

Bigoted 951

Chapter 951: Dissatisfaction Between the Two of Them

Han Xiao, Hua Wuyan, and Qin Feng were standing outside the door.

She was surprised but also very touched.

Han Xiao saw that Qin Shu's face had a hint of haggardness. It was obvious that her lower jaw had become thinner. Her exquisite makeup could not hide it. "You've lost weight."

A simple sentence showed how much his heart ached.

Qin Shu subconsciously touched her face. Although she looked at herself in the mirror every day, she did not realize that she had lost weight. After Han Xiao said this, she realized that the clothes she had been wearing recently had gotten a little bigger. As for her weight.., it had been a long time since she had weighed herself.

Hua Wuyan also realized that Qin Shu had obviously lost a lot of weight since the last time. She had also become a lot more haggard. "Ling Bao, why did you only say this now? Are you afraid to trouble us?"

Qin Shu felt a little embarrassed. She was indeed afraid to trouble them, so she did not mention it.

The longer he had been missing, the more anxious she became.

Xi Yan and Qi Hua were close to the sea, so she wanted to enlist Han Xiao's help.

However, she didn't expect Han Xiao would tell the three of them when she called him.

She noticed Jun Li's absence, and could not help feeling worried about his health.

Qin Feng saw Qin Shu had lost a lot of weight. Her small oval face was almost out of shape, and her eyes were clearly exhausted.

Qin Feng took a few steps forward and pulled her into his embrace, he was angry and felt sorry for her. "Ling Bao, you treat them as outsiders, and you treat me as an outsider too. Have you forgotten that we have the same surname? We are a family. If something like this happened, you should have told me immediately."

Qin Shu also felt that she was treating him as an outsider on hearing this. It was one thing if she did not tell Han Xiao and the others, but she had even hidden it from Qin Feng.

From the moment she met Qin Feng, he had always been very good to her. He would not let others bully her.

Although her martial art strength was second to none, Qin Feng would still protect him.

"Brother Ling Bao."

Hua Wuyan said unhappily, "Ling Feng, what do you mean by this? How can we be considered outsiders? You are considered her older brother while we are just outsiders?"

Han Xiao said, "Wuyan and I are both her brothers."

Qin Feng immediately explained, "I... I misspoke. We are all her older brothers. We all treat Ling Bao as our younger sister."

Qin Shu was originally very depressed, but instantly felt much better when she heard their conversation.

"Don't worry. We will find Fu Tingyu. If he dares to leave you behind, we will not let him off."

Qin Feng spoke harshly. Anyone who did not know better would have assumed Fu Tingyu was not a missing person, but a scumbag who had abandoned his wife and children. Now, her family was here to seek justice.

It also showed how much they pampered her.

Han Xiao watched as Qin Feng pulled her into his arms without any second thoughts. He also wanted to hug her and comfort her without any restraint, but in the end, he controlled himself.

"Let's discuss the specifics of the situation first. We can also search more accurately."

Qin Shu looked at Han Xiao from Qin Feng's arms.

She gave a rough account of what had happened that day, as well as the results of the search and rescue.

"yan Shuang's whereabouts are still unknown. The Yan family is also doing their best to search and rescue her, but to no avail."

Everyone present knew that under such circumstances, the chances of surviving falling into the cold river water were slim.

Even if she had not died at that time, she had fallen into the river at such a high altitude. She did not even have time to cushion herself. In addition, the river water was bone-chillingly cold in winter. If she did not swim ashore in time, she would have drowned because her body was frozen stiff.

But they all hoped for a miracle to happen.

Since Qin Shu believed Fu Tingyu did not drown and was simply missing, they would go all out to find Fu Tingyu. If he was alive, they would want to see him. If he was dead, they would want to see his corpse.

Qin Feng said, "Ling Bao, don't worry about the area near the sea. We will conduct a carpet-like search and rescue. I am confident we will find him."

"Ling Feng is right." Hua Wuyan looked at Qin Shu and comforted her, "Ling Bao, as long as he is missing, it means his chances of survival are very high. Don't worry. Take care of the company first. Leave the rest to us."

Qin Shu nodded hard. "Yes, I also believe he wouldn't be so heartless that he would leave Xiao Jiu and me."

“You have to rest more. When he comes back and sees you like this, he would feel upset.” Han Xiao didn’t know how to comfort people, but he knew this to be true.

“I know. My appetite has been a little poor recently. I will try my best to eat.” Qin Shu did not dare to say that she could not sleep at night. She relied on sleeping pills to sleep peacefully. If she ate too much, there would be side effects.

Han Xiao and the others did not stay here for long before they left. This was because they were going to personally find Fu Tingyu and bring him back to her. This was the greatest comfort to Qin Shu.

They came mainly to see Qin Shu. After such a big accident, if she did not have the strength in her, it was easy to be defeated. If it was serious, something bad might even happen to her.

Therefore, they specially traveled overnight to see her.

Now that they had seen her, not only did they feel sorry for her, but they were also glad that she could stay strong and not let herself collapse.

Before leaving, Han Xiao rubbed Qin Shu’s head, just like how he used to do when she was sad on the Qi Mountain.

“Don’t think about anything else. There’s still us.”

After Han Xiao and the others left, Qin Shu’s mood improved a lot and she started to work seriously.

As for the family meeting tomorrow, she would deal with whatever came her way.

The next day, an hour before the family meeting.

Shi Yan was holding the materials needed for the family meeting. He thought about the family meeting and could not help feeling a little worried. “Madam Fu, are we going straight there?”

“Yes.” Qin Shu stood in front of the mirror and looked at her makeup. She was wearing a high-end custom-made suit today. It was pure black, the same style as the man’s suit. Her long hair was casually scattered on her shoulders.

She deliberately put on makeup to look her best.

There was still a tough battle to fight later.

She checked herself out in the mirror. Whether it was her mental state or her overall appearance, she was very satisfied.

She turned around and looked at her son. He was also wearing a high-end custom-made suit. His hair was combed very smoothly. When he wasn’t smiling, he looked very much like Fu Tingyu.

She squatted down in front of her son and helped him straighten out the bow tie on his collar. “Xiao Jiu, are you nervous?”

Xiao Jiu shook his head. “Xiao Jiu isn’t nervous. Mommy doesn’t have to worry. I won’t embarrass Daddy either.”

Qin Shu was glad that her son was so sensible at such a young age. She smiled and said, "Xiao Jiu is great. Mom believes that you won't let Dad down."

Qin Shu stood up and took her son to the Fu family's old residence by car.

At the family meeting, all the direct descendants of the Fu family who worked for the company would be waiting in the meeting hall of the Fu family's old residence early.

Along conference table in the huge meeting room was filled with people. Everyone was waiting for the current leader of the Fu family, Fu Tingyu, to show up.

In the past, when Fu Tingyu attended family meetings, he always came punctually.

There were still ten minutes until two o'clock in the afternoon, but there was still no movement at the door. The direct descendants of the Fu family sitting at the desk couldn't help but whisper to each other.

"Have you heard that something happened to Tingyu when he went to Xi Yan and he hasn't returned yet?"

Chapter 952: Shockingly Spoke to Fu Tingyu on the Phone

The one who spoke was Fu Tingshen. He was from the same generation as Fu Tingyu and ranked second. He held the position of general manager of the Fu Enterprise in the company.

"Te also heard some rumors. Tingyu hasn't returned for more than half a month. I don't know if it's true or false," Fu Tingxu said in a low voice.

Fu Tingxu was ranked third in the family and was the deputy manager of Fu Enterprise.

"Rumors are 90% untrustworthy. I've seen recent company proposals and contracts with my own eyes. The handwriting and signatures do not lie." Fu Tinggi was the executive director of the Fu Enterprise Group and the fifth son in the family.

"You'll know later. Tingyu always comes in punctually." Fu Tinghao looked like he was watching a good show as he glanced at the door of the conference room.

Everyone subconsciously looked at the conference room entrance. The moment they turned the look, they saw Shi Yan entering the room followed by Fu Tingyu's special assistant. Fu Tingyu was nowhere to be seen. Instead, Fu Zhiheng walked into the room causing a hint of bewilderment to flash in everyone's eyes.

"Why is Fu Zhiheng in? Where is Tingyu?"

"This is the family meeting, It's an important meeting and not an amusement park. Why is Fu Zhiheng here?"

Shi Yan said nothing, He led Xiao Jiu to the main seat and said to Xiao Jiu, "Young Master Jiu, please take a seat."

Xiao Jiu walked over to the main seat. He wasn't in a hurry to sit down. Instead, he stood in front of the seat and looked at his elders with his unsullied black and white eyes.

"Hello, everyone. I'm Fu Zhiheng. Father didn't come to the family meeting today but he gave me an important task. He wants me to take his place and host the annual family meeting. This is to train my courage and leadership skills. I am still young. If I speak rudely or inappropriately, I hope everyone can show me some guidance."

After Xiao Jiu finished speaking, he gave a deep bow and sat down in front of the main seat under everyone's astonished and puzzled gazes.

This seat belonged to his father. Now that he was sitting in this seat, he could sense pressure mounting.

Although he knew how the family meeting worked and its theme, he was a little nervous. He couldn't let his mother down, nor could he embarrass his father.

Fu Zhiheng was only four years old, but he didn't show any signs of cowardice in front of so many people. Instead, he spoke clearly and sounded articulate, which surprised everyone.

After the surprise, there was confusion and anger.

"This is an important family meeting, not a child's game. You're just a kid. At your age, the only business you have is playing. Why would you need training? Go back and tell your father to come over"

Fu Tingshen's voice was clearly filled with anger. The moment he placed his teacup on the conference table, it left a loud bang. The conference room was quiet to begin with, but it became even quieter.

"Xiao Jiu, this is an adult's matter. You're still a child, so I know you are just being mischievous. Why don't you cut it out and get your father to come over? The family meeting is very important, understand?"

Fu Tinggi actually liked Xiao Jiu very much because Xiao Jiu was very intelligent and sensible. In particular, the way he spoke earlier was very similar to Fu Tingyu when he was young.

However, this was the family meeting that was held once a year. It was very important and could not be taken lightly.

Xiao Jiu glanced at Fu Tingshen and Fu Tinggi with an innocent smile on his face. "As the future heir, I have to look and learn more. Since this is a rare opportunity, my father asked me to come in his place. He simply hopes everyone can take the chance to guide me."

"I think Tingyu really wants Xiao Jiu to learn more. He did not show up for the meeting and sent his son instead. Isn't that a little too patronizing? Also, there is a rumor going on..." Fu Tinghao wanted to say something, but he was hesitant.

The doubt in Fu Tingshen's eyes deepened on hearing this. "I understand that Tingyu wants to cultivate your ability, but he also has to prioritize things. How could he act so carelessly during such an important meeting? Since Tingyu let you come, why didn't he show himself? Even when boy emperors

ascend to the throne, regents are appointed."

Xiao Jiu said without the slightest change in his expression, "Uncle Tingshen, you make sense. That is why my father will be available over the phone to give the last say."

Fu Tinghao asked quizzically, "Xiao Jiu, do you mean Tingyu will call over?"

Xiao Jiu replied, "When the meeting starts, I will call Father on his cell phone. This is completely in line with your suggestion about giving me supervision."

Fu Tinghao couldn't believe they could get Fu Tingyu on the phone. That rumor... "Then call Tingyu on his cell phone now and ask him if he really wants a child like you to host this family meeting."

Xiao Jiu readily agreed. "No problem, Uncle Tinghao."

Shi Yan took out his phone and handed it to Xiao Jiu. He took the phone and dialed his father's number. After a short while, the call was answered. He deliberately put it on speaker.

"Father, the elders want to confirm if you are sure about letting me host such an important meeting."

'When Xiao Jiu made the call for interrogation, everyone's eyes were on his phone, listening to the content of the call quietly.

After Xiao Jiu finished speaking, a deep, steady, and magnetic voice came from the other end of the phone.

"Everyone should have heard that my father brought me to the family meeting when I was four years old. Xiao Jiu is now four years old. I simply decided to let him go on his own to help make him braver. Do you have any objections?"

Fu Tinghao was stunned and couldn't react for a long time after hearing this familiar voice.

How... How was this possible?

Didn't they say Fu Tingyu's fate was unknown?

How could he still pick up the phone?

Fu Tingshen remained calm. The moment they heard Fu Tingyu's voice, he shot a glance at Fu Tinghao. Didn't he say Fu Tingyu had gone missing?

He retracted his gaze and looked at the phone that Xiao Jiu was holding. He said, "Even if Xiao Jiu is four years old, we can't let him host such an important meeting. Do you not care about this meeting, or are you looking down on us?"

"Eu Tingshen, you are his uncle, and Xiao Jiu is the future heir. Shouldn't you encourage him to bravely face such an important occasion?"

The moment Fu Tingyu called him by his full name, his body stiffened, and a cold sweat began to break out on his back.

Fu Tingyu would only call him by his full name when he was angry. Moreover, he was very vengeful.

His boss, Fu Tingbo, was the best example.

In terms of ruthlessness, Fu Tingyu was comparable to Fu Beichen back in the day.

This was also the reason why Fu Tingshen, yearned badly for the position of the family head, but he had no chance.

‘When he heard the rumors of Fu Tingyu’s disappearance, he was filled with anticipation for this family meeting, but in the end... It was all for naught.

Fu Tingshen was somewhat indignant.

“Who else thinks that Xiao Jiu shouldn’t be sitting here?”

On the other end of the phone, Fu Tingyu’s deep voice rang in the air once again. It carried an icy chill that made people involuntarily feel reverent.

Fu Tinghao snapped out his thoughts. He stared at the phone in Xiao Jiu’s hand. The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was gone just like that.

Xiao Jiu placed the phone on the conference table on the right-hand side. Then, he slowly said, “If everyone has no other objections, let the meeting begin..”

Chapter 953: Do You Want Your Son to Be Single?

Everyone in the conference room looked at each other. Although they still had doubts in their hearts, they did not dare to say anything more.

The meeting proceeded to commence.

Xiao Jiu’s expression did not change, but he secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

‘When Shi Yan heard this, he could not help feeling embarrassed. It was so similar to Lord Fu’s voice that even he could not tell if it was real or fake.

He collected his thoughts and took out the various data and reports in his hands, analyzing them for everyone present.

This was the Nth time Shi Yan had done something like this, and he couldn’t be more familiar with it.

At this moment, in Fu Tingyu’s courtyard.

Qin Shu held the phone in her hand. On the surface, she looked calm, but in fact, the palm of her hand with the phone was already covered in a cold sweat.

She had produced Fu Tingyu’s voice over the phone using a voice changer and regulating her tone.

Ever since Fu Tingyu had gone missing, she had been persistently imitating his voice waiting for this day to come.

She had learned about Fu Tingyu attending the family meeting with his father when he was young from Old Madam Fu. It was also because there were precedents that she came up with this idea.

Fortunately, Fu Tingyu was swift and decisive in his actions. He would seek revenge for everything he had done. He was so evil that people hated him but did not dare to say anything.

Everyone in the family was very afraid of him.

The meeting lasted for two hours. She was also the one who had the final say on all decisions. Also, she handled the promotion of family members.

Since these were special times, no one was given any major promotion. It naturally caused a lot of dissatisfaction. Fortunately, it was resolved.

After Old Madam Fu heard Xiao Jiu had handled the family meeting and how everything was resolved perfectly, she heaved a sigh of relief in her heart.

However, when she thought of Little Yu, her heart became nervous again. She didn't eat much for dinner.

Meanwhile, at Bright Garden.

Qin Shu was really shocked by her son's performance. From the time he entered the conference room to the end of the meeting, her son performed brilliantly.

"Xiao Jiu, you did very well today. Whether it was your speech or your ability to adapt, you did very well. I am proud of you."

Xiao Jiu was especially happy to be able to help his mother. "Mommy, since I did so well this time, Daddy will definitely come back soon."

Qin Shu pulled her son into her arms. She felt a little sorry for him for being so sensible at such a young age and having to endure all this.

"He will. If Daddy knew that Xiao Jiu was so good and even better than him back in the day, he would definitely come back as soon as he can."

Xiao Jiu said happily, "Mom, the advertisement shoot will be happening anytime. I believe that when Father sees my ad, he will come back quickly."

She had heard about Xiao Jiu investing in children's clothing and filming the advertisement shoot from Shi Yan, and she respected his way of doing things.

"Xiao Jiu is getting more and more amazing. Not only do you know how to invest, but you also know how to protect your rights and interests. This way, you won't get cheated."

At this moment, Shi Yan was carrying a very big gift box. It was so big that it was not easy to carry. It was also very heavy. Ye Luo followed behind him and also walked in with a very big gift box.

Shi Yan lowered his head and looked at the very big gift box in his arms when he saw Qin Shu and Xiao Jiu. He felt a little uncomfortable in his heart.

The wedding dress, suit, and gown were all custom-made and ready, but this terrible mishap had happened.

“Madam Fu, the custom-made wedding dress has been delivered.” Shi Yan placed the gift box on the sofa for Qin Shu to check the stuff.

Ye Luo also placed the gift box in his hand on the sofa.

Qin Shu raised her head and looked at the gift box in Shi Yan’s arms. It was for the wedding banquet. She had checked them out with Fu Tingyu and they were all very satisfied with their effect.

After a few months, they were finally complete, but she was here looking at them by herself while Fu Tingyu was nowhere to be found.

Qin Shu stood up and walked to the sofa. She bent down and slowly opened the gift box. She saw the wedding dress inside. The man had personally instructed the designer to design it. It had a round collar and mid-length sleeves. Although it was conservative, the design was very beautiful.

She opened another huge gift box. It was the man’s wedding day suit. It was monochrome as usual, well-cut, simple, and sophisticated in design.

She closed the gift boxes one by one and instructed, “Send it to the bedroom.”

“Yes, Madam Fu.” Shi Yan knew that she felt uncomfortable seeing it, so he picked up the gift box on the sofa and went to the second floor without hesitation.

Ye Luo picked up the gift box again and followed Shi Yan to the master bedroom on the second floor.

It was getting closer and closer to the New Year, and the wedding date was getting closer and closer. However, no one knew when the man would come home.

Another week had passed, but there was still no news.

Han Xiao, Hua Wuyan, and Qin Feng had not been able to find him.

Despite her strength, the wait was truly unbearable.

Jiang Yu had to keep his mother company for two days at the hospital. Only when her condition stabilized did he return home from the hospital with a sigh of relief.

Jiang Yu did not even bother to rest. He took the car keys and walked out.

Lin Wan had come back with Jiang Yu’s mother. The moment she saw Jiang Yu walking out, she asked gently, “Jiang Yu, where are you going?”

Jiang Yu replied concisely, “I have something urgent to attend to. I have to go out for a while.”

Lin Wan saw that he was in such a hurry and guessed that he was going to look for Ye Xue. Of course, she could not let him go.

“Auntie Jiang has just come back from the hospital. Aren’t you even going to have dinner with her? She will definitely expect to see you later. If she can’t find you, she will definitely be anxious,” Lin Wan reminded him softly.

Jiang Yu's mother heard their conversation and walked out of the inner room. She saw her son holding the car keys in one hand holding his coat in the other. From his posture, it was obvious that he was going out for a while.

"Son, where are you going? I just came back from the hospital, and you're going out already?"

Jiang Yu was a little anxious. "Mom, I have something urgent."

Jiang Yu's mother saw that her son was just like her hubby and could not help but feel a little angry. She reached her hand out and grabbed her son's sleeve without letting go. "It's about work again, right? is work more important than me? Look at Lin Wan. She's always at home with me. If there's anything important, you can always work on it tomorrow."

Lin Wan pursed her lips and advised, "Jiang Yu, just do as your mother says. You're already tired from working, so you should relax at home and accompany your mother."

Jiang Yu did not look at Lin Wan. He looked at his mother and said impatiently, "Mom, you just came back from the hospital. Go to your room and sleep. I'll come back after I'm done. Also, I'm not going to work."

"If it is not about work, why are you in such a hurry? I understand if I can't compare to work, but is there anything else other than work I can't compare to? You're really hurting my feelings." Jiang Yu's mother looked at her son with an aggrieved expression. She seemed on the brink of bursting into tears.

Jiang Yu almost wanted to explode. He suddenly remembered something and said with a smile, "You're my biological mother. Nothing is more important than you. However, there's one thing that you must feel is more important than you."

Jiang Yu's mother asked in puzzlement, "What is it?"

Jiang Yu said, "A daughter-in-law. If I manage to win the girl, it is just a matter of time you have a grandson."

Jiang Yu's mother was a little confused, but she loosened her grip on her son's sleeve.

After Jiang Yu had regained his freedom, he wanted to escape. Before he left, he said, "You'd better pray at home that your son will get what he wants."

What he meant was, if he could get the girl, his mother would finally have a daughter-in-law. In that case, it was just a matter of time before his mother had a grandchild..

Chapter 954: Scumbag

Mrs. Jiang finally realized what Jiang Yu meant and a smile appeared on her face after he had gone afar. "Does my son finally get it? Has he finally taken an interest in girls? I don't have to worry about him anymore."

In the blink of an eye, Mrs. Jiang was a little worried again. "Considering my son's qualities, even though he is indeed a little silly, his looks and figure are good. He shouldn't have a problem finding a girlfriend, right? It's just that he tends to have questionable EQ."

"I wonder which girl finally got my son enlightened. She's definitely no ordinary girl. I really want to meet her."

Lin Wan was already a little upset after hearing what Jiang Yu said. Now that she heard what Jiang Yu's mother just said, her expression became even uglier.

She knew that Jiang Yu's mother was anxious to get Jiang Yu to date. This was also the reason why she was arranged to be Jiang Yu's secretary.

However, Mrs. Jiang had completely forgotten about Lin Wan's previous status as a potential candidate.

The more Mrs. Jiang thought about it, the happier she felt. She completely did not notice how annoyed Lin Wan looked. She continued to ask, "Lin Wan, you're his secretary. You should know which girl he's been getting close to recently, right?"

When Lin Wan heard this, she was so angry that she almost vomited blood. Her hands gripped the hem of her clothes tightly, but she was very unwilling to accept it. She thought about Ye Xue before she pursed her lips, rolled her eyes, and said, "I think she might be a female employee in the company. I'm not too sure either. I only know she has a bad reputation. She has a thing for handsome and rich men. I heard she was once kept as a mistress."

Lin Wan pursed her lips without saying a word.

Mrs. Jiang was born into a wealthy family and had seen many gold-diggers. Just her older brother alone was surrounded by gold diggers who wanted to marry up.

"Even if she's a gold-digger, shouldn't she take the initiative to throw herself at him? Why does my son have to chase after her so anxiously? Is she playing hard to get?"

Mrs. Jiang contemplated for a moment and said, "If she's really playing hard to get, and my son can't see through it, he deserves to be fooled."

Lin Wan's mouth twitched. She thought once Mrs. Jiang found out Jiang Yu's love interest had a bad reputation and was simply after his wealth and status, she would object to Jiang Yu chasing after her.

In the end, his own mother even said that he deserved to be cheated.

Lin Wan reminded her, "Auntie Jiang, Jiang Yu is such a good person. If he really got cheated, wouldn't he be very sad? Do you have the heart to let him be cheated by a woman?"

"Lin Wan, you don't understand. Since he was born in a wealthy family, it's very common for him to meet some people who are not what they appear to be. It is common to encounter the likes of gold diggers. After all, my son is a good man, so it would be abnormal if he didn't have such a woman near him.

If he got cheated so easily, it means he doesn't know people well enough. It would be good for him to get cheated if this meant he could learn a lesson."

Even though Mrs. Jiang said so, she was still a little worried. If she had a daughter, she would have to worry about her encountering scumbags. Even though she was raising a son, she was equally worried.

Lin Wan went speechless.

Jiang Yu drove straight to the Ye family home. Only after he arrived did he find out that Ye Xue was not at home and had already left the house.

He tried to call her again, but he was still on the blacklist.

He did not know where Ye Xue had gone, so he could only wait at the entrance of the alley.

A slender figure was leaning against the wall at the entrance of the alley. The gray-colored wall contrasted sharply with the black suit.

The wall blocked the sunlight from the side, leaving a long shadow on the ground. Jiang Yu's side profile was hidden in the shadows.

'There was a draft at the entrance of the alley and cold wind rustled. Some stray hair got a little disheveled from the wind. He had a high nose bridge, and his lips were tightly pursed. He did not care about it, allowing it to flutter without restraint in the wind.

Ye Xue returned from the interview. Just as she walked to the entrance of the alley, she saw Jiang Yu half-leaning against the gray-colored wall. It felt as though her feet had taken root, and it was impossible for her to step forward.

The backlight cast a long shadow of her slender form.

At the same time, Jiang Yu also saw the slender silhouette on the ground.

Jiang Yu raised his head and looked over. He saw Ye Xue wearing a khaki down jacket and a red scarf. Perhaps she had worn it for too long and washed it too many times, so the color was a little pale.

On the scarf fringe, there were words embroidered on it. Although he could only see a corner of it, he recognized it at a glance. He had bought that scarf on Christmas Day of his freshman year. The two of them had even taken a group photo together.

Later, Ye Xue embroidered his name and a word from her name on it.

She still kept the scarf. Did this mean that she still had a thing for him?

At this moment, he felt even more nervous than when he was in university.

He was already 23 years old. When he saw that she was still wearing the scarf, his heart inexplicably palpitated.

He stood up and called out, "Xiao Xue."

Ye Xue tightened the strap on her shoulder bag and asked him, "Why are you here?"

Jiang Yu said, "You suddenly asked for leave and didn't come to work. I was worried something might have happened to you, so I came over to take a look."

Ye Xue shook her head. "Nothing's wrong. It's good that you're here. I plan to resign. I've also written my resignation letter."

Jiang Yu was shocked when he heard this. He took two big steps forward, grabbed her wrist, and asked, "Why are you resigning? Did I do something wrong?"

Ye Xue shook her head yet again. "You didn't do anything wrong, it was my fault. Xinyue Group isn't the right place for me. Thank you for taking care of me during this period of time. I'm very grateful."

"How could it be a bad fit? Manager Zhang said that you performed very well, and the new proposal is also very good. When this proposal is finalized, you can..."

Before Jiang Yu could finish his sentence, he was interrupted by Ye Xue. "Xinyue Group really isn't suitable for me. Let's not meet anymore. It's not good to let your girlfriend misunderstand."

Did he have a girlfriend?

Jiang Yu was stunned for a few seconds, then he grasped the main point of the sentence. "When did I have a girlfriend? Why didn't I know?"

Ye Xue frowned. "Is there a need to hide that you have a girlfriend? You weren't like this in the past. I really didn't expect you to be a scumbag as well."

The word "scumbag" left Jiang Yu slightly stunned. He had been single for so long. When did he become a scumbag?

He didn't know what to say. "Xiao Xue, you have to have proof before you speak. Doesn't your conscience hurt when you say that about me?"

"You should be the one with a pricked conscience." Ye Xue wanted to pull her hand back, but she couldn't. She glared at Jiang Yu. "Let go of me this instant. I want to go home."

Jiang Yu didn't let go. Instead, he held her in his arms. Perhaps it was because he saw that she was still wearing the scarf that he had given her. It made him unable to restrain his impulse to hug her. Through the wide down jacket, he could feel that her slender body had long lost its baby fat.

"Xiao xue, I don't have a girlfriend. Other than dating you, I haven't dated anyone else. I haven't even flirted with anyone. Don't you trust me?"

The sudden hug stunned Ye Xue. She didn't know if she should believe his words. When she saw someone walking over, she hurriedly pushed him. "Jiang Yu, what are you doing? Let go of me."

Chapter 955: Mr. Ye Catches Them Embracing Each Other

Jiang Yu also saw the two people walking over. They were an older couple. When they had just started dating in university, he knew that Ye Xue was thin-skinned in nature. She was very shy and blushed easily. She would never let him hug her whenever there were people around them

“Then trust me. If you trust me, then let go.”

This had nothing to do with trust for Ye Xue. She watched as two people approached them not far away. Also, they were neighbors. If they found out she was being hugged by a man in broad daylight, who knew what they would say. Her face instantly turned red. It was uncertain whether she was embarrassed, anxious, or angry.

Her voice was somewhat anxious. “Let go quickly. Someone is coming.”

Jiang Yu said four words in a low voice, “I won’t let go.”

“Jiang Yu.” Ye Xue looked at the two people who were walking over. She was embarrassed, angry, and anxious. In the end, she simply hugged Jiang Yu and turned around. Her back was against the gray-colored wall, and her entire face was buried in Jiang Yu’s chest.

Jiang Yu couldn’t help but laugh when he saw this. He was forced into a corner, and Ye Xue had thrown herself into Jiang Yu’s arms. It was exactly what he wanted.

Knowing that she was shy, he tightened his arms a little, blocking her away from prying eyes so that no one could see who he was holding in his arms.

An old couple passed by them. The woman clicked her tongue and said, “This is in broad daylight. How could they cuddle? What kind of etiquette is that?”

The man also said, “Young people nowadays are all like this. There are even more outrageous young people who kiss in front of others.”

The woman sighed. “Times have really changed.”

The husband and wife walked away as they talked.

At this moment, Jiang Yu suddenly understood why Ye Xue was so afraid. “Did Old Madam Fu and Ye Xue transmigrate here? Why are they so feudal?”

The corner of Ye Xue’s mouth twitched. “Let go of me quickly.”

Jiang Yu held back his laughter and said, “Can’t you say something different? You’ve already said this line no less than three times.”

Ye Xue was speechless.

Jiang Yu lowered his head and saw that Ye Xue’s face was as red as an apple. He couldn’t help but reach out to pinch it. That was what he thought and did. Her skin was very good. It was tender and smooth, so he couldn’t bear to let go. “Don’t resign, okay?”

Mr. Ye came out to buy soy sauce under his wife’s orders. In the end, he saw two people hugging each other at the alley entrance. One of them was his daughter, and the other was his benefactor.

Although the times were different now and society was not as strict as before, it was still a little awkward to bump into him. He coughed lightly. “Cough, cough.”

Ye Xue knew it was her father the moment she heard the cough. While Jiang Yu was in a daze, she took two steps back and turned her head to see her father standing less than three meters away. Her face could not help reddening a little.

“Dad.”

Although Jiang Yu wasn't afraid of letting Ye Xue's parents know that he liked Ye Xue, he was still a little embarrassed to be seen like this. “Hi, Uncle Ye.”

“I was passing by. Her mother asked me to buy soy sauce. You guys go in first.”

Mr. Ye was also a little embarrassed. After saying that, he walked to the convenience store.

After Mr. Ye left, Jiang Yu reached out and held her hand. “Let's go. Let's go to your house first. I haven't been to your room yet.”

Ye Xue pulled her hand back forcefully. He wasn't her boss now, so there was no need to listen to him.

“Why are you going to my house? You should go back. I'll send you my resignation letter tomorrow.”

Jiang Yu said, “Your father asked me to take a seat inside.”

Ye Xue retorted, “My father was just being polite.”

“Your father hasn't gone far. I'll ask him if he was just being polite.”

After saying this, Jiang Yu turned around and looked to the right side of the alley. Mr. Ye hadn't gone far yet, and the convenience store was also on this side.

He was about to open his mouth and call out, but Ye Xue pulled on his sleeve and walked into the alley with a dark face. “Go in and have some tea.”

The corners of Jiang Yu's mouth unconsciously curled up into a beautiful arc. He walked evenly and followed behind her at a moderate pace.

After returning home, Jiang Yu said, “Let's go to your room and have a look.”

“No,” Ye Xue rejected him directly.

Mrs. Ye was preparing to cook when she heard the sound of something coming from the kitchen. She walked out and saw Jiang Yu in the living room, she smiled and said, “It's little Jiang,” Then she turned her head to Ye Xue and said, “Xiao Xue, why are you standing there like a fool? Go make him a cup of tea.”

Ye Xue turned around and glared at Jiang Yu and prepared to make tea for him.

Jiang Yu just smiled and said to Mrs. Ye, “There's no need, Auntie Jiang, I have something to say to Xiao Xue.”

Ye Xue looked at Jiang Yu with puzzlement, not knowing what he wanted to do.

“Is that so?” Mrs. Ye looked at the two people in front of her with puzzlement. She guessed that they probably had something that they did not want her to hear, then she said to Ye Xue, “Xiao Xue, bring him to your room to chat. I’ll call you when we eat later.”

Jiang Yu said politely, “Thank you, Auntie Jiang.”

Ye Xue could not believe that her mother would let a man into her bedroom just like that. She called out unhappily, “Mom.”

“You young people chat first. I’ll go in and cook.” Mrs. Ye ignored her daughter. She smiled at them and then turned to go into the kitchen.

Jiang Yu smiled at her. “Auntie also agreed to let me go to your room.”

Ye Xue raised her head and looked at Jiang Yu. The more she looked at him, the more she felt that he seemed to have changed a lot after not seeing him for more than a year.

Jiang Yu asked, “Where is your room?”

Ye Xue had no choice but to bring Jiang Yu to her room.

Mr. Ye carried the soy sauce into the kitchen. When he saw his wife, he asked, “Honey, is Xiao Xue him?”

Mrs. Ye was a little surprised by her husband’s observational ability. “Old Ye, you actually noticed it too?”

“They were hugging each other. If I still can’t tell, I am as good as blind” Mr. Ye expressed his dissatisfaction with his wife’s questioning of his intelligence.

Mrs. Ye was cooking when she heard this. She had undoubtedly heard the explosive news and forgot to stir-fry. “They were hugging each other?”

“At the entrance of the alley. They were hugging each other very tightly.” Mr. Ye glanced at the vegetables in the pot and reminded, “Honey, the vegetables are going to burn.”

“Isn’t he in a relationship?” Mrs. Ye was still a little unable to react. “...”

“I think he is quite a righteous person. He’s also quite a good person. He’s very outstanding in all aspects and he’s working with Xiao Xue. If he really gets along with Xiao Xue, I also think that he’s a good pick. What do you think, honey?” Mr. Ye asked for his wife’s opinion.

“He is a good and handsome man. However, marriage is a big issue, so they can’t rush it. Let’s see what they say first.”

“Honey, what you said makes sense. I’m just afraid that Little Xue will be stupid and miss out on Little Jiang.” Mr. Ye said this because he really thought highly of Jiang Yu. He felt that it was definitely right for his daughter to marry him.

Meanwhile, in the room.

The decoration of Ye Xue’s room was very small and fresh. The layout was simple, and the furnishings were simple. At a glance, it was very comfortable.

After Jiang Yu entered, he began to size up her room. This was the room she had lived in for more than twenty years. It was somewhat different from what he had imagined. He could smell a faint milk fragrance tip of his nose had, just like the smell on Ye Xue's body. It also carried a hint of sweetness..

Chapter 956: The More She Interacted the More She Liked Him

Ye Xue didn't know that not only did her parents think that they were dating, but they also thought that Jiang Yu was the best candidate for a son-in-law.

She glanced at Jiang Yu and found that he had been sizing up her room, so she asked, "Do you have anything to say?"

Jiang Yu had also sized her up, so he withdrew his gaze and looked at her. He said very seriously, "I have two things to say. First, I don't have a girlfriend. Second, I hope you don't resign."

Ye Xue asked in confusion, "Isn't Lin Wan your girlfriend?"

Jiang Yu answered affirmatively, "No, she's a secretary recommended by my mother. She's not very capable. If it weren't for my mother, I wouldn't have hired her."

Ye Xue was even more confused. Then why did Lin Wan say things like marrying him?

Feeling a shadow looming in front of her, she looked up and happened to meet Jiang Yu's beautiful eyes. The tip of their noses had already touched each other's noses, causing her to be stunned.

Jiang Yu asked in a low voice, "Are you jealous?"

"Who, who says I am jealous? I just..." Ye Xue thought about the rumors in the company and found them unacceptable. "Even if you don't have a girlfriend, I still have to resign."

Jiang Yu continued to ask, "Why? Hasn't Xinyue Group treated you well? Staff meals are provided for free. Employees also receive insurance and housing benefits. We also pay into employee pension funds. The company gives time off on weekends and public holidays. There is also a lot of room for development. You could use what you learned to your heart's content. Isn't that good?"

Ye Xue said, "It has nothing to do with this. I don't like Xinyue's working environment."

Jiang Yu contemplated when Ye Xue insisted on resigning. After thinking for a while, he thought of her personality and asked tentatively, "Did someone bully you?"

Ye Xue denied it right away. "No."

Jiang Yu and Ye Xue had been classmates for two years. Although he had never paid attention to her before, he had paid a lot of attention before the college entrance exam. Also, back in university, it was obvious that she had been wronged.

Did someone blatantly bully Ye Xue right under his nose?

He would never allow that.

Jiang Yu didn't ask any further. He now understood that if he wanted her to go back to work, he had to resolve the reason why she didn't want to go to the company.

Meanwhile, during dinner.

The four of them sat around the dining table.

Jiang Yu was born into a wealthy family and had received an excellent education. His eating style was very elegant and decent, but it didn't make people feel that there was too much of a difference. This was also because he and Fu Tingyan often went to eat at roadside stalls. When he ate at Ye Xue's house, he tried his best not to restrain himself.

Ye Xue had always eaten in small bites. She did not eat much in one meal.

Father and Mrs. Ye looked up at Jiang Yu from time to time. The more they looked at their son-in-law, the more they liked him.

During this time, they constantly reminded him to eat. "Eat more food."

"Thank you, Auntie." Jiang Yu thanked them and squeezed the chopsticks in his hand to pick up the food to eat.

Mr. Ye pointed at the sweet and sour fish and smiled. "This fish is especially fresh. You should try it too."

"Thank you, Uncle." Jiang Yu picked up his chopsticks again to pick up the sweet and sour fish.

Ye Xue looked up at Jiang Yu and then at father and Mrs. Ye, who was sitting opposite her. Why did they keep asking him to eat the food without reminding her daughter to eat it?

Also, the way they looked at Jiang Yu was also very strange. Since when did her parents value the other party's strong background?

After dinner

Jiang Yu was about to leave, so Ye Xue's parents asked Ye Xue to personally send him off.

How could she dare not listen to her parents?

She thought to herself, just send him to the entrance of the alley.

Before Jiang Yu left, he once again thanked Ye Xue's parents for their warm hospitality.

'When they reached the entrance of the alley Ye Xue stopped and said, "Here we are."

"Okay." Jiang Yu didn't force her to send him so far. He looked down and realized that she had been unwilling to take care of him, so he was a little hurt.

"Didn't you write your resignation letter? Send it to the company tomorrow afternoon. You can't resign from my office without my approval. Do you understand?"

Although Ye Xue was puzzled and why he was suddenly changed his mind about her resignation, she simply nodded and said, "I understand. I'll send the resignation letter personally."

“I’ll wait for you in the company office.” After saying this, she rubbed her short hair and turned to leave.

The car was parked not far away.

The next day.

Jiang Yu asked the special assistant to prepare for a group meeting.

A group meeting?

The special assistant was a little puzzled. Why did the president suddenly call for a group meeting?

Although he was puzzled, the special assistant still complied.

‘The group meeting was held in an hour.

The huge meeting room was filled with people.

Lin Wan stood at the side and looked at Jiang Yu. His expression was calm, so no one could tell what he was thinking.

No one knew if Ye Xue had said anything to betray her.

If Jiang Yu knew that she had said those words, he would definitely be angry.

Jiang Yu sat at the main seat with his gorgeous eyes slowly scanning the people in the meeting room. These were the only people who interacted with Ye Xue.

Although he didn’t know who the culprits were, he was going to find them.

He took the resignation report and glanced at the employees in front of him, “This is Ye Xue’s resignation letter. She has been fired. Recently, she has brought bad influence to everyone in the company. What do you all think?”

Lin Wan was originally worried, but when she heard the news of Ye Xue’s dismissal, she was delighted. Jiang Yu must have heard the bad rumors and did this. She did not sabotage Ye Xue in vain.

Now that even the president felt Ye Xue was no good, the person who had been stepping on Ye Xue behind her back now dared to say it out in the open.

“Mr. Jiang, Ye Xue only knows how to be lazy during her internship. The key is that her reputation isn’t good. It was wise of you to fire her.”

The person who spoke was the female employee who spoke ill of Ye Xue in the bathroom. Her name was Xiang Na.

Jiang Yu looked at the female employee with his deep eyes. She actually dared to say that Ye Xue was lazy during her internship?

He knew better than anyone what kind of person Ye Xue was. She was the last person who knew how to take advantage of opportunities, and she definitely wouldn’t be lazy.

Jiang Yu glanced at the special assistant beside him. The special assistant immediately took out a pen and wrote down the female employee’s name.

Expulsion list: Xiang Na.

Immediately after, someone spoke, "Ye Xue's behavior is also indecent. She even used to be a mistress. Although it's not a big problem, such a person has questionable morals and values. She really shouldn't stay in the company."

Jiang Yu sneered in his heart. Were they saying that she was indecent? Was she a kept woman?

No wonder she didn't want to work in the company.

Considering her temperament, she would definitely not be able to stand this gossip.

This time, the special assistant didn't need the president's reminder and consciously took down the female employee's name.

There were many people who said bad things about Ye Xue, and Jiang Yu also listened.

After taking down the names, Jiang Yu announced the end of the meeting and left with the name list.

In the afternoon

Ye Xue arrived at the Xinyue Group branch office on time with her resignation report.

She was stopped by the receptionist as soon as she entered the company.

"Miss, you have been fired. You don't need to come to the company anymore."

Lin Wan specifically greeted the receptionist. When she saw Ye Xue, she immediately chased her away. She even said that it was the president's intention. Of course, she took it as an imperial edict..

Chapter 957: Confidence Is Something You Find Within Yourself & Nowhere Else

Had she not been fired?

Ye Xue was stunned. Had Jiang Yu not asked for her resignation the previous day?

Had she been fired just like that?

Seeing Ye Xue's catatonic form, the disgust in the receptionist's eyes disappeared. She urged, "Leave now, or we'll have to call security."

Ye Xue felt weak. She was not some spring chicken, naive and not knowing the ways of the working world. Even if she had been dismissed or asked to resign, she should have received payment and an explanation for the sudden layoff.

"I have rights as an employee! The company must explain itself whenever it fires an employee. Moreover, I have worked twenty days this month. The company has not even settled the matter of my salary. Don't you think I deserve an answer?"

The receptionist snorted coldly. "Why don't you look at what you've done? Don't worry. Your salary will be wired to your account. There's no need for you to see the President. Do you think you can afford to anger our President?"

“Why do you think Jiang Yu will be angry with me? Wasn’t he fine just yesterday?” Recalling what Jiang Yu had said to her the previous day, Ye Xue found it difficult to believe he would be angry with her at all.

By this point, the receptionist was convinced that Ye Xue was the kind of woman who got close to the rich and powerful for nefarious reasons. The receptionist did not just loathe such people; she actively despised them. “You have some nerve calling the President by his name! If you don’t show yourself out, I’m afraid I’ll have to call security and ask them to escort you out.”

Ye Xue could only storm out of the company. What else could she have done? She was not about to make herself into a living spectacle for the entertainment of others.

Lin Wan poked her head out from behind a pillar. When she saw Ye Xue chased out, she felt an indescribable joy in her heart.

It was not easy for her to get close to Jiang Yu. How could she let that minx take it away?

Spinning on her heel, Lin Wan left with a smug smile on her face.

Ye Xue walked out of the building and planned to take a bus home. The more she thought about it, the more the situation seemed strange. By then, she had already arrived at the bus stop.

She had known Jiang Yu for so long, and not once did she peg him as the kind of person who would go back on their words.

Abus stopped in front of her. Its doors opened, waiting for her to get on.

Ye Xue suddenly turned around and ran back to the company. She withdrew her cell phone from her shoulder bag and dialled Jiang Yu’s number.

The line connected almost instantly.

“Jiang Yu, come out for a moment. I want to hand in my resignation,” She said.

“Come in by yourself.”

Jiang Yu had just finished his meeting and was sitting at his desk dealing with some matters. He was waiting for Ye Xue.

Ye Xue relayed the receptionist’s words to Jiang Yu. “The person at the front desk said you fired me and refused to let me see you. I was told my presence would invite your displeasure.”

When Jiang Yu heard this, the hand over his mouse paused. He knew she must have been wronged. Otherwise, Ye Xue would not have taken such a tone with him. “That was my mistake. Wait for me.”

After hanging up the phone, he took the special elevator down to the lobby.

He stopped and glared at the lady manning the front desk when he passed the front desk. The receptionist felt a pair of cold eyes staring at her. Subconsciously, she looked up and saw the President standing there. She was so scared her heart skipped a beat.

Jiang Yu continued on a moment later while the cold gripping her heart eased.

Only then did the receptionist come back to her senses. She peeked over her desk and looked in the direction of the entrance. Patting her chest and said, "That look the President gave me was terrifying!"

Ye Xue put away her phone. She was still wearing the khaki jacket she had worn yesterday, a threadbare scarf wrapping around her slender neck.

Her thin ears danced in the breeze, and her blond hair fluttered as the wind blew.

The spot where she stood carried with it nature's beauty. Occasionally, a few pale yellow leaves would fall, and some would land on her shoulders.

It was as if she had gone back in time to those few years in university. Nothing and yet everything had changed.

Jiang Yu slowed his steps. He approached Ye Xue slowly, afraid that he would disturb the portrait of beauty painted by nature.

Ye Xue stood there for a while, waiting for Jiang Yu. By some stroke of fate, she turned towards the company building and saw Jiang Yu. There was a strange, poetic beauty that stole her breath away.

She had known Jiang Yu for eight years. Eight years ago, that youth was as flashy as the wind was like a cinnabar mole imprinted in her heart.

She had always believed they were people from different worlds, like two parallel lines destined never to intersect.

It was not until Qin Shu's appearance that those two lines grew closer and converged.

It was why she agreed to their relationship while they were studying together in university.

She was like a moth to a flame. Even though she knew what the result would be, she still jumped at the chance of being in a relationship with Jiang Yu.

If she had to do it all over again, she would still make the same choice.

Jiang Yu stopped in front of her and peered down. A blush coloured his cheeks as a result of the cold wind. "When I saw you standing under the tree, I suddenly recalled those days we spent in university and how you would wait for me under a tree like this."

Ye Xue also came back to her senses. Although the events occurred in her freshman year at university, she remembered them as clear as day. "What was I supposed to do? Those fangirls of yours were scary!"

It also reminded her of the humiliation she had suffered at their hands.

She was not worthy of Jiang Yu.

"Follow me in. It's cold outside."

Jiang Yu blamed himself for making her suffer again due to his negligence. He reached out and tried to take her hand, but she avoided him. "No. I'm alright, thank you. I'll give you my letter of resignation. Perhaps you might find some use for it, albeit it may not be the most helpful."

'As Ye Xue spoke, she reached into her shoulder bag, withdrew the resignation letter she had prepared long ago, and handed it to him.

Jiang Yu did not accept it. He snatched her hand with his, stubbornly refusing to let go. "Come with me. I can't bear to let you suffer, let alone an employee of my company."

Ye Xue was at a loss for words. Led like a child with her petite hand in his larger palm, Ye Xue could only follow in Jiang Yu's footsteps.

Jiang Yu continued holding onto Ye Xue's hand as he stepped into the company. He did not forget to send a frigid look in the receptionist's direction.

It was the second time the lady at the front desk had felt this bone-chilling sensation. It was a kind of soul-shearing cold that people feared most.

She looked up with acute trepidation and saw the President standing in front of her. Beside him stood Ye Xue.

What – What was going on?

She hurriedly stood up and bowed ninety degrees. "President, is there anything you need?"

Jiang Yu looked down at her condescendingly. "What right do you have to stop her from seeing me?"

"president, didn't you fire her yesterday? Secretary Lin told me to deny her access. She said Ye Xue's presence would only anger you and that the consequences of doing so would be unimaginable," the receptionist replied shakily. Her legs were weak.

Jiang Yu sneered, "Lin Wan told you to do this? When did I give her such power? You're a receptionist. What's your scope of work? If you don't even know who your superior is, are you still qualified to be a receptionist?"

"President, I received this information from Secretary Lin. I thought it was..."

Before the receptionist could finish, Jiang Yu interrupted her in a cold voice. "Apologize."

Ye Xue glanced up at Jiang Yu. She had always thought he was a person with a good personality. Yes, he was a little impatient, but who wouldn't be when they were angry? In her eyes, Jiang Yu was a man who lent a helping hand to those in need of justice. He was impulsive but loyal in that way.

Was this fierce man next to her the Jiang Yu she knew?

Chapter 958: I'm Courting You, Don't You Understand?

How could a mere receptionist refute or disobey her superior, let alone the President? Immediately, she bowed 90 degrees and offered Ye Xue an apology. "I'm sorry, Miss Ye. I shouldn't have stopped you from seeing the President. It was my mistake. I'm sorry."

"It's alright, I understand." Ye Xue had heard the conversation between the two. She knew the receptionist had only been following Lin Wan's instructions, so she did not wish to pursue the matter any further.

The receptionist bowed once again, thanking her. "Thank you, Miss Ye."

Jiang Yu looked at Ye Xue. She truly was a soft-hearted person. Despite being bullied and wronged, she still had the capacity to forgive.

"Xinyue has no need for an employee who doesn't even know the scope of her work. Collect your salary from the finance department. There's no need for you to report to work tomorrow."

Jiang Yu led Ye Xue by the hand towards the special elevator. He pressed the elevator button, entering as soon as the doors slid open.

All the while, Jiang Yu did not let go of Ye Xue. She was forced to follow him.

Ding!

The elevator doors closed behind them. The two were the only ones in the enclosed space, and it became a little awkward.

She clasped her shoulder strap tightly and looked up at Jiang Yu. "What are you trying to do?"

"Want them to apologise to you." Jiang Yu stared at her with an unwavering gaze and said, "I always protect those who are dear to me. Who gave them the courage to bully you?"

Ye Xue had heard similar words earlier. Though they carried the same meaning, the intent behind each was different. It caused her heart to flutter and her face to flush.

Jiang Yu had never said such words before.

'When they were still dating, they met a couple who quarrelled fiercely. That was during their college days.

'The young man even hit his girlfriend! All of it took place in front of the young man's female friend, who sneered and ridiculed her counterpart.

Soon after, the young couple broke up, and the man hooked up with his female friend instead.

At that time, Jiang Yu had the following words: "I won't let my woman suffer, and I won't let others bully her."

'When she heard those words, Ye Xue was especially touched. It was as if a young man had fought his way through a host of hooligans to save her.

Jiang Yu pulled out his phone and dialled his personal assistant's number. "Get the people on the list I've sent you to see me in my office."

Afterwards, he hung up.

'When they arrived at his office, Ye Xue realised what Jiang Yu was planning to do.

The epiphany arrived as she sat on the sofa, watching Jiang Yu prepare a cup of tea for her.

It was not long before a knock sounded at the door.

The door opened, and Special Assistant He entered with those he was tasked to escort to the President's office.

Special Assistant He greeted Jiang Yu. "President, I've brought the people on the list."

Jiang Yu placed the cup of Pu'er tea in front of Ye Xue. "This is Pu'er. Try It."

After which, he sat down next to Ye Xue.

Special Assistant He studied the scene with a critical eye and could not help but wonder if the President he knew, and the man before him, was the one he had come to know.

Those who followed Special Assistant He wore expressions of shock and disbelief.

Had the President not asked Ye Xue for her resignation?

Then why was the President personally brewing tea for Ye Xue? It did not make sense!

What kind of relationship did Ye Xue share with the President? Why would the President treat her so well? These were questions buzzing at the forefront of their minds.

Jiang Yu eyed the group coldly. "All of you have been spreading rumours and slander behind Ye Xue's, bullying and taking advantage of her. I expect every one of you to apologise and compensate her for the mental trauma you've inflicted."

No sooner had Jiang Yu finished speaking than an incredulous outcry erupted from the gathered crowd.

"president, didn't you ask Ye Xue for her resignation? Why are you still..."

Jiang Yu interrupted the woman before she could continue, "Do you lot not understand what it is I'm saying? I know you all are the perpetrators spreading lies and misinformation about Ye Xue! Don't take me for a fool."

The pack of hyenas were so scared they did not even dare to breathe loudly.

Jiang Yu suddenly shot to his feet, gritting out word after word through clenched teeth, "Ye Xue and I were classmates in high school and then again in university. I'm courting her. I know her better than all of you combined the kind of person she is. Malicious slander is a crime punishable by the law.

Moreover, you lot ought to be held responsible for the shadow cast over her heart. That, too, is a form of mental trauma."

He took a breath and continued, "If any of you have objections, you may speak with my lawyers. I'm sure they would be more than happy to discuss the amounts each of you should compensate Ye Xue for her suffering."

Jiang Yu's words echoed in the silence. It was no longer as simple as demanding an apology.

Ye Xue was about to taste her tea when Jiang Yu had his outburst. His words made her feel embarrassed.

She did not know whether she should sample the tea or hold off for the moment.

She had not known Jiang Yu would flaunt their history so openly.

She also did not expect an announcement proclaiming his pursuit of her once again.

If she felt restless before, it was now as if she was sitting on pins and needles. It was an unbearable sensation.

No one was surprised by Jiang Yu's declaration. No. To be more accurate, they were numb to the surprise, having been battered and rammed so many times in one sitting.

The President and Ye Xue were classmates?

Since when did the President begin courting Ye Xue?

Two seconds of silence elapsed. What followed in its wake was a desperate outpouring of apologies.

Not one of those assembled failed to apologise to Ye Xue.

"Ye Xue, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have ordered you to make coffee and run errands for me. I shouldn't have said bad things about you behind your back."

"I didn't know you were the President's classmate! Ye Xue, you're a good person. Please forgive me."

"Ye Xue, I didn't spread those horrible lies! It was Lin Wan! She told me to spread the word around. It wasn't me! It's not my fault. Lin Wan orchestrated everything! I just did the things she told me to do. It's Lin Wan who is in the wrong. Ye Xue, please forgive me."

Ye Xue looked at the people who ordered her around, forcing her to complete menial tasks whilst staining her good name behind her back. Now, every one of them was apologising to her profusely.

It made her recall the words Qin Shu once said. These... these were not people worthy of forgiveness.

"Not one of you deserves forgiveness. Not one of you knows what it's like to be bullied, to be the running joke in the office, surrounded by rumours. So no. I can't forgive you all."

The people who were still begging for forgiveness were all stunned. They could not believe that Ye Xue, that girl they easily pushed around and who had a heart of gold, would refuse to overlook their actions.

A satisfied smile lit up Jiang Yu's expression. Ye Xue was finally learning. One should act with mercy but not to the extent that it harms oneself.

"Special Assistant He, please direct them to my lawyers. I'm sure they'll manage an agreement with these rumourmongers for the harm they have caused Ye Xue," Jiang Yu instructed.

"Yes, President." Special Assistant He shepherded them out of the office.

Jiang Yu and Ye Xue were left in the huge office.

"You can continue working here, so report to work, as usual, tomorrow, okay?" Jiang Yu said.

"I think about it. Thank you for all you've done. Please, excuse me."

Ye Xue's thoughts were in a mess. She needed some time to herself, somewhere quiet, where she could clear her mind.

She walked straight out the door. As she left, she heard Jiang Yu say, "Xiao Xue, did you hear what I said just now? I'm courting you."

Ye Xue stopped in her tracks. She nervously tightened her shoulder strap and strode out.

Jiang Yu watched Ye Xue's departing form. He slumped on the sofa and phoned Xiao Qi.

"Xiao Qi, I think I scared her."

"What did you say?" Fu Tingyan was on his way back to Bright Garden. He looked out of the car's window and caught sight of the person on the billboard, just above the traffic lights. Wasn't that Xiao Jiu?

"The office is a battlefield, but who would have known enemies abounded, and in my territory to boot. Did you know? Xiao Xue was being bullied, and she didn't tell me! I made all those who bullied her apologise. I even publicised that I'm pursuing her."

Fu Tingyan stared at the figures plastered on the billboard for a long time.

"Did she refuse?"

Chapter 959: He Was Going to Die

"She didn't say anything and just left," Jiang Yu sighed.

Fu Tingyan looked away when the car started up again. "That means she's single."

"Really? Are you sure?" Jiang Yu pressed for an answer.

"If she weren't single, she would have said that she already has a boyfriend."

Sometimes, a change in perspective goes a long way in seeing the bigger picture. Jiang Yu could not see the situation for what it was because he was in the thick of things, and not for any lack of effort on his part.

Fu Tingyan was different. He was an outsider observing the situation from a bird's eye view and could see things that those on the ground could not.

Jiang Yu felt what Xiao Qi said made sense, so he listened. It was now up to him to win Ye Xue's affection.

It was his mother who introduced Lin Wan to him.

Now that he had fired Lin Wan and appointed Special Assistant He in her stead, he ought to explain to his mother why he decided to sack the woman she had introduced.

"Son, are you speaking the truth? Is Lin Wan such an awful person?"

“Why would I lie to you, Mom?” Jiang Yu quipped in response.

“I didn’t know Lin Wan was such an evil woman.” Jiang Yu’s mother felt like she had been slapped. Her son had not been taken in by Lin Wan’s act, while she had been so easily deceived.

“So... When are you going to bring this girl you’re interested in to see your dear Mother?”

“It’s still too soon. I think you’ll need to wait for a while yet.”

“Hah! You’re already 23 and still without a girlfriend. It would be best if you listened to me more. Haven’t I been telling you to watch more soap operas? There are so many of them airing these days. I’m sure you’ll learn a thing or two from them.”

Jiang Yu: “...”

Bright Garden...

Qin Shu and Xiao Jiu sat at the dining table, waiting for dinner to be served.

When Fu Tingyan arrived, he saw the two of them at the dining table. He smiled and said, “Looks like I’m just in time. Let’s have dinner together.”

Qin Shu had just picked up her chopsticks when she caught sight of Fu Tingyan. Immediately, she instructed, “Ning Meng, please prepare another set of chopsticks.”

“Right away, Young Madam.” Ning Meng hurried away to get Fu Tingyan a pair of chopsticks.

“Uncle!” Xiao Jiu greeted him warmly.

“Xiao Jiu, you’ve grown taller!” Fu Tingyan took the empty seat beside Xiao Jiu. He visited Bright Garden frequently, and it was like a second home to him.

“Uncle seems to have become more handsome as well,” Xiao Jiu said shyly.

“You should be more confident with your words. I don’t ‘seem’ more handsome; I naturally am!” Fu Tingyan laughed.

Qin Shu eyed Fu Tingyan thoughtfully. Shi Yan said that he had not been to the company recently, so she probed her brother-in-law, “Have you been busy of late?”

“I needed to settle a few matters. I just came back last night.” Fu Tingyan looked around but did not see Fu Tingyu. “Sister-in-law, where’s my brother?”

Qin Shu stopped chewing on her food as a terrible ache weighed her heart. “He went out and won’t be back for a while,” she whispered.

“It’s the end of the year, and my brother is still out? That doesn’t sound like something my brother at all.” Fu Tingyan knew his brother too well. It was almost the new year; he could not have gone out at such an important time of the year.

Qin Shu pursed her lips. “Something important came up that needed his attention.”

Ning Meng returned with a bowl and a pair of chopsticks. She scooped a bowl of rice for Fu Tingyan and placed it in front of him. "Seventh Young Master."

Fu Tingyan accepted the bowl and chopsticks. When he heard Qin Shu's words, he looked up. "Has my brother been so busy recently?"

Qin Shu nodded. "Yes."

Fu Tingyan nodded, helping himself to a few dishes. "Did my brother say anything before he left?"

Qin Shu could not meet Fu Tingyan's eyes. "No... He didn't say anything..."

Fu Tingyan pursed his lips. He was getting more and more confused. How could his brother not have said anything?

Suddenly, he looked up at Qin Shu. "Sister-in-law, didn't my brother tell you why I'd be visiting today?"

Qin Shu's grip on her chopsticks tightened. She had been trying her best to conceal the truth from Fu Tingyan, but it did not look like she could hide it any longer...

Xiao Jiu swallowed the food in his mouth and asked Fu Tingyan innocently, "Uncle, didn't you come to see me?"

Fu Tingyan smiled brightly at Xiao Jiu. "Of course, I came to see you! However, Uncle does have another reason for visiting."

As he spoke, he took the opportunity to ruffle Xiao Jiu's hair affectionately, but his demeanour turned serious as he addressed Qin Shu again. "Did my brother go out?"

Qin Shu met Fu Tingyan eyes. Fu Tingyan had always admired and listened to his brother. If he knew that Fu Tingyu was missing...

Fu Tingyan asked, "Is it so hard to give me a straight answer?"

"Your brother is missing. It has been that way for more than a month now. He disappeared on his trip to Xiyan," Qin Shu answered.

Fu Tingyan's gripped his chopsticks in a vice. "What do you mean?"

"While your brother was investigating the Yunya Scenic Area's geology in Xiyan, he fell off the cliff and hasn't been found yet." Qin Shu said.

Fu Tingyan could not sit still after such a big incident. "Why didn't you tell me sooner? Does my grandmother know about it? Didn't my brother attend the family meeting a few days ago?"

"Grandmother found out not long ago. I asked Xiao Jiu to attend the family meeting in your brother's place," Qin Shu admitted.

Fu Tingyan could not care less what the other family members thought of his brother's absence at the meeting. He was more concerned for his brother's wellbeing.

"At the very least, you did go looking for my brother, didn't you? For him to still be missing after a month, I'm afraid..." Fu Tingyan did not dare continue his present train of thought. He believed in his

brother's ability to overcome adversity. There was no way he would succumb after a mere fall from some

measly cliff.

"I've dispatched a whole host of people to look for him. I've even asked my martial sisters and brothers for assistance, but none of them has heard a peep." The hand holding her chopsticks trembled faintly. Qin Shu was afraid and deathly worried that she would never find Fu Tingyu.

She could only pray that Fu Tingyu was fine.

Perhaps he was injured somewhere out there in the vast world, waiting for her to find him. There was not a night she slept without these haunting thoughts.

Xiao Jiu held Qin Shu's hand, comforting his mother, "Mom, Dad will be back in no time. You'll see."

Fu Tingyan noticed Qin Shu's trembling and realised his reaction had been too intense. He had even insinuated her lack of concern for his brother's wellbeing, blaming the person he should have trusted more than anyone else. He may be worried for his brother, but it didn't mean Qin Shu was any less concerned than he was. After all, she was his brother's wife.

Having waited for so long without any news... He could not imagine how much pain she was forced to shoulder alone and in silence.

"sister-in-law, don't worry. I'm sure my brother is fine. Thank you for all you've done."

Qin Shu held her son's hand and said to Fu Tingyan, "We're family; there's no need for 'thank yous'."

Fu Tingyan did not say anything else. Otherwise, he would be treating Qin Shu as an outsider. "I'll start searching for my brother tomorrow,"

"You should stay in Jiangcheng. If you make any sudden moves, it will draw the family's suspicion, and more people will start asking where he is. In two days, I'll make up an excuse and say I'm going to your parent's place for the New Year with you and my brother. That'll give me a window to look for him without the family's scrutiny."

There were two reasons for Qin Shu's presence in Jiangcheng, First, the company had to settle the accounts before the New Year; second, she had to appear at the annual family meeting, Failure of either condition would invite suspicion, and she could afford to let the family learn that something was amiss with Fu Tingyu. Therefore, she had no choice but to remain in Jiangcheng.

Fu Tingyan was now working in the company, so he knew there were those in the family eyeing his brother's position. If they caught so much as a whiff of weakness, they would expend no small amount of effort to seize his position in the company for themselves.

For now, he could only bide his time, suppressing his impulse to fly to Xiyan and search for his brother.

After dinner, Fu Tingyan accompanied Xiao Jiu in a few of his favourite games.

On the other hand, Qin Shu retired to the study to deal with unfinished matters.

She had settled the company's accounts, and now it was time to wrap things up.

Just then, her phone rang.

Qin Shu shifted her gaze from the computer screen to her phone. It was Lan Qi.

Confused, she answered the call. "Qin Shu, can you come and see Jun Li?" Lan Qi asked.

Lan Qi's hoarse voice sounded as if he had been crying, causing her heart to lurch. Could Jun Li have...?

No. Qin Shu told herself she was not going down there. Hurriedly, she asked, "Is Jun Li alright? Did something happen?"

"Jun Li fainted! He vomited fresh blood before he fainted! Please, could you come and see him?" Lan Qi all but begged..

Chapter 960: It's No Use Begging Me

Qin Shu nearly collapsed upon hearing of Jun Li's situation. It was almost too much to bear. First, it was her husband, and now it was her good friend. Indeed, it is as the wise sages once said: blessings do not come in pairs; misfortunes never come singly.

"I thought his condition had stabilized. How could he have spat blood and fainted?"

"I don't know... Jun Li is unconscious. The doctor says he won't live more than a few days..." Lan Qi's voice sounded raw and choked.

"Don't worry. I'll book the earliest available flight and have Gu Yan accompany me."

She ended the call with Lan Qi and dialed Gu Yan's number post-haste.

"Qin Shu, is there any news of Tingyu?" Gu Yan had not stopped searching for Fu Tingyu, but no matter how hard he tried, he could not find a trace of him anywhere.

Qin Shu shook her head anxiously, "No – Jun Li suddenly vomited a lot of blood and fainted. The doctor says he won't live for more than a few days. Could you go with me, please?"

Gu Yan had a clear grasp of Jun Li's physical condition; there should not be any reason for him to vomit blood and lose consciousness. If anything, the attending doctor's prognosis sounded suspect.

Although Jun Li did not have much time, it was not as if he was about to drop dead. He still had some time to go before his illness became terminal.

"I'll go with you."

"I'll meet you at the airport."

Qin Shu put down the phone and booked the first flight she could. The best she could manage was a flight departing the next day at around eight o'clock in the morning.

There was nothing she could do now but wait with bated breath.

She had other things to worry about in the meantime.

It was ten in the evening when she finished all that needed completing, Fu Tingyan had already returned to his private villa.

Qin Shu returned to the master bedroom to pack her luggage. Xiao Jiu poked his head in from outside. When he saw his mother packing her bags, he asked, "Mom, where are you going? Why do you need to pack your luggage?"

Qin Shu looked up and saw Xiao Jiu leaning against the door frame. As she packed her luggage, she said, "Mom is going to Imperial City. Your Uncle Jun isn't well."

Upon hearing this piece of news, Xiao Jiu stepped into the room and stood by his mother's side. "Is Uncle Jun very ill? Won't you take me with you, Mom? I want to see Uncle Jun too..." He entreated his mother earnestly.

Qin Shu stopped packing her clothes and regarded Xiao Jiu seriously. Ever since his father's accident, he had been the picture of obedience. He never made a fuss or caused a scene. Even his school teachers had noticed this improvement.

Not only did she receive fewer complaints of fights between him and his peers, but he also did not skip school half as often. Xiao Jiu had matured tremendously in a short span.

Back then, when Fu Tingyu fell off the cliff, it was his cries that gave her the strength to forge ahead.

Squatting down in front of her son, she said, "Of course, you can come with me. Xiao Jiu, if you want to visit Uncle Jun, you'll need to pack your things too. Mother'll help you once she's packed her things." She had been so busy with work of late that she had not had the time to interact with Xiao Jiu. It made her feel guilty.

Xiao Jiu was very happy when he heard this. He hugged his mother and smiled brightly. "Mom, Xiao Jiu will go and pack his bag now."

"Xiao Jiu is ahead of things, it seems. Mom is glad." Her son's independence was gratifying, and it made her proud of him.

Qin Shu booked five plane tickets. This number included tickets for Xiao Jiu and Ye Luo.

Bringing Ye Luo along would make things easier for her if she needed someone to keep an eye on Xiao Jiu. She had a hunch that she would not be able to take care of him even if she wanted to.

At the break of dawn the very next day...

Qin Shu, Xiao Jiu, and Ye Luo rushed to the airport.

Ye Luo brought President Ba along. They had been together for five years and shared a special relationship where either one of them knew the other's personality like the back of their hands (or paws).

Ye Luo's expressionless mask was still the same. Even while teasing President Ba, he still wore that dull, dispassionate expression.

President Ba was still as proud as ever with his head held high and nose in the air. He was the uncrowned king of the world. If Ye Luo made him unhappy, he would perch atop a wall and look down on him like a sneering monarch.

Qin Shu met Gu Yan at the airport.

Gu Yan's assistant, Ji Fei, stood by his side. He also served Gu Yan in the capacity of a butler, taking care of Gu Yan's daily needs. If that was not enough, he also happened to be Gu Yan's bodyguard. He was a man of many talents, indeed.

Jun Li's condition had always been under Gu Yan's care. Chinese medicine was practically synonymous with Jun Li at this point.

Unfortunately, it had been some time since he took Jun Li's pulse. Therefore, he did not know Jun Li's present condition. He would only know what happened when he saw Jun Li in the imperial city.

It was noon when they arrived at the imperial city.

After getting off the plane, Qin Shu and the others made a beeline for Qi Manor.

Qin Shu had visited Qi Manor once. It was sometime before Xiao Jiu was born. Hence, it was her second visit.

Lan Qi was 1.77 meters tall but looked like a youth no older than 15.

Five years had passed, but Lan Qi had not changed at all. He still looked as he did back then, with no change to his height. He resembled a clean-faced youth, unsullied by worldly experience.

'The one thing that had changed was his personality. He was not as unreasonable as he had been in the past.

When Lan Qi found out that Qin Shu was coming, he sat by the windowsill and waited. No one could persuade him otherwise.

'As soon as he saw Qin Shu get out of the car, he hopped off his makeshift seat and ran out to greet her. "Jun Li is not awake yet."

Qin Shu recovered from her momentary confusion and gave Lan Qi a once over. His fair cheeks glowed red from the stinging cold. It did not take rocket science to deduce that he had been waiting out in the blistering wind for a long time.

"Let's go and see Jun Li."

"Okay."

Lan Qi nodded vigorously, leading them into Qi Manor.

Jun Li's room had not changed. It was the corner room on the second floor, overlooking the forest.

The door was open, and from the outside, Qin Shu could tell the furnishings had not changed much in the years since her last visit. Thick curtains were half-drawn, allowing light to filter through the window, adding colour to the lifeless room.

Su Ying was removing Jun Li's IV drip when the entourage led by Lan Qi arrived. The drip contained a nutrient solution ordered by the doctor.

"Master Lan Qi, you..." Su Ying looked up and saw Qin Shu and Gu Yan following Lan Qi into the room. He quickly got to his feet. Hope blossomed in his eyes. "Miss Qin, Professor Gu, Master Jun suddenly vomited blood yesterday and is now unconscious."

"Let me have a look." Jun Li's complexion had taken on an ashen hue, not unlike the tint of a dying man.

Gu Yan sat down by the bed and checked Jun Li's pulse by placing two fingers over his wrist.

Qin Shu clutched Xiao Jiu's hand worriedly as she stared at the man lying in bed. Those eyes, so filled with warmth, were clenched shut. He was so thin and pale it looked like he would pass on at any moment. Death was a cloak shrouding Jun Li in its cruel embrace.

Anyone who saw him in this state would feel pity.

Jun Li lay quietly on the bed. A silver quilt covered him, doing little to conceal his emaciated figure. The quilt practically engulfed him!

How long had Jun Li suffered in silence? No one wastes away in a day; it takes a considerable amount of time for a person to reach Jun Li's deplorable state.

While Gu Yan checked his pulse, a grave expression overcame his features. He pursed his lips, not understanding how Jun Li's condition could have deteriorated so quickly. It was almost... unnatural.

Gu Yan released his hold on Jun Li's wrist, laying it gently on the quilt.

"Gu Yan, how is he?" Qin Shu's anxiety bled into her voice.

Gu Yan met Qin Shu's tremulous gaze. He could not lie to her. Sighing, he said, "His condition deteriorated too quickly. He doesn't have much time left."

Qin Shu felt like a sledgehammer had struck her. Deep down inside, she knew there was a distinct possibility that Jun Li was at the end of the rope, but she hoped against hope that it would not be so. Gu Yan's words tolled the funerary bells ringing in her mind.

Su Ying fell to his knees and pleaded with Gu Yan to do something, anything, "I beg Professor Gu to save Master Jun..."

"I would save him if I could, but his condition has taken a turn for the worst and so rapidly at that. There's nothing I can do to stop the inevitable. His bodily functions are slowing down, and there are signs of necrosis. I may have a way with medicine, but I'm not god. I cannot revive the dead or put flesh onto bones. I'm sorry."