

Toxic Ex 521

Chapter 521: I Have a Mother

Shi Yi spent the morning playing with Xiao Yi Xun in the hospital room. As noon approached, the little one seemed tired out from playing, and fell asleep in her arms.

Shi Yi looked down at the little person sleeping soundly in her arms. She saw her half-closed eyes, her small mouth slightly open, and a bit of drool hanging from the corner of her lips. Finding it extremely amusing, she couldn't help but smile.

"Miss Shi, it must be exhausting holding her like that the whole time. Let me take her for a while?"

"I'm fine. She's very light and not too tiring to hold." Shi Yi smiled.

In fact, she felt that holding this little one was rather nice; her entire heart became incredibly tender. Shi Yi genuinely liked Xiao Yi Xun.

Sister Yi glanced at Shi Yi, then turned her gaze towards Leng Yixiu, who was leaning against the bed. She suddenly felt like a glaringly obvious third wheel, utterly unnecessary.

So, she found an excuse and tactfully left the room.

For a moment, the room was left with only Shi Yi, Leng Yixiu, and the sleeping Xiao Yi Xun. Because of his severe injuries, Leng Yixiu lay motionless on the bed, and Shi Yi dared not move while holding Xiao Yi Xun.

After a while, Shi Yi suddenly asked, "Leng Yixiu, did you ever love your ex-wife?"

Actually, Shi Yi asked this question on a whim. Leng Yixiu was so concerned about his daughter that she couldn't believe he had no feelings for the child's mother.

Thus, she asked a question that had always bothered her. She knew it was sensitive, but felt she needed to know the answer.

Sure enough, the question shattered the previously harmonious atmosphere in the room. The air grew thin and the atmosphere became stifling, followed by a suffocating silence.

Just when Shi Yi thought she wouldn't get an answer, she heard the man speak in a deep voice, "Yes, I loved her."

His voice was low, but every word reached Shi Yi's ears. For some reason, instead of feeling jealous or angry, Shi Yi felt a sense of relief upon hearing his confession.

At the very least, this proved that Leng Yixiu was not as cold and heartless as rumored—he did have feelings.

However, the fact that he said "love" rather than "loved" implied that he might still have lingering feelings for his ex-wife. If that was the case, what did he feel for her?

Having lived in the United States for many years, Shi Yi was influenced by American culture. She was direct and didn't like to beat around the bush, so she asked her next question directly.

"Why me?" If Leng Yixiu still had feelings for his ex-wife, why did he come to her?

The man's eyes flickered slightly, then he responded, "I want a new beginning."

Seeing Shi Yi's skeptical expression, Leng Yixiu said in a deep voice, "Xiao Yi Xun's mother died four years ago. I can't deny that I haven't forgotten her in the past four years. But life is long, and I can't dwell on the past. I want to start anew, and you, Shi Yi, are the person I want to start with."

"Aren't you afraid I'll be jealous of your ex-wife?"

"You won't be." Leng Yixiu looked deeply at her.

"How do you know I won't? I'm very possessive and can't stand my man having another woman in his heart."

"My man?" The man suddenly curled his thin lips. "It sounds like you're claiming ownership."

Realizing she misspoke, Shi Yi awkwardly coughed a few times. "Leng Yixiu, don't change the subject."

"Alright, let's get back to the point. Shi Yi, though you can't tolerate even a speck of sand in your eye, you wouldn't be bothered by someone who's dead. If you really minded, you wouldn't care for Xiao Yi Xun so much."

Feeling a bit vexed, Shi Yi wondered what Leng Yixiu's eyes were made of—could they see through her thoughts? Still, he was right. Although she knew Leng Yixiu still thought about his deceased ex-wife and felt somewhat uncomfortable, she didn't intend to compete with a dead person.

Shi Yi wasn't so foolish as to fight with someone who was already dead, especially a woman who had been so unfortunate and pathetic.

But, being seen through by Leng Yixiu left Shi Yi feeling displeased. So she placed Xiao Yi Xun on his bed and said, "I have something to do this afternoon, so I'll be leaving."

Leng Yixiu naturally understood that Shi Yi was somewhat evading the situation, but he didn't point it out. Instead, he smiled at her and said, "While I'm hospitalized, I'm a bit inconveniently immobile. Could I trouble you with a favor, Miss Shi?"

"What is it?"

"Could Miss Shi please pick up Xiao Yi Xun from kindergarten tomorrow?"

"Why me? Can't Sister Yi do it?"

"Sister Yi is off on Fridays."

"Then why not let your assistant do it?"

"Xiao Yi Xun doesn't like Assistant Chen; she says he's too short and too ugly."

Shi Yi couldn't help but laugh out loud. "Who would have thought the little one cares about appearances?"

"Don't underestimate children. They already have a sense of beauty and ugliness in their world." Seeing Shi Yi's softened expression, the man seized the opportunity and said, "So, I'll trouble Miss Shi tomorrow."

"It's not much trouble; I'm not working recently anyway." Shi Yi said casually, but immediately regretted it.

What was she doing? How did she get swayed by this man so easily and agree to it so readily? Shouldn't she have refused?

But indeed, she had agreed, and when it came to matters involving Xiao Yi Xun, she seemed incapable of saying no. It seemed any time something involved Xiao Yi Xun, her heart would soften involuntarily.

So the next day, Shi Yi appeared at the entrance of Xiao Yi Xun's kindergarten on time. She harbored some resentment about the task initially, but when she saw Xiao Yi Xun's excited expression upon seeing her, her discontent melted away instantly.

"Mom!"

The smile on Xiao Yi Xun's face was so bright that it melted Shi Yi's heart. Unable to repress her emotions, Shi Yi opened her arms and tightly hugged the little one, planting a firm kiss on her chubby cheek.

After being showered with affection by Shi Yi, Xiao Yi Xun withdrew from her embrace, then held her hand and walked towards another child. She introduced, "Nina, this is my mom. See, I wasn't lying, I do

have a mom. She was just too busy before to pick me up. From now on, don't say I'm a child without a mom!"

Chapter 522: We Need to Understand Each Other

Shi Yi saw the little guy earnestly telling his companion that he "wasn't a child without a mother," found it funny yet couldn't help feeling heartache for Xiao Yi Xun.

As the saying goes, a child with a mother is a treasure, a child without a mother is like grass. Even though Leng Yixiu spoiled Xiao Yi Xun, he could never replace the importance of a mother in Xiao Yi Xun's heart.

Thinking of Leng Yixiu's poor ex-wife, Shi Yi couldn't help but sigh. What exactly happened back then that made Leng Yixiu so heartless to the mayor's daughter? And later, why did he become so obsessed with his ex-wife? The entanglement in this might be much more interesting than what the gossip news had reported.

Getting into a taxi, Shi Yi pinched Xiao Yi Xun's little hand and asked with a smile, "Did your companion say you were a child without a mother before?"

The little guy frowned deeply, then nodded heavily. But the frown on her face vanished in an instant, and a smile soon reappeared.

"But they won't say that about me anymore." Xiao Yi Xun put her hands on her hips, looking very grown up.

Shi Yi couldn't help but laugh at her little gesture, but then she saw the smile on her face fade away. Xiao Yi Xun's clear big eyes stared at her without blinking, and her cherry-red lips moved slightly, "Mom, will you come to pick me up again in the future?"

"Well..." Shi Yi initially wanted to say she wasn't sure, but seeing the little one's pitiful eyes, she couldn't help but nod, "Whenever I have some free time, I'll come to pick you up."

"Really?"

"Yes, a promise is a promise!"

"What does a promise is a promise mean?"

This question stumped Shi Yi. She thought for a moment and then patiently explained, "It means that our words count and we won't break our promises."

The little one's face finally lit up with a bright smile again as she leaned closer to Shi Yi. Perhaps because she was a bit tired, she soon fell asleep in Shi Yi's arms.

Watching the little one sleep peacefully, Shi Yi couldn't help but smile. She asked the taxi driver, "Sir, could you please adjust the air conditioning a bit warmer?"

Thinking that Leng Yixiu might be missing Xiao Yi Xun, Shi Yi decided not to take Xiao Yi Xun back to the downtown apartment but went to Shengde.

When they entered the VIP ward, Leng Yixiu was discussing some matters with Assistant Chen. Since it involved internal affairs of Leng's company, Shi Yi decided to step out of the room, as, despite the partnership, Leng's and Lei Man still had competition in some areas.

Seeing Shi Yi holding Xiao Yi Xun and about to leave, Leng Yixiu called out to her, "You don't need to go out."

Shi Yi smiled and declined, "I think it's better to keep things private and public separate."

Saying so, she led Xiao Yi Xun out of the ward. After about ten minutes, Shi Yi saw Assistant Chen coming out of the ward. Seeing Shi Yi, Assistant Chen politely nodded to her with utmost respect.

In Assistant Chen's eyes, Shi Yi was undoubtedly going to become the future mistress of Leng's.

After dropping off Xiao Yi Xun in the ward, Shi Yi felt her task was complete. She greeted Leng Yixiu briefly and decided to leave quietly. Ever since she was kidnapped, her feelings towards Leng Yixiu had become complicated.

Before, she simply detested him, but now there was a complex emotion deep inside, making her feel uneasy and somewhat uncomfortable.

Just as Shi Yi was about to leave, the man's deep voice came, "You haven't had dinner yet, have you?"

Seeing Shi Yi didn't respond, the man continued, "Why don't you stay and have dinner together?"

Shi Yi's face stiffened, and she declined, "No need, I have things to do."

"Shi Yi, you are avoiding me." The man looked at her deeply, noticing her unnatural expression. He paused and then said, "Have you forgotten the agreement between us that day?"

Shi Yi knew exactly what Leng Yixiu was referring to and couldn't help but retort, "I haven't forgotten. I have considered your proposal, but Leng Yixiu, this isn't something that can be rushed. It takes time; I can't just agree to date you casually."

"You're right, this can't be rushed. We both need to get to know each other better. So you should stay and spend more time with me."

Shi Yi reconsidered and thought Leng Yixiu made some sense. At this moment, Xiao Yi Xun also couldn't help but join Leng Yixiu's side.

"Mom, stay and have dinner with us!"

Xiao Yi Xun's plea was too irresistible, and Shi Yi eventually decided to stay. The VIP ward was like a mini-apartment with a bathroom, kitchen, and furniture all provided.

Soon, the enticing aroma of food wafted from the kitchen. Even though Leng Yixiu was in the hospital, his quality of life wasn't compromised at all. The only difference was that the chef from home was brought to Shengde.

Due to Leng Yixiu's injuries, the food was light but quite tasty. To accommodate the patient, he ate separately at his bed while Shi Yi and Xiao Yi Xun ate at a small table opposite the bed.

Shi Yi ate quietly, but she felt as if an intense gaze was fixed on her. She suddenly looked up and saw Leng Yixiu staring at her.

His eyes were smiling and gentle, looking at her in a way that could make someone drown in them. What was he doing? Teasing her?

Feeling awkward, Shi Yi coughed lightly and lowered her head, continuing to eat, feeling a bit annoyed—how was she supposed to eat in peace with him staring?

"Mom, the rice from your bowl is falling on the table?" Xiao Yi Xun's voice broke the awkward atmosphere. Seeing Shi Yi's distracted expression, the little one added, "The teacher said, every grain of rice is the result of hard work and shouldn't be wasted."

Shi Yi finally came back to her senses and smiled apologetically at Xiao Yi Xun, "The teacher is right. Every grain is precious, and wasting it should be criticized."

Although Shi Yi said this, she felt a bit frustrated inside. She never expected to be lectured by a little kid at her age. Sigh, she seemed to be getting younger as she grew older.

Shi Yi's face showed a variety of expressions, very fascinating to Leng Yixiu. He had never seen her like this before and couldn't help but smile. He then said to Xiao Yi Xun, "You seem quite proficient in teaching others; do you want to be a teacher in the future?"

Leng Yixiu's question was casual, but he didn't expect the little one to nod vigorously. Leng Yixiu couldn't help but laugh, but his laughter accidentally pulled at his wound.

Chapter 523: Mom, why is your face red?

Seeing the man's brows knit in pain, Shi Yi's heart tightened. She hurriedly got up, came to the man's bedside, and asked anxiously, "Are you okay?"

The look of worry on Shi Yi's face was more effective than any painkiller in the world for Leng Yixiu. He glanced deeply at Shi Yi, his eyes full of emotion, and said, "With you here, how could anything be wrong?"

The man's words, though not love words, were even more touching than love words.

It was only then that Shi Yi realized she might have overreacted. Her ears turned red, and she awkwardly let go of his hand, turning back to her seat to continue eating.

However, at this moment, the little guy next to her insensitively blurted out, "Mom, why is your face red?"

Hearing this, Shi Yi instantly froze. It took her a long moment to recover from the embarrassment, and she awkwardly pulled a smile, "Is it? Maybe it's because of the hot weather. I don't know what's going on recently, the weather suddenly turns hot and cold, it really makes people uncomfortable."

Shi Yi lied through her teeth without blushing. Leng Yixiu didn't expose her, only finding her even more interesting than four years ago.

Four years ago...

Thinking of her back then, the smile in the man's eyes gradually faded. Since fate had brought her back to him, and since she had forgotten everything from before, he wouldn't let history repeat itself.

This time, he would hold on to her tightly, no matter what happened, he wouldn't let go.

After dinner, the little guy played with Shi Yi for a while, then fell asleep on the sofa. Sister Yi, worried she wouldn't sleep well here and wanting to give Leng Yixiu and Shi Yi some private time, called Old He, and together they sent Xiao Yi Xun back home.

For a moment, the large ward was left with only Leng Yixiu and Shi Yi. While eating, Shi Yi had organized her chaotic thoughts. She thought, instead of continuing in this unclear, ambiguous state, it was better to clarify things.

"Leng Yixiu, do you really like me?"

Shi Yi's sudden question made the man pause slightly. Then Shi Yi saw Leng Yixiu nod and say solemnly, "Yes."

"Why me? There are so many women in the world, why do you like me? Is it because of my face? Or because I'm the Lei Man CEO?"

"Neither. Shi Yi, there's no denying that you are indeed very beautiful. But in this world, there are many beautiful women, even more beautiful than you. So, I don't like you because of your looks. As for the Lei Man CEO identity... Shi Yi, do you think Lei Man and Leng's are comparable? Although Lei Man does have some competition, I'm not desperate enough to compromise myself for a small company."

"Then why do you like me?"

"I like you simply because you are you."

Shi Yi felt confused and dissatisfied, "My language skills aren't great, I don't understand your profound words. Can't you make it clearer?"

"Shi Yi, sometimes liking someone doesn't require a reason."

Despite all her probing, Shi Yi still didn't get the answer she wanted. She thought, even if she asked until nightfall, she might not get an explanation, so she could only give up.

After a moment, Shi Yi changed the subject, speaking seriously, "I've thought carefully about our agreement. I think, as adults with our own lives, we shouldn't waste time playing ambiguous games. So

why not this: let's try to understand each other for a month. If we feel compatible, we'll start dating officially. If not, we'll part ways without entanglement. What do you think?"

The man squinted his eyes with interest, "Are you testing me?"

"Sort of?"

"Nowadays, you can buy things online with an unconditional seven-day return policy."

The man was amused by Shi Yi's proposal, teasing, "Miss Shi, I'm of better quality than online products."

"Whether the quality is good or not, we'll know after trying."

The man leaned closer suggestively and whispered, "It depends on how you try. But no matter which aspect you try, I assure you, I'm of good quality."

Shi Yi's ears turned red, and she jumped away in annoyance, keeping a safe distance, "Don't try to be a rogue in front of me!"

The man leaned lazily on the hospital bed and said leisurely, "I might have tried before, but considering my current condition, being a rogue might be difficult."

Leng Yixiu agreed to Shi Yi's proposal but added a few conditions. For example, during this month, Shi Yi had to come to Shengde every day, his reason being to get to know each other better. Another condition was that Shi Yi had to pick up Xiao Yi Xun from school daily, as she was part of his life and understanding him meant understanding his daughter.

Shi Yi agreed to these conditions cheerfully but was annoyed by the last one. Leng Yixiu proposed that they shouldn't refuse necessary physical contact during this month, claiming it was also to understand each other better.

"Mr. Leng, you're being too insistent. I won't agree to this condition no matter what."

Shi Yi glared at him, but Leng Yixiu remained calm and composed, his lips curving as he said, "I think you misunderstood my meaning. I meant necessary physical contact, not what you imagined."

Seeing Shi Yi's expression soften, the man continued, "You should know, with my gunshot wound, it won't heal quickly. Moving around with injuries is inconvenient, sometimes needing support. If the nurse isn't here, you wouldn't just stand by, would you?"

Shi Yi thought this made some sense. She reconsidered, and considering his current condition, even if he had any ulterior motives, he might not have the strength. After all, she knew some self-defense skills. Dealing with an injured person shouldn't be difficult.

So, ultimately, Shi Yi nodded in agreement to his additional condition. However, when she agreed, she noticed a glint in the man's eyes.

Her heart tightened. For some reason, seeing Leng Yixiu's elegant smile, she felt deceived. Later events proved this feeling right.

Chapter 524:

According to the agreement, if there were no other urgent matters, Shi Yi would pick up Xiao Yi Xun from school every day. On this matter, Shi Yi had no objections as she quite liked the little one.

After dropping off Xiao Yi Xun at the hospital, Shi Yi lingered in Leng Yixiu's ward for a while. When Leng Yixiu asked her to stay for dinner, she didn't refuse, since she had agreed to give each other a month to get to know each other.

Of course, to facilitate this, Sister Yi sensibly took Xiao Yi Xun away early, giving Shi Yi and Leng Yixiu some alone time.

Regarding this, the little one was somewhat unhappy. While taking the elevator, she sulkily asked, "Why do we have to go home now? I want to be with Mommy and Daddy."

"Little Miss, your Mommy and Daddy are having some quality time together."

"Quality time?" The little one blinked in confusion.

"Quality time is... well..." Sister Yi couldn't think of a reasonable explanation, so she squatted down and whispered to Xiao Yi Xun, "If your Mommy and Daddy have a good time, you might have a little brother soon."

A little brother?

Suddenly, the little one thought of the adorable little brother at Xiao Xuanxuan's house. Delighted, she asked, "Will Mommy and Daddy really have a little brother?"

"Yes, so we shouldn't disturb them, understand?"

Xiao Yi Xun half understood and finally nodded.

Sister Yi successfully persuaded Xiao Yi Xun, thinking to herself that Mr. Leng had to work harder to win over Miss Shi Yi soon, so Xiao Yi Xun could have a playmate.

Of course, Shi Yi was unaware of Sister Yi's thoughts. At that moment, she was boredly flipping through a gossip magazine, occasionally glancing at the man on the hospital bed opposite her, who was holding a video conference with the company's top management.

Shi Yi had no choice but to admire the man's dedication to his work. Despite being so injured, he didn't forget his job. Should she apply to the government for a model worker award for him?

She was contemplating this when the man ended his video conference and turned his gaze towards her, "Can you do me a favor?"

"What is it?"

"I haven't taken a bath in several days..."

The man hadn't finished speaking when Shi Yi cut him off decisively, "You don't expect me to give you a bath, do you? I'm telling you now, don't even think about it."

The man's response was a low chuckle, "Shi Yi, I think you misunderstood me. Hear me out first before making a decision. What I meant was, I haven't bathed in days, can you use a wet towel to wipe my body?"

Isn't that almost the same as giving him a bath?

"You should get a nurse to do it. I don't know how to do such things, and it would be bad if I accidentally hurt you."

"It's okay, I can handle it."

"Even if you can handle it, I don't want to." Shi Yi directly made her stance clear.

The man brought out his trump card, "Have you forgotten our agreement? You promised that you wouldn't refuse necessary physical contact."

Shi Yi was momentarily speechless, "You never said this included wiping your body. Besides, the nurse can do this too, so it doesn't count as necessary physical contact."

"But the nurse isn't here now."

"I'll call the nurse in."

Seeing Shi Yi's insistence, the man suddenly turned cold and said sternly, "Forget it. I don't want a nurse taking advantage of me."

The man's tone had a hint of childish stubbornness, and he lay back on the bed gloomily.

Staring at his lonely and pitiful back, Shi Yi couldn't believe that the mighty boss of the Leng Group would display such childish behavior in front of her.

Was this still the Leng Yixiu she knew?

Shi Yi stared at his back for a long time, eventually confirming that the man lying on the opposite bed acting petulant was indeed the big boss. Shi Yi found it both funny and exasperating. She stood up and walked to the bedside, then poked Leng Yixiu's back with her finger.

"Hey, where's the towel for wiping your body?"

Hearing this, the man's expression instantly brightened, and he quickly turned over, pointing to the bathroom not far away, "In the bathroom, the blue one."

He turned over so quickly that he pulled on his healing wound, the sudden pain causing him to groan.

Seeing this, Shi Yi hurriedly asked, "Are you okay? Did you hurt your wound? I'll go get the nurse."

She was about to turn around when Leng Yixiu stopped her, "Shi Yi, I'm fine. No need to call the nurse."

"Really no need?"

"I know my body. The wound hasn't split open, don't worry."

Despite Leng Yixiu's reassurances, Shi Yi was still worried and insisted on calling the nurse. The nurse confirmed that the wound was fine, which relieved Shi Yi.

Seeing Shi Yi's worried face, the man couldn't help but smile and looked at her deeply, "Shi Yi, have you noticed that you care more and more about me?"

"Care about you?!" Shi Yi responded angrily, turning to go into the bathroom.

In truth, Shi Yi regretted her moment of softness. She should've let Leng Yixiu lie in bed and wait to rot.

"Miss Shi, are you satisfied with my body?"

Hearing this, Shi Yi's expression stiffened, and she awkwardly coughed, "Well... it's so-so."

"Really? Looks like I'll have to exercise more from now on," the man said, emphasizing the last few words.

The implication made Shi Yi's cheeks flush. She collected herself, quickly looked away, then leaned over and picked up the hot towel from the basin, wringing it out hard.

As she wiped Leng Yixiu's back, she tried to avoid touching his wounds and also avoided direct physical contact.

She meticulously wiped his back, and everything seemed to go smoothly without any mishaps.

Chapter 525: Suffocation

"Why did you stop?" Leng Yixiu asked.

"The front, you can wipe it yourself."

"I'm injured now, I can't exert force with my hands. As the saying goes, if you help someone, help them to the end. You can't just do things halfway and then give up, right?" The man turned his face slightly, saw the unusual blush on Shi Yi's face, then moved closer and slowly asked, "You wouldn't be shy, would you?"

"Shy? Hehehe... Which eye of yours saw me being shy?" Shi Yi laughed a few times, refusing to show weakness, "Wipe the front if you want, it's no big deal."

When Shi Yi stood in front of the man, almost touching Leng Yixiu, she then belatedly realized that she had probably fallen for Leng Yixiu's trick.

However, it was too late to regret it now. She could only bite the bullet, reach out her hand, and vigorously wipe the man's chest skin.

Shi Yi had to admit, Leng Yixiu's physique was still quite impressive. She comforted herself secretly, thinking she wasn't wiping Leng Yixiu's body, but appreciating a perfect statue, and without having to pay for a ticket, why not enjoy it?

Thinking like this, Shi Yi's heart felt a bit balanced. She wiped the man's chest with full strength, just like rubbing a statue.

Leng Yixiu only felt a slight pain on his chest skin. He couldn't help but lower his eyes to look at the woman in front of him, who was fully absorbed in wiping, looking very focused.

He couldn't help but laugh, eventually spoke, "Actually, you don't need to use so much force."

Shi Yi didn't respond for a long time. She seemed too absorbed to hear his words. The man shook his head helplessly and extended his hand to tightly grasp Shi Yi's hand.

With her hand tightly wrapped in a large palm, Shi Yi suddenly came back to her senses. She looked up with confusion, caught off guard by a pair of eyes filled with laughter.

"If you use a bit more force, my chest skin might get rubbed raw."

Upon hearing this, a trace of embarrassment crossed Shi Yi's eyes. She reflexively wanted to retract her hand, but Leng Yixiu held her hand tightly, she couldn't pull it back.

The warmth from the man's palm slowly spread through the back of her hand. Shi Yi wondered if it was her illusion, but she even felt her heart area getting a bit hot.

"Leng Yixiu, let go!"

"What if I don't let go?" The man stared at her, half smiling.

"If you keep this up, I'll... I'll..."

"What will you do?"

"I'll ignore you!" Shi Yi's face, which had already cooled down, started to heat up again.

Seeing Shi Yi's embarrassed expression, Leng Yixiu didn't want to push too hard, slowly released her hand, then gave her a deep glance, "Shi Yi, don't make me wait too long."

Wait too long?

Shi Yi couldn't quite understand Leng Yixiu's meaning. They haven't known each other for long. From Leng Yixiu confessing to now, it had been at most half a month. From her perspective, their progress should be considered fast, right?

The two of them spent quite some time in the hospital room afterwards. By the time Shi Yi left, it was already past ten in the evening. Out of concern for Shi Yi's safety, Leng Yixiu insisted that Old He send her back to her apartment.

On the way back to the apartment, Shi Yi couldn't help but recall the events of the day. Her mind kept flashing back to moments spent with Leng Yixiu.

She admitted, Leng Yixiu was indeed irresistible, even she was a bit moved. But why, deep down, there was an inexplicable unease lingering within her? A voice inside kept telling her that what she was doing was wrong.

Why was that?

Shi Yi stared at the rapidly retreating street scenes outside the window, lost in thought. She wondered if this had something to do with her past?

The past...

Her past was a blank. Over the years, she had countless dreams, each time dreaming of different scenes. But most of these dreams had one common feature: there was always a man, calling out to her affectionately in the dream.

However, every time, that person was either facing away from her or enveloped in mist, preventing her from seeing his appearance. She wanted to approach him, to find out who he was, but she never succeeded.

Shi Yi couldn't help but wonder who she was, where she came from, and if there was someone she once loved. If she had loved someone before, if one day she regained her memory, how would she handle it?

Shi Yi sighed softly, shaking her head, comforting herself. Song Yi had once said that the chance of her regaining her memory was very slim. Why should she stop because of such a slim possibility?

One should always look forward in life.

Upon returning to the apartment, Shi Yi unexpectedly ran into Ouyang Hao in the elevator. Previous unpleasant experiences had left a very bad impression of Ouyang Hao on Shi Yi.

So, seeing Ouyang Hao in the elevator, Shi Yi decided to ignore him. After all, in a while, they would each go their own way.

But to Shi Yi's surprise, Ouyang Hao, who usually had a different woman by his side each time they met, was alone this time.

Hehe, what's this? Has he changed his ways?

Shi Yi raised an eyebrow, originally wanted to mock him, but thinking about it, decided against it. They weren't familiar with each other; there was no need to bother with him.

However, the enclosed space began to be filled with a strong smell of alcohol. Shi Yi didn't have to guess to know it was definitely because of the person behind her. She didn't like drinking, and hated drunks even more. The pungent smell of alcohol in the closed space made Shi Yi very uncomfortable. She stared at the elevator's display screen, watching the numbers change, only wishing time would pass faster.

Fatefully, sometimes the heavens seemed to like going against her. Just as the elevator was about to reach her floor, the carriage suddenly jolted violently. The lights above flickered wildly, and with a bang, the elevator began to plummet.

The strange yet familiar feeling made Shi Yi's heartbeat freeze. She felt like someone about to drown, quickly reaching out to grab the nearest thing, as if it was her only straw of hope.

Just when Shi Yi thought she was about to meet her end, everything went black, and the elevator abruptly stopped. However, Shi Yi didn't feel any relief because of this.

Back when she fell into the sea, though she was rescued by Chu Yan and Song Yi, which saved her life, it left an indelible shadow in her heart.

She was afraid of the dark, especially in enclosed spaces.

She looked around, but could see nothing in the pitch blackness of the elevator. Shi Yi only felt the air thinning little by little, even breathing became difficult.

It was as if she was back in the cold seawater, with the air in her lungs being depleted bit by bit. She opened her mouth, taking large breaths, but to no effect, only feeling like there was fire burning in her lungs, a scorching pain.

She weakly crouched down, consciousness slowly slipping away from her body. Whether it was real or her illusion, just before she lost consciousness, she seemed to hear a familiar yet unfamiliar voice.

"Hey, are you okay?"