain and the other faced the sea, but she didn't know that there was actually a cliff at the back of the villa. From the cliff, you could take an elevator directly to a private beach below.



What surprised her even more was that the man didn't make her do anything; he just asked her to walk with him on the private beach.

If it were anyone else doing this, Shi Yi wouldn't find anything strange. She at most would guess that person might be interested in her. But with Feng Chengyu, everything became weird.

With someone like Feng Chengyu, who was so ascetic, he certainly wouldn't be interested in her. Then why did he want to walk with her on the beach?

Could it be for the sake of appearances? But now that Grandma Feng wasn't around, there was no need for him to be so dutiful, was there?

#### Chapter 500: Iceberg Man

But, no matter how you look at it, the scenery here is still excellent. Because they had dinner early, they arrived at the beach just in time for the sunset. The afterglow of the sun shone on the clouds in the sky, dyeing the white clouds a beautiful orange-red. Looking out, the entire sky was a captivating red, stunningly beautiful.

This scene was indeed enchanting, but Shi Yi naturally wouldn't forget that there was a moving ice sculpture beside her. Wasn't it true? Since earlier until now, this man's expression had not changed at all; he remained as cold as ice, completely out of tune with the beautiful scenery before him. Coming to such a place with him was truly a waste of this fantastic view.

Feng Chengyu remained silent, and naturally, Shi Yi won't initiate a conversation either, especially since she couldn't think of any topic to talk about with him.

Their mutual silence made the atmosphere somewhat awkward, and time seemed to stretch indefinitely. To Shi Yi, this was no walk; it was clearly torture.

She idly sifted the white sand on the beach to pass the time. Seeing the sun finally dip below the horizon, she couldn't help but feel a bit of joy.

"Um... Mr. Feng, it's getting late, shall we go back?"

She waited for a long time, but the man didn't respond. Running out of patience, Shi Yi looked up at him. From her angle, she could only see the man's well-defined profile. The afterglow of the sunset softened the originally rigid contours of his face. Shi Yi had to admit that Feng Chengyu was indeed a stunningly handsome man.

Admiring aside, Shi Yi wasn't about to be blinded by his looks; she had more pressing matters to address.

"Mr. Feng, it's getting dark, shall we head back?"

This time, there was a slight change in the man's handsome face, but instead of responding to her question, he unexpectedly asked, "Do you know Yixiu?"

Shi Yi felt a flash of surprise. Why would Feng Chengyu ask about that?

Still, she answered honestly, "I've met Leng Yixiu a few times, but we're not close."

"Not close?"

Shi Yi noticed that he slightly furrowed his sword-like brows, seemingly not convinced by her words.

"Mr. Feng, you don't believe those baseless gossip news, do you?" Although Shi Yi disdained explaining herself, she didn't want to be unnecessarily linked to Leng Yixiu, especially after knowing his past.

The man's thin lips pressed into a line, seemingly contemplating something. Shi Yi wondered if it was her illusion, but the cold lines of his handsome face seemed to have softened a bit. Unable to read his thoughts, she wisely decided to keep silent, though she couldn't help feeling somewhat anxious.

She looked annoyedly at the distant horizon and sighed silently. When on earth would Feng Chengyu decide to leave? Surely he wasn't planning to stay here overnight?

If he stayed, Shi Yi wouldn't object or care, but she had no intention of accompanying him!

At that moment, the man beside her suddenly spoke, "Let's go back."

Hearing this, Shi Yi felt like she was granted amnesty; he had finally come to his senses, and she no longer had to be with this iceberg. However, she seemed to have celebrated too soon.

When they returned from the beach to the villa, Old Madam Feng suddenly appeared in front of them and smiled at Shi Yi, saying, "Granddaughter-in-law, it's already so late. Why don't you stay over tonight?"

The joy Shi Yi felt earlier vanished like cold water splashing over her, extinguishing her elation. She naturally didn't want to stay here overnight, so she hastily made up an excuse, "Um... Grandma Feng, there are still some matters at the company that need handling. I have to return to the office later; I'm afraid I can't..."

Before she could finish, Old Madam Feng interrupted, "What is so urgent that it can't wait until tomorrow? Can't you handle it tomorrow? Listen to Grandma, stay here and rest well tonight. There's always unfinished work, but this world will keep turning, and the sky won't fall. Young people should be ambitious, but they also need to take care of themselves; otherwise, if you wear yourself out, it's not worth it."

Listening to Old Madam Feng, Shi Yi felt things were not going well. Despite the old lady's kind appearance, Shi Yi knew very well that she was very assertive at heart.

But Shi Yi had no way to deal with such an elderly person. At this rate, a few words from Old Madam Feng would leave her with no choice but to stay.

So, she cast a pleading glance at Feng Chengyu, hoping he would help her out.

Unexpectedly, Feng Chengyu not only refrained from helping but also lightly said, "Grandma is right."

Shi Yi stared at him in astonishment, feeling a surge of anger. She regretted putting her hope on Feng Chengyu. Hadn't she learned her lesson last time? How could she expect anything from this unreliable man!

Forget it, since Feng Chengyu was unreliable, she could only rely on herself.

"Grandma, it's not just work; I had also made plans with a friend before coming here."

"That's not an issue. If it's a friend, you can meet another day," Old Madam Feng said.

"But, she's returning to the United States tomorrow."

Feng Chengyu stood aside, watching Shi Yi with an amused expression that seemed to say, "Keep fabricating; let's see how far you can go."

"Oh... " Old Madam Feng frowned and paused, "That's not a problem. I'll have the driver bring your friend over."

Saying this, Old Madam Feng turned to Chu Yan and said, "Yanyan, go call Old Wang."

Seeing this, Shi Yi urgently stopped Chu Yan and turned to Old Madam Feng with a forced smile, "No need, no need. It's too much trouble to get a car to pick her up. Actually... it's not absolutely necessary for me to see her. I'll tell her we can meet another day; there will be plenty of opportunities in the future."

"Really no need?" Old Madam Feng asked.

"No need, really no need," Shi Yi shook her head vigorously. If a driver went to fetch her friend, her lie would be exposed. Now she truly understood that lies should not be told lightly.

"So, you're staying here tonight?"

"Alright, I'll listen to you," Shi Yi said, feeling like crying. Could she afford not to listen to Old Madam Feng? Compared to the old lady, she was helpless, completely defeated!