

Chapter 291: Life Is like a Game of Chess

It was morning in Beijing. In a huge house at a suburb, there were lots of trees and flowers planted in its enormous courtyard which displayed an ancient design. In the dry and extremely low-temperature weather, the pine and cypress trees looked green as always. Two snow-white plum blossoms stood tall and proud as they resisted the wind. Emitting a fresh and fragrant smell, they made the courtyard particularly pleasant.

On a green stone table, there engraved a huge area of checkerboard for Go. The black and white stones were scattered all over the table while a teapot was placed on one corner, with its spout releasing white vapor.

[TL note: Go (围棋) is a popular board game invented more than 2500 years ago. The black and white playing pieces are called 'stones'.]

At the surroundings of the courtyard, there stood a few people at the hidden corners, silently guarding the place.

At this moment, a rather small-sized old man wearing an old-fashioned cotton shirt and cotton trousers came out from a few pine trees from a bent down position as he held a small shovel using an arm, and some yellowed, shovelled weeds with another. He had grey and white hair and some age spots. His body was filled with dust, making him look rather pathetic.

The old man put the shovel beside the table and the weeds beneath a pine seedlings before turning around and sitting on the green stone stool. Raising the teapot, he directly sucked on the spout of the teapot.

The tea was quickly finished. The old man took a bottle of hot water from the side and made some tea. After that, he started pondering upon the unfinished Go game.

Wearing a thick, grey clothes, a kind-looking old woman with slightly drooping cheeks walked into the courtyard and came to the green stone table. Smiling, she bowed as she said, "Master, Commander Yang is back. He's outside waiting to see you."

The old man slowly lifted a white stone and suddenly dropped it onto the checkerboard. Knock!

On the checkerboard, the situation for the black side was extremely dangerous.

The old man finally turned his head over. Slowly, he said, "Let him come in."

"Yes." The old woman slowly walked out of the place.

After a short while, a tall and muscular, general-rank man dressed in a green military uniform walked into the courtyard. Having knife-like sharp and handsome facial features, he instantly got energetic when he saw the old man as he expressed much respect. He was Yang Pojun.

"Father, I'm here," Yang Pojun greeted the old man with his head lowered.

The old man waved his hand. "Pojun, sit down, take a look for me. Does the black chess still have chance to live?"

Yang Pojun accepted his request without asking any questions. Straightening his back, he sat on the stool opposite to the old man. He looked at it seriously as he contemplated and frowned. After a long time, he said, "The black chess has no way out, there's no way to save the situation."

"Really..." The old man nodded and didn't explain if Yang Pojun was right or not. Raising his head, he smiled faintly at Yang Pojun, causing his white moustache to shake lightly. "You must be tired to rush here all the way from Jiangnan military region just to see this old man."

"Not tired, I only hate that I can't always keep Father company," Yang Pojun said loudly and sincerely.

"Hehe..." The old man chuckled as he was elated. "In this life, I, Yang Gongming, only have a son and a daughter. Jieyu moved to Zhonghai after she got married, while my only son is at Jiangnan military region. To the people outside, I can be considered a lonely old man already."

Yang Pojun frowned as he felt helpless. "Father, the general election is coming really soon. I am very confident that I have more than eighty percent chance of returning to Beijing. At that time, I'll be able to accompany Father more often. Oh yeah, Lie'er can also return here to spend time with you."

[TL note: 'Lie' in Yang Lie is roughly pronounced as 'lay'. Lie'er should be pronounced as 'layer', instead of 'liar'.]

Yang Gongming seemed like he thought of something. He said, "I heard that a lot of people have their eyes on the position you're aiming for—the vice chairman of Central Military Commission. If you face any difficulties, feel free to inform me. It won't be long before I leave this world. Actually, you've depended on yourself a lot to achieve what you have today. While my brain is still clear, I can help you in one way or another."

Yang Pojun violently nodded. "Father, don't say that. Your body is still healthy and tough. You still have lots of time in the future, how can you say that you're leaving soon?"

"People get old and die as a result of diseases. When the children grow up, their parents will naturally get old. When the children become parents one day, their parents get to a time where they'll die sooner or later. My life is far more imposing, dignified and fulfilling than others. There's no reason for me to mind saying something like that."

"Father..."

"Pojun," Yang Gongming said, "when you were young, you were much more steady than the others at your age. Being intelligent, you always looked at the bigger picture, and handled things in a neat manner. Comparing to the people of your generation, even with a stronger background, no one can achieve something as impressive as you. You're the only one who can enter our Chinese core circle of authority by taking one step forward. Having a son like you has always been my pride, and also our Yang family's glory.

"It's all because of the upbringing given by Father, otherwise I wouldn't be the same," Yang Pojun said.

Yang Gongming couldn't deny his statement. Lifting the teapot, he took a sip of tea before saying, "That's right, I've definitely have given you extraordinary care. However, the reason I'm able to give it to you is because you're willing to cooperate as well."

Yang Pojun stunned. He didn't know what Yang Gongming meant.

The corners of Yang Gongming's lips showed an unknown and bitter smile. He reached out to his sleeve and took out a roll of documents before passing it to Yang Pojun.

Yang Pojun had a bad feeling about it. Receiving it with both his hands, he flipped it open and took a look.

It was only one look, Yang Pojun's facial expression changed abruptly!

"Father! Why... why do you..." Yang Pojun paled. His eyes were filled with astonishment.

These documents were a report of a DNA test. Someone secretly retrieved Yang Chen's and Yang Pojun's DNA and sent them for a check. The result was evident!

Yang Gongming sighed. "You don't have to feel surprised. Actually, back then when you married, a couple quietly gave birth to him and sent him away, I knew about the existence of the child..."

This sentence was like a blast in Yang Pojun's mind. "Then Father, why do you... why..."

Yang Gongming smiled bitterly. "That year was coincidentally my key period of competing for standing committee in the politburo. If I had competed successfully, our Yang clan would definitely step into the line of Beijing's top-notch families. If I had failed, everyone in the clan would be at risk of being eaten by our opponents until even our bones weren't left. Being unmarried, you and your wife had the child at that time. Things like this would definitely be a humiliation to families like ours even when it's viewed today. Although I was strongly against your decision of sending the child away, I had to endure the pain and act like I was unaware as I must take the entire clan into consideration. Unexpectedly, the child couldn't be found anymore since then."

Yang Pojun's face turned red and pale. The matter which he thought only he and his wife knew, had always been kept in his father's heart unknowingly.

"Pojun, if this matter took place in ordinary families, you married couple and the child wouldn't face any problems. The child would only be the treasure of the family, and wouldn't be abandoned in any way," Yang Gongming said bitterly. "However, it must be tough for you two, being born in such families. Since you two didn't decide to abort the child back then, there's no reason to refuse getting the child back now. Judging from our Yang family's current situation, although the appearance of the child will bring negative news to the family, we won't be destroyed by others like many years ago anymore. Under such a situation, we don't have a reason to act unaware, and let our blood-related offspring to wander outside. This, isn't something people from Yang clan should do."

Yang Pojun's facial expression changed several times. He asked, "Father, who's the one who delivered this report over?"

Yang Gongming sighed. "It's the master of Lin family, Lin Zhiguo."

"Lin family... Lin Zhiguo..." Yang Pojun turned gloomy. "Lin Zhiguo is merely a general in the national security. He doesn't have real authority in the military, and he dares to step into our Yang family. Does he plan to use this matter to pull down my standing in the military and our Yang family's position, to help push some family up?"

Frowning, Yang Gongming said, "Pojun, although Lin Zhiguo is only a general, you musn't look down on him. Lin family is definitely not as simple as it looks on the surface. However, before you step into the circle, you won't understand Lin Zhiguo's true identity. You have to treat Lin Zhiguo with respect as his junior, this is my warning to you!"

Since his retired father rarely used such a dignified tone, Yang Pojun instantly accepted his order. However, his heart was filled with doubt. Lin Zhiguo isn't just a general? Then what is he?"

After a short silence, Yang Pojun said, "Father, since you exposed this matter and hope that the person can return to Yang family, I don't have a reason to reject you, being your son. However, you should also know that my election is coming really soon. I hope to only make it clear to that person after my election ends."

Yang Gongming's eyes displayed slight disappointment, but he still nodded. "I'm only his grandpa, you're the one who's his father. Since this is your decision, it's inappropriate that I say anything more. This clan will sooner or later fall into your hands. I only hope that you can treat the child nicely. Although we don't know how he grew up over the years, it mustn't be easy for him."

"Understood, Father." Yang Pojun stood up. "If Father doesn't have other instructions, I guess I'll go back to the troops."

"Go, I delayed a lot of your time after all." Yang Gongming waved his hand.

After Yang Pojun left, the old woman walked over. Smiling at Yang Gongming, she said, "Master, the thing you wanted me to check on is clear now. Young Master Chen is indeed married. Also, his wife is coincidentally General Lin Zhiguo's granddaughter, but she isn't the descendant of his wife."

"Really... No wonder." Yang Gongming nodded.

The old woman still held a smile on her face. She said, "No matter what, it'd be a happy event to Yang family if Young Master Chen could return. I wonder how Young Master Lie would react if he knew that he had a brother. Young Mistress should be the happiest, for her long-lost son could finally return."

Yang Gongming took a black stone up and said, "Life is like a game of chess, everything is difficult to be predicted."

Knock!

The black stone landed on the checkerboard. The black side which had its defeat seemingly destined earlier, instantly revived, and bit back at the white side!

Chapter 292: No Wonder She Didnt Listen

Early in the morning on Monday, Yang Chen brought breakfast to the office of the public relations department. He didn't get the anticipated warm welcome, but saw the group of ladies gathered together, chattering about something.

Yang Chen put down the bags of breakfast and went forward to take a look, only to find out that the ladies were surrounding a huge map of Japan as they discussed away.

Seeing Yang Chen's approach, Zhang Cai who had been arguing with the other girls instantly changed her target. She left the girls and went to pick her breakfast.

"Madam Zhang, can't you adopt some work ethics? Why did you go eat in the middle of a discussion?!" a lady complained loudly.

Zhang Cai lifted a bag of fried dumplings before taking a bite on one of them, causing her lips to immediately become oily. "Do whatever you want, I'll follow Sister Mingyu no matter what," she said.

Yang Chen asked Zhao Hongyan who was beside, "What are you guys discussing?"

Since the office was rather warm, Zhao Hongyan removed her outerwear, leaving only a purple sweater, causing her to look extraordinarily delicate and alluring. Smiling, she answered, "They're arguing on whether they should go through the customs of Tokyo Narita Airport and play in Tokyo, or head to Hokkaido immediately."

Everyone from the public relations department picked Japan for their year-end trip. Yang Chen was still in this department back then, he was naturally included as well.

However, Yang Chen was different now than he was before. Because of the matter of Yamata Sect, Yang Chen felt rather odd regarding the action of going to Japan, but there wasn't a need for him to avoid it. He just thought that he would certainly face trouble if he really went there.

When he suddenly got reminded by Zhang Cai's words, Yang Chen suddenly remembered that he was going with Liu Mingyu for this trip to Japan. Since he didn't have the opportunity to properly appreciate her within the country, he could fill his regret over there. It was just that he didn't know what Beauty Liu would think.

After listening to his female colleagues who blindly argued, Yang Chen didn't understand the conversation too much, so he carefreely ran out of Yu Lei's headquarters and returned to Yu Lei Entertainment at the opposite side.

When he returned to his office, there were a few people seated in his office.

Excepted his assistants Zhao Teng and Wang Jie, there was someone whom he'd never expect to meet there—Rose!

She wore grey coat and a white scarf, with a black lace stocking on her lower body and a pair of light brown high-heeled leather boots on her feet. Her hair was lightly permed and faintly dyed with an attractive color of bright red.

Dressed in winter clothing, there weren't as much laziness and hotness on Rose, but held the low-key sexiness of a city beauty.

Seeing this woman at his workplace for the first time, Yang Chen felt particularly fresh. He winked at Rose, but only received a calm smile from Rose in return, making him feel rather helpless.

"Director, you're here. Miss Situ has been waiting for a while." Wang Jie's face looked like a blooming flower. Evidently, she had a nice chat with Rose earlier.

Zhao Teng quickly stood up to make a cup of hot tea for Yang Chen and delivered it to him, probably to get on his good side. He said, "Miss Situ said she's Director's close friend, and asked us to speak as we please. We were talking about the talent show which will be taking place next year."

Yang Chen sat on his swivel leather chair. Cheerfully, he asked, "Have you guys come up with a conclusion yet?"

Wang Jie said, "We were discussing of naming the show 'Star of Yu Lei'. Although it's quite boring, it can further spread our name. Furthermore, there are many talent shows these days named grand paths, guys, ladies or whatever. We'll win from a professional angle. The name should be fine as long as it's easily understood and popular."

Yang Chen really didn't have any thoughts towards the name. "I'm fine with that. Have you planned out what we're doing specifically?"

"Actually the entire process isn't very difficult. At Yu Lei, we've planned various large-scale modelling contests before. Organizing this kind of talent shows isn't very different with that," Zhao Teng said. "However, it's still a problem when it comes to our choice of judges. The person has to be popular enough, and has a strong charisma, not to mention the judge mustn't be overused by other talent shows before. Since Yu Lei is an international company, us at Yu Lei Entertainment has to face the entire world in the future. So we're still looking for a good candidate. Director, you said you could solve this problem, is it..."

Yang Chen smiled and turned to Rose. He asked, "Who do you think would be most suitable?"

Rose shook her head. "I don't know. I don't pay attention to the entertainment industry, I only came to invest and earn money. You may pick whomever you wish."

"I also don't look at the entertainment industry, but luckily I have a friend there," Yang Chen said as he let out a mysterious smile. He quickly pressed a few buttons on his office desk.

On the snow-white wall of the office, the computer screen was projected. As the blinds covered the window, the screen on the wall became clear.

Yang Chen opened MSN in his computer. After typing an account in, he logged in and went online.

Including Wang Jie and Zhao Teng, it was Rose's first time seeing Yang Chen on MSN. However, none of them knew who Yang Chen's friend was. They were curiously waiting.

After he went online, there were more than ten people in Yang Chen's friend list, but none of their identity could be identified.

Smiling faintly, Yang Chen said, "We're in luck, she's online now."

As he said, he opened the chat box of a female friend before directly making a video call and waiting for the other side to accept his request.

After around half a minute, his friend picked up the call. Possibly due to the internet connection, the video lagged for a while before appearing.

After a while when the look of the person could finally be seen, Wang Jie and Zhao Teng screamed in shock instantly...

“Oh my god! Christen?!”

“Am I dreaming?!”

Although the display was a bit blurry, the look of the opposite side could still be identified.

A blonde lady dressed in a silk pyjamas could be seen sitting on a pink king-sized bed. She brought an obscure drowsiness as she let out an alluring smile to Yang Chen’s portrait.

The blonde lady looked like she was in her twenties. Her skin was creamy like a white jade while her body wasn’t very hot, it was full to the right degree. Even when she was wrapped in a loose pyjamas, the curve in front of her chest was extremely eye-catching. Her noble, graceful and refined aura couldn’t be brought out solely because of beauty. On the contrary, one would feel that it was exactly because of her aura that made this lady breathtaking.

Even when she was viewed by an eastern person, the beauty of this lady would still be so flawless.

“It seems like I called at the wrong time. Christen, were you preparing to go to bed?” Yang Chen asked using fluent American English as he smiled.

Christen teasingly fondled with her sun-like blonde hair. “Yang, although this is rude, but please believe me when I say you never looked at other’s time zone when you want to send a message.”

Zhao Teng and Wang Jie got dumbstruck when they heard Yang Chen calling the lady ‘Christen’.

When Rose saw that Yang Chen was conversing with a foreign lady who was so stunning that she would spike women’s jealousy, she couldn’t help but to feel annoyed. She asked Wang Jie, “Is this lady very famous?”

Excited, Wang Jie softly replied, “Miss Situ, don’t you watch movies? She’s Christen Steward, the hottest actress of Hollywood today. She won the best main actress and the best supporting role in the Oscars, in addition to another five A-class movie awards. She recently earned the recognition of Grammy Awards, and got two major awards of the best country album and the best female singer. I heard that she’s only 26 years old. She’s certainly a genius among geniuses! Be it in other countries or China, she’s the goddess of countless guys’ and ladies’ dreams!”

Although Rose didn’t pay much attention to the entertainment industry, she briefly knew what the Oscars and Grammy were. This woman is definitely extraordinary, but why does Yang Chen know her?

On the other hand, Yang Chen started conversing with Christen fluently in English. After chattering for a bit, Yang Chen told her the main objective of video calling her.

When Christen heard that he wanted her to be the judge of a talent show, she seemed like she didn’t know Yang Chen anymore and gave him a weird look. She laughed very hard before seductively gazing at Yang Chen, saying, “Yang, you’re really living a special life after returning to China. I’m really curious of how you look when you form a meeting for your subordinates.”

“By the way you speak, you’ve accepted then?” Yang Chen asked.

"I can participate in it. I had planned to give myself a great vacation this year anyway, but I can't make it to every single show. So you still have to invite other judges," Christen said straightforwardly.

Before Yang Chen could speak, Wang Jie used a rather inaccurate English accent to say, "We definitely won't trouble you, Miss Christen. In fact, as long as you're willing to show yourself once as your judge for the finals, our activity will be satisfactorily completed!"

Yang Chen felt gloomy. You're treating the woman Christen too well! However, since it was Wang Jie who said it, it was best that he kept quiet. "The one speaking to you is my assistant Wang Jie. She'll be in charge of your work in the future. I'm only using my face to invite you over to China."

Christen yawned and stretched her body in an attractive manner. She said, "Understood. I'll let you know my contact method, I'm really tired now. Good night, Yang."

"Good night."

The video call ended. Yang Chen turned off the projector and flipped the blinds open.

Wang Jie and Zhao Teng were still elated, like they were dreaming. Nothing other than excitement could be seen in their eyes. At the same time, they looked at Yang Chen with much more respect.

After writing an e-mail address to Yang Chen and asking the two to start working, he was left in the office with Rose who looked rather odd.

"Babe Rose, what is it? Even a teapot can be hung on your lips already," Yang Chen said as he looked at Rose who was pouting.

Rose looked at Yang Chen as if her eyes were scanners. After scanning up and down, she said, "Be honest with me. How many more women like the one earlier do you have abroad?"

Yang Chen stunned. He finally understood why Rose was displeased. Smiling, he said, "Babe Rose, you're really overthinking this time. Christen isn't my woman. At least I haven't been able to sleep with her without getting kicked out of bed. We're just rather close friends."

Rose saw that Yang Chen didn't seem to be joking. As she felt it was unbelievable, she asked, "Would you even let a beauty like that go?"

"Do I look that thirsty?" Yang Chen smiled bitterly. The women around her seemed to all think that he was a monster.

Rose kept quiet. Pouting her red lips, she turned away her beautiful eyes and held an expression of 'isn't that the case?'.

Troubled, Yang Chen wiped his forehead. No wonder Tang Wan didn't even want to listen to my explanation last night!

Chapter 293: Its Not for the Shoes

As he spoke with Rose, Yang Chen handled a few simple tasks in his office before looking at the clock on his computer. It wasn't lunchtime yet. Standing up, he said, "Let's go, we'll go and have a walk. I will not sit in the office today, I will accompany my girl Rose for the day."

Shocked, Rose asked, "Are you sure you want the entire day?"

"What is it? You're not happy that your hubby is going to play with you for a day?" Yang Chen asked with a smile.

"That's not what I mean, I'm just surprised that you'd have a day's time to keep me company." Rose was contented.

Yang Chen felt really terrible in his heart. Instead of saying they see me as a monster, I seem to really owe these ladies a lot...

He brought Rose to exit the company and proceeded to his car. Rose dismissed her men away, since she didn't have to defend against her enemies at all when she was with Yang Chen.

Excited, Rose buckled her seat belt and asked, "Where are we going?"

Yang Chen thought for a while. He said, "Since it's so cold now in winter, why don't we go to a shopping mall? Although I know you don't lack clothings, I'm afraid it's something you women wouldn't reject."

Expectedly, Rose's eyes shone. Evidently, even if she was the head of an underground syndicate, she still couldn't resist the temptation of shopping.

Since it was a Monday morning, there weren't many people in the shopping mall. Yang Chen brought Rose to Golden Palm Tower which was well-known in Zhonghai. The stores in this mall were mostly luxury ones. Ordinary citizens wouldn't shop for clothing here, so the place was rather quiet for the two to walk around.

Although they had known each other for almost a year now, and had long had intimacy in between, Rose was still extremely excited when her lover shopped with her for the first time. Elated, she held Yang Chen's arm and sat the lift to the first floor of the building. The eye-catching fashionable clothing at the surroundings became secondary. Rose very much enjoyed her time with him alone.

Expectedly, the shopping mall was quiet. There were only a few customers, with the promoters who were patiently waiting for their customers smiling at the Yang Chen and Rose.

Yang Chen gazed at Rose who seemed to have returned to her girlhood. He couldn't help but to smile, saying, "If your men saw your look now, I bet it'd be hard for them to treat you respectfully in the future."

"So what if that's the case? It's not like I'll continue be the president for long. I'll be a legitimate boss of an entertainment company soon. It's better to keep the people's respect for Rongrong," Rose said.

Yang Chen asked, "Are you planning to pass your position to Rongrong this soon?"

Yang Chen didn't think that Chen Rong whom he coincidentally fetched to Zhonghai would one day replace Rose as the president of Red Thorns Society. Although he knew that Chen Rong was smart and therefore a fast learner, he still didn't expect Rose's thought of retiring resolutely at the peak of her gang.

“In fact, I’ve always had an idea. It is to integrate the funds of both legitimate and illegal businesses together to become a legal business before entering the stock exchange. This way, the Red Thorns Society’s president seat wouldn’t be suitable for the leaders of the groups anymore,” Rose said.

Yang Chen quickly understood the situation. Lightly scratching Rose’s face, he said, “So you’ve always wanted to become the chairman of a listed company. I’ve been thinking that even if Rongrong really has the competence to handle Red Thorns Society, the people below won’t necessarily listen to her once you leave.”

Pouting, Rose said, “I only did this because I hope to completely leave the circle one day... At least, I can stand with you in public like now, and face everyone’s gaze around directly.”

“I said I didn’t mind your background in the gang.” Yang Chen frowned. “Don’t always look down on yourself, or else I’ll get mad.”

“I know that you don’t care, but I do...” Rose pouted. “Alright, I’ll still do it this way regardless. It won’t bring any harm to me and Red Thorns Society anyway. Hubby, you don’t need to get involved.”

Yang Chen felt helpless and wasn’t willing to talk about the topic again. He brought Rose to the nearest Prada shop and started walking around.

Prada’s products were first launched in 1913. When they were newly released, they quickly became the favorites of the upper class of Europeans especially Italians, and royal families. Even until today, their excellence in traditional product quality was still present. Combining the most avant-garde development elements, they held a particularly long lifespan.

Of course, the high-quality Prada products were all incredibly expensive. Since many of them would only appreciate in value as time passed, they held a high collection value.

Although Yang Chen didn’t bring much money with him, he coincidentally had a saving of around a million yuan, so he brought Rose to such a place to shop, and didn’t have to be humiliated by relying on Rose to pay later.

Rose wasn’t someone who lacked money as well. She didn’t feel anything when seeing the items in the shop with a dazzling starting price of five figures.

When Rose walked to the women’s shoe counter and looked at the new Prada O Series, her gaze got attracted by a pair of dark red high heels decorated with a bowknot, which had sharp heads and thin and tall heels

The promoter who had been silently and respectfully walking behind them cleverly stood out. She introduced, “Miss, this pair of Prada O, really suits your elegant and noble temperament. This is a new series launched this year. It’s made using crocodile skin and has a classic embroidery, following the street fashion in the fifties. If you match it with black stockings and a dress past the knees, it’d appear exceptionally matching and stylish. There are only less than twenty pairs in the entire country, and is limited in quantity worldwide. Our branch only managed to get this only pair. If Miss likes it, you mustn’t miss out on it this time.”

“How much is it?” Rose asked lightly. There was no price tag on the shoes. It was possible that its price would follow market changes.

The promoter ran to the computer and made an inquiry. Smiling, she said, "Miss, the newest market price is 110 thousand Chinese yuan."

Listening to the figure '110 thousand', even Rose who didn't lack money violently turned her around. Frowning, she asked, "Are you sure you saw that right? Isn't an ordinary O Series only around 10 thousand?"

The promoter was still very humble. Smiling, she said, "I didn't see it wrong Miss. This pair of shoes was worn by the new England princess on her birthday party a while ago and got praised highly. So it's greatly wanted by the upper class."

Rose hesitated for a while. Even if she really like this pair of dark red high heels which was very matching in style with the pair she was currently wearing, and she definitely could afford to purchase it, spending 110 thousand on a pair of shoes was still unacceptable.

"You like it?" Yang Chen asked with a smile.

Rose pouted. "Yeah, this color and pattern are really beautiful, but 110 thousand is too expensive. My most expensive shoes are less than even 20 thousand."

"I'll buy it for you then," Yang Chen said.

Rose stunned before quickly shaking his head. "Forget it Hubby. It's not worthy to spend so much for these shoes."

"It's not for the shoes, it's for you." Smiling, Yang Chen took out his silver card and passed it to the promoter. "I'll get this pair."

Rose felt really sweet in her heart after listening to Yang Chen's reason. She couldn't restrain herself from tiptoeing and kissing Yang Chen's cheek.

Yang Chen looked at Rose who looked particularly satisfied and sighed faintly. "It's rare for me to have time to accompany you. Since we're together today, you should obediently take this gift of mine to make me feel better."

The promoter didn't think that this average-looking guy could purchase the most expensive shoes in the shop without hesitation. Feeling jealous, she said, "Miss, you're really blessed," before immediately proceeding to payment and taking the shoes for Yang Chen.

After paying, Yang Chen received the pair of dark red high heels with a little bowknot. He couldn't help but to smile bitterly in his heart. Women's money is indeed very easy to earn. I can't tell how special these are, and I spent 110 thousand just like that. Luckily I don't see money as a thing. No wonder men hate to shop with women, not only do they care for their feet, they care more about their wallets.

Without waiting for Rose to finish admiring the shoes, Yang Chen took the shoes and said, "Come, sit on the sofa."

When he finished speaking, he pulled Rose to the sofa at the entrance meant for customers to rest on and made her sit down.

Confused, Rose looked at Yang Chen and asked, "Hubby, what are you doing?"

Yang Chen squatted down and held one of Rose's slim calves. Raising his head, he said, "If you don't wear them for me to see immediately after buying them, I'll suffer mentally later."

Rose blushed and finally understood that Yang Chen wanted to remove the shoes she was wearing and put the new ones on for her.

Yang Chen removed one of Rose's shoes. As he held her calf, she pinched a few times to feel the soft yet firm flesh and enjoyed it a lot. "Babe Rose, don't use your hands to massage me next time, your feet are too adorable."

Even when they were tangling in bed, Rose's sensitive and fleshy calves had never been grabbed by Yang Chen in this way before. In front of the few promoter, one of her shoes got removed and her feet got rubbed and pinched. She felt elated but shy at the same time. The feeling was extremely complicated, which was difficult to be described in words.

"Hubby, don't do this, everyone's watching..." Rose said nervously as she bit her lower lip.

Yang Chen let out a naughty smile. "What are you afraid of? It's not like they know us."

After he finished speaking, Yang Chen lifted one side of the winter shoes and slowly put them onto Rose's foot. It was coincidentally fitting.

Matched with her calves wrapped in black lace, the decorative dark red bowknot appeared particularly lively and lithe.

"110 thousand is so worth it. It's evident that these shoes have been waiting for your emergence," Yang Chen praised. Having seen too many luxury items, he still had a decent appreciation for the shoes.

Rose felt that her heart almost melted when she looked at how the man in front of her put the shoe on her foot carefully. This romantic scene hadn't even appeared in her dream before, but suddenly happened in front of her.

Yang Chen took the other side of the shoes up and planned to wear it for Rose as well.

However, when Yang Chen was removing the other leather boot Rose wore, a few ladies dressed in office wear walked out from the shop's corner.

One of them wore a simple black suit and had her hair tied up in a bun. The charismatic, clear and refined young lady walked in front while the other ladies following her who seemed like her colleagues were explaining something to them.

Yang Chen's body instantly got stiff the moment he saw the woman. His hands even stopped mid-air.

Curious, Rose turned her head around to look at the few ladies. When she saw the stunning lady walking in front, she subconsciously opened her mouth slightly in shock.

Although it was Rose's first time seeing her, she had remembered her face since the first time she checked on her identity. She was exactly Lin Ruoxi!

Chapter 294: Only Hoping for One Life

At the same time when Yang Chen and Rose saw Lin Ruoxi, Lin Ruoxi similarly saw him who was slightly dumbfounded.

From Lin Ruoxi's perspective, Yang Chen was kneeling in front of an elegant lady and holding a brand new dark red high heel with one hand, and the lady's foot with another. Judging from his position, it was clear that he was helping the lady wear shoes.

This was undoubtedly an incredibly intimate act, so intimate that it could make a passerby blush!

What surprised Lin Ruoxi more was the woman's exceptional appearance. Her eyes were bright and teeth were white, lips red and skin fair, not to mention her particularly charming aura. Similarly being a woman, Lin Ruoxi was very aware that such a woman held immense attraction towards men.

Although she knew that Yang Chen had quite a few women outside, whom he didn't even try to hide, seeing and hearing one had a day-and-night difference.

Lin Ruoxi's face didn't hold any emotions, but her clear eyes held a bone-biting cold aura. The torment in her heart could only be felt by herself.

Although she had been mentally prepared, Lin Ruoxi still felt that her heart shattered at this moment. A kind of impotence and exhaustion from her soul eroded Lin Ruoxi's entire body.

If it wasn't for her final trace of rationale and perseverance, Lin Ruoxi could even guarantee that she'd faint on the spot.

Do I really care this much?!

How can this detestable man do this? Is... is this how he treats women outside? Kneeling on the ground to put on shoes for other women?!

When she recalled how the fellow told her he wanted to shorten their marriage contract to six months, Lin Ruoxi was really tempted to rush forward and give him a violent slap!

Why am I so disappointing? I changed this and that for him, thought for him, and tried so hard to learn how to be a wife. In the end, am I still inferior to these women outside?!

He can even kneel for them. I gave him such a huge hint that I didn't want to divorce, but he so brutally cut off an entire year!

Following different thoughts in her heart, Lin Ruoxi had arrived in front of Yang Chen and Rose.

Yang Chen didn't stand up, but maintained his original position, while Rose managed to calm herself a short while after getting shocked. Being a woman who had seen the storm, even using her identity of a mistress, Rose didn't choose to shrink back at all when she faced Lin Ruoxi for the first time.

Lin Ruoxi stopped moving. Turning her head slightly, she crossed sight with Rose who was seated on the sofa. One was as cold as an iceberg, while the other was casual and generous. None of them got affected in any way.

"The shoes look really good. They suit your woman a lot," Lin Ruoxi said coldly without any emotions.

Yang Chen knew that he couldn't avoid the situation. Smiling bitterly, he replied, "Really? I thought so too. Did you come here for work?"

"Golden Palm Tower is a property under my company. Is it weird that I came for an inspection?" Lin Ruoxi asked.

Yang Chen stunned. Her assets are too overwhelming. Why is the shopping mall I randomly entered hers? And it's so coincidental that she came here for inspection!

He didn't know if the heavens did it intentionally or not. Yang Chen could imagine that Lin Ruoxi's heart must be really stormy currently.

However, since he made it clear that he'd part with her in six months' time, this could be a good opportunity to allow her to look at him clearly. It would be a good thing if she couldn't tolerate him anymore as a result.

Our marriage started only because of an absurd reason. Except bringing her different kinds of problematic issues, all I gave her was various dangers. It's time for me to clench my teeth violently as I leave Lin Ruoxi. This would only bring good to her.

After Lin Ruoxi finished speaking, she glanced at Rose again before resolutely looking at Yang Chen and bringing her employees away.

"I didn't expect this to be how I meet the queen for the first time... It's finished, she seems to be... in a very bad mood," Rose whispered softly. "Hubby, does she hate me a lot now?"

[TL note: Rose referred Lin Ruoxi as the queen in a way that Lin Ruoxi is the first wife of the king (Yang Chen) in ancient times, while Rose herself is merely one of the king's lovers in the imperial palace.]

Yang Chen raised his head and smiled in consolation. "Don't overthink too much, just obediently put on the new shoes and have lunch with me. We'll continue shopping after that."

Rose complained, "It's all your fault that you wanted to put on the shoes for me this way. She must be thinking that I'm a vixen who wants to break you two up."

Frowning, Yang Chen said, "Stupid Girl, why would you think that way? Even after I leave Ruoxi, I still won't give you up. You're different than her."

Rose blinked her eyes a few times. "Hubby, between you two... did anything happen? Why did she so easily walk away and let me go..."

"Stop asking questions. Regardless whether or not you're a vixen or a spider, let's not think about other things during our date." Yang Chen reached out to pinch Rose's precious nose, making her complain once again.

When Yang Chen brought Rose to the lift as they planned to dine in a restaurant in the mall, Lin Ruoxi who brought a few executives for inspection stopped walking after passing through a long pathway.

An employee who was introducing the business situation of the building got confused. "Boss Lin, what is it? Did anything go wrong?"

Lin Ruoxi took a deep breath. Her eyes were slightly wet. Turning her head, she said, "We'll stop inspecting here. I suddenly thought of something urgent I had to do. Pass a report to me regarding the rest of the specific situation. I'm leaving now."

"Yes, Boss Lin." A bunch of executives quickly sent Lin Ruoxi away, but most of them were extremely confused.

Taking a lift to the underground parking garage, Lin Ruoxi basically ran back to her red Bentley. Upon entering the car, Lin Ruoxi couldn't hold it anymore and started tearing away. She lay her body on the steering wheel as she shivered...

Yang Chen just arrived at the western restaurant. After ordering food, his mood was erratic as well.

The resolute gaze of Lin Ruoxi repeatedly appeared in Yang Chen's mind. The kind of familiar and unforgettable gaze greatly affected him.

She must hate me a lot now. Maybe, she's even deeply regretting what she said to me yesterday, to maintain our marriage for six more months.

Rose was really thoughtful. Softly, she said, "Hubby, you're feeling terrible now. I can tell that you angered Miss Lin rather intentionally."

Yang Chen's facial expression changed. "Why do you say so?"

"I'm not sure as well, but I get the feeling. Hubby, can you tell me why you did it? You don't look like someone who'd do that. I can tell that you two actually care about each other a lot, and you're not a man who would intentionally hurt women," Rose said.

Yang Chen remained silent for a while. As he understood that it was meaningless to hide this from Rose, he briefly told her about what happened to Xu Zhihong and Zeng Xinlin.

"Zeng family from Beijing may really come at me with all they have since I killed Zeng Xinlin. Also, my past isn't something a woman like her who had been living in a peaceful environment since young can imagine. In this world, there are countless people who hate me and want to take revenge.

"While I'm fine with that, my wife on the surface will easily become their target. Furthermore, someone like me who have a pair of hands drenched in blood isn't qualified to get married at all. Things like having a family will only become my perfect weakness. Ruoxi got kidnapped a while ago, but luckily I managed to exchange for her coordinates with the kidnappers on time to save her. I can't guarantee that I can keep her safe like this every time. It isn't fair that she gets so many life threats because of me," Yang Chen said.

Rose didn't expect there to be such a complicated backstory. After listening to him, she slowly said, "Living in this world, there are always situations where you have no choice but to do something. But Hubby, isn't it too brutal this way? Although it was my first time seeing her, similarly being a woman, I could tell that she actually didn't want to leave you."

"Who knows? To be honest, I still can't tell what she's thinking until now. However, getting upset is still much better than being frightened all day because of me. I can only cross the bridge when I come to it," Yang Chen said.

After the main dishes were served, the two quietly finished their lunch.

When Yang Chen was prepared to bring Rose to continue shopping in the mall, Rose pulled Yang Chen's arm, saying, "Hubby, I've shopped enough for today. Let's go back to my place, can we?"

"But it's still early now," Yang Chen said. "Won't you feel bored this way?"

Blushing, Rose whispered something softly at Yang Chen's ears.

"Vixen, do you really miss that kind of stuff..." Yang Chen smiled.

Shy, Rose lowered her head. "It's because you haven't looked for me for a very long time."

Facing Rose's proactive request, Yang Chen didn't get too horny, but was really touched instead.

It wasn't because Rose really had that kind of desire. Evidently, this woman wanted to let him vent his sorrow and forget his trouble through this method while he was feeling down.

It's exactly because of stupid women like her, how am I supposed to let go of them?

However, Yang Chen didn't expose her even when he already knew her true intention. After bringing Rose out of the shopping mall quickly, he drove back to the big bedroom behind Rose Bar.

Indeed, he needed a channel to vent on.

The weather was cold and the north wind whistled outside the room. A dim, yellow lamp lit up the room. The two who hadn't lingered together for a long time behaved just like glue. Removing their shoes and clothing, they quickly started tangling together on Rose's big and comfortable bed.

When they finally ceased action, Yang Chen hugged Rose whose body wasn't covered by anything, and was busty and warm. Kissing her on the forehead, he said in a deep voice softly, "Thank you, I'm feeling much better now."

Rose raised her mellow chin and dragged across Yang Chen's chest. Using a cold and fragrant breath, she said, "Hubby, do you know that since the first day you wanted me, I have been secretly praying? In my next life, my following life, or no matter how many times I reincarnate, I want to be this man's woman. Even if I'm solely your lover and not your wife, I'd still be satisfied.

"But now, I don't think that way anymore. I feel that this life is enough, there won't be a more satisfying one than the life I'm living now. I can't be greedy, because I feel that I'm already the most blessed woman in the world."

Yang Chen felt sympathetic, and couldn't speak a word.

Pouting her red lips, Rose looked at Yang Chen with her big eyes. He said, "Promise me, my man. No matter what happens in the future, don't treat me the way you treated Lin Ruoxi. I really can't leave you.

"I'm not as pretty as Lin Ruoxi, and not as rich as well. I'm not qualified to be matched with you. I... Except loving you much more than you love me, I don't have any qualities that can exceed yours. So, if someday you don't want me anymore, it would mean I lost everything..."

Staring at the woman's gaze which seemed as deep as the ocean, Yang Chen felt a faint heartache.

Chapter 295: You're Lying to Yourself

Lying beside Rose on the huge bed, Yang Chen kept Rose company as they watched TV series for the entire afternoon. Rose yawned lazily and blinked her eyes as she looked at Yang Chen. "Hubby, when are you going back tonight?"

Yang Chen didn't know whether to cry or to laugh. He asked, "Why are you asking me this? I'm not necessarily going back tonight."

"You don't want to go home tonight?" Rose felt rather surprised. "But that happened in the morning, if you still don't go home..."

"So? Six months' time will pass in the blink of an eye. I bet she mustn't hope to see me now. We're not meant to walk on the same path, we'll part ways sooner or later." Yang Chen ruthlessly made a call to the house number and told Wang Ma that he wasn't going back at night without giving an explanation.

Rose held a complex facial expression. Sighing, she said, "To be honest, for my own sake, I actually hope that you leave her. Even if I've never thought of becoming your wife, I still think it's inappropriate that you do something like this so suddenly."

Yang Chen reached his arm out to pinch on Rose's cheek. "Don't overthink. I've walked onto this journey wrongly since the start, haven't I?"

Rose didn't reply to him, but her face expressed sorrow. She also didn't know if it was for Yang Chen or Lin Ruoxi, or even herself.

"Today when you met her, although it was rather awkward, it was still an opportunity for her to give up," Yang Chen said. He didn't know why his heart felt so heavy at this moment. He shook his head to try to forget that matter. Tapping Rose's cheek, he said, "Babe, get up. We'll have dinner first before doing something serious again."

"Something serious?"

Rose was slightly stunned. When she understood what 'something serious' was, she immediately blushed and hit Yang Chen on the chest, causing her to drop some of her anxiety.

The winter night came especially early.

Lin Ruoxi drove home. Looking pale, she exit the car in a way that clearly displayed her exhaustion.

Seeing the warm lights at home, her facial expression looked rather complex.

Is that guy back? After what happened in the morning, why do I still want to meet him? Should I ignore him? Scold him? Or act like usual?

Troubled, Lin Ruoxi tightly frowned as she pondered, but couldn't think of anything.

At the start, wasn't I the one who wanted solely a fake marriage? Why do I feel more and more insecure, for his departure from me in the future?!

Although she still had half a year left, and only one day had passed, she felt an immense heartache.

Is the damned man trying to demonstrate his power, and tell me just how impressive he is?!

Muddle-headed, she walked into the house and immediately smelled a sharp scent of freshly cooked dishes. Wang Ma had finished preparing the meal, but the figure of the man was nowhere to be seen.

“Miss, you’re back. Young Master has something to do and won’t return today. It’s just the two of us eating, so I didn’t prepare too much food,” Wang Ma said smilingly.

Lin Ruoxi stunned. “He’s not coming back?”

“Yeah, I got a call from him just now,” Wang Ma said.

“Oh...” Lin Ruoxi felt really wronged, as if her heart was crushed. He’s not even willing to call me. Is he openly telling me that he’s passing the night with another woman, so he’s not coming home?

There are six more months to go, has he gotten this impatient already?!

Lin Ruoxi looked more wan once again. Silently, she sat down and started eating with Wang Ma.

Under the bright yellow light, the scene where the two women ate together seemed like it returned to the cold and lonely times back then.

They finished the meal within half an hour. When Wang Ma was keeping the bowls and chopsticks herself, she saw that Lin Ruoxi wanted to help. Quickly, she said, “Miss, you don’t look too good now. You must be tired from work. You better bathe yourself and rest upstairs, don’t help me anymore.”

“It’s fine, Wang Ma. I’ll lend you a hand,” Lin Ruoxi said and shook her head.

At this moment, the doorbell rang.

As joy appeared in her eyes slightly, Lin Ruoxi put down the bowls and chopsticks in hand and trotted to the door before opening it.

The person she was expecting didn’t come, but the visitor was someone she was familiar with as well. It was Cai Yan who was dressed in casual clothing.

Lin Ruoxi felt rather disappointed, but still smiled to greet the visitor. “Yanyan, why did you come so late at night? Quickly, come in.”

Cai Yan wore a creamy-white down jacket. Her heroic, attractive, V-shaped face looked particularly white and beautiful under her black, shiny, short hair.

She could tell that Lin Ruoxi wasn’t in a good mood. Walking into the house, Cai Yan sighed lightly and said, “I heard from Elder Sister already. You know a lot of things now, right?”

After Cai Ning returned home that day, she told Cai Yan about the alliance Zeng Xinlin and Xu Zhihong formed. Until this day, she didn’t have to hide too many things, since they were all involved. She might’ve hoped that Cai Yan could console Lin Ruoxi as well, since they were really close friends.

Lin Ruoxi nodded and forced a smile. “I’m fine, you don’t have to purposely come for me.”

“How would you be fine? Your face got slimmer and you look really weak,” Cai Yan said honestly and looked at the living hall. “Where’s the bad guy?”

Feeling a heartache, Lin Ruoxi said, “He has something to do tonight, and won’t return today.”

“What?!” Cai Yan got furious. “What’s he busy with?! How can he do this? He’s still staying outside even after such a horrifying thing has happened which made you this gaunt?!”

Lin Ruoxi pulled Cai Yan to the living hall and had her seated before making tea for her. As she was doing that, she said, “Don’t mind him, let him do whatever he wants. It actually feels peaceful when he’s not here.”

Cai Yan saw how indifferent Lin Ruoxi looked, but every sentence she said brought hardship. She couldn’t help but to hold Lin Ruoxi’s hand before asking her to sit beside her.

“Ruoxi, tell me honestly about what happened between you two. You don’t seem like the kind of person who would get frightened this heavily after witnessing corpses. Your current state makes me really afraid and worried. Just what happened to you?!” Cai Yan asked nervously. It could be seen that even she found it hard to accept Lin Ruoxi’s sudden change.

Lin Ruoxi’s eyes slightly reddened. “I’m fine, I just need more sleep. We’re really fine.”

Cai Yan got anxious. “How are you fine? Since young, I’ve never seen you this lethargic since young! Even when Grandma Lin passed away, you weren’t this low-spirited, do you know that?! You’re now just like a soulless body shell. I almost didn’t recognize you when I saw you earlier! The gaze you gave me when you opened the door held disappointment, why is that so? It’s because the person who returned wasn’t Yang Chen, am I right?! You must be suffering a lot right now, but why aren’t you expressing your anguish?! Why do you have to endure alone to accept everything?! If you really want to accept or love him, why aren’t you telling him?!”

“So what if I want to accept him?!”

Lin Ruoxi suddenly raised her head and looked at Cai Yan with her teary eyes, as she found it hard to control her emotions.

“In another six months, he said to me that we’ll end everything in another six months. However, not only one day had passed, he was having a sweet date with another woman right in front of me! He even told me he wasn’t returning home tonight, to clearly stay out with another woman. He’s telling me that he’s made the decision to leave this house. He doesn’t want anything that has to do with me.” Lin Ruoxi smiled pitifully. “I don’t want to hide from you anymore, since you’ll know everything after six months.”

Cai Yan stunned. “What do you mean, what... six months?”

Lin Ruoxi wiped the tears in her eyes, and explained to Cai Yan about her marriage contract with Yang Chen back then. However, she didn’t tell her the night where she gave her first time to him, she only mentioned that they met accidentally.

“In other words, your marriage and everything are fake, am I right?” Cai Yan got dumbstruck. She felt like she was currently dreaming.

“Yes, but it doesn’t really matter anymore whether it’s fake or legit. Since he’s acting this way, I’ll have to cut everything off after six months and give everything an end,” Lin Ruoxi said codlly.

“You’re lying to yourself.” Cai Yan looked at Lin Ruoxi with sympathy. “If you really don’t care anymore, you wouldn’t feel this suffering and wait for these six months to end before leaving. Ruoxi, why aren’t you fighting for yourself?”

“I just got rather confused.” Lin Ruoxi’s face turned cold. “Yanyan, do you know that he put on a pair of shoes for another woman in front of me? I wouldn’t fall for a guy like that even after I died. Rest assured, I’ll be fine these two days, stop worrying about me.”

Cai Yan’s facial expression changed slightly as she felt discomfort at her heart. When she saw Lin Ruoxi’s resolved look, she didn’t want to say much. Sighing, she didn’t know how she could consoler her.

After that, they talked a bit about their daily life before Cai Yan said she wanted to leave so that Lin Ruoxi could rest well.

After saying goodbye to Lin Ruoxi, Cai Yan walked out of the villa and entered her Audi car. She couldn’t calm her mind for a very long time.

Whenever she thought of the fact that Yang Chen’s marriage with Lin Ruoxi was merely a contract, Cai Yan found it hard to hold back her feelings which were suppressed because of friendship.

So, everything’s a fake. He has never been Ruoxi’s husband, everything is merely an empty shell. No wonder he’s still so intimate with other women. Cai Yan quickly understood the matters which didn’t make sense previously while her feelings for Yang Chen surged like a tide.

Even if she felt that she could still be sorry to Lin Ruoxi, people always had a selfish side, let alone women standing in front of love, correct?

However, when Cai Yan thought of how Yang Chen looked when he rejected her gift earlier, she got so mad that her teeth got itchy.

“Just wait, I won’t give up this easily,” Cai Yan murmured before driving away.

Chapter 296: Sending a Daughter Over

The next morning when the sun had barely risen, Yang Chen’s phone vibrated.

He was still lying on the warm bed with Rose in his arms. Annoyed, he grabbed and looked at his phone before feeling that the number was rather familiar.

Picking up the call, Yang Chen heard a voice that he wasn’t willing to hear even if he died.

“What time is it already! Are you still sleeping?!”

It was the old daoist Abbess Yun Miao!

Yang Chen sighed deeply and even yawned. “Abbess, can you look at the time? It’s barely past six in the morning, I still have more than an hour before I go to work.”

“Humph, when I was your age, I woke up every day before five to practise. At this hour, I had long finished carrying two buckets of water down and up the hill again!”

“Abbess, isn’t that what the people at Shaolin Temple do? Does the bunch of women at Emei do this as well?” Yang Chen asked as he felt that his balls ached.

“Shut up! I’m talking about something serious!”

Yang Chen’s sleepy mood completely dismissed. The woman daoist’s spoke so loud that she even woke Rose up who displayed a shocked and adorable expression.

“Then tell me what you want to talk about,” Yang Chen said helplessly.

Abbess Yun Miao snorted. She asked, “How’s Hui Lin doing at your place? Is she used to the lifestyle there?”

“Hui Lin?” Yang Chen asked curiously. He threw another question back and asked, “When did she come to my place? Is she here already?”

Abbess Yun Miao suddenly exclaimed loudly, “What?! You don’t know that she arrived at Zhonghai? Didn’t she contact you yesterday?! Her train arrived in the afternoon!”

Yang Chen felt really confused. Didn’t she say she was going to give me a call after arriving? No one told me anything about it, how am I supposed to know if the lady daoist reached or not?

“Abbess, I really don’t know. She didn’t call me, are you sure you remember it right?”

“I personally sent the child up her train, why would I remember wrongly? It’s her first time in her life getting so far away from me. Did she possibly get lost? This doesn’t seem right, I gave her a phone already, she can call you if she faced any trouble,” Abbess Yun Miao said anxiously. “Get to the train station immediately and look around. You have to locate my granddaughter. If anything happens to her, I’ll look for you to return my precious granddaughter to me even if it costs my life!”

Damn it, how the heck is this my fault! How am I supposed to know when your granddaughter reached?! What can happen to an adult like her who learns martial arts?!

Yang Chen felt annoyed, but didn’t dare to argue with this short-tempered old daoist who lacked the moisture of love. He had to end the call and quickly get out of the bed.

Curious, Rose asked, “Hubby, why do you know some abbess as well?”

“She’s a self-deceiving married old woman who went to be a nun, ignore her,” Yang Chen said as he pouted.

“Then what’s with her granddaughter?” Rose asked as she looked at Yang Chen oddly.

“Don’t overthink, when did you become a busybody? Do I look like someone who’d lay his hands on a little nun?”

“Yes” Rose said without the slightest hesitation. When she said that, she tried her best not to laugh.

Yang Chen got really speechless, and was choked on a breath, making him unable to speak.

After half an hour, Yang Chen drove to Zhonghai Train Station and ran into the empty arrival hall. There weren't many people walking around in the entire giant hall.

Yang Chen glanced through the rows of seats and each and every corner. As he started to question if Hui Lin left already or not, the back view of a lonely person sitting near the entrance attracted his gaze.

Her long, loose hair was tidily arranged to two sides. Her delicate V-shaped face was clear and moisturized, it didn't seem dry at all even when it was winter. Her sharp facial features were elegant as always, it was just that she appeared rather tired. Her face displayed a sleepy and adorable expression. Pouting her pink lips, she looked extraordinarily pitiful.

She wasn't wearing a martial arts robe, but a light brown overcoat that ordinary ladies in the city would wear, and a pair of long, fitting black pants which revealed her perfect curves. On her feet, it was a pair of high black boots which were decorated with mane.

Yang Chen almost failed to recognize Hui Lin who transformed into a modern city lady, as opposed to the usual old-fashioned nun.

Approaching the girl, Yang Chen looked at the pink luggage beside her before staring at Hui Lin who looked like she would fall asleep any moment. Frowning, he asked, "When did you reach here? Why didn't you give me a call?!"

Hui Lin suddenly got woken up. When she heard the voice, she got so afraid that she stood up from her seat. Rubbing her eyes to allow a clearer vision, she looked at Yang Chen rather nervously and shrank away from him. The pitiful look on her face made her look like she got bullied.

"You... Why did you come here..."

"Why did I come?" Yang Chen didn't know how to react. "Your grandma even called me and told me she would come at me using her life, can I still stay away from you? Why do you want to sit here all day? Have you been sitting here since last night?!"

Afraid, Hui Lin shrank her neck and fearfully nodded.

Yang Chen really didn't know what to say. Although the train station had heaters installed, a lady sitting there the entire night alone was still absurd. She wasn't a homeless and helpless wanderer after all.

"Why didn't you call me?!" Yang Chen asked once again.

Hui Lin turned her gaze away. She murmured, "I... I felt embarrassed."

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "What's there to be embarrassed about? Do you really think I'll see you as my wife after your master said she wanted me to marry you? In my eyes, you're just like a little sister. Since you came to Zhonghai, just treat me as your distant relative. Why are you embarrassed?"

"But... but we're not distant relatives, are we?" Hui Lin asked softly.

It was evident that Yang Chen found it hard to communicate with this girl who had a naive mind. Sighing, he carried Hui Lin's luggage and said, "Let's go, I'll bring you to the place you're staying at."

"You don't have to help me, I'll take it myself." Blushing, Hui Lin quickly took her luggage back.

Yang Chen stared at her fiercely. "Why are you snatching it away? Listen to what I say since your master asked you to come here. Just obediently follow me behind."

"Oh..."

Hui Lin instantly withdrew her hands and followed Yang Chen to the parking area with her head lowered, before entering Yang Chen's car.

When they were on their way back to the villa, Yang Chen made a call to Abbess Yun Miao to tell her that he managed to locate Hui Lin. However, when Yun Miao asked why she reached so late, Yang Chen directly passed the phone to Hui Lin and asked her to explain herself.

When Hui Lin said that she didn't dare to call Yang Chen to pick her up because she was shy, Abbess Yun Miao scolded Hui Lin and almost made her cry.

After that, Abbess Yun Miao only said that she wanted Hui Lin to stay at Hui Lin's house. Regarding what she was doing specifically, Yang Chen would deal with them, but she certainly wasn't allowed to be locked in the house all day.

Yang Chen finally understood the situation. Abbess Yun Miao wasn't giving him a wife, but was sending him a 'daughter' instead. She's an adult already. Ignoring the fact that I have to take care of her shelter and diet, I even have to look for a job for her!

Yang Chen was initially considering if he should let Hui Lin stay somewhere else or not, since he was still in an awkward situation with Lin Ruoxi. However, since Hui Lin was this naive, putting her outside wasn't a good choice. Since he promised Yun Miao to take care of her, he couldn't be too cruel at the end of the day. He could only bravely allow her to stay with him.

When they returned to the villa in Dragon Garden, Lin Ruoxi had long left for work, leaving only Wang Ma at home who was cleaning the dining table.

When Wang Ma saw that Yang Chen brought a beautiful lady into the house, she asked out of curiosity, "Young Master, this girl is..."

"Oh, she's my distant cousin who's getting an internship in Zhonghai. She'll be staying at our house for now, I told Ruoxi about it before," Yang Chen said.

Knowing that she was Yang Chen's relative, Wang Ma immediately served Hui Lin enthusiastically as she brought her luggage upstairs before quickly arranging a guest room for her. Since there were many empty rooms in the house which were regularly cleaned by professionals, one could stay inside anytime. It wasn't too huge of a deal.

Hui Lin entered the room and started sorting out the luggage she brought. After knowing that Hui Lin hadn't eaten, Wang Ma immediately ran downstairs and made a few simple dishes for her to go with the leftover porridge. Wang Ma then asked Yang Chen to call Hui Lin downstairs so that her stomach wouldn't suffer.

Evidently, Hui Lin who was obedient-looking and beautiful earned Wang Ma's liking with ease.

Yang Chen saw that it was impossible for him to get to work on time, so he didn't rush out. Since Hui Lin's room was beside his, he walked upstairs and knocked on her door, only to receive to response.

Without thinking much, Yang Chen pushed the door open before walking inside and getting surprised. Hui Lin could be seen lying on the giant bed asleep without even removing her shoes or changing her clothes!

After sitting on the train for an entire day and not sleeping for a whole night, this girl had indeed suffered, not to mention she must've felt cold and hungry all the time.

Not having travelled afar since young, she came to a big city which she wasn't familiar with and had no one close she knew. Alone, she sat at the train station full of stranger for an entire night. Yang Chen couldn't help but to feel compassionate for her.

Yang Chen walked to her bed and pulled the blanket as he prepared to cover it on Hui Lin.

However, when the blanket was about to be put down, Hui Lin suddenly opened her eyes and sat up before looking at Yang Chen cautiously. With her big eyes were filled with panic, she moved to the other end of bed. "W—what do you want to do?! Don't... don't do anything reckless..."

Yang Chen got despondent. "What are you doing? I was afraid that you'd catch a cold, so I wanted to cover you with a blanket."

Hui Lin finally realized the blanket in Yang Chen's hands. When she noticed that she misunderstood it as another matter, her ears immediately reddened. Actually, she only had a brief understanding towards the matter between a man and a woman. Before she left, Abbess Yun Miao forcefully implanted some idea into her, which she barely understood half. Since she was only a young girl barely past twenty years old, she definitely felt shy when it came to the matter between men and women. So when she saw Yang Chen who was the only man she wasn't against, she would get a strange feeling.

"S—sorry... I was too nervous," Hui Lin said, embarrassed.

Yang Chen shook his head helplessly. He said, "Since you woke up, go downstairs and have breakfast. Wang Ma finished preparing it for you."

"Okay..." Hui Lin obediently agreed.

...

At the same time, in a hidden and old building located in Beijing which seemed most ordinary from the outside, Lin Zhiguo put down the newspapers in his hands in a giant, quiet office. Taking his reading glasses off, he asked Gray Robe who was standing beside respectfully, "Has Hui'er reached Ruoxi's house yet?"

"I just received a report just now. Yang Chen brought Miss Hui into the house already. Master may rest assured now."

"Sigh... How can I be assured? Gray Robe, do you know that I really hope Ruoxi could interact nicely with Hui'er, but I'm still worried how they'd react if they knew that they were each other's blood-related sisters? Hui'er is gentle and naive by nature, so she may not exclude her too much, but you also know about the exclusion Ruoxi has towards me. Once she finds out the truth, I bet it'd be hard for her to be calm," Lin Zhiguo said as he frowned.

Gray Robe remained silent. Being Lin Zhiguo's right hand, he naturally knew the internal affairs.

“Oh yeah.” Lin Zhiguo seemed to have thought of something. He asked, “Did Yang family do anything after I passed the DNA report to Yang Gongming earlier?”

Gray Robe let out a playful smile. “Master’s plan is indeed ingenious. Old Li is thankful that Master told him about it. After finding out the news of his grandson, he showed himself for Master to meet the master of Zeng clan.”

“Oh? Yang Gongming finally came out from his mountains again?”

“Being an old man, he naturally doesn’t hope to see his long-lost grandson who may return to the clan one day get hurt. Furthermore, it isn’t Yang Chen at fault this time, Old Li naturally wouldn’t have any sort of psychological burdens. Zeng clan’s original scheme of taking action on Yang Chen in the dark has been stopped,” Gray Robe said.

“Although Zeng clan is strong, they’re still far behind Yang clan which is one of the founding fathers. Ignoring Yang Gongming’s power, Yang clan could still shine by solely depending on his son Yang Pojun and son-in-law Yuan Hewei. If it isn’t because they have rather little people, the entire land of Beijing would’ve been in their control,” Lin Zhiguo said smilingly. “I didn’t expect that the kid Yang Chen can bring such a level of connection. However, just because Zeng clan stopped taking action now doesn’t mean they won’t do anything in the future. We can’t let loose the people we’re tracking.”

“Yes, Master.”

Chapter 297: Are They Lacking

In the evening, Lin Ruoxi went home after getting off work. Upon entering the house, she saw a strange young lady wearing a pair of fluffy house slippers who was carefully holding a pot of steaming-hot braised noodles as she walked out of the kitchen. It was exactly Hui Lin.

Hui Lin put the pot down and raised her head before noticing Lin Ruoxi who was standing at the entrance.

The moment their gazes met, both of them got some kind of weird feeling. Although it was their first time seeing each other, they felt familiar at the same time, or even... intimate.

“Elder... Elder Sister, you’re back...” Hui Lin subconsciously opened her mouth and said something faintly.

Lin Ruoxi thought about something, and asked, “You are... the fellow’s distant cousin?”

Hui Lin was rather nervous. She panicked for a while before remembering that Yang Chen brought her into the house using the identity as his cousin. As a result, she nodded and said, “Yes.”

Lin Ruoxi was a bit shocked. Is it possible that she doesn’t know the marriage between Yang Chen and I? Logically speaking, she should refer me as ‘Sister-In-Law’ or something. Although she didn’t necessarily want the title, Lin Ruoxi didn’t know why she felt extraordinarily intimate when the girl called her ‘Elder Sister’.

“Since you’re here, please enjoy your stay. If there’s anything you need, don’t hesitate to voice them out.” Lin Ruoxi couldn’t bear malice towards a girl like that, who so obediently helped out the first day

she arrived. Even if she was the 'despicable man' Yang Chen's cousin, Lin Ruoxi had to accept her after all.

When Yang Chen finished bathing, he came downstairs and saw that Lin Ruoxi and Hui Lin were already seated and prepared to have lunch, like they had a natural affinity towards each other. Although he didn't want to admit, at the end of the day, it was hard for things like blood relations to fade. When the two women sat together, they were both so cold and quiet, even their auras were very similar, but Lin Ruoxi held more coldness.

When Lin Ruoxi saw Yang Chen, she felt a heartache and simply acted like she didn't see him. Silently, she started eating herself after she finished serving rice.

Yang Chen expected her reaction. He sat beside Hui Lin and said, "Treat yourself at home and eat more. You're very skinny already, if you return being even skinnier next time, your grandma would certainly think that I'm torturing you. At that time, she won't restrain from coming over to slaughter me."

"Grandma doesn't simply go around and kill," Hui Lin explained in a naive manner.

Yang Chen coughed a few times and signalled Hui Lin to think before she spoke. Casually saying things like 'go around and kill' wasn't something a lady of her age would say.

Expectedly, Lin Ruoxi looked at the two weirdly and wondered if she misheard Hui Lin or not.

"Of course your grandma doesn't kill. She'd be locked in the prison otherwise." Yang Chen helped Hui Lin cover what she said.

Hui Lin noticed that she said something inappropriate. Using her big, black eyes, she glanced at Lin Ruoxi who didn't seem to have any reaction, before finally relieving herself.

As they were having their meal, intentionally or not, Lin Ruoxi asked, "What's your name?"

Hui Lin was rather nervous. Awkwardly, she said, "Hui Lin..."

Yang Chen felt relieved. Luckily, the kid didn't stupidly state her name as 'Lin Hui'.

"Hui Lin..." Lin Ruoxi frowned slightly. Although she felt that the name was a bit weird, she didn't put too much thought into it. "How long are you coming here for, is it for work?"

When Yang Chen wanted to help Hui Lin answer 'no', Hui Lin suddenly nodded.

"Oh yeah, Elder Sister, can you help me find a job?" Hui Lin looked at Lin Ruoxi with high hopes

Yang Chen violently turned his head to look at Hui Lin as he stunned. This kid still wants to look for a job in Zhonghai? Is she not planning to go back to Mount Emei already?

Lin Ruoxi didn't think too much. To her, a girl of Hui Lin's age was around when someone would start working, not to mention that she came from afar to rely on Yang Chen. Although she felt weird that Yang Chen had a cousin, since he had lived mostly abroad in the past and had a complicated background, she thought that Hui Lin was merely an ordinary girl, judging from how gentle she looked and how naively she behaved. Lin Ruoxi. Finding a job and looking for a man to marry should be what her seniors hope for her.

It had to be said that Lin Ruoxi behaved rather heartily toward Hui Lin, since Yang Chen said that she was his distant cousin. Since they started knowing each other, none of Yang Chen's relatives or friends appeared before. When one finally came, who was also a girl that Lin Ruoxi liked, she was willing to give her a hand.

"Finding a job will depend on what skills you have. Are you a university graduate?" Lin Ruoxi asked.

Yang Chen smiled secretly. This kid had followed her grandma in Shushan since young, how would she get a chance to enroll in a university? I bet she only had one-on-one lectures on knowledge and culture at best, since Lin family musn't lack the funds for the upbringing of their only granddaughter.

Unexpectedly, Hui Lin nodded really quickly. Blinking her bright and big eyes, she said seriously, "I have a university diploma, I'll go get it for Elder Sister to take a look."

When she finished speaking, before Yang Chen could say anything, she directly put down her bowl and chopsticks before rushing upstairs.

Yang Chen was astonished. Why is it different from what I thought?! How does this little nun have a university diploma?!

Lin Ruoxi noticed Yang Chen's look. Frowning, she asked, "You don't even know that your cousin graduated from university? How are you even her brother?"

"Erm... I don't actually know," Yang Chen said as he smiled bitterly.

Lin Ruoxi snorted coldly and didn't plan to treat Yang Chen politely. "Luckily I'm here, otherwise the naive girl would definitely suffer, should she depend on you."

Yang Chen pouted and felt rather displeased. Didn't you agree on our divorce six months later? Even if you bumped into me with another woman, do you have to behave this badly towards me? I even talked about it long ago, I never planned to hide it from her. Furthermore, we haven't made any vows, but agreed upon not stepping into each other's lives. It can't even be considered as a betrayal, he thought. Actually, Yang Chen knew that it wasn't the right time to further irritate Lin Ruoxi, so he minded his own business as he ate silently.

After a short while, Hui Lin skipped down from upstairs before placing a stack of red certificates and some unknown documents in front of Lin Ruoxi. Her white loose T-shirt made her look like a ball of cotton candy floating its way down. Blushing, she said, "These are my certificates and diploma. Elder Sister may take a look."

Lin Ruoxi didn't expect Hui Lin to take so many things down. When she started looking through them, her facial expression turned wonderful.

For some reason, she raised her head and looked at Hui Lin from head to toe, causing Hui Lin's face to redden so much that it looked like it would drip blood.

Wang Ma advised, "Miss, don't look at Miss Hui this way anymore. Look at how embarrassed she is."

Lin Ruoxi withdrew her gaze and sighed slightly. "It's not that I want to look at you that way intentionally, I just feel very surprised. You look so young but you already have two master's degrees from Tsinghua University."

Yang Chen almost spat out the steaming-hot soup in his mouth. He turned his attention to the certificate in Lin Ruoxi's hands, Isn't this the case!

It seems like Abbess Yun Miao used her connections to get different types of identity documents and certificates for her granddaughter, Yang Chen thought.

Although Lin Ruoxi felt rather odd, she was indeed holding genuine diplomas and certificates in hand, so there wasn't much she could say. After she simply flipped a page, her expression turned even weirder. She asked, "You're even the champions for the national pipa and guqin competitions?"

[TL note: The pipa (Chinese lute) and guqin are both Chinese musical instruments.]

In the stack of Hui Lin's documents, there were indeed two pieces of certificates for the grand prizes of pipa and guqin national competitions!

This time, Hui Lin didn't keep quiet. Smiling, she said, "Yeah, I got them when I was seventeen in the competitions Grandma enrolled me in."

These two certificates were certainly genuine. After all, Abbess Yun Miao brought her granddaughter up using traditional education methods. Other than martial arts, Hui Lin also excelled in traditional musical instruments, chess, calligraphy and drawing.

Soon after, Lin Ruoxi looked more and more surprised. In the huge stack of Hui Lin's materials, there were also the grand prize for the third Chinese Sword Dancing Competition, champion for the Second National Go Chess Competition for Youth, honorary member of Chinese Calligraphy Association, honorary member of the council in Chinese Art Association, champion for the Seventh National Dance Competition for Youth...

At last, Lin Ruoxi didn't flip to the front to look at the master's diplomas for economics and advertising media from Tsinghua University, as they weren't significant compared to Hui Lin's other achievements. The girl standing made even the usually proud Lin Ruoxi feel ashamed. In her tiny body, there hid so much impressive power, she could do so many things at once!

When Hui Lin saw that Lin Ruoxi remained silent, she got rather worried and afraid. She asked, "Sister Lin, are they lacking? I... I still have a few more certificates, but they're all second place. Do you want me to take them over as well?"

Chapter 298: Blood-Drinking and Ravenous Witch

Listening to Hui Lin's 'horrifying' suggestion, Lin Ruoxi immediately raised her hand to stop her. "Enough, you're excellent. Even I'm starting to admire you."

She was actually being honest. Lin Ruoxi felt that she was impressive enough to have a master's degree in her twenties before taking over Yu Lei International. There would always be people better than you, no matter how good you were. Even if this cousin of Yang Chen acted really shy, if her achievements were placed in front of the public, she could directly startle a huge group of people.

"Then, Elder Sister, what job do you think suits me?" Although it wasn't Hui Lin's first time living an ordinary person's life, it was definitely her first time when it came to looking for a job. Furthermore, she wasn't familiar with the people and places in Zhonghai, so she didn't have her own opinions.

From the perspective of Hui Lin's naive mind, whether or not her grandma hated Lin Ruoxi wasn't her concern. Lin Ruoxi was her elder sister in terms of blood relations, so she'd directly treat Lin Ruoxi as one. This was also why Hui Lin behaved really intimately during the first time she interacted with Lin Ruoxi.

Hui Lin felt that as long as she could behave herself and be obedient, she would be accepted by the time Lin Ruoxi found out that she was the granddaughter of her 'enemy'.

Lin Ruoxi felt rather surprised for Hui Lin's dependent behavior, as if this girl wasn't Yang Chen's cousin, but her own relative.

"I feel that it'd be a pity to waste your talents. If you like it..." Lin Ruoxi turned her head to look at Yang Chen who was devouring the food on the dining table, "you can work in your cousin's company and follow the system to learn some knowledge regarding music and dancing, before debuting to be a singer and a movie star should you qualify. If you don't like to sing, dance or act, you can come to our headquarters. I'll arrange you to work with Sister Mo in the finance department and become her assistant. She'll teach you how to do things. What do you think?"

Hui Lin pondered for a while seriously. Carefully, she asked, "Elder Sister, I like to sing and play musical instruments, but I dislike dancing and acting. Can I still be a singer?"

"Yes you can, but trendy music is different from the traditional one. You still need to follow the system and learn from a teacher," Lin Ruoxi said.

Hui Lin thought of something again. She asked, "Then do I have to be the same with the women on television, who wear minimal clothing to sing on the stage?"

Lin Ruoxi finally smiled, as if she was infected by Hui Lin's naive thinking. Her mood became a lot better. "Not necessarily, everyone's style is different. If you dislike sexy clothing, you can use music to conquer the others. Many singers do nothing other than singing, but everyone still likes them."

"Then I'll go to Yang... Cousin's company then," Hui Lin said happily. "Back then when I was with Grandma, she only allowed me to sing old songs. I actually really like modern music, but I haven't had the chance to properly learn them!"

Smiling, Lin Ruoxi said, "You may spend around a year's time on learning since you're still very young. If you feel that it doesn't suit you, you can work behind the scenes or maybe something else."

"No, I won't. As long as it's something I want to do, I'll make sure to perform nicely. Elder Sister, look, these certificates all came because of my own hard work!" Hui Lin appeared to be very confident.

Lin Ruoxi nodded. Liking and affinity seemed to have suddenly increased in her gaze at Hui Lin.

Yang Chen originally wanted to ask Hui Lin if she truly understood what it meant to be a 'singer', since she had spent most of her life in the mountains. However, he felt warmth when he saw how Lin Ruoxi and Hui Lin interacted, so he felt that everything didn't matter anymore. He'd be satisfied as long as they were happy.

Blood was much denser than water. Although Hui Lin didn't dare to state her identity, and Lin Ruoxi didn't know that Hui Lin was her blood-related sister, they seemed to be able to feel a form of connection in their bones through the simple conversations, and acted extraordinarily close as a result.

After the meal, Hui Lin followed Wang Ma into the kitchen obediently to help out. In Lin Ruoxi's eyes, this scene made her like this girl she met for the first time more and more.

Lin Ruoxi suddenly remembered that Yang Chen promised something else when he discussed with her to allow his cousin to come over. Coldly, she reminded, "Now that I allow Hui Lin to stay here, don't forget what you promised. Bring Zhenxiu back to the orphanage."

Yang Chen was watching the television while biting a toothpick. He nodded and said, "I know, but I have to choose a suitable date. I'll think about it a few days later."

Lin Ruoxi coldly replied, "Just don't forget about it. Tell me directly if you're not willing to do it. I'll bring Zhenxiu back myself."

"Trust me, I'll definitely fulfil my promise," Yang Chen said.

Lin Ruoxi suddenly felt a heartache... Fulfil your promise? Does that mean you're resolute in our divorce six months later as well?

She instantly hated Yang Chen more. Lin Ruoxi stared at him fiercely before stomping upstairs and slamming her door.

Yang Chen stunned as he witnessed this scene. He didn't understand how he pissed this woman off again.

Since he became the director of Yu Lei Entertainment, it was difficult for Yang Chen to bring breakfast for the sisters in the public relation department. So after discussing with her female colleagues, he managed to remove his burden. His duty became to only bring them breakfast occasionally.

As it was Hui Lin's first day in the company, Yang Chen naturally had to bring her there. So after having breakfast with Lin Ruoxi and Hui Lin at home, Yang Chen was responsible to fetch Hui Lin to her workplace.

Before departing, Lin Ruoxi said to Hui Lin, "I'll let this fellow fetch you there today. Follow me out in the future. The place is just opposite the road anyway, it's really near."

Hui Lin agreed without asking much. Although she didn't know why Lin Ruoxi would make such a request, she was really happy to be able to spend more time with Lin Ruoxi. Since young, Abbess Yun Miao had been the only relative around her, and she couldn't call her Grandma most of the time, but Master instead. When she suddenly could work and live together with her sister in the same generation, her simple mind felt particularly blessed.

On the way to the company, Hui Lin sat beside the driver's seat and felt rather cramped. She glanced at Yang Chen occasionally, Towards the average-looking man beside her who had a terrifying fighting ability, she held a little fear and liking at the same time.

Yang Chen noticed Hui Lin's behaviour. Smiling weirdly, he said, "If you look at me like that again, I'll misunderstand that you secretly love me."

Blushing, Hui Lin instantly shook her head like a rattle drum. “No, no, I just have some questions in mind.

[TL note: A rattle drum (拨浪鼓) looks like this.]

“What questions do you have? State them clearly. Guessing what a woman is thinking is like trying to retrieve a needle from the ocean. Aren’t you giving me a challenge this way?” Yang Chen asked as he pouted.

Hui Lin hesitated for a while before asking, “Why does Elder Sister seem like... she hates (Elder) Brother Yang...”

[TL note: ‘Brother’ in this case is specifically elder brother. I feel that ‘Elder Brother Yang’ is extremely awkward.]

She thought for very long and felt that calling Yang Chen ‘Elder Brother’ was more appropriate. She had a feeling that she’d irritate Lin Ruoxi by calling him ‘Brother-In-Law’.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. He answered, “Your question is very deep, I don’t know why your elder sister always gets annoyed by me as well. If I have to state a reason, she seemed to have started treating me particularly cold after I said I wanted to divorce six months later. Oh yeah, she bumped into me when I was with my other woman outside.”

Hui Lin acted like she heard the most explosive news. “Divorce? Why... why does Brother Yang want to divorce Elder Sister?”

Suddenly, Hui Lin thought of the matter where Abbess Yun Miao talked about letting her be Yang Chen’s wife. Does he possibly want to divorce to marry me?

As she held that thought, Hui Lin’s smooth, jade-like face seemed like it was patched with rouge. Her watery, big eyes were filled complexity and nervousness.

When Yang Chen talked about the word ‘divorce’, his mood became uncontrollably heavy. As a result, he didn’t notice Hui Lin’s unusual act. Faintly, he said, “In this world, a lot of things can’t be formed simply because you like something or not. While the word ‘fate’ seems misty, it is immensely important. I guess there’s no fate between her and me. I’m also definitely not a good man. When your elder sister wanted me to be her husband back then, it was just to put up a show. Honestly until now, I still don’t know if she has feelings for me or solely because she feels accountable. In short, I guess separating is a good choice for the both of us... I won’t drag her down and she can set me free.”

After listening to his explanation, Hui Lin felt slightly gloomy. “Oh...” She seemed to understand and not at the same time.

“Oh yeah,” out of curiosity, Yang Chen asked, “why do you want to work in Zhonghai?”

Embarrassed, Hui Lin answered softly, “Grandma told me I must stay here before she allows me to go back. And I’m not even given pocket money, so I have to work...”

Sigh, Yun Miao, Yun Miao... How are you a vegetarian abbess who chants the name of Buddha? You’re a blood-drinking and ravenous witch! Yang Chen shouted in his heart.

[TL note: Fun fact, the witch is literally described as someone who devours animals together with their fur.]

Upon entering the office of Yu Lei Entertainment, Hui Lin who wore light-colored winter clothing following behind Yang Chen attracted a lot of attention.

Although Hui Lin wasn't a flawless beauty like Lin Ruoxi, she was still a beautiful and refined young girl. Her quiet aura brought up in the mountains made her innate noble aura exceptionally approachable and likable.

Since Zhao Teng was the person in charge of the company's internal operations, Yang Chen brought Hui Lin directly into Zhao Teng's office.

When Zhao Teng noticed that the person entering his office was Yang Chen, who had an unfamiliar and beautiful lady following behind that appeared very attached to Yang Chen, Zhao Teng immediately looked at Yang Chen with an ambiguous gaze. "Good morning, Director Yang. Is this lady possibly Director's girlfriend?"

Chapter 299: Client Meeting

-Not Linus

Since she was at an unfamiliar place, Hui Lin lowered her head didn't dare to breathe too loud upon entering the office. When she heard that someone said she was Yang Chen's girlfriend, she almost fainted on-the-spot. She nervously grasped her palms together which were sweating profusely.

Yang Chen pushed Zhao Teng's head impolitely. "How do your eyes work? Do I look like an old cow that would eat young grass?"

[TL note: An old cow that would eat young grass (idiom): The man in a romance who is significantly older than the woman.]

"Director, but you're not old," Zhao Teng said as he pressed onto his aching forehead resentfully.

"This is my cousin who's very gifted. After discussing with Boss Lin, we decided to send her to our company to receive professional training in dancing and music. You'll be in charge of arranging her lessons," Yang Chen said.

Zhao Teng finally got serious. After looking at Hui Lin from head-to-toe, he agreed that the girl definitely had the qualifications to become a superstar. Since even Lin Ruoxi thought she could make it, there was definitely something unique about her. As a result, he directly said, "No problem, the music and choreography teachers are all masters of their craft. We're still worried that we don't have talented members at the moment."

The following things were much easier to be done. Yang Chen let Hui Lin follow Zhao Teng's arrangements, to directly head over to the recording studio and the dance classroom to receive an assessment, so that her capabilities and what level of class she should start with could be determined.

It wasn't possible for Yang Chen to be with Hui Lin all the time. So he said, "After you finish practising, give me a call when you feel like going home."

Hui Lin found herself in a difficult situation. "Can... can I call Elder Sister's phone instead?"

Yang Chen felt rather gloomy. "Am I so unpleasant to you that you want your elder sister to send you home on the first day?"

"No... I'm just..."

"Alright, alright. Do what you want." Yang Chen wasn't willing to listen to her reasons. He knew that the kid would get shy easily. She'd certainly feel more comfortable being with Lin Ruoxi who was similarly, a woman.

Hui Lin indeed didn't dare to stay with Yang Chen for too long, especially after the 'girlfriend' matter caused by Zhao Teng. She got more and more shy and scared because she felt very sorry to Lin Ruoxi when she was misunderstood as Yang Chen's girlfriend.

Regarding what Yang Chen said regarding his divorce and women outside, from Hui Lin's perspective, they were really distant matters. She didn't believe his words fully.

When Yang Chen returned to his office and wanted to sit down to play computer games, Wang Jie knocked on the door and came inside.

Holding a stack of documents, Wang Jie felt rather embarrassed. She asked, "Director, are you free in the afternoon?"

Yang Chen shook his head and answered, "Yeah. What is it?"

Wang Jie said, "There's a client meeting in the afternoon which I'm supposed to attend with a driver and an assistant. However, there's an emergency meeting in Yu Lei's headquarters. So can I ask Director to go for me, I don't know if you can..."

Client meeting? Yang Chen scratched his head. To be honest, he didn't really like things like this. Wang Jie should be aware of this as well, otherwise she wouldn't have looked at him with a pitiful and helpless look.

Yang Chen asked, "Who are the people we're meeting up with?"

Wang Jie seemed like she found hope and got energized instantly. "It's a new director who's rather famous recently called Huang Hai, a man from Shandong Province. He used a budget of 3 million in his previous film and earned 12 million in the box office. This time, he took the initiative to contact our company and hope that we can invest in a small production movie with a budget of 5 million or so. He may have come to us because of our reputation, since there isn't his place in other major companies anyway."

"In other words, it's his invitation for us, correct?" Yang Chen asked.

"It could be said that we're negotiating on equal terms, since he is rather competent and doesn't necessarily need our help. However, many other new directors hope to work with us because our company is newly set up. After all, if the first film succeeds, they'd be able to become our company's manager director. This seniority is very important in the entertainment industry," Wang Jie explained.

Yang Chen understood the situation generally. Currently, the newly set up company Yu Lei Entertainment was just like a huge cake in the eyes of rookie directors and actors. Those who couldn't obtain good treatments from the other major companies were all hoping to get good benefits as a result of being the 'founding fathers' of Yu Lei Entertainment.

"Originally, I wanted to look at his script, character and work ethics. If both his character and competence aren't an issue, I would sign a contract with him. However, the emergency meeting in the headquarters is really important, not to mention I've always been the one responsible for the procedures, so I thought of you, Director. After all, Director was the one who went to Hong Kong to negotiate with Muyun Corporation. This kind of work should be really easy for Director." Wang Jie didn't forget to praise Yang Chen.

Everyone loved to listen to great things. Although Yang Chen didn't have many good memories in Hong Kong, he immediately accepted her request after listening to what she said. After thinking for a bit, he said, "Put the things I need here. I'll go there in the afternoon."

Wang Jie relieved herself. If Yang Chen denied her request, she really didn't know who she should ask. The company was still new after all, it was normal for them to lack manpower.

After Wang Jie left, Yang Chen took the materials to look at the director Huang Hai's resume and planned work. At last, he saw the agreed meeting place in the afternoon. It was a rather famous entertainment club in Zhonghai called Coconut.

Yang Chen frowned when he saw the location. If he recalled correctly, this place was located near a bar street. It was called an entertainment club, but it was actually a place of prostitution in other words. Various shady services often appeared there. This should also be one of the reasons why Wang Jie wasn't willing to go, since she couldn't push away such a duty just because she didn't like the place. As a result, she used the excuse of attending a meeting in the headquarters to pass the job to Yang Chen. It shouldn't be too big of a problem for men to attend such an occasion after all.

In the afternoon, Yang Chen drove to Coconut alone. It had a storefront with a southern island design. Although it was winter, the two ladies welcoming customers at the entrance still had their slim arms and thighs exposed in the air. They were only wearing a slightly thicker vest on top of their thin clothing.

Upon entering the club, two rows of room beside a warmly lit walkway could be seen.

After Yang Chen reported the appointed room number, he followed a female server and passed through two corners before arriving at the destination.

He opened the door and looked at the huge room lit by three floor lamps. The lighting wasn't considered bright, but wasn't dark as well. There were red sofas, grey carpets and a huge LCD television broadcasting a music program. Yang Chen didn't exactly know what song it was playing, but it should be a Korean dance music.

The three figures who were seated on the sofa instantly stood up. The moderately tall man in his thirties with a moustache was the director Huang Hai. There were also a bald middle-aged shortie and a rather good-looking woman with rather heavy makeup on.

“Welcome, Director Yang. I’m really honored. I didn’t expect that Director was willing to come over personally.” Huang Hai passionately offered his hand and walked towards Yang Chen before firmly holding hands with him.

“Don’t be, since all of us are planning on working together, I certainly have to show my sincerity,” Yang Chen said lightly.

Huang Hai nodded repeatedly before introducing the people to Yang Chen. “This is the producer I always work with, Luo Changan. This lady is my wife Elle, also a second-line actress, but Director Yang shouldn’t have heard of her since she’s not very well-known.”

Yang Chen bet Elle must’ve chosen Huang Hai when she was buying a lottery, in the hope that she could yield a harvest by marrying him. Now that Huang Hai really got more successful, she naturally became the director’s lady.

After greeting Luo Changan and Elle, Yang Chen sat down with the three. The server brought some snacks and grape wine over. He served a British three-tiered snack platter, displaying a rather unique way of treating customers.

“I hope Director Yang doesn’t mind that I picked such a place for this discussion. I just felt that having a traditional dinner with various dishes while discussing the film is not only extravagant, but ineffective as well. I hope Director Yang can understand, there are only the four of us anyway,” Huang Hai explained with a smile.

No matter who listened to his speech, the reasoning was actually not bad. Not only would people think he was thoughtful, he would give the impression of being more serious and dependable as well.

Yang Chen let out a faint smile. “Director Huang, you don’t have to be so formal. I’m actually a very casual person. Let’s talk about serious things.”

“Alright, alright. Director is really straightforward, but we have to start drinking before that, since it’s our first time meeting. Otherwise we’d be considered overly rude,” Huang Hai said before turning to Elle who had been holding a smile. “Elle, quickly open the bottle of grape wine and pour for us.”

Elle cozily hummed with acknowledgement as she faintly threw a flirtatious glance at Yang Chen before running to the side to open the grape wine bottle.

Luo Changan took out the newest movie plan together with its outline from a folder and passed it to Yang Chen. Smiling, he said, “Director Yang, being someone who has been in the industry for more than twenty years, I guarantee that this movie will definitely sell. As long as we get enough investment, getting Hong Kong Film Award or Golden Horse Award isn’t difficult.”

Yang Chen took the file and had a look. It was a small budget comedy and action movie, also a type of comedy which is really popular nowadays as it brings out the philosophy of life.

However, when Yang Chen took a closer look at the estimated budget, it was different from what Wang Jie’s materials showed. It became eight million, three million higher than the original budget.

“Director Huang, in the proposal our company’s manager showed me, this movie only had an estimated budget of five million. Why did it suddenly go up by three million?” Yang Chen stared into Huang Hai’s eyes and wasn’t willing to let go of even the most minute details.

Chapter 300: Nothing to Lose

Huang Hai was either candid in his heart, or had long prepared for this moment. He didn’t look abnormal in any way. “This is how it happened, Director Yang, we just calculated the budget in detail yesterday. Previously, we underestimated the price of special effects, which is why this problem arose. However, I hope Director Yang doesn’t mind it too much, since both the theme and design of this movie is rather decent. You may look at it in detail, I believe you’ll be satisfied.”

After he finished speaking, he received the glass of grape wine delivered by his wife Elle before passing it into Yang Chen’s hands. “Come, I’ll do it first to thank Director Yang for personally coming over.”

Yang Chen received the wine glass and clinked it against Huang Hai’s and Luo Changan’s glasses before downing the liquid in one go.

He ridiculed in his heart, Special effects? Do these two think I’m a layman or an idiot? Letting aside the fact that such a small budget movie doesn’t even need special effects, why did the price suddenly go up in three million bucks? Do they think us investors are all stupid?

“Director Huang, I feel like your estimation is a huge problem. It’s a matter of principle. If it’s eight million, I might not be sitting here today anymore.” Yang Chen put the file in his hand aside.

Huang Hai smiled awkwardly before pulling Elle hurriedly. “Elle, quickly pour some wine for Director Yang to calm him down.”

Elle blushed as she felt shy, but went leaning her body against Yang Chen in a very practised manner. It felt intentional and unintentional at the same time when she pushed her bosom onto Yang Chen’s arm and delicate thigh against Yang Chen’s thigh. Her body was really soft and exuded the classic fragrance of Chanel No.5.

She filled up half of Yang Chen’s glass and some for herself. Softly, she leaned forward to Yang Chen’s side and said, “Director, don’t get angry. Let’s talk about it slowly. Please allow this girl to drink a glass with you.”

This girl?!

Yang Chen almost burst into laughter. This woman is in her thirties already, but dressed herself like a teenage girl and referred herself as ‘this girl’. If she does this to other men, I bet they can’t take it anymore and their legs would soften.

No wonder he picked a place like this. So he’s trying to maximize the use of his mini celebrity wife.

When he inhaled the smell exerted by female hormones on Elle’s body, Yang Chen suddenly felt that his blood was boiling, especially his dantian. There was a flow of hot current.

[TL note: Dantian (丹田 dāntián) – literally translates as “Cinnabar Field” or “Elixir Field”. Refers to the region in the body where a person’s Qi is concentrated. There are technically three dantians, but these

novels simplify the concept and only use the lower dantian (located three finger widths below and two finger widths behind the navel).]

After that, Yang Chen finally understood why the server wasn't in charge of serving wine, but was Elle instead. She drugged him through his glass of wine!

Unfortunately, due to his special physique, such a drug could only make him a little excited at most, even if it could cause him a physiological reaction. The expected effect couldn't take place.

However, all of these made Yang Chen feel interested.

Back then when he watched entertainment news on the television, he heard about terms like 'unspoken rules', which meant people were willing to pay a high price to achieve something. Unexpectedly, he himself could receive the 'unspoken rules' one day as well.

However, this was considered 'forced unspoken rules'.

Elle's bosom rubbed against Yang Chen's chest. She winked at him seductively before saying, "Brother Director, are you feeling hot? I feel that the room is a bit too warm. Do you want to remove your coat?"

Yang Chen smiled disdainfully in his heart, but put up a semi-conscious act. After drinking the wine Elle poured for him, he nodded and said, "It's really a bit warm. I feel like my head is quite dizzy. Help me remove it." When he finished speaking, he turned around and to face his back at Elle.

Elle and Huang Hai looked at each other and smiled coldly.

Luo Changan secretly used his phone at his back to make a phone call. After a short moment, Huang Hai's phone rang. Huang Hai picked up the call and shouted a few lines before standing up apologetically. He said, "Director Yang, I suddenly have something urgent to discuss with Changan outside. We'll be back really soon, please sit here for a while."

Yang Chen waved his hand. "It's fine, go and do your things. I'll eat something here while waiting."

"Elle, see to it that Director Yang is taken care of properly," Huang Hai said strictly before going out the room with Luo Changan.

After the door closed, only Yang Chen and Elle were left in the room.

Elle helped Yang Chen remove his coat, leaving only a sweater and a thermal vest within.

A cold and white palm suddenly slid across Yang Chen's face. Sounding infatuated, Elle said softly, "Brother Yang, you're really handsome, even your body looks very good..."

As she spoke, Elle touched Yang Chen's chest as she stuck her tongue out slightly through her lips, to reveal a kind of thirst and hunger exclusive to women under Yang Chen's eyes.

Regrettably, Yang Chen actually noticed the thick layer of power and the 'potholes' on Elle's face since they were too near to each other. Apparently, time had eaten up quite big portion of this woman's youth. Although she intentionally acted young and pure, she was still a woman in her thirties after all. If it wasn't for her 'free labor', Huang Hai would've replaced her with a younger lady long ago.

When Yang Chen thought about just how many times this woman lost her chastity and emotion of a woman just to push Huang Hai to a higher position, he didn't have the slightest interest to touch her. He had sympathy for her, but felt it was boring at the same time.

At this moment, one of Elle's hands unknowingly reached Yang Chen's pants. Although Yang Chen wasn't affected by the drug, that body part of his still had a reaction after getting teased by a woman.

When Elle felt Yang Chen's weapon, her body got stiff for a while. Even to someone like her with a lot of experience, the thing's ferocity still went far beyond her imagination.

However, this was exactly why Elle got more and more excited. She could get satisfaction while working. To Elle, this was really a blessing.

Unfortunately, Elle couldn't further her seduction to Yang Chen. She suddenly felt really dizzy in her mind and fainted.

Yang Chen withdrew his hand from the back of Elle's neck and pushed the woman who wouldn't wake up for a short moment to the side. He stood up and put on his coat before turning all the lights in the room off, causing the room to be in complete darkness. Although it was still daytime, one wouldn't be able to see their five fingers perfectly.

After that, he walked to the entrance before quietly waiting for Huang Hai and Luo Changan to return to check on the result.

After around fifteen minutes, the door got carefully pushed open. Huang Hai and Luo Changan noticed that the room was covered in darkness, but they thought they succeeded since they could barely see someone lying on the sofa.

"Damn it, this bitch didn't even bother reporting to us after completing her task. She must've felt addicted doing it with this young man!" Huang Hai scolded.

Luo Changan let out a malicious smile. He said, "Don't you know that this bitch wasn't satisfied when the both of us banged her together? Women in their thirties are all like wolves. This woman is more energetic the older she gets."

"Damn, even the lights are off. Were their movements so large that they did it in every corner of the room? Weird, there should be a smell here logically speaking..."

"How long has it been? He must've opened fire for only once at most, what smell are you expecting? Eh? Why is this woman still lying still?" Luo Changan asked out of curiosity.

"Why would you want her to move? Just maintain that position, it'd be more convenient for us to take pictures..." As Huang Hai murmured, he relied on his memory to walk to the nearest floor lamp. When he wanted to switch it on...

Suddenly! The lamp turned on!

Huang Hai got frightened immensely. He flurried three steps back and almost fell down.

There stood Yang Chen beside the lamp smiling weirdly and teasingly at the two.

Although they didn't know why Yang Chen wasn't affected by the drug within the grape wine, Huang Hai and Luo Changan understood that their scheme got exposed! Elle who was lying on the sofa didn't even get the chance to take action!

"Director Yang... you... you are..." Huang Hai didn't know what to say. His face paled as he panicked.

Yang Chen slowly walked towards the two people. "What about me? Aren't I waiting for you guys to come take pictures of me?"

Huang Hai's and Luo Changan's turned ashen and looked at each other. Apparently, Yang Chen understood everything completely.

They only had two paths to pick. The first route was Yang Chen let them go and acted like nothing happened. Naturally, the partnership would sink as well. The second route was to pressure Yang Chen. Since he had looked through everything, they had to end what they started and think of a way to shut Yang Chen's mouth up!

Almost instantly, Huang Hai and Luo Changan made a resolute decision. Luo Changan closed the door and locked it before rushing up to Yang Chen together with Huang Hai!

To them, facing one man with two wasn't a difficult task at all! They only had to remove Yang Chen's clothes and pants and let Elle cooperate before taking a picture. It could still be used in a blackmail!

They had nothing to lose. One wouldn't consider the consequences calmly once they got indignant.

The attack launched by the two was naturally useless. Yang Chen simply swung his hands to block them before grasping their collars and throwing them across the room, hitting onto the wall behind the sofa!

Bam! Bam! Huang and Luo banged onto the wall forcefully before falling onto Elle's body.

Elle got awakened. Blurrily opening her eyes, she had no clue what just happened.

Huang and Luo got dumbfounded. They didn't understand why the man standing in front of them had such strength. They knew that they couldn't defeat Yang Chen nor could they run away. They could only endure the intense pain and kneel on the carpet before begging Yang Chen for mercy.

"Director Yang! We're wrong! Please... please let us go this time! We really don't want to do such a thing, but there's a downturn in the market... We... we..."

"Oh, so you guys are in a dilemma? What should I do then... You guys have locked the door and brought all the equipment with you. I really can't disappoint you guys today," Yang Chen said regretfully as he shook his head.

Huang Hai smiled in a way that looked uglier than crying. "Director Yang, I'll learn from my lesson. Please give me a chance. After working hard for so long, it's really difficult for me to achieve what I have today. The three of us just want to earn our living. Who doesn't have a bit of gray background in this industry? There are lots of people doing more filthy things than us. Director, please let us go this time. We don't dare to do this anymore..."

Yang Chen knew that Huang Hai was being honest, but drugging him and wasting his precious gaming time was unforgivable. He had to earn some interest at the end of the day, so he reached an arm out at Huang Hai.

Huang Hai stunned. He immediately understood something and took out his leather wallet from his pocket and plugging it into Yang Chen's hand. "Director, I'll give you all my cash and credit cards. Please... please don't call the cops, can you?"

"What do I want your money for? I want you to pass your camera to me," Yang Chen said with a weird smile.

"Ah..." Huang Hai was distressed. "Director, what do you want the camera for..."

"Since you didn't manage to record me, I'll record you then," Yang Chen said teasingly. "Didn't you guys say that the three of you played together before? I'm really interested in seeing your show. Come, put up a performance for me and allow me to record it down. I won't call the cops after that."

Luo Changan's facial expression looked like every inch of his organs snapped. "Director Yang, isn't this equivalent to asking for our lives..."

Yang Chen's look turned cold. "Do you want to pass your lives to me, or the cops?"

This time, the three got speechless. Huang Hai took his bag resentfully and took out a digital camera from within before passing it to Yang Chen.

After half an hour, Yang Chen went out of the club and entered his car, with a small SD card in his hand. Yang Chen felt that his little junior below still had its head pointing upwards. He couldn't help it, he hadn't seen such a realistic three-man war in a long time.

Yang Chen suddenly remembered that he recorded a similar thing before when he saved Liu Mingyu out from a hotel back then. However, Department Head Ma was too old and didn't have much energy. The clip this time was much more exciting than the one before.

It had been a long time since he last spent time with Liu Mingyu. She was a woman who wouldn't contact you if you didn't do so yourself. Even if she had a lover in her heart, she still remained her pride and arrogance.

Yang Chen thought of the night by the ocean. It was crazily enjoyable when he hugged Liu Mingyu's perfectly mature body in a tall body. A fire ignited in his heart, especially the fluid that was still left in his body. Yang Chen had to think of a way to vent his flame.

Taking a deep breath, Yang Chen turned on the car engine and pressed on the accelerator forcefully as he headed to the direction of Yu Lei International!