

Chapter 1091 What's Stressing You Out

Yang Chen's deafening rants echoed through the entire garden as concrete walls shook!

The night breeze weaved through the leaves ever so gently, bringing with it the fragrance of the lady.

Lin Ruoxi's pretty face was devoid of any emotion as she sneered. "If you were open-minded enough to confront Li Jianhe, why would I have to hide it from you in the first place? And it's my fault now when it was his idea to come looking for me?!"

Why do you always feel the need to blame it on me? What about all the times you weren't here by my side? What about the countless times you allowed your anger to cloud your mind?

You could spend your days escorting your women on a trip around the world, yet you come back and the first thing you do is to accuse me of being attached to another man. How is this in any way fair?!"

"And why do you think I journeyed the world, risking my life to fight off enemies in search of divine ingredients and pill refining materials? It was all to make sure you could stay as pretty as you are for eternity!" Yang Chen was infuriated.

"If my cultivations couldn't improve as fast as they should, how am I supposed to protect all of you? My family and all our loved ones? The child?"

Zhiqing was the only one that could help. She had no cultivation to speak of yet she accompanied me across the planet and nearly died in the process! After all that she didn't even utter a word of disapproval!"

"Oh, it was for me you say...just me? It was for all of those other girls too isn't it? Isn't being fair with the love you give one of your core principles?"

Yes...you are right about one thing though. Xue Zhiqing is a resourceful girl. They are all so stellar, who am I to say? Since they could all risk their lives for you. I'm sure you must be reconsidering if it's even right to have me uncontestedly sitting on the legal wife's position. You must be so sick of dealing with my bad temper by now!"

"I never once thought that!"

"But that's what I felt!"

"Why do you have such little faith in me?"

"Oh tell me about it! If it pains you to think of my potential affair with Li Jianhe and our past, then what are you waiting for? Kill him, aren't you really good at that?!"

"Are you challenging me?!" Yang Chen clenched his teeth.

"I don't care if you do. See if you would still doubt me when he's dead!"

Yang Chen to kill Li Jianhe? It was nonetheless a pointless thought at this point.

Their voices seemingly in competition with one another after every exchange!

After a long moment of silence, Lin Ruoxi indifferently demanded. "Hands off."

Yang Chen, overwhelmed by a criss-cross of emotions at this point did not persist.

His heart felt as if it was covered in paper cuts as blood seeped through. The pain and agony left him in a position worse than death.

Lin Ruoxi that was freed from his grasp unhesitantly sped towards the car.

Seconds later, she had already positioned herself in the driver's seat, rammed onto the accelerator, and vanished through the far corner.

Yang Chen helplessly squatted with his hands over his head. At that moment, all he wanted to do was to be left alone.

Nevertheless, Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma came running out, instantly noticing Lin Ruoxi's absence.

"Yang Chen what are you doing?! What happened?!" Guo Xuehua instinctively questioned.

Yang Chen staggered as he downcased lifted himself back to standing position. "Mom, go back inside."

"What...did I do...I shouldn't have interfered." Guo Xuehua ultimately realized her missteps, turning what seemed to be a homey reunion dinner into the mess that it was now.

Yang Chen sighed. "Deep down, it's clear that there was already a rift between both of us, can't blame it on you."

Wang Ma patted Guo Xuehua on the back as a means of comforting her. With a frown, she then turned towards Yang Chen as she fretted. "Young Master, to think that the Young Miss is out on her own this late at night is quite unsettling."

Yang Chen saw the earnest look on Wang Ma's face and knew instantly that she was expecting himself to bring Lin Ruoxi back.

But Yang Chen was all too certain that his mind was all tangled and muddy, and even if he did find her, he had no idea what to say to her anymore.

Nonetheless, Yang Chen was resolute in attempting to silently catch up to her. After all, he could not bear to just leave her aside.

Dejected, he ditched the car and in an instant dashed into the dark of night.

Amidst a chilly, autumn night, Yang Chen decided it was a decent setting for him as well to clear his head and contemplate what went wrong between the two of them.

Zhonghai's intercity highway at night glittered from the headlights of speeding cars, blinding yet swift, resembling bolts of lightning in the night sky.

Lin Ruoxi in her Bentley was aimlessly speeding along the freeway, amid pin-drop silence she was accompanied only by the sound of roaring winds from the opposite direction.

After what felt like an eternity, Lin Ruoxi steered into the next junction, towards a night market district.

Finding herself in a parking spot in a secluded parking lot, Lin Ruoxi with her handbag slung on her shoulder hopped out of the car and strolled towards the human vicinity.

It might just be from the increasingly cold weather as autumn came to its final legs that even the Malatang vendors were nestled to the corners from the notable lack of business.

A cold autumn breeze lifted a trash bag as it glided and tumbled with the wind.

Lin Ruoxi tightened her collar, feeling chilly when she was sure before that she wouldn't be.

Silently observing the seemingly endless grid of criss-cross buildings, it appeared as if her options for a place to rest were vast. But at that moment, she felt like a stray who had lost her home.

What seemed like a homey dinner felt like ages ago, as she found herself wandering through an empty street.

Before she could fully grasp her whereabouts, Lin Ruoxi's disheartenment led her to a glitzy entrance of a grounded bar, and without much contemplation, she wandered in.

Since young, she was not accustomed to drinking, not to mention her excellent self-control and her pre-eminent dislike for alcohol kept her a safe distance from the world hidden. But this time, she was here hoping the alcohol could numb her broken heart.

Just seconds later, Yang Chen's silhouette emerged from the shadows of the gullies as he subsequently followed.

Under dim lights, hardly anyone batted an eye at a man and woman carrying the same suffocating burden into the scene.

Lin Ruoxi found a corner spot with a modest table, on it were three bottles of whiskey.

Lin Ruoxi had no clue what they were, so she demanded the one with the highest alcoholic content.

Her face leaning lifelessly on one arm, while the other filled glasses and glasses of hard liquor.

Two sips in and Lin Ruoxi's frowns sank deeper, frustrated with the thought that gritty men actually enjoyed this repulsive drink!

Regardless, few could deny that alcohol keeps one company when everything else seems to fall apart.

Amidst the alcohol-induced blur, Lin Ruoxi could finally feel her heart and soul soothed as the tingling sensation by the edges of her eyes faded.

Potentially due to her recent cultivations, her tolerance had noticeably improved as she still retained strength to pry open a second bottle.

Lin Ruoxi could finally feel a burning sensation arising from within her guts, her sense of sight had finally given way to the alcohol.

At this moment, the young woman's cheeks were warm and flushed like a ripe tomato, lips pouted, disheveled, hair ruffled. What seemed like mundane late night occurrences nevertheless caught the lustful eyes of quite a few, albeit unsurprisingly.

And finally, as Lin Ruoxi collapsed onto the table, seemingly ready to pass out, a bold, brawny man made his way towards her.

The man was dressed in a Versace shirt paired with a platinum chain with a lit cigarette between his fingers holding onto a whiskey glass, complemented with an effortless smile.

“Miss, you seem lonely, mind if I join you?” The man lightly remarked, yet deep in connotation.

Lin Ruoxi glared at him before she spurted two words. “Scurry off...”

Even though her mind was fuzzy at that point, she had yet lost her consciousness.

The man, however, was not discouraged as he pursued. “Life’s full of mishaps, deadbeat businesses, or broken relationships. I wonder what’s yours, would you care to share?”

Lin Ruoxi at that point was all too intoxicated to reply, unsure of how much alcohol she had. She was ready to leave

Just when she attempted to stand, she felt the alcohol gushing onto her head all at once as she staggered, barely holding onto her balance as she clung onto the table.

“Careful, let me help...”

The man was ready to reach out to support her by her waist.

Just before he could get close an overpowering force from behind clung onto his collar and forced him onto the diner seat!

The man was terrified as he reactively turned towards his back, only to see a stone-cold stranger staring right into his soul!

“That’s enough bullshit for the night. Keep your hands to yourself. That’s my woman you’re talking to.” Yang Chen made his unprecedented approach.

Previously, he sat at a far corner, occupied by alcohol while in the right angle to observe Lin Ruoxi from afar. He did not interfere with her binge drinking because he understood it was the remedy that both of them desperately needed right then.

Lin Ruoxi lifted her head slowly. Blurry eyed, she stared towards the unannounced ‘visitor’, which led to her cracking an innocent, spellbinding smile, leaving the entire venue in awe.

Amidst that cold, uninviting aura she exhibited, was an enchanting allure that left all the onlookers mesmerized.

“Who’s your woman? Do I even know you, sir?”

Chapter 1092: I Need

Whilst speaking, the alcohol gradually overwhelmed her senses as she staggered with every step.

The stranger quickly picked up on Lin Ruoxi’s remark, smirking in glee as he patted Yang Chen on the shoulder. “Your excuse is terrible, acting all friendly when the lady is wasted. On public grounds, our opportunities are equal. If you’re confident, make her willingly leave with you.”

Yang Chen ignored the man as he went ahead and held onto Lin Ruoxi’s hand. “You oughta stop drinking if you can’t take it. You should stop when you’re just about to pass out. C’mon, let’s go home.”

“Let me go...who the hell are you...gosh...”

Lin Ruoxi coyly stuck her tongue out, drunkenly attempted to shake loose his grasp.

But Yang Chen was firm and unyielding.

Watching as the ‘surprise package’ of the night was about to be taken away by Yang Chen, the stranger came to her defense. “Let go of her. She doesn’t even know you. Who are you to decide what’s best for her?”

If it was before, this man would have been ground into a pulp before he uttered his first word. But these days, Yang Chen had matured in personality and had chosen to avoid unnecessary physicalities with common people.

“I’m her husband. No more. If you insist I’m going to have to act,” Yang Chen solemnly declared.

“Her husband...what nonsense!”

Yang Chen grunted at the fact that truth was always the least convincing.

“Move.” Yang Chen was done talking as he lifted the man by the collar, and like an inflatable toy tossed him to the diner couch at a distance!

The man’s shriek left the crowd in terror.

Yang Chen embraced the disoriented Lin Ruoxi and left the bar.

Out the door, it was already in the wee hours of the night, the streets emptied and desolate, howling cold winds rustled through the leaves.

Excluding the street vendors were the occasional night owls, wrapped in thick clothing, brisk walking passed rows of street lights.

Presumably invigorated by the chilly air, Lin Ruoxi’s head seemed to clear a little as she lifted her head, quickly focusing onto Yang Chen’s face.

“You asshole! Damn you Yang Chen...let go of me! I...I’ll stab you, rip you into pieces...”

Amidst the nagging and venting, Lin Ruoxi’s hands feebly punched onto his face and chest.

Squeezing his nose, pinching his face, pulling his hair, and clamping on his shoulders. She was throwing a tantrum befitting of a five-year-old

Yang Chen with his wife behind his back strolled towards the direction of the parking lot, tolerating her endless barrage of torment.

After a long night of hard drinking, he finally managed to calm himself down.

Deep down he knew full well that nothing could have happened between Lin Ruoxi and Li Jianhe. But what got him furious before was that his trust for her had been betrayed when she chose to lie to their faces.

But when he started thinking for her point of view, it was only reasonable that she chose to avoid the mention of her encounter.

Recalling the previous incident where he got physical at her in her office, even when the dust was settled and everything turned out fine, the process itself must have left her traumatized.

It was his fault that he was irrational and volatile, but her distrust for him was also to blame.

And by adding fuel to fire, Guo Xuehua's impulsive decision to snap her photo in secret must have struck down her pride like an arrow to the chest. It was hardly any doubt to him now for her explosive reaction earlier tonight.

As mutual misunderstanding stacked up brick by brick, Yang Chen at that point no longer had any interest in the incident. All his anger had subsided.

All of a sudden, Lin Ruoxi stopped all vigorous flaunting of her limbs and started pouting. Her bubbly eyes seemingly in distress as she paused at her spot.

"Ugh..."

Yang Chen instantly snapped out of his thoughts. "Ruoxi, what's going on? Are you okay?"

Lin Ruoxi's face once again blushed red as a tomato, seemingly disinterested in tormenting Yang Chen any longer as she coyly pouted. "I...I need to pee..."

"Pee?!"

Yang Chen was dumbfounded, but he took no time to comprehend the situation. She had consumed large amounts of liquid and it was a particularly chilly day. It was only a matter of time.

"This...is an open street... there are no public bathrooms around..."

Yang Chen frantically looked around, noticing the confusion in the eyes of the passersby.

"I...can't hold it any longer...I need to pee..."

Mostly still under the influence of alcohol, Lin Ruoxi ran to a junction by a merchandise corner shop, and started slipping her fingers into the coat to unbutton her trousers!

Yang Chen was stupefied. He then held onto her in a flurry of panic. "You...can't pee here! There are people watching!"

"Ugh...I don't care...I really, really need to pee.."

Lin Ruoxi squabbled and sulked, seemingly at her limits.

Yang Chen had never seen this blatant and ludicrous side of her, clenching his teeth, he pushed Lin Ruoxi to the back, behind a dumpster.

"You can pee behind that. I'll block the front. Hey, hey there's wind by this corner if you pee here you're gonna reek of piss after this."

After Yang Chen arranged their positions, he turned away from her, blocking the curious gaze of bystanders.

All thanks to the colder weather, the smell of the dumpster was relatively mild. Otherwise, in the heat of summer, the entire alleyway would have been engulfed by its revolting smell.

As for Lin Ruoxi at the back, she couldn't care less about the 'scent' as she started relieving herself from the burden she had been carrying.

Yang Chen heard the sounds of water discharge as he started sniffling from laughter.

Never did he once think that one day he would be shielding a woman from public urination. Especially not his own wife, the great and graceful Lin Ruoxi.

An image like this was a once in a lifetime memory.

Subsequently after, the sounds of clothes brushing onto one another were heard from the back.

What's next once again left Yang Chen in utter confusion!

Lin Ruoxi burst into tears!

"Hmph..."

Yang Chen instantly turned himself around only to see Lin Ruoxi standing upright with her palms onto the wall and her shoulders shuddering as tears dripped down from her cheeks onto the puddles below.

"Ruoxi...I..."

Before Yang Chen could say much, Lin Ruoxi's cries grew louder as she was ready to vent out all her dissatisfactions.

"Look at the sorry state that I'm in right now. Accused by my mother in law, doubted by my own husband, despised by all of you. What did I do wrong to end up like this?! Out in the middle of the night, afraid to even return home!

Out here drinking on my own, drunk and wasted. I feel like a felon, banished from home, disgraced, even publicly peeing by the street.

Since I got married to you, I felt like a psychopath, an idiot. A complete, utter worthless idiot...

On one hand, I worry about you, and the other pissed off. I feel like I am not in control but just a puppet on a string.

Qianni is right. I'm no longer who I once was. I don't even know who I am anymore...

I...I cannot live like this any longer, like a lunatic! I'm Lin Ruoxi goddammit! I'm not your vessel of love Yang Chen! Even less so a trash can, craving for your pity!

I'll tell you now...if I keep being this paranoid with my emotions all over the place, I don't think I can last much longer..."

Yang Chen froze at his spot, unable to reach for her no matter how much he wanted to at that instant.

Lin Ruoxi's feet were contrastingly agile as she staggered and fell onto his torso, like a koala onto its faithful tree, seemingly ready to slip to the ground at any minute.

"Hubby..." Lin Ruoxi tilted her head up, on her rosy red cheeks was disillusionment.

"I'm here." Yang Chen held her into his embrace, keeping her at bay.

Lin Ruoxi coyly giggled, her eyes still red from all the tears shed. Yet her mood flipped a complete one-eighty from the alcohol as the next moment she seemed enthusiastic, mumbling her words she said,

"I'm telling you here and now that I did meet with Li Jianhe. But he came looking for me for a collaboration. He was begging and pleading and he held my hand...but I shook him off..."

Back in the day, I did have some feelings for him. But is it so wrong even though nothing happened?

You're the first man that I truly fell in love with. Even, even when you couldn't be just mine, I could tolerate that, because you're the man that had single-handedly pulled me out from hell and back up to heaven. I love you like crazy.

I know it might be a selfish thought to want you all by myself, but I made mistakes in the past. I was lost...so I can take that, and I chose to forget about the things that made me unhappy.

But...if you truly love me, why couldn't you just bear some trust for me?"

Yang Chen, with trembling hands, held her tight in his arms, bringing his lips close to her ear. "I trust you...and it's my fault, I'm so, so sorry..."

And whilst that happened, Lin Ruoxi collapsed onto his chest, mumbling as she dozed off.

Yang Chen let out a sigh, amidst an aching heart. He stood up, clamped her legs onto his waist, and piggybacked the woman towards the direction of the car.

Lin Ruoxi meanwhile, noticeably exhausted both physically and emotionally was finally at peace.

Deep in the windswept night, it seemed as if they were alone in the world, gradually making through the streets, one step at a time.

Chapter 1093: No Shame

Lin Ruoxi's alcohol-induced glow caught both Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma by surprise when they reached home.

Yang Chen was fully capable of purging the alcohol from her bloodstream, but after some thought, he decided against it and chose to respect her decision. After all, she only got wasted to repress her emotions. It would be cruel to deny her of that.

The two seniors, on the other hand, stayed up late anxious for the return of the young couple.

It was Minjuan instead that had accompanied Lanlan to bed. Even though she found her mother different from her usual self, it didn't raise any concerns in her head.

"This...Yang Chen, why does she reek of alcohol? Oh my, why is she this drunk? What a disgrace." Guo Xuehua blurted from dismal.

Yang Chen continued his way by piggybacking Lin Ruoxi upstairs. Halfway through, he believed he could no longer stay silent. "Mom, that's enough. It's been an exhausting day for her. Being accused of no way of venting her frustration made her resort to alcohol. When she wakes up refreshed the next morning, why don't you give her a proper apology? I know it might be awkward for you being a senior, but you should amend your mistakes too."

Guo Xuehua conflictly glanced towards Lin Ruoxi for moments, before she focused back onto Yang Chen. "Frankly, as a young woman once myself, I can't say I agree with you. It is only right for the youngins to heed the advice of their elders.

Even though I might be wrong here, my intentions were not overly critical to my daughter in law. If she knew her place this wouldn't have happened. I too am not an inconsiderate person who wouldn't consider logical reasoning.

Besides, if I apologize then where should I lay my pride? It's just one small mistake from us. Must we apologize for something like that?"

"Mom, listen. It's the twenty-first century now. You about time you have to start thinking progressively. Ruoxi was indeed misunderstood, wasn't she?" Yang Chen awkwardly chuckled.

"There there now, what's that supposed to mean? I'm not that old." Guo Xuehua reasoned, albeit with frustration. "I know times have changed, and I will do as you say. I will apologize to her once she wakes up tomorrow. But it's all for you. Otherwise, I would never. What is this...I didn't do it on purpose..."

Wang Ma by the side came to his aid. "Xuehua, come on now. You don't have to win every argument with your children. I know you must think you're right in all of this, but for the sake of the family, what's there to be embarrassed about if you apologize. You wouldn't want the 'cold war' to recommence now do you?"

Yang Chen smiled brightly with immense gratitude towards Wang Ma before he turned around and proceeded with carrying Lin Ruoxi to her room.

Guo Xuehua sighed from dejection. "No wonder the drama series these days all had in-law relationships as their mainstays. If I wasn't educated, I might have ended up like those fictional in-laws too. I might even end up hating myself, having the child I bore to side with another woman."

Wang Ma chuckled by the side as she calmly patted Gu Xuehua on the back.

After he carried Lin Ruoxi into her bedroom, Yang Chen quickly noticed Lanlan's absence in the room from the usual, guessing that she might be sleeping over at Minjuan's room.

And that made the entire process more convenient, as he carefully removed her shoes, gently laid her down on the bed, removed her coat, and tugged her into blankets.

Lin Ruoxi was pouting her lips as she curled herself up, her back facing Yang Chen as she fell into a deep slumber.

Yang Chen sat by the edge of the bed, his hand lightly patting the woman's body.

After a while, Yang Chen noticed a familiar plushie over at the far corner of the bed.

Taking a good look, it took no time for him to recall that it was the dumpling that he won back when they were eating dumplings together one time. It was squished at the end of her bed possibly for her to vent her dissatisfaction he presumed.

What he did not know was that he was only half right, the other half was meant for it to support her feet.

Quietly he reached for the dumpling plushie and smoothed it out. "Wifey, you're asleep aren't you?"

Lin Ruoxi unsurprisingly did not respond, which now meant his engagement turned to be more of a monologue instead.

"I'm guilty of my actions. I know I have mentioned it in the past but I feel like this is a good time to repeat it once more." Yang Chen emotionally remarked. "I'm...just not a man with aspiration, maybe it's because aspirations are just too far-fetched for me. My whole life has been one act of revenge after another.

And now, all the things I do, I do to protect my sources of happiness.

It might be from the absence of affection in my childhood, I find it hard to reject true love. And it is from that fear, it frightens me to wake up and find all of this taken away from me once again.

It scares me, that one day if I reject this love, and I might never get it again.

You might think these are all excuses that I made up from the top of my head but I need you to know this. Even if I love every single one of them, I knew from the start that you'll be my only wife.

You don't have to envy them, I say that just to get on your good side. If I could actually tell you the exact reason why you will always be my wife I would, word for word, but right now I just don't have one, so I choose to have complete faith in you.

I used to love this woman so much in the past. We grew up together, experienced countless life and death situations. But even then, I never once felt the feelings I have when I first met you.

You know, this might be fate. It must be fate that brought us together, to bring me here with you."

Yang Chen paused for a moment before he chuckled. "Actually, it's always been on my mind, that one day you might get sick of me, that you would choose to leave me.

And if that day truly comes, I will still love you the way I do now, for I can assure you, even if one day you chose not to love me anymore, I will never be the one who would stop loving you first.

Even if we might not grow old together, I truly wish you could be by my side till the day the world ends.

Throughout his heartfelt words, his eyes started watering as he bent down low and gave her a kiss on the cheek.

"I could only say this with you fast asleep, otherwise you would think I'm a shameless bastard with all his crappy nonsense. Lin Ruoxi, it's tough to be your partner, even more so as your significant other. But come to think of it, how rare it is for the both of us to be drinking out this deep into the night."

Yang Chen stood up as he made his way to the exit. Yet before he left, he abruptly turned towards her for one last look, before he turned off the lights.

The bedroom returned to darkness.

The next morning, Yang Chen drowsily collapsed onto his expansive king-sized bed. After days of hectic traveling, Yang Chen readily welcomed the opportunity for a pleasant rest.

THUMP THUMP THUMP!

The door of his room was bombarded by successive knocking and banging, which got him to reluctantly crawl out of his bed.

“Why are you knocking, the door’s not locked!”

Before he could finish mincing his words, the door flung open, and in came a chubby little girl!

“Mommy said I have to knock before I come in.” Lanlan happily responded.

Yang Chen pouted in response. “Mommy never taught you to knock lightly?”

“Nope,” Lanlan confidently replied, before she dashed towards Yang Chen’s bed and flipped over the blanket. “Bad uncle, wake up! Granny said we have to wait for you before we can have breakfast! Lanlan’s starving!”

Yang Chen sighed at the anticlimactic turn of events as he ploddingly put on his clothing. “Alright alright, you go ahead, I’ll catch up to you.”

Lanlan twitched her little nose. “Bad uncle, what are you shy about? Your chest is so tiny! Mommy’s bigger, I don’t wanna see yours!”

Once she was done making a point, she sprinted out of the room.

Yang Chen was baffled regarding the education she was receiving from the kindergarten on one hand but was nevertheless contented that there is now a child in the household.

Right at that moment by the door was Lin Ruoxi, tidied up along with bundled hair, as she walked into the room, in her hands were his freshly washed clothing.

Taking a quick peek on the man by the bed, Lin Ruoxi proceeded to arrange the clothes into their respective shelves.

Clearing his throat, Yang Chen walked the fine line as he said, “Ruoxi...you...don’t hate me anymore, do you?”

Lin Ruoxi paused where she was, contemplated a little, then turned towards Yang Chen. “Still do, but regardless of how I feel, you’re still my husband.”

Chapter 1094 News

Those words had Yang Chen in a daze. As soon as he snapped out of it, he rushed over and enveloped her slim waist between his arms, pressing her onto the mattress.

“Ahh!”

Shocked, Lin Ruoxi squealed but couldn't make any other noises as Yang Chen began kissing her lips.

“Hehe, I knew you had already forgiven me. There's no need to pretend. It's alright to be so cold to other people but there's no need for that on your husband.”

On the other hand, all Lin Ruoxi could think of was the smell of overnight alcohol lingering in her mouth. She quickly pushed Yang Chen away and straightened her clothes.

“I'm heading to work soon. You messed up my hair and clothes!” Disgruntled, Lin Ruoxi huffed out her complaints.

Despite that, Yang Chen was adamant about having Lin Ruoxi on his lap. The position allowed her two soft butt cheeks to give Yang Chen's proud morning wood an unintentional yet naughty squeeze.

“Darling, say that you've forgiven me. Or else I'll have to eat you for breakfast today,” teased Yang Chen.

Lin Ruoxi inhaled deeply, squinting at the man before her with a helpless look. She did not dare to move another inch as the tough erection beneath her was so hard that it was about to enter her through her skirt.

“Jeez, you're so bold. I'm about to cringe to death. How could I not forgive you in such circumstances?” said Lin Ruoxi while stifling a giggle.

Yang Chen was stunned before it finally dawned upon him. “Ah! You were pretending to be asleep last night!”

Delighted, Lin Ruoxi bit her lower lip. “Yeah, how's that? I tried controlling my pulse rate with True Qi to pretend that I was asleep. You didn't notice?”

Yang Chen was conflicted. He had only bothered to deduce if she was asleep by observing her pulse rate and breathing. The man hadn't thought of evaluating the transitions of her inner True Qi and pulse.

“Wow, you're getting pretty good. Your True Qi application has improved. But you used it to trick me! Time for some spanking!”

Following that, Yang Chen cackled evilly. Paying no mind to her screams, he hoisted her up by her waist and placed her flat on his thighs. Then, he lifted her autumn skirt and began to spank her plump behind.

His spanks were light to the touch. The sound it garnered was crisp and clear as day.

Pissed, Lin Ruoxi started to thump her fists against the mattress. “Yang Chen! I'm warning you! Put me down! I... I'm about to get mad!”

Weirdly, Yang Chen seemed to lament, gazing soulfully at Lin Ruoxi's panties. He uttered, “Damn, you're a mother now yet you're still wearing pink panties with a Snoopy print? Even I'm starting to lose steam here...”

Immediately, Lin Ruoxi's face turned beet red. The woman opted to palm her face in defeat.

The couple continued to fool around, the atmosphere between them was evidently better than yesterday.

Downstairs, Guo Xuehua was braiding Lan Lan's hair diligently. The little girl's watermelon-like bob had offered insufficient length for braids but the girl whined for braids as every girl in kindergarten had them.

Guo Xuehua immediately caved into Lan Lan's request. The woman had no daughter. Now that she had a granddaughter in proximity, she quickly got hair ties and set to work. As long as it wasn't too complicated of a braid, Guo Xuehua was confident that she could get it done.

Noticing that Lin Ruoxi had joined them at the table, Guo Xuehua's expression was still rather forced. Albeit so, the mother in law still did her best to flash her a smile. "Come, sit down. Food is ready."

Silently, Lin Ruoxi nodded in response. She proceeded to eat quietly after taking her seat.

The tension between the mother in law and daughter in law pair was weird. Wang Ma could only feel helpless at the sight of it. Letting them go on like this would not help the situation, so she quickly turned on the TV with the remote to alleviate the atmosphere.

Wang Ma settled on watching the morning news broadcast. The familiar voice of the news anchor instantly calmed her anxiety.

"Yang Chen, is Zhiqing coming over tonight?" asked Guo Xuehua.

Yang Chen nodded. "I'll pick her up around the evening."

"You should head there early. The last time she visited, I wasn't able to talk with her much. I'd really like to thank her and get to know her more," said Guo Xuehua with a smile.

Yang Chen could only smile wryly. Guo Xuehua had brought up her wish to have more conversations with Xiao Zhiqing in front of Lin Ruoxi. Wasn't this just plain provocation towards his wife?

It seemed like his mother was displeased with Lin Ruoxi's silence, choosing to exert an emotional trigger on her as revenge. Guo Xuehua wasn't planning to apologize too.

Thankfully, Lin Ruoxi looked rather unfazed by her words. But it was probably a different story for the thoughts running through her mind.

At this moment, a familiar name was heard from the news broadcast...

"... Earlier today, the police had recovered a body at the Zhonghai Hilton Hotel. The man was believed to have ended his life by ingesting poison. Through investigations, the man was identified as the eldest son of the Jiang Province Li Foundation, Li Jianhe. It was concluded as a suicide case but many people are speculating on the nature of his suicide. It is speculated that the late Li Jianhe was suffering from familial internal conflicts and the failure of inheritance by his brother, Li Jianchuan..."

Abruptly, everyone's attention was on the news. All action in the house went into a standstill, gazes glued to the TV.

Weirdly, Lin Ruoxi frowned slightly but a faint hint of a smirk present on the edges of her lips. There was a cold glimmer in her orbs, but it disappeared within seconds. She continued to slurp on her porridge.

The news continued...

“From what we know, the Li Foundation, the German BMW Company and the Italian Fiat Group have a long-standing collaboration with the Li Foundation as the main bridge for BMW within China.

Recently, Li Foundation and BMW had plans to build a BMW history exhibition in Zhonghai. This was a plan to stimulate BMW sales via car culture exposure. The person in charge was set to be Li Jianhe and they have proceeded to recruit potential investors. However, it was declared a failure.

Last night, Li Jianhe’s brother, Li Jianchuan had announced that a new agreement was reached with one of Zhonghai’s leading enterprises, Yu Lei International. Yu Lei International and Li Jianchuan will join forces on the project.

The police had speculated that the main reason behind Li Jianhe’s suicide was depression stemming from his failure in the family conflict...”

At this point, Yang Chen and Guo Xuehua were already staring at Lin Ruoxi.

Yu Lei International?

Wouldn’t that mean Lin Ruoxi was involved?

Yang Chen was abruptly overwhelmed with questions. Scowling, he questioned, “Ruoxi, what is going on? Why are you working with Li Jianhe’s brother?”

That attracted Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma’s attention to her. They had assumed that Lin Ruoxi had long given up on collaborating with the Li Foundation.

Looking up, she smiled. “Looks like Mingyu had completed the job.”

“Mingyu?” Yang Chen began to feel bothered.

Lin Ruoxi nodded. “Actually... I was initially planning to give up on this project but Li Jianhe had shown me his true nature and even offended me. So I decided to not save him any face, but I really wasn’t expecting his mental strength to be so weak.”

In the midst of their bewilderment, Lin Ruoxi started to recite the series of events comprehensively.

She revealed that after the meeting yesterday, Lin Ruoxi was planning to not agree on the collaborative project in consideration of Yang Chen.

Unexpectedly, Li Jianhe was able to reach her immediately, suspiciously aware of her exact location. The most surprising thing was his adavance on her investment in the project.

Based on what she knew about Li Jianhe, Lin Ruoxi was certain that money wasn’t his motivation. It didn’t make any sense for him to get on his knees.

“I hadn’t even told Hong Yan where I was heading to. How was he able to locate me as soon as the meeting had ended? In the end, I concluded that he had planted spies in my company.

Not only that, but he was also willing to kneel before me and beg. We're not the only company in Zhonghai that is capable of offering him monetary support. Why is he so desperate for my investment?

My guess at the time was that he was forced to a corner. Or else, it wouldn't make sense for him to abandon his pride and dignity..."

After some careful thought, Lin Ruoxi went straight to Liu Mingyu. Being a past Public Relations Officer, Mingyu had a wide network of contacts. They soon found out that the project was Li Jianhe's last chance of redemption implemented by the Li family.

Though younger, Li Jianchuan's capabilities were way more competent than that of Li Jianhe. The man was able to manage multiple European businesses within the last two years, which ultimately forced Li Jianhe's return to China.

Unexpectedly, while Li Jianhe struggled with his problems, some conflict has arisen between him and his wife, Shen Yaxin. Ultimately, the couple filed for a divorce.

Losing his support from Shen Yaxin's family background as a government official, Li Jianhe was like a bird with fractured wings. His standing within his family was already crumbling.

The current collaborative project was met with the obstacle of the Chinese government. No matter how hard he tried, the government wasn't keen on giving their approval due to their protection over the interest of domestically-produced cars.

Most enterprises had the money but not the capability to involve themselves, leaving Li Jianhe with only a handful of choices. Li Jianchuan had even gone to the extent of forming a pact to stop any collaboration with Li Jianhe.

The only one available to him was Lin Ruoxi's Yu Lei International.

Unfortunately for him, Li Jianchuan was a smart one. As soon as he learned that Yu Lei had background support from the Yang family and that his brother had some beef with Yang Chen and his wife, he chose not to contact the company. This was to avoid him from getting involved in unwanted trouble.

"After Mingyu had informed me of that, I let her contact Li Jianchuan to discuss the share of profit after the project. If he was willing to let us have sixty percent of it, I'd sign the agreement and work with him.

That way, Li Jianchuan will be able to get rid of his brother from the family business. Plus, seeking fund allocation from the government is much more of a hassle than getting more investments. Besides, my official status is useful. Li Jianchuan wouldn't need to experience any trouble while awaiting government approval.

Though the Li family will earn a tad bit less than they expected, it's still admittedly much better than failing the entire project. Li Jianchuan could secure his position well while I can maximize my personal interest to complete the project.

Judging from today's news, Mingyu must have already signed the agreement. Li Jianhe had lost everything, that's probably why he decided to end his life."

Chapter 1095: Double Ninth Festival

Lin Ruoxi's long-winding speech came to a halt. Throughout the entire time, it felt like she was unbothered as if she had played no part in the events that led to his death!

Her words had made Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma dumbfounded while Yang Chen was in a state of slight fear.

Lin Ruoxi might not have wanted anything to do with Li Jianhe anymore, but to orchestrate the events that led to his death was another level! They were even classmates at one point!

It was rather eerie to think that Li Jianhe's incautious exposure of his predicament had Lin Ruoxi take advantage of it. Not only did she take the chance to seize more profit to herself, but she had also pushed Li Jianhe over the edge!

There was no way Yang Chen would buy the fact that Lin Ruoxi hadn't known the aftermath. Between business and an old friend, Lin Ruoxi had chosen her business interest over him cruelly!

Li Jianhe would remain unknowing that the reason behind his ultimate failure was due to him reaching out to his last hope, Lin Ruoxi.

"Uh..." Yang Chen shook his head and smiled. "If you had told us last night about your strategy against Li Jianhe or the Li family, Mother wouldn't have suspected you at all."

As if this was the first time she knew Lin Ruoxi, Guo Xuehua nodded in turn. "Jeez, child. How could you hide everything to yourself? If you had told me this earlier, I wouldn't have thrown a fit over one picture!"

Why would Guo Xuehua continue to believe that Lin Ruoxi had feelings for someone that she drove to his grave?!

Lin Ruoxi smiled gently. "Though it wasn't my genuine intention to betray Li Jianhe, I am. If it wasn't for the news broadcast, I would've brought it to my grave."

Despite Lin Ruoxi's smile, Guo Xuehua couldn't help but feel shocked. Her impression on her daughter in law had taken a great turn.

Guo Xuehua had always seen her as someone soft, kind, and weak. The mother in law had always thought that she ran the gigantic enterprise with her efficient management alone. It came as a surprise that Lin Ruoxi was capable of something so cunning!

Though so, bloodshed and cold wars between the riches were no stranger to Guo Xuehua, which left her to not find any fault in Lin Ruoxi's rather cruel ways. After all, the person she went against was not a part of their family. The circumstances of her worrying would be if Lin Ruoxi wasn't tough and had no background.

This wasn't the first time Lin Ruoxi had hidden something akin to this from Yang Chen. There were plenty of incidents where Lin Ruoxi had trapped him in her plans. This time, the man could only laugh at himself as he was once again fooled by her.

He had never expected that the person behind Li Jianhe's death wasn't him but Lin Ruoxi.

After breakfast, Lin Ruoxi went to work as usual. Lanlan was also sent to kindergarten by Minjuan.

Yang Chen, on the other hand, activated his cultivation. Paying close attention to Xiao Zhiqing's formula, he returned to the castle's underground chamber to work on concocting pills from their newly-acquired herbs.

The trip to Amazon and the Vietnamese Rainforest had returned them handsomely with more herbs. It was just a pity that they weren't able to locate the Heaven and Earth herbs that could allow him to concoct pills of the highest grade.

However, Yang Chen had gotten pretty lucky during his search. The herbs he had scavenged were able to create one full batch of high-grade Xiaoyun pills!

Those pills are the ones Lu Huating and Hao Changfeng had wanted to snatch away.

Back then, Yang Chen was merely tricking them into believing that he possessed the pills. Now, he actually had several of them on hand!

Despite that, the Xiaoyun pills show the best effect when consumed during the Soul Forming Stage. Other than providing a great boost to one's abilities, the pills would also serve as a push into the Tribulation Passing Stage.

Yang Chen had plans to have all his women consumed this upon entering the Soul Forming Stage to avoid potential damage from the pill's strong medicinal properties.

After more than a half days' worth of work, the man had successfully produced a few tens of Xiaoyun pills. Aside from that, Yang Chen had also managed to create a few hundred pills from all the medium grade and lower grade herbs.

In the process, Yang Chen had found something that overjoyed him. After his multiple experiences with pill refinement and alchemy, his Dantian was nourished, allowing him to store and exert the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy with ease.

Yang Chen had a hunch that this furnace was slowly improving its state while improving its own powers.

The most noteworthy thing was that the mythical creatures engraved on the furnace were getting progressively clearer. Though the smoke wafting out of the furnace had masked his sight, Yang Chen was able to see its presence.

Though Yang Chen didn't know how far this furnace could improve itself, he was certain that its current state wasn't its best yet.

Returning to China, Yang Chen sent some of the pills to Cai Ning who was in Beijing. After that, he came back to Zhonghai and distributed the rest to his women.

If the lower grade and medium grade pills were consumed in the fashion of a daily health supplement, Yang Chen was sure that his women would soon breakthrough their Houtian stages!

One thing that delighted him immensely was Rose's natural talent for cultivation!

It had only been a few days since he last saw her but Rose had already completed her Xiantian stage from its initial phases!

Yang Chen's special skill was all thanks to his mastery of Heaven and Earth energy. The skill was unique and able to surpass performances and effects delivered by regular skills.

Of course, Rose's speedy advancement had much to do with her amazing comprehension.

Finishing his task, it was only then that Yang Chen ignited his car and drove it towards Xiao Zhiqing's condominium. It was time to pick her up.

Xiao Zhiqing had obviously placed a lot of thought into her appearance tonight. She was dressed in a round-collared and embellished pink wool sweater that matched well with an engraved leather skirt. Though her height wasn't as model-like as Lin Ruoxi, her legs were elongated by her stockings which helped make her appear feminine and vulnerable.

Watching her fumble and mumble before the entrance to the house, Yang Chen really wanted to tell her that bringing other women home was no longer strange to his family. He had too many women to the point that the women of his household were numb. Though he had the intention, he ultimately decided against it as this was considerably Xiao Zhiqing's first official get-together with his family.

"Hello, Miss Xiao. Come on in and take a seat." Wang Ma was the first person they met upon entering the house. She quickly greeted and offered Xiao Zhiqing a seat on the sofa.

Xiao Zhiqing had met Wang Ma before. She hurriedly returned the greeting. "Wang Ma, you can just call me Zhiqing, no need to call me Miss..."

"Of course you're not a miss, you're not an escort." Yang Chen retorted nonchalantly.

Xiao Zhiqing clenched her teeth and rolled her eyes at him.

Guo Xuehua finally exited the kitchen. Yang Chen began to introduce his mother to Xiao Zhiqing, to which Xiao Zhiqing sweetly greeted her. "Hello, Auntie."

Guo Xuehua studied her and shot a question. "Zhiqing, you look very young. How old are you?"

Xiao Zhiqing blushed a little. "Yeah... I'm barely twenty."

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma were shocked, quickly glaring at Yang Chen weirdly. Their thoughts were clear to the man in question. "Jeez, you have polluted yet another young girl."

But come to think of it, Xiao Zhiqing was probably Yang Chen's youngest lover to date. From Guo Xuehua's perspective, the girl was at a suitable age to be considered as her youngest daughter. Plus, the woman had a great impression on her.

"We decided to invite you over today to thank you for going to such great extents to save Yang Chen back in Australia. This seemed like a great chance to get to know you better. We should really get closer if we're going to be family in the future," said Guo Xuehua while grasping Xiao Zhiqing's palm.

Xiao Zhiqing could only blush and shake her head. "There's no need for that..."

"What do you mean, silly child? Of course, it's necessary. There's no need to be so nervous..." Guo Xuehua laughed happily.

There was still much to do in the kitchen to ready the offerings for their ancestors. Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma quickly left Xiao Zhiqing behind in the living room but the girl was courteous enough to follow them into the kitchen. While she continued to engage them in conversations, she offered to help them with smaller chores.

Soon enough, the sky darkened. A rich feast was spread out majestically on the dining table. Guo Xuehua and Xiao Zhiqing were not accustomed to one another and Wang Ma was giggling joyfully.

After Minjuan had dropped Lanlan home from school, Lanlan had a rather pleasant encounter with Xiao Zhiqing. Perhaps it was because of Xiao Zhiqing's age that made her seem more approachable to Lan Lan.

Aware that this adorable girl was Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi's adopted daughter, Xiao Zhiqing couldn't help but find this rather eerie. From her perspective, Lin Ruoxi didn't seem like the motherly type who would adopt children.

Smartly, Lan Lan questioned, "Aunty Zhiqing, are you Lanlan's new aunty?"

The abrupt question had taken Xiao Zhiqing by surprise. Minjuan quickly leaned down to whisper an explanation to Lanlan until Xiao Zhiqing had reluctantly nodded with flushed cheeks.

Lanlan clapped her hands happily. She squealed, "Yay! Lanlan got a new aunty again! With a new Aunty, Mama is going to buy me toys again!"

Yang Chen, who had his eyes glued to the TV just a while ago almost slid off the couch. This young bumbling kid knew to use his women to threaten Lin Ruoxi into buying her toys?!

As the night progressed, Lin Ruoxi had finally made it home in a flurry. She had just signed a very significant agreement with Li Jianchuan today. Due to the fact that they hadn't met each other before, it wasn't hard to guess that work today was hectic for Lin Ruoxi.

Noticing Xiao Zhiqing's presence in her house, Lin Ruoxi courteously greeted her after stripping off her coat.

"I know we had a rough start but it's all in the past now. Thank you for helping Yang Chen out along his journey," uttered Lin Ruoxi with a faint smile.

Xiao Zhiqing heaved a sigh of relief. She expected much worse. She shook her head. "Thank you so much, Sister Ruoxi."

Perhaps Yang Chen's words last night had Lin Ruoxi offer some generosity. Albeit so, the woman's real thoughts shall remain a mystery.

Guo Xuehua set the table and placed an ornamental rug before the table. She lit two candles to start their prayers to the ancestors.

To hold such a traditional offering ceremony in such a modern house was undeniably weird. However, this whole experience was new to both Lin Ruoxi and Xiao Zhiqing.

"Actually, we'd need to do one again during the Winter Solstice but we'll omit that. Let us all do it today," explained Guo Xuehua with a motherly smile.

Inexplicably, this was also Yang Chen's first involvement in this. He imitated his mother, kneeling on the rug and praying to the empty tables and chairs. He prayed sincerely for his ancestors' blessings to maintain the harmony between all his women.

Confusedly, Lanlan followed suit. The child was getting a little grumpy, not understanding why they weren't eating just yet.

Seeing that Xiao Zhiqing was standing in a corner awkwardly, Guo Xuehua approached the girl with a comforting smile. "Zhiqing, you're considered part of our family now. Come, it's alright for you to pray."

The offer warmed her heart. After escaping home, she had finally found some sense of belonging today, like fleeting duckweed that finally found a place to grow its roots.

Nodding, Xiao Zhiqing became the last to kneel. She sincerely bent over to accomplish a standard kowtow.

At that split second, the initially smiling Wang Ma had a sudden change of expression. Her pupils shrunk abruptly!

"This... This..."

Everyone jumped in shock to see the state Wang Ma was in. Her face was pale but flushed, she looked as if she had seen the most terrifying thing in her life.

"Yulan, what's the matter?" Guo Xuehua quickly asked.

Xiao Zhiqing frantically scrambled up, thinking that she must've wronged her.

To everyone's surprise, Wang Ma extended a trembling hand. With a stiff body, she went forward, trying her best to suppress her terror. "Zhiqing... You... Turn around... Let me see... your neck..."

Chapter 1096: Shoes

Xiao Zhiqing was confused but heeded her instructions anyway. She obediently turned around and allowed Wang Ma to inspect the back of her neck.

Shakily, Wang Ma extended an arm to gather Xiao Zhiqing's loose hair into her fist. She lifted the hair to expose her pale neck.

It was then that everyone noticed that there was a small plum blossom-like birthmark on her neck.

The birthmark wasn't visibly large, only about the size of a fingertip. There was no way anyone would have caught sight of it but Wang Ma had successfully seen it through Xiao Zhiqing's hair.

"Wang Ma, could this birthmark be..." Lin Ruoxi seemed to have remembered something, gaping in awe at the sight.

The older woman was starting to get emotional. Face flushed, she grabbed Xiao Zhiqing's hand tightly. "Zhiqing, your father... What is his name?!"

The younger woman was a little surprised at her sudden outburst. Xiao Zhiqing gulped and muttered meekly. "His name is Xiao Mozheng..."

Something flashed through Wang Ma's pupils and her lips began to tremble. Without another word, she quickly turned around and pulled Xiao Zhiqing into a mad dash upstairs!

Everything had happened so suddenly, allowing no time for Xiao Zhiqing to respond to the situation. She could only stumble as she tried to keep up with Wang Ma's pace.

"Hey, Yulan! What's the matter?!" The sudden turn of events had Guo Xuehua utterly confused.

"Let's go upstairs too." Lin Ruoxi quickly chased after the pair.

Soon enough, everyone came to stand before Wang Ma's bedroom, where a puzzled Xiao Zhiqing was seen standing in front of a closet. Wang Ma threw the closet door open and began to rummage its contents desperately.

After a while, Wang Ma finally retrieved an oil paper bag from a metal box at the very bottom of the closet. There was a photograph inside!

Yang Chen abruptly recognized it. It was the picture Cai Yan had found hidden between the old CEO's book when they moved houses.

It seemed as if both she and Lin Ruoxi were familiar with the person portrayed in the picture, but Lin Ruoxi was very displeased when Cai Yan tried to bring it up.

After all that, Wang Ma kept the picture. Yang Chen had never once gotten a chance to take a good look at what that photograph was about.

"Zhiqing, look at this. Do you recognize this man?!" Wang Ma showed Xiao Zhiqing the photograph.

In one glance, Xiao Zhiqing's entire attention was glued to that photograph!

It took her a moment before Xiao Zhiqing could mumble incoherently. "Why... Why is my father...in this picture?"

Hearing that, Yang Chen and Guo Xuehua rushed forward to study the photograph.

It was taken in some garden. The location had resembled Lin Ruoxi's front yard back at her family's old residence.

There was a couple depicted in it. The man was charmingly handsome, radiating the studious aura of a scholar. He had a little mustache and was dressed in a blue blouse and had his hair parted in the middle when this picture was captured.

It wasn't difficult to identify who the woman beside her was. It was a younger Wang Ma, which meant that this photograph was most probably taken a few tens of years ago. Her hair back then was much luscious and there was not a single wrinkle visible on her youthful face. Wang Ma's smile was radiant.

This yellowing old photograph was actually that of Wang Ma and Xiao Zhiqing's father?!

As soon as Xiao Zhiqing had supplied Wang Ma with an answer, the older woman's eye began to redden. Tears started to break free of its boundaries.

"My daughter!"

Wang Ma enveloped Xiao Zhiqing in a very tight embrace, feeling a violent mixture of melancholy and surprise. Her cries were heart-wrenching, effectively twisting everyone's heart into painful knots!

Xiao Zhiqing was too shocked to realize what had happened. She stood within Wang Ma's arms, frozen like a statue. The younger woman allowed Wang Ma to soak her wool sweater in tears.

Guo Xuehua tossed a questioning gaze to Yang Chen to which he responded with a confused shrug. The man wasn't quite sure what the context was.

Watching the emotional display, Lin Ruoxi thought of her past. Along with Wang Ma's tears, she too found herself wiping her tears away.

Minjuan carried a sulking Lanlan, extremely bewildered by the scene before her.

After almost a minute of tears, Wang Ma was abruptly reminded of something. The older woman broke into a very charming smile amidst her tear-stained cheeks.

"Zhiqing, I hope you're not too shocked by this. I have wronged you..." Wang Ma's speech was incoherent. Mustering a smile, she continued. "When you were born, there was a flower-like birthmark behind your neck. Your father was a gardener back then. He told me that his name was Mozheng, which was this man in the photograph. I had never once thought that his name wasn't entirely true too... You're the fruit of our love, you're my biological daughter!"

Xiao Zhiqing's beautiful eyes widened, then her face lost its flush of color. Her heart was enveloped in such an indescribable feeling that she found herself at a loss for words. She bit her lip hard, seemingly in a daze.

Lin Ruoxi was rather worried that Xiao Zhiqing was going to reject her claims. She swiftly explained, "Zhiqing, what Wang Ma said was true. I was a young child back then but I could remember this clearly. There was a man named Mozheng who was hired by my grandmother as a gardener, mainly responsible for gardening and husbandry jobs. If you're still skeptical about this, you can ask the members of the Cai family about this.

My grandmother was the one who matched Wang Ma with Mozheng. After marriage, Wang Ma went back to her hometown and gave birth to you. However, on one rainy day, you and Mozheng had vanished altogether.

We went searching for the both of you high and low. Weirdly, no one could find any information on Mozheng. It was as if his traces were completely wiped away. The only evidence of his existence was this very photograph that my grandmother kept in her book."

Hearing that, Yang Chen began to recall something vague. He could quite remember that when Cai Yan first visited the house, she had asked Wang Ma if 'that person' had returned or not. But Yang Chen paid no mind to their exchange back then.

No wonder Lin Ruoxi had reacted so vehemently when Cai Yan brought it up. Cai Yan's action was akin to rubbing salt into Wang Ma's excruciatingly painful wound.

To be lied to by your husband followed by the disappearance of your newborn daughter. Anyone who could live through that was undoubtedly tough.

Xiao Zhiqing's voice trembled. "You're... You're... my mom?"

"Yes!" Wang Ma affirmed.

Xiao Zhiqing could no longer suppress her overwhelming emotions. She broke into a flurry of tears, quickly wrapping her arms around Wang Ma.

"Mom!"

"My daughter!"

Witnessing the emotional reunion, Guo Xuehua was moved. She began to tear as she smiled.

"What a splendid surprise! Turns out Xiao Zhiqing is Yulan's long lost daughter. Blood is thicker than water, the bond shared between a mother and her child could never be severed so easily!"

Guo Xuehua turned to look at Yang Chen. She gave the man a pat on the back. "Well done."

Yang Chen was amazed at how things had progressed. He had returned to the Yang family and even brought Wang Ma's daughter back from America completely clueless.

Ah, this must be destiny.

Wang Ma and Xiao Zhiqing cried, smiled, and embraced repeatedly for a while. When they were finally willing to let go of each other, Wang Ma quickly pulled Xiao Zhiqing to another closet on the side.

Under everyone's curious gaze, Wang Ma opened up the closet. Its contents had everyone else dazed.

It was a complete closet full of girl shoes!

There was a vast variety of designs and sizes, all neatly displayed on the rack. An approximate count had proved that there were at least one hundred pairs of shoes, all of them brand new!

Wang Ma's grip on Xiao Zhiqing's hand was tight. She beamed, "Zhiqing, look. These are all the shoes I bought for you over the years. Though you were missing, I sincerely believed that you'll return to me someday in the future.

When your birthday comes around, I'd always imagine how big your foot must've grown that year to select your size. I'd buy it in accordance to seasonal trends of the year, only buying the best quality shoes for you.

Look at this. This was meant for your first day in kindergarten. These red ones are for your dance classes during elementary years. And also, I was thinking that you would've probably hit puberty during middle school so I made sure to order these in a bigger size.

These four pairs over here were bought this year for you. Do you fancy it? Or is it a little too old-fashioned for your taste? I don't know if you'd prefer heels or flats and I don't know how tall you would've grown to..."

Watching Wang Ma showcase different pairs of shoes that corresponded to different growth stages of Xiao Zhiqing, the image of a solemn Wang Ma staring longingly at the unworn shoes in silence at the dead of night was fed into their minds. It was clear just how much Wang Ma had missed her daughter.

Yang Chen finally understood why the shoe seller, Ah Lian had hoped that Wang Ma would stop visiting the shop someday later.

Every shoe she bought was torture to Wang Ma's sanity. It was a kind of absurd hopefulness that hung on to nothing.

Slowly, Xiao Zhiqing extended an arm to pick up a pair of leather boots that Wang Ma had bought this year. She dried her tears and smiled. "Mom, I like this one. Let me put this on."

"Yes please!" Wang Ma nodded fervently and hid a trembling giggle with her palm. Her eyes glimmered with unsaid bliss...

Chapter 1097 Wang Ma Is Rich

After Xiao Zhiqing tried on the boots, she had spent more than half an hour in Wang Ma's bedroom trying on shoes. It took a while for her to finish trying on all of those that fitted her.

No one had the heart to cut short the heart-warming display of the mother-daughter pair. Guo Xuehua and Lin Ruoxi even joined them to comment on the shoes.

It all came to a halt when Lanlan started to tug on Guo Xuehua's arm pleadingly. With her childish voice, she whined, "Grandma, Lanlan is very hungry..."

Now that Lanlan had mentioned it, everyone came to an abrupt realization that they hadn't touched dinner yet.

Since the reunion was rather fresh, it was only natural for Wang Ma and Xiao Zhiqing to catch up on lost time. It was perfect timing for dinner as the two could sit down comfortably and resume their exchange over food.

After dinner, everyone gathered around the living room to touch on Wang Ma's sorrowful past. The older woman had carried so much resentment and anger towards Xiao Mozheng.

It was not easy to explain Xiao Zhiqing's background and the long-winding history of her experiences in one go. A lot of information had turned out to be particularly surprising for Wang Ma.

Xiao Zhiqing had speculated that Xiao Mozheng, like many disciples of the Hidden clan, had ventured to the mundane world to train.

Most of the disciples would do so around the initial phases of their Xiantian stage. Plus, there was still a relatively significant gap before reaching their Soul Forming stage, it was easier for them to experience human life.

"No boundaries were posed on the disciples of the great ancient clan when they came to the mundane world for training. As long as they don't step out of China, they could do as they pleased. Some chose to be kind while some chose to be criminals, some got involved in trading and some in the military.

There are no rules to marriage as well. If they were lucky enough to have a child with their human partners, the child must be returned to the ancient family because the reproduction of cultivators is frankly difficult. The higher their cultivation, the more difficult it is for them to have children. Therefore, many of the ancient family descendants got married earlier.

The population of the dreamscape was tallied to be only around tens of thousands. There was the continuous addition of many cultivators that had passed the Soul Forming stage, some were able to settle down and find life partners in the realm and later bore many offspring together. However, not everyone could find a suitable partner. So they often turned to mortals to have children.”

“That’s too cruel! How could they claim the child just like that? Had they ever considered what mothers will go through?” fumed Guo Xuehua.

Xiao Zhiqing returned her a bitter smile. “To betray the family’s will is equivalent to choosing to be a mortal. Plus, they most often don’t see their human partners as equals. How could anyone wish to be with them for the rest of their lives?”

“Not to mention, you have the Nine Yin Meridian. That’s probably why your father was in such a rush to return to the family. After all, your physical constitute would be of great use to the Xiao family,” said Yang Chen with a cold smirk.

Wang Ma was confused. “What’s a Nine Yin Meridian?”

Xiao Zhiqing hesitated briefly. She wasn’t keen on her mother learning about her mistreatment back at the Xiao’s family home. But after much thought, the past could not be kept under wrap for so long. The truth was bound to reveal itself.

Before she could even finish, Wang Ma’s eyes were already reddening from frustration. The older woman gritted her teeth, letting something akin to a beast to glimmer in her eyes. “Xiao Mozheng... you filthy animal...”

Xiao Zhiqing quickly hugged Wang Ma around her shoulders. She comforted, “It’s alright Mom. Yang Chen has already helped me suppress the poison. My body is all well now. There haven’t been any repeated poisoning episodes anymore.”

“This must be destiny. The gods have helped my daughter.” Wang Ma turned around and stared at Yang Chen gratefully. “Sir, I don’t know how to thank you. You came to this family and helped Miss and later helped me reunite with my daughter. I don’t know how to repay you...”

“Hehe.” Yang Chen snickered. “Wang Ma, you’re going to become one of my mothers-in-law. There’s no need to be so courteous. Though we’re technically family, it seems that we’ll be closer than ever soon!”

“Shameless bastard! How can you be so carefree about this?! You must’ve thought about this for a while!” Guo Xuehua slapped the back of his head with a laugh.

Before that took place, Lin Ruoxi was carrying Lanlan. Initially, her hands were caressing Lanlan’s pudgy cheeks but Yang Chen’s words had triggered her greatly. The woman almost pinched Lanlan’s cheeks off in a daze!

Lanlan felt wronged but could only silently pout.

No matter what, Wang Ma and Xiao Zhiqing’s reunion filled Lin Ruoxi with joy. Lin Ruoxi had witnessed Wang Ma’s tormented soul over the years. She was also the only one who understood Wang Ma well. Seeing Wang Ma so relieved and happy, Lin Ruoxi soon found Xiao Zhiqing more likable.

“Zhiqing, I heard you live in a condominium near Zhonghai University, right? How about you move your things here? Now that Zhenxiu has returned home to Korea, her room is vacant,” suggested Lin Ruoxi.

This behavior puzzled both Guo Xuehua and Yang Chen. It seemed that Xiao Zhiqing’s identity as Wang Ma’s daughter was very important to Lin Ruoxi, so much that the woman was willing to put down her guard and allow the younger woman to move in!

Despite this, this had much to do with Xiao Zhiqing’s circumstances. She ran away from her family and had spent most of her time alone. Now that she has finally found her mother, staying outside didn’t feel quite right.

Wang Ma quickly declined the offer. “There’s no need to do that. I know you’re kind to me but this isn’t appropriate. I wouldn’t want you to feel uncomfortable.”

Xiao Zhiqing nodded. “Sister Ruoxi, I think it’s better than living elsewhere. I’m sure the other sisters would find this troubling.”

Finishing her words, Xiao Zhiqing sneaked a glance at Yang Chen. Yang Chen immediately rubbed his chin, pretending that he wasn’t involved in this.

Lin Ruoxi scowled. “It doesn’t make sense for you to keep living there. I wouldn’t want Wang Ma to tire herself out by commuting.”

Hearing that, Wang Ma responded with a smile. “Miss, isn’t there a lot of empty houses in Xijiao? I’ll just buy one for Zhiqing. I’ve been deprived of the opportunity to be a good mother. A house for Zhiqing seems like an appropriate greeting gift.”

“Whoa, Wang Ma! You’re that rich?!” Minjuan who was beside them the whole time exclaimed in surprise.

The woman had just recently learned that the houses in Xijiao were luxurious mansions worth at least tens of millions. Was Wang Ma serious about buying a property here? Wasn’t she just a domestic worker?

Weirdly, Lin Ruoxi wasn’t too surprised by it. She smiled and said, “Minjuan, I’m guessing that you don’t know this but based on income alone, Wang Ma’s is much higher than mine.”

“Seriously?” Guo Xuehua was curious.

Lin Ruoxi nodded. “My grandma felt extremely regretful about Wang Ma since she was the one allowed this to happen. So she wrote on her will that Wang Ma shall receive a yearly pay of five million to ten million dollars. The amount will be regulated by the company’s treasury. Wang Ma’s pay is exempted from the office account so she wasn’t required to pay her income taxes. This was an agreement that Wang Ma and I were made to follow. Wang Ma’s savings over the years would make it effortless for her to afford a ten million house.”

Wang Ma was a little sheepish. “I tried to advise the old CEO against it but she was near-death and forced me to sign the document. Over the years, I saved it up in fear that the company would be landed in trouble so I could let Miss use it as emergency funds. Unexpectedly, I could now use it to buy a house.”

Minjuan was utterly envious. It was shocking how a domestic worker could turn into a billionaire. She had no idea Wang Ma was that rich all along!

Lin Ruoxi replied courteously, "That sounds like a good idea. As long as Wang Ma finds it convenient, it's a deal. How about you choose a good car from my garage as a present to Zhiqing? Since you're Wang Ma's daughter, you can be considered as a sister of mine."

Yang Chen finally understood the underlying message. Lin Ruoxi's words had masked her real intention. She wasn't keen on having Xiao Zhiqing move into the house. However, by suggesting it out loud proactively, it would eliminate Xiao Zhiqing's possibility of moving in. After all, the more generous Lin Ruoxi was, the more courteous Wang Ma and Xiao Zhiqing needed to be in consideration of her feelings.

But of course, since Wang Ma could afford to buy a property for Xiao Zhiqing alone, the results were close to ideal.

Yang Chen spread out his fingers and began to count how many of his lovers were living nearby. Rose, Mo Qianni, An Xin, and now Xiao Zhiqing. The beds he could slither into at the dead of night had reached a total of five beds! How should he allocate the time to tend to each lover? This was such a wonderful fuss!

It was a blessing in disguise that Cai Yan and Liu Mingyu had lived further away. Yang Chen could ravage them when he went over to oversee their training. If they had all lived nearby his place, the man would be busy as hell!

Suddenly, Yang Chen felt that having Lanlan sleep with Lin Ruoxi was a terrific idea. It allowed him the freedom to ensure that his lovers were not lonely.

If Lin Ruoxi had found out that this man was shamelessly devising an efficient plan to allocate time for his lovers, poor Lanlan would probably suffer from a severely swollen cheek.

For the next few days, Wang Ma busied herself by trying to replace those lost years with Xiao Zhiqing. Yang Chen, on the other hand, visited his women diligently. While he mentored them, fiery passion was essentially inevitable, making up to them for all the enthusiasm he failed to deliver earlier.

Chapter 1098 Meet By Chance

When it was almost the end of October, Yang Chen called the Park clan and brought Lin Ruoxi with him to Seoul. He also brought the Moon Ivory necklace along.

For a Korean drama lover like Lin Ruoxi, it was going to be an eventful trip. Besides, Korea was the shooting site for most drama so that naturally aroused her interest. She had decided to stay in Seoul for a few weeks and she even planned out an itinerary!

Yang Chen wasn't interested in the small country. He was quite familiar with the place having traveled here several times in the past. However, because of the elder superiority in Korea, it seemed like an exhausting tradition for a lazy man like Yang Chen.

Due to Korea's location, the temperature in Seoul was much lower than in Zhonghai. The breeze was cold and they could even see some snowfall.

Their airplane arrived at Incheon International Airport in the evening.

Park Jonghyun came to pick them up and he was overjoyed upon seeing them. He shook their hands passionately and motioned his subordinates to take over their suitcases.

“Sis has missed you both greatly. She even wanted to come here together but her private tutor, Teacher Vivian, had a class with her so she couldn’t make it.”

“Teacher Vivian? Is she a Westerner?” Lin Ruoxi asked curiously.

Park Jonghyun led them to his car and explained to them while shaking his head. “She’s not a Westerner but a Chinese woman who’s fluent in English and Korean. My grandfather’s professor from the states recommended his best student.”

Yang Chen teased Lin Ruoxi. “Why, you still want to check on her studies even when she’s back in Korea?”

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at him. She couldn’t be bothered to reply to him since she was just trying to be caring.

When they reached the Park mansion that was located in the Gangnam district, a few fancy-looking cars were already parked outside. People had been waiting for their arrival.

Under Park Jonghyun’s lead, they walked into the living hall together and the crowd stood up to welcome them.

The only person who remained seated was an elder who was holding a walking stick.

He was Park Cheon, the one they had seen on their video. He was smiling at them with a gentle gaze.

Yang Chen was more interested in the young man who was standing behind the sofa where Park Cheon was seated. His face was expressionless as if he saw nothing and all his attention was focused on the three steel balls on his hand.

Based on his experience, Yang Chen could tell that he was a dangerous person even if he didn’t have any internal energy. He was probably Park Cheon’s bodyguard.

Next to him was a middle-aged couple, Yoo Homyeong and Park Jiyeon. Yoo Homyeong was rather short which made him look odd standing next to his wife.

The other person who surprised Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi was the young and gorgeous lady, Yoo Yeonhee!

Her makeup was eye-catching with her pink lipstick glistening under the light. She was wearing a black deep V top with a fluffy scarf around her neck which covered her busty chest. A pair of tight fitted jeans wrapped her legs, showcasing her slender figure.

“Welcome, are you surprised to see me here?” Yoo Yeonhee smiled proudly.

Yoo Yeonhee interacted with Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi before during the audition and the concert in Zhonghai but it wasn’t a pleasant experience so Yoo Yeonhee’s fake smile was the best response.

“Yeonhee, be polite.” Park Cheon said flatly.

Yoo Yeonhee averted her gaze and nodded at him, "Yes, Grandfather."

Park Jiyeon smiled at Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi, "Mr Yang and Miss Lin, nice to meet you. I'm Zhenxiu's aunt, Park Jiyeon and this is my husband Yoo Homyeong. Yeonhee is our daughter, thanks for taking care of her in Zhonghai."

Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi finally understood. It turned out Yoo Yeonhee and Zhenxiu were both Park Cheon's granddaughters.

The difference between them was that even though Zhenxiu was younger, her mother was the eldest daughter of Park Cheon whereas Yoo Yeonhee's mother was the second daughter. Although they shared the same bloodline, there was still a difference in seniority in a Korean clan.

Yang Chen was reminded of something. Yoo Yeonhee had a fight with Park Jonghyun before and she seemed to be in love with him. But weren't they siblings? The thought of this aroused Yang Chen's curiosity.

Park Cheon was gesturing for them to have a seat when a familiar voice was heard from upstairs.

"Brother Yang! Sister Ruoxi!"

Zhenxiu ran out of the study and made her way downstairs quickly.

They hadn't seen her for a long time and she looked even more pretty now. Her face was glowing and her hair seemed especially black and silky. As she ran towards them, her busty figure and slim waist were striking under her sweater.

Yang Chen mumbled to himself, 'Damn, she looks like those beautiful actresses in Korean dramas now that her bloodline is showing. Besides that, she didn't have any plastic surgeries, unlike certain actresses!'

"Be careful, be careful...don't trip..." Park Cheon sounded extremely worried as he said with a gentle expression.

Disdain flashed across Yoo Yeonhee's eyes when she saw his gentleness towards Zhenxiu. It was the complete opposite of the treatment she was receiving.

Zhenxiu ran towards them with a grin and hugged Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi. With a giggle, she said, "You guys are finally here. I wanted to pick you guys up but my teacher forbade me. I lost the mood to study because of this."

Lin Ruoxi missed her greatly. She was basically part of her family, having stayed together for a long time. She cupped Zhenxiu's cheeks and asked her, "You're still studying at this hour?"

"Mmh!" Zhenxiu pouted, "Teacher Vivian's really strict and Grandfather doesn't want to help me!"

Park Cheon chuckled, "I can let you do anything you want but you can't neglect your studies. Thousands of people would have to suffer with you if you knew nothing when I passed the group to you, wouldn't it?"

The love he had for his granddaughter was overflowing.

Since they were all talking in Korean, Yang Chen translated it all for Lin Ruoxi.

At this time, another silhouette showed up on the stairs. She was wearing a dress with a black coat over her shoulders. Her thighs were exposed in the air which added a sense of sexiness to her.

Park Jonghyun noticed her first and approached her, "Teacher Vivian, you've worked hard. Stay back and have dinner with us today."

Vivian smiled and was about to reject his invitation when she saw the 'guests'. Her eyes were filled with disbelief as her face turned pale.

"Jing...jing!?"

Yang Chen almost couldn't recognize her. The name Vivian was new to him, plus her outfit was so American style as if she was born in high society. She was completely different from the naive high school teacher from a year ago.

It took some time for Lin Ruoxi to react but she was surprised to see her. "So you're Teacher Vivian. Jingjing, long time no see!"

Li Jingjing was her first adult friend since she was the one who taught her how to cook and they also worked as volunteers together in the orphanage.

Even though they had a conflict because of Zeng Xinlin, she didn't blame Li Jingjing. It was all Zeng Xinlin's fault for taking advantage of her.

Past memories resurfaced in Yang Chen's mind and he was reminded of the time when he first returned to China. He was devastated and lonely but he eventually got out of the trauma having met Li Jingjing and her family.

After all the things they had been through and being separated for a year, it felt as if a century had passed now that they had met again.

She was still the same person but a prettier, more mature, and charismatic version of her.

Li Jingjing got over the initial shock and a bitter smile formed on her lips. Her eyes were moist as she said, "Brother Yang, Sister Ruoxi, it's been a long time."

The Park clan members were surprised and confused to see that they were acquaintances. From the looks of it, they seemed to share a complicated relationship.

Chapter 1099 Dance of Fishes and Dragons

Park Cheon initiated the conversation to lighten the mood. He motioned them to have a seat while the maids served dinner.

"Teacher Vivian, you must have dinner with us now that we know you're an old friend of Mr Yang and Miss Lin." Park Cheon smiled.

Li Jingjing didn't reject his invitation this time. She cast a deep glance at Yang Chen before nodding, "Thank you, sir."

Park Jonghyun furrowed his brows. Li Jingjing's gaze toward Yang Chen was something that he had never wished to see.

It was filled with suppressed but genuine joy!

It was as if she had found a long lost treasure.

Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi felt it too and a sense of helplessness crept up his mind. Whether it was Hui Lin or Li Jingjing, he didn't dare to lay his hands on them. Besides, he still had Lin Ruoxi right beside her.

Lin Ruoxi felt threatened by this. Even though she was glad to meet Li Jingjing, it didn't mean that she was willing to let their love rekindle. She didn't believe it even if they insisted that nothing happened between them. At the same time, Lin Ruoxi was relieved that she followed Yang Chen to Korea.

Zhenxiu glanced at them back and forth with her eyes glinting in response. She had just learned about her teacher's Chinese name which naturally made her curious about her teacher's past.

All of them gathered by the dining table as the maids served the royal court cuisine. It was a piece of cake for a clan like them to hire a five-star chef for their dinner.

"Mr. Yang, there are two reasons as to why we invited you and your wife over. Firstly, we would like to have you and your wife attend our inheritance ceremony. Secondly, we asked you to bring our heirloom back. Do you have it with you now?" Park Cheon asked with a grin before the dinner started.

Yang Chen rummaged his pocket and took out the Moon Ivory pendant. He still couldn't see anything special about it.

"That's right, this is it." Park Cheon's gaze was heavy. "This is the Moon Ivory that I gave to my eldest daughter, Jiyeon. It has finally come home. Kim Jip, take it for me."

The young man who had been next to Park Cheon all this time received the Moon Ivory from Yang Chen before returning to his seat. Not a single word was uttered by him in the process.

Yang Chen could feel that this young man only cared about Park Cheon. Other people were irrelevant to him, hence the cold treatment.

"Grandfather, you should give it to me since you asked for it back. That's the only thing Mom left for me." Zhenxiu sounded displeased.

"Heh." Park Cheon smiled. "Don't get anxious yet. I'll hand the Moon Ivory and my Star Constellation to our after the ceremony. I'll give you everything....."

Zhenxiu nodded with a bright smile. Her face was filled with contentment. It was her wish to be loved by her elders and she was finally getting it now.

On the other hand, those on the side had different expressions when they heard this.

Yoo Yeonhee asked with a sweet smile, "Grandfather, what are they used for?"

The smile on Park Cheon's face disappeared and he grunted, "The time will come when you find out. No need for questions."

“Oh...” Yoo Yeonhee lowered her head obediently as she squinted her eyes maliciously.

Park Jiyeon patted her daughter’s hand, signaling for her to keep quiet.

Amidst all that was Li Jingjing who sat down quietly. She snuck some glances at Yang Chen but she averted her gaze quickly. Her hands were tightly gripped, feeling kind of anxious and distracted.

Yang Chen tried to relax. He rubbed his belly and asked, “Say, Old man, are we waiting for anyone else? I haven’t eaten anything since the afternoon.”

Park Cheon’s facial muscles twitched when he heard that. Old man? Who was he calling old man?!

“That’s right, I have some announcements to make so I invited a few honorable guests.” Park Cheon replied.

Just when he ended his sentence, engine sounds from a sports car could be heard. Right after that, a few more cars made their way in. Judging by the commotion, it seemed like a big group of guests.

The maids welcomed them in and the first person who entered their field of vision was a middle-aged man dressed in a suit. His hair was combed back with an ear stud on his ear.

Behind me was a handsome man with a blue trench coat. He had skinny jeans on with his hair gelled back. Dangling on his fingers was a Ferrari car key, it looked like he was the one who drove the sports car.

There was another man behind them. He was wearing a white suit and had greyish hair. The golden spectacles on his face made him look especially gentle and refined. He was even holding a briefcase.

Everyone except for Park Cheon stood up to welcome them.

“President Gong Gyechung, you’re here with Gong Woo.” Park Jiyeon greeted them first with a smile.

Gong Gyechung chuckled and greeted them before talking to Park Cheon in a polite manner. “Uncle Park, sorry for coming in late. We just picked up Director Lee Eunjeong from the airport so that took up some of our time.”

The white-suited man was Lee Eunjeong and he smiled gently while saying, “I’ve heard about you President Park, I am Lee Eunjeong, a surgeon.”

Others were surprised to hear his self-introduction. Something felt off for today’s dinner.

“You’re being too humble.” Gong Gyechung introduced him. “Everyone, Director Lee is the glory of our nation. He’s not just the honorable Director of Seoul University Hospital, he’s also the advisor for the Cardiology and Hepatology departments in Harvard medicine. He’s one of the core surgeons!”

Others started to flatter him but Lee Eunjeong just replied to them with a humble wave.

Lin Ruoxi wanted to stand up but Yang Chen pulled her down. “Why would you join in when you don’t know him? I didn’t even move.”

Lin Ruoxi thought it made sense. She wasn’t here to work so she should listen to her husband’s words.

Park Cheon introduced Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi to them. "Mr Yang, Miss Lin, you might not be familiar with them since you two are from China. The Gong clan is the leading clan when it comes to tertiary education and the medicinal field. They have a close collaboration with the European Union and North America. Gong Gyechung is the current clan leader and Gong Woo is his son."

The Gongs directed their gazes at them and their gazes lingered on Lin Ruoxi's face for a longer time.

"Are they our friends from China?" Gong Gyechung said in a slightly arrogant manner as if he felt more superior to them.

"Let me do the introductions." Park Jonghyun smiled. "This is Miss Lin Ruoxi, the president of Yu Lei International. Next to her is her husband, Mr Yang Chen. Zhenxiu is indebted to them."

"Yu Lei International? The China company that sells clothes?" Gong Woo grinned, his tone filled with disdain.

For a leading clan like the Gong clan, they wouldn't care less about a garment brand or even the luxury brands like Louis Vuitton or Hermes. People might not need luxury brands but they sure needed education and hospitals.

Lin Ruoxi couldn't understand Korean so she looked at Yang Chen with a confused expression.

After hearing Yang Chen's translation, she replied in English with a flat tone. "That's right, the outfit that you're wearing now came from us. Thank you for your patronage, my dear customer."

Li Jingjing and others almost burst out laughing as they forced themselves to look away from Gong Woo's stiff expression.

Yang Chen even translated Lin Ruoxi's words into Korean for him.

Gong Woo snorted and was about to say something else when he was stopped by his father's gaze.

Park Cheon kept quiet as his eyes glistened, impressed by Lin Ruoxi's reply.

At this time, the main door was opened by the maids again. It seemed like another batch of guests were arriving.

Fortunately, the Park clan had a vast dining hall so it didn't feel crowded for them.

This time two tall Caucasian men walked in wearing leather boots and turtleneck sweaters as if they weren't used to the weather in Korea.

Behind them was a tall and slender girl. She strolled into the hall and when others saw her amber hair, their eyes widened in astonishment.

Yang Chen loosened his brows and he mumbled with a dumbfounded expression.

"Jane?"

Chapter 1100 Stepping On A Giant's Head

Jane was looking at the traditional decorations around the mansion when she heard a familiar voice.

She blinked in surprise when she saw Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi. “Yang Chen? Miss Lin, why are you guys here too?”

The leather coat around her accentuated her curvy body while the long boots covered her slender legs. Others held their breaths at her alluring and elegant facial features.

Park Cheon asked curiously, “Mr. Yang, you know her?”

Everyone turned to look at Yang Chen with a puzzled expression. They couldn’t help but be intrigued by the beautiful Caucasian woman who had appeared so suddenly.

Yang Chen nodded. “She’s an old friend of mine. I wasn’t expecting to meet her here.”

Back when Jane was in London, she did tell him that she would be going overseas to perform surgery but Yang Chen wasn’t expecting this at all.

One of the bearded Caucasian men introduced Jane to everyone else. “President Park, this is our teacher, Miss Jane. We invited her over from the Royal Academy of Science. She was supposed to be here a week ago but because she had to perform surgery on a general, her arrival was delayed.”

Others were shocked by this. Their teacher was a young woman like her?!

Jane was used to being stared at weirdly. She wasn’t bothered and bowed down to Park Cheon gracefully out of respect. “Mr Park Cheon, my students Vincent and Wallen have given me your medical records and I’ve already looked through it. I can perform the surgery once I do a checkup and an analysis.”

“Surgery?!” Park Jiyeon furrowed her brows. “What surgery? Is it about my father’s sickness?”

Others had a variety of facial expressions. After all, surgery would have been pointless to him since he was already in the last stage of liver cancer. He should only have two more months left.

However, not only did the top surgeon in Korea show up, the American doctors even invited a mysterious doctor called Jane.

Park Cheon motioned for others to sit down before speaking. “I’m sure you guys are wondering why a dying old man like me asked President Gong Gyechung, Doctor Vincent, and Doctor Wallen to invite doctors over.”

Everyone kept quiet as they stayed focused on him.

Park Cheon grinned and patted Zhenxiu’s head. Zhenxiu seemed to have gotten used to it, pouting at him with a helpless expression.

“I have to admit something. I purposely made Doctor Vincent and Doctor Wallen lie about my condition so that my baby granddaughter would return to me.”

“What?!”

Park Jiyeon and Yoo Homyeong looked up with a bewildered expression while a weird glint flashed across in Park Jonghyun’s eyes.

Zhenxiu's eyes reddened. She didn't know what to feel about this news. "Grandfather! How could you do this?!"

Park Cheon chuckled. "I don't really understand my own condition so I'll have Doctor Vincent and Doctor Wallen to explain it on my behalf. Anyways, I did it because I really wanted Zhenxiu to come home. I couldn't wait any longer. But it doesn't mean that I can be cured for sure so please forgive me for wanting to meet my granddaughter so desperately."

Yang Chen was chewing on a crab's leg while saying, "I knew it. I knew something was off when you said your cancer can't be treated even though you've just been diagnosed. It doesn't make sense especially for someone with an identity like yours."

"Are all Chinese people so rude? Director Park hasn't eaten anything so how can you eat first?" Gong Woo sneered.

Yang Chen grinned. "I'm hungry so I'm eating. Why would you care when it's not your house? Director Park didn't even say anything. Have you heard about the ancient eunuch? You're acting like one now."

"You..."

"Hey, Gong Woo! Don't be rude towards a guest." Gong Gyechung silenced him before flashing a friendly smile towards Yang Chen. "Please forgive him."

Park Cheon ignored their conversation and told the bearded Caucasian doctor, "Doctor Vincent, thank you for traveling so far for me."

"It's what we should do. You've been funding a lot of our projects and we're just doing our best to repay you. Unfortunately, we're not skilled enough so we had to invite our teacher." Vincent smiled.

"Heh, then please explain my real condition."

Vincent nodded and explained it to everyone. "According to our diagnosis, it's too late to remove the cancerous cells now. X-Ray shows that hepatic cirrhosis has occurred but it's not incurable. We just need to perform a liver transplant soon and there wouldn't be any major problems if things were to go well. If not, he will only be able to survive for another six months."

"Liver transplant? That's a major surgery..." Park Jonghyun sounded worried.

Zhenxiu couldn't care about the fact her grandfather lied to her. She looked at Park Cheon with an expectant gaze when she heard that he could still be cured. "Then hurry up and get the surgery Grandfather!"

"Eh, don't rush things, my dear. I invited two renowned doctors for this exact reason." Park Cheon smiled warmly. "I asked them to invite doctors for me because I want it to be a hundred percent success rate! So I want to have the best doctors on the team!"

The rest understood it finally, impressed by his plan. As expected of a businessman, he even used his sickness to trick his granddaughter.

Vincent and Wallen were the best hepatologists and internists from California yet he wasn't feeling confident in them to the point that he would invite more renowned doctors.

Yang Chen nudged Lin Ruoxi with his arm. "Dear, he's just like you, plotting against other people constantly..."

"Eat your food and shut up." Lin Ruoxi glared at him.

Gong Gyechung proclaimed in a confident manner. "Sir, Doctor Lee Eunjeong's reputation in liver transplant is widely known in the States. He's also the best doctor in our country, you can definitely rely on him! Am I right? Doctor Vincent and Doctor Wallen?"

Vincent and Wallen exchanged glances with one another before nodding together. Wallen voiced up seconds later. "I've heard about Doctor Lee Eunjeong from Harvard University when I was in California. I've seen magazine articles about you too, you did a great job on your thesis."

"You're flattering me. I've heard about you too, two youngsters with bright futures." Lee Eunjeong was prideful and he glanced towards Jane who was looking at the Korean cuisine curiously. "I've heard about Miss Jane too but unfortunately she had only lectured in John Hopkins before. Our department at Harvard would be pleased to have her."

Even though Jane was influential worldwide, she was mainly stationed in the United Kingdom. However, because of her young age, people didn't really believe in her abilities, especially the superiors at Harvard, Columbia, and Duke University.

They were highly reputable people in their respective fields so they wouldn't be easily impressed by anyone.

Especially since Harvard constantly ranked higher than John Hopkins in the medical field.

Therefore, Lee Eunjeong hoped to overshadow her, seizing the opportunity to compete against her. He would be able to advance forward as if he was using a giant as his stepping stone!

Even though Jane was preoccupied with the colorful Korean cuisine, she knew what he was trying to do but she was too lazy to compete against him. With a light chuckle, she said, "I'm quite lazy so I didn't even go to class, let alone visit a campus."

"Young lad, you shouldn't act so smug just because you've earned a little fame." Lee Eunjeong advised her like a senior before taking out a stack of documents and an X-ray film from his bag. With a smile, he said, "Sir, I've scrutinized your medical records and I don't think there's any problem in regards to your liver transplant."