

Chapter 401: Expansion of the Female Dorm

By the time Lin Ruoxi was content with speaking, half an hour had gone by. Yang Chen didn't feel any discomfort in the cold wind but Lin Ruoxi's nose and cheeks turned reddish after being blown by the wind for some time.

As they walked down the hill, Yang Chen removed his coat to place it on Lin Ruoxi's back.

Lin Ruoxi tried to reject his offer, but failed to push Yang Chen's hand back. As she felt touched in her heart, she said softly, "There's no need for you to do this. It's a short distance, I'll be fine."

"But not short enough that you won't catch a cold. It's the new year eve tomorrow. It would be terrible if you were to get sick now," Yang Chen said.

When the two got in the car, Lin Ruoxi was reminded of something. She asked, "You mentioned that Zhenxiu went back to school to continue her studies, didn't you?"

"Yeah." Yang Chen was surprised at Lin Ruoxi for asking this question.

Lin Ruoxi asked again, "Is she still living alone?"

Yang Chen managed to guess her intention. "Are you going to try to convince Zhenxiu to spend the new years with us?"

Lin Ruoxi hesitated for a bit before nodding. "That is if she's willing to come with us. I feel that although she wouldn't mind celebrating it alone, it's better if we can bring her home. It'd be merrier this way after all. Although the new year is tomorrow, she can come over to help us cook and prepare together. I bet she'll like it."

"You certainly behave like Zhenxiu's elder sister. You always watch out for her," Yang Chen said jokingly.

Lin Ruoxi shook her head. "You don't understand. To me, Zhenxiu is the representation of my past when my Grandma had not passed away yet. She was still a little kid when I first knew her. Since I don't have any siblings, she's a little sister whom I've watched grow up. There exists a unique bond between us."

"I'm not against the idea. There's no need to explain yourself" Yang Chen said with a smile before starting the engine.

Lin RUoxi rolled her eyes before quietly taking Yang Chen's coat off and putting it on the back seat.

They soon arrived at Zhenxiu's rented apartment. She was there moving a huge box up the stairs.

Zhenxiu was wearing a rather old, light orange coat. She had her hair tied up in a ponytail, while her childish and naive cheeks were stained with black and gray spots. It was a very chilly day, but Zhenxiu's forehead was still covered with sweat.

Yang Chen got off his car and approached Zhenxiu before taking her large box. He asked, "Kid, what are you carrying?"

At first, Zhenxiu assumed it was a thief. She rested easy when she realized it was Yang Chen. A cheerful smile surfaced as she asked, "Brother Yang, why have you come? It's nothing much, just a bunch of secondhand revision books."

Yang Chen took a look inside the box. It was indeed filled with science and English books. He guessed that she had found a good deal for them at cheap prices. Smiling, he said, "Even if you want to work hard for your studies, there's no need to push yourself so hard when the new year is right around the corner, do you?"

Zhenxiu looked rather pale. Forcing a smile, she said, "It's fine. It's just the new year. It'll pass quickly when I read and do other stuff."

"Your Sister Ruoxi would be sad to death if she heard what you said. She wants to see you so bad that she came here with me to fetch you to our house for dinner," Yang Chen said as he pointed at the direction of his car.

Zhenxiu was rather surprised at his offer. She bit her lower lip in silence as she looked at Lin Ruoxi who walked over from the car with a faint smile.

"Let's go, we will celebrate the new year together and you may stay at our house tonight. Anything is better than you celebrating the new year all by yourself," Yang Chen said. "There's no need to act tough or shy in front of me. I'm not an outsider."

It took him one sentence to prevent Zhenxiu from rejecting his offer.

Zhenxiu knew that she'd feel bad to them if she rejected it. Thus, she nodded and said, "Let me put the books in my apartment and I'll join you in a bit."

After half an hour of driving, Yang Chen arrived home together with the others. However, unlike last time, there were two more ladies in the car.

When they got off the car, Lin Ruoxi didn't forget to take Yang Chen's coat from the backseat before entering the house.

Inside the living hall, Guo Xuehua, Wang Ma, and Hui Lin were all peeling beans as they chatted happily. Seeing that Yang Chen brought Lin Ruoxi home together with an unknown young girl, they couldn't help but get curious.

Zhenxiu was the first one who noticed Guo Xuehua. Having lived in the orphanage for so many years, it was impossible to avoid seeing Guo Xuehua's portrait numerous times a day. She was lost for words.

Lin Ruoxi explained, "Aunt Guo is Yang Chen's mother. She's living with us here for now."

"Ah!" Zhenxiu exclaimed. "Madam Guo... is Brother Yang's mother?!"

Never in a million years did Zhenxiu ever see this coming.

"Yang Chen, Ruoxi, who is this little girl?" Guo Xuehua asked with a smile after she noticed Zhenxiu's surprised look when Zhenxiu gazed upon her.

Yang Chen signalled Lin Ruoxi to explain the matter.

Thus, Lin Ruoxi told Zhenxiu's story briefly from beginning to end. Guo Xuehua was told that Zhenxiu had stayed in her orphanage for a while before. However, she had seen way too many orphans, so she failed to recall her.

“Since fate has brought us together, why not you consider moving in here permanently? Aren’t you going to take the college entrance exam soon? How can one revise and do well while operating a roadside stall as well? Just stay with us for six months. Since both Ruoxi and Yang Chen already treat you as their younger sister, you don’t have to feel shy about it.” Guo Xuahua’s kindness for children without parents started emerging once again. She couldn’t control herself from showing her concern after listening to Zhenxiu’s past.

Lin Ruoxi on the other hand was stunned. She didn’t expect Guo Xuehua to make such a suggestion.

“Oh, yeah,” Guo Xuehua said as she noticed she had overlooked Lin Ruoxi’s opinion, “Ruoxi, this is just a small suggestion. It’s fine if you find it inconvenient.”

Lin Ruoxi was more than fine with the suggestion. She even regretted for not asking Zhenxiu this earlier. Shaking her head, she said, “It’s fine. I too think it’s good for her this way.”

Zhenxiu, however, shook her head violently. “No, I can’t do that. I... I’ve already received lots of help from you guys. How can I still stay in Sister Ruoxi’s home... It... it isn’t right.”

Yang Chen patted Zhenxiu’s head. “Stay because we asked. Even if you wanted to go home, you wouldn’t be able to. I won’t be sending you back.” He thought, The number of people living in this house has indeed increased. Hui Lin and my mother came, and now this sister-like Zhenxiu will be coming over as well.

Unfortunately, being the only man, I’m still living in a ‘female dorm’. It’s just that the scale of the ‘dorm’ is repeatedly expanding.

Being persuaded by the people in the room simultaneously, Zhenxiu finally accepted their offer. However, she still had to take her luggage and books from her old rented apartment. This was obviously Yang Chen’s problem to deal with.

When Yang Chen wanted to sit down on the sofa to watch the television, Lin Ruoxi asked, “Where should I put your coat?”

Yang Chen finally remembered the coat he placed on her. He said, “Just toss it to me.”

Lin Ruoxi was rather dissatisfied, as the coat was bought by her for him. Naturally, she felt unhappy when Yang Chen asked her to toss it to him.

“Here you go.” Lin Ruoxi tossed the coat at Yang Chen’s direction.

Clink! When the coat was released from her hands, a small item fell from the shirt pocket and hit the ground.

Everyone was surprised when it dropped. They soon realized it was a necklace with a crescent moon ornament.

Hui Lin stood the nearest to the necklace, so she squatted down to pick it up. “Woah, it’s such a beautiful necklace. Is it made of platinum?”

Lin Ruoxi realized the delicate build of the crescent object. It looked simple but had incredibly fine lines. Moreover, the quality of the platinum was extremely high.

Since it came from Yang Chen's pocket, and it's not something that he would usually wear, she thought, Is it... possibly a gift for another woman?

Or is it for me? Lin Ruoxi blushed. However, she soon noticed a problem. Isn't my gift the dumpling doll?

Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but turn her gaze to Yang Chen.

"Oh," Yang Chen said, "Zhenxiu gave it to me a while back. I've had it on me all this time. Luckily it did not break from the fall."

Zhenxiu smiled cheerfully when she heard Yang Chen had brought the necklace with him all this time.

Zhenxiu gave a platinum necklace to Yang Chen?!

Zhenxiu has lived such a tough life herself. Why did she still give a necklace to Yang Chen?!

None of the other women found it weird. They were aware that Yang Chen was rather close to Zhenxiu. However, Lin Ruoxi had seen Yang Chen flirt with too many other women, and was aware of the identities of a few of the mistresses.

She usually tried her best to avoid thinking of such matters. However, she couldn't take it when Zhenxiu whom she had seen as her little sister, who was only 18 years old, had something to do with Yang Chen.

Coldness filled Lin Ruoxi's eyes. Her gaze towards Yang Chen soon turned hostile.

Yang Chen felt a chill up his spine. He noticed Lin Ruoxi's dissatisfied look and quickly realized her misunderstanding. Smiling bitterly, he said, "Babe Ruoxi, stop overthinking. Zhenxiu gave this souvenir to me to thank me for helping her out. It's not what you think. There really isn't anything going on between me and Zhenxiu."

Lin Ruoxi panicked before blushing. She nervously turned around and walked upstairs as she said, "No one cares about what you do."

The other ladies felt immensely awkward. They understood the meaning behind the married couple's words.

Zhenxiu felt incredibly shy as she looked at Yang Chen embarrassingly.

Hui Lin and Wang Ma held a smile on their faces, while Guo Xuehua was the only one who managed to identify the hidden meaning.

When Yang Chen said 'there really isn't anything going on between me and Zhenxiu', he implied there certainly was something between him and other women!

Although Guo Xuehua hadn't seen Yang Chen for more than twenty years, she was his mother after all, which allowed her to quickly realize the hidden meaning in her son's words. She then thought of the strange gap between Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen. So... was her son an unfaithful rogue?!

If that was the case, there existed a different reason for Lin Ruoxi's coldness towards Yang Chen in addition to her refusal of sleeping in the same room with him!

Chapter 402: Moving the Spearhead

Yang Chen wasn't aware that his mother had picked up on his mistake. But there wasn't much to explain even if she did. It was his personality and these stuff cannot be changed so easily.

However, Guo Xuehua was not one to approach these topics head on. Not only was it inappropriate, if she wrongly interpreted his words, the relationship between her and her son would worsen. Yang Chen would start to distance himself from her.

Thus, she grasped the opportunity when Yang Chen sent Zhenxiu home to get her luggages after lunch to invite Lin Ruoxi into the study room to ask her about the incident earlier.

"Ruoxi, tell me about your conversation with Yang Chen in the afternoon. What was the other meaning behind your words?" Guo Xuehua asked, concerned.

Lin Ruoxi thought that she might have somehow displeased her mother-in-law again when she was pulled into the study room by Guo Xuehua nervously. After listening carefully to Guo Xuehua's question, she was still rather confused. "Aunt, what do you mean? What words?"

"Don't be afraid to tell me. I was just curious to the assumption you jumped at after Yang Chen took Zhenxiu's necklace. Also, Yang Chen said there really was nothing between him and Zhenxiu. There obviously was another meaning in his sentence," Guo Xuehua said.

Distress could be seen on Lin Ruoxi's cold face. She didn't expect Guo Xuehua to be able to notice such a minute and insignificant detail. However, she was struggling to provide an answer.

If she told the truth that Yang Chen indeed had special relations with other women, Yang Chen might accuse her of talking behind his back, lacking courage to confront him face-to-face. If she gave a vague answer to Guo Xuehua, not only would she be lying to a senior, Guo Xuehua was not naive at all.

"Actually... there isn't much." Lin Ruoxi attempted to avoid the question.

However, Guo Xuehua wasn't so easily deceived as expected. When Lin Ruoxi first revealed her reluctance, Guo Xuehua had confirmed some suspicions. Sighing, she said, "Ruoxi, even when you don't want to tell me, I know that Yang Chen indeed has another woman outside. You're afraid of being suspected by Yang Chen for backstabbing him, but you also don't want to lie to me, am I right?"

Lin Ruoxi remained quiet. She knew that she couldn't fool Guo Xuehua so easily.

"I was wondering what was wrong between you and my son..." Guo Xuehua frowned as she felt annoyed. "These acts are frowned upon in most families. Once a man gets a woman outside, the relationships of the family start to fail too. He can't stay faithful when you two are still so young. It's no wonder that you can't accept him no matter what."

Lin Ruoxi felt sour at heart when she glanced at Guo Xuehua's worried look. In the past, she hadn't seen Yang Chen as her husband before, so she wasn't bothered when she found out he had other women. She even hoped that he could cling on other women and stay away from her. However, times have changed and so has she. She has tried to help him stay faithful but is hopelessly failing at it.

Back then, she was the one who allowed him to do so. Today, how was she supposed to have him cut off his relations with the others? Ignoring whether Yang Chen would obey her or not, the women wouldn't let go of their hands on Yang Chen.

Although Mo Qianni was her best friend, they almost never talked about men. This only proved that Mo Qianni wouldn't give up so easily, let alone other women Yang Chen had.

Guo Xuehua contemplated for a long time. Worried, she asked, "Ruoxi, what do you plan to do? You aren't thinking about a divorce, are you?"

Divorce? Lin Ruoxi smiled faintly. She found it hard to even think about it. She shook her head and said, "I don't know. Fortunately, I am not so free to ponder about these things. I'll forget them once I start working."

Guo Xuehua sighed, "Being Yang Chen's mother, I initially felt the need to interfere in stuff like this. But... you know that I spent much effort to have Yang Chen recognize me. If I cross the line, it is a possibility that I would be shut out again. I... Ruoxi, I hope that you can understand my position. I previously thought you were mistreating Yang Chen and made him suffer. It looks like I had been wrong. Utterly wrong. I'm a woman as well, I know how you feel. Although Yang Pojun's heart is blurred by authority and power, he has been faithful to me since day one. I can't imagine how much suffering I'll bear if my husband has another woman outside.

"Ruoxi, I won't pester you about you and him sharing a room anymore, or how cold you're treating him. It's most definitely all his fault. Although I'm his mother, I still can't accept my son for having relations with another woman."

Lin Ruoxi was slightly surprised. She didn't think her mother-in-law would move the spearhead away from her after the incident took place. From Lin Ruoxi's perspective, it was a very meaningful matter. It was not unlike a break from the battlefield.

Guo Xuehua suddenly said, "Ruoxi, tell me honestly, who is Yang Chen together with? I won't do anything reckless. I just want to understand why the kid would mess with another woman when he has such a beautiful wife at home."

Lin Ruoxi bit her lips and said, "Actually... there's more than one."

"What?!" Guo Xuehua was dumbstruck as she opened her mouth widely. Manners didn't matter to her in the slightest anymore. She looked like she heard a terrifying news.

Lin Ruoxi pouted and confessed the truth. "There are at least three of them whom I've met before. Two of them work in my company, and I don't know who the third one is. I think there are more than the three... but I haven't seen him with them before."

Lin Ruoxi was referring to Mo Qianni, Liu Mingyu, and Rose whom she bumped into at the shopping mall. These three were confirmed by her. Regarding others like Li Jingjing, Tang Wan, Cai Yan, Cai Ning, Zhao Yan, and other women, she noticed a strange intimacy between him and them, but that wasn't enough to confirm anything.

Guo Xuehua quickly turned speechless. She didn't know if it was better for her to cry or laugh. "This kid... I would've had the urge to take a rolling pin and whack him out of the house if he wasn't my own son. Sigh... I owe him too much as his mother. Ruoxi, it's really unfortunate of you..."

Lin Ruoxi had her head lowered while the corners of her lips revealed a small smile. When this was all over, she felt that Guo Xuehua was on her side of things, which meant Yang Chen couldn't team up with

his mother to bully her anymore. She couldn't help but feel pleased when she thought about it, and temporarily tossed Yang Chen's issue aside.

The next day brought around the new year. Being the only man in the house, Yang Chen didn't have much to do. He sat in the living hall as he watched the news while the ladies busied themselves in the kitchen as they chatted happily.

Yang Chen found days like this satisfying. He wasn't displeased by the fact that he was staying in a female dorm anymore.

Rose called him early in the morning on the phone. She talked about moving to her old house together with Mo Qianni, and blamed Yang Chen for not helping out in the process.

Yang Chen knew that she was just complaining about the lack of time spent with her during the new year. Rose had numerous men under her control. If every man were to only move a single screw each, they were still able to move the entire house.

At the same time, inside the Cai residence in Zhonghai, Yang Lie who had been recovering on the sickbed didn't feel very happy about the new year.

Upon waking up in the morning, the first one he saw was his master Yu Jizi. Yang Lie felt that his body was nearly fully recovered. He was originally elated, but soon felt infuriated when he heard it was Yang Chen who saved his life.

He was then informed of the recent occurrence, which made him almost burn in blazes of fury.

The guy Yang Chen is my long-lost older brother?! Who are you kidding?!

Also, he even brought my mother away from Father?!

Yang Lie initially thought the first one he would see when he woke up was Guo Xuehua who was most concerned about him. Unexpectedly, even Guo Xuehua's shadow was nowhere to be seen. To Yang Lie, it certainly was a bolt from the blue.

When Yang Pojun received news of Yang Lie's awakening, although he was pleased, he couldn't find time to visit Yang Lie as he was too busy with the election. All he did was make a phone call. Yang Gongming had returned to Beijing some time back. It wasn't practical for him to fly back just to see Yang Lie.

All of these combined made Yang Lie deeply irritated in the Cai residence.

He used to be a proud member of the Yang clan. He came down from the mountains to take up an important mission. However, he completely lost the chance to prove himself after getting beaten by Yang Chen. Moreover, Yang Chen somehow ended up being the eldest son of the Yang clan, not to mention he had snatched his dear mother away from Yang Lie!

The thing that irritated him the most was that his life and his abilities are still his today because it was saved by the very man who put him in that spot, Yang Chen!

The heater in the room was very strong, which made the room warm and comfortable. However, Yang Lie felt a bone-penetrating cold in his legs which were under the blanket.

Being an old and wise man, Yu Jizi didn't fail to notice the issues his apprentice was having, but he didn't have a way to help him. He was aware of the enormous impact received by the proud and arrogant Yang Lie. It was impossible for him to calm down within such short period of time. As a result, all he could do was cross the bridge when he came to it. He had decided to bring Yang Lie back to Kunlun Sect after his injury was almost fully recovered. Having met his sect uncle Ling Xuzi this time, he was made sure that levels beyond his wildest imaginations existed, so he couldn't wait to enclose himself and cultivate to climb higher.

Under such a condition where some people's hearts were warm while the others cold, Yang Chen's first night of the new year after returning to the country was finally here.

Chapter 403: This Year

As the sky turned dark, the dining table in the villa was filled with a variety of plates and bowls. Since Guo Xuehua came from the north of the country while Wang Ma cooked southern dishes, there was a healthy mix of dishes that were prepared.

Because most of them weren't big fans of alcohol, they immediately started digging in upon sitting down.

"Brother Yang, let's set off the fireworks we bought," Hui Lin suddenly said during the meal while she looked at Yang Chen with high hopes.

Yang Chen who was currently chewing on a chicken drumstick, lifted and waved his hand as he mumbled, "What time is it now? Why not we finish diner first. Aren't there new year's galas later? We'll set off the fireworks after that."

"But aren't we supposed to watch the TV after the new year's gala?" Even Zhenxiu started talking during the meal after breaking out of the awkward barrier of non-familiarity.

Yang Chen giggled. "Fine, we shall wait till the boring program is finished before we go out to set off the fireworks."

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma looked at each other, then glanced at Yang Chen who appeared to be the king of the children before laughing.

Lin Ruoxi on the other hand was silently eating as usual. She didn't appear too excited even during a cheerful new-year night. However, she would pinch some meat and vegetables for Zhenxiu once in a while.

Zhenxiu was rather embarrassed. It was understandable for Lin Ruoxi to serve her husband or mother-in-law, but pinching vegetables for an outsider was not something that happened normally. However, Zhenxiu really appreciated the love she was shown in the house.

Before they even finished their meal, the new year's gala started playing on television. After the opening dance performance, the hosts of the event introduced themselves one after another.

Hui Lin hadn't had a chance to watch such a TV program in the past. Thus, she paid lots of attention on the television. She suddenly noticed a familiar logo on the stage. It was the logo of Yu Lei International!

“Elder Sister, why is your company logo there? Is this event sponsored by Yu Lei?” Hui Lin asked excitedly.

Lin Ruoxi nodded slightly. “We have been sponsors of the event before, some two years ago. But we’re spending a lot more this year. The new material will launch in the market soon, so we must raise our reputation significantly throughout the country.”

When Lin Ruoxi talked about work, pride and resolution could be seen on her cold face, causing the people who were listening feel interested.

“My daughter-in-law is such an independent woman. How impressive,” Guo Xuehua praised with a smile.

“Yeah, yeah, I look up to Elder Sister so much for being able to manage such a large company. I get headaches just by thinking of it,” Hui Lin said honestly.

Lin Ruoxi wasn’t humble when it came to her work. Why should she be? She had been working so hard all these years just to prove her value in addition to keeping the pride of her late grandmother.

“I want to take over around ten more factories this year and more than two thousand acres of industrial lands. When that happens, Yu Lei would be truly left with no competitors in the country,” Lin Ruoxi said confidently.

“Miss, don’t say frightening things like this during Chinese New Year. It’s really horrifying to imagine the scale,” Wang Ma said with a smile as she patted her chest.

“I find one acre of land very huge already,” Zhenxiu said before pouting.

Lin Ruoxi suddenly noticed she was at home as opposed to facing the senior managers in her company. She couldn’t help but blush. She just couldn’t refrain herself from talking about work like this.”

Yang Chen was secretly smiling beside her. It was certainly hard for a housewife like Wang Ma to imagine the scale. What Lin Ruoxi usually did in her company, was alien to Wang Ma’s comprehension. Perhaps this was the reason why Lin Ruoxi behaved so differently from the ladies of her age.

Quietly, Yang Chen leaned forward to Lin Ruoxi and whispered, “I hope no one will come here to seek revenge in the future after you destroy more families.”

Lin Ruoxi knew that Yang Chen was referring to what had taken place at Yuping Garment earlier. Frowning, she said, “I do what I must. I need more labor in order to expand. I can’t stay put doing nothing just to avoid some sad people.”

“You’re right as well. I’m just saying you should bring your husband out in the future when you inspect factories or something,” Yang Chen said with a smile.

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes, but felt comforted by his simple words. She felt glad as she could finally feel like there was someone she could rely on.

After a while, Wang Ma carried a few plates of boiling-hot dumplings from the kitchen. Although some of them looked damaged, they appeared to be rather fresh in general.

“Let’s eat some dumplings. Young Master, please don’t buy so many dumplings anymore in the future. We have more than we can eat,” Wang Ma complained.

Lin Ruoxi pouted. “Wang Ma, we told you we didn’t buy them. A restaurant gave them out for free after Yang Chen took part in their competition.”

“What competition is it? Why did they give out dumplings?” Guo Xuehua asked out of curiosity.

Yang Chen smiled embarrassingly before explaining what had happened outside the dumpling restaurant. When the ladies heard that he had swallowed 88 dumplings, their jaws almost dropped to the ground.

“Stop eating like this. What if your stomach gets sick after that?” Guo Xuehua advised.

Yang Chen didn’t bother explaining he merely wanted to win the doll for Lin Ruoxi. “I won’t do it next time.”

Lin Ruoxi naturally wouldn’t tell them Yang Chen had noticed that she had taken a liking towards the dumpling doll as she felt shy. She couldn’t help but feel warm inside when Yang Chen decided to keep quiet because he didn’t want Guo Xuehua to blame her for it.

After dinner, Yang Chen obeyed Hui Lin by setting off all the fireworks he bought. When he was done, New Year’s Eve could finally be wrapped. The women were as tired as they were content, they had worked really hard cooking after all.

One by one, they left for their rooms. Yang Chen also switched off the television before returning to his room on the second floor.

Upon entering his room, he took his phone out and sent a message to Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi walked out from the bathroom wearing a thin white bathrobe as she had just showered. She was surprised to receive a text this late at night.

She was even more shocked when she found out it was from Yang Chen, as he had never sent her a text before, let alone during this hour at home.

‘Come to the rooftop.’

Yang Chen only sent four words.

Lin Ruoxi wrinkled her brows slightly. This message was sent a minute ago, which meant Yang Chen had expected her now.

There was an empty rooftop, west of the villa. There were only a few flower pots there, so she didn’t usually visit the place.

Should I go or not? Lin Ruoxi bit her lips. She didn’t take long to decide, and walked to the changing space in her room. She wore simple thermal underwear before putting on a light orange marten coat. This was to protect her from the chill that came with the night.

Although she didn’t know what he was up to, she was quite sure that he wouldn’t force her into doing anything.

Lin Ruoxi contemplated in worry, but still walked out of the room. She didn't make too much noise while walking upstairs, so nobody was awakened.

When she reached the rooftop, she felt a sharp pain on her face after it was blown by the cold wind of the night. Lin Ruoxi tightened her coat, while her black hair was blown messy. Her goddess-like, charming face appeared particularly touching, like a flower which was blooming in the night.

Lin Ruoxi blurrily widened her eyes, only to see a familiar figure standing near the railing far away, waiting for her arrival.

"What do you need?" Lin Ruoxi asked softly after approaching him. She was rather nervous, as it was her first time standing on the rooftop with Yang Chen alone at night.

Yang Chen didn't turn around. He replied, "Look, look at Zhonghai City over in the distance. The lights tonight appear much brighter than before."

Lin Ruoxi walked near the railing as she rubbed her hands together to fight the cold. "Really? I can't tell the difference."

"That's because you exhaust yourself working like a dog day in day out. You don't see the things boring people would, to experience the world from their eyes," Yang Chen said with a smile.

"Why do you still look if it's boring?" Lin Ruoxi frowned.

"The view, yes it may seem boring, but when you have something to watch it with, it doesn't really matter what you're looking at," Yang Chen said as he turned his head back before smiling mysteriously at Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi got nervous upon being stared at. "I don't know what you're talking about."

"Wife, would you let me hug you?" Yang Chen suddenly asked.

Lin Ruoxi's cheeks blushed. She stared at him angrily and said, "Lame. If this is all you want, I'm going back to sleep."

"If you don't let me hug you, I'll jump down from this third floor," Yang Chen said.

Lin Ruoxi pouted. "Do it. You always love to show your capabilities."

"I'm really going to jump." Yang Chen looked serious.

Lin Ruoxi ignored him and turned around before leaving.

Suddenly, she heard a few thuds from behind. The sound of the wind soon echoed, as if someone had disappeared!

Has he really jumped?!

Lin Ruoxi's heart violently contracted. She quickly turned around. Expectedly, Yang Chen's figure was nowhere to be found!

"Yang Chen!" Lin Ruoxi shouted subconsciously. She ran to the railing again and looked downward. Suddenly, a silhouette shot up from beneath!

When Yang Chen jumped down earlier, he held onto the edge of the railing with one of his arms. He lifted himself back onto the platform. This was an act people considered impossible, but to Yang Chen, jumping from the third floor and back up was child's play.

Lin Ruoxi panicked after getting frightened. She felt her vision blur, but Yang Chen soon appeared in front of her again, unharmed with a smile.

"You..."

Lin Ruoxi almost cried from the shock. She wanted to scold him furiously, but before she could open her mouth, she failed to say a single word.

That was because Yang Chen had widened his arms and hugged her boneless-like, soft body.

Lin Ruoxi's big, watery eyes opened widely. She felt a pressure in her heart, while a familiar scent could be detected through her nose. Soon, her mind went completely blank.

She was still hugged at last, after getting tricked to come back.

Dong! Dong! Sounds of large bells echoed from the direction of Zhonghai City.

Is it the sound of the bell from the city?

Is it 12 midnight already?

Lin Ruoxi then heard Yang Chen's voice and felt the heat of his breath next to her ear, which caused her to feel shy. "Wife, Babe Ruoxi, did you hear that? That marks the end of the night while signifying a new day, a new year. We've known each other, argued, gotten married, fought, been through thick and thin, regardless of the painful, joyous, or sweet moments. No matter what, this year has come to an end..."

Lin Ruoxi quickly understood why Yang Chen asked her to come upstairs. She involuntarily reached her arms toward Yang Chen's back and hugged him at his waist. Although it was a light movement, it was a hug, true in every way, shape and form.

"I want to go through the rest of the year with you. Just like now, the next year and every year after..."

Yang Chen's voice became blurry near the end, because fireworks were set off in the distance from numerous other houses.

The colorful and brilliant fireworks filled the sky, deafening sounds of explosion rang throughout the clouds.

The light coming from the gorgeous fire was a peaceful and gentle moment of the two.

Chapter 404: Hubby or Boss

The first day of the new year was usually reserved for people who wanted to visit their relatives. Since most of Lin Ruoxi's relatives had moved abroad, and she had no clue who some of them were, she had skipped out on this every year.

For Yang Chen, it was even simpler. He had no relatives at all.

Guo Xuehua had originally wanted to bring Yang Chen to Beijing to visit Yang Gongming. However, Yang Gongming had given her his express rejection at this idea. The reason was really simple: allowing Guo Xuehua live with Yang Chen was already challenging Yang Pojun's limits. If the two returned to the Yang clan together, on such a significant day, there may be a huge commotion about it, should other people take notice of course.

Although Yang Gongming had recognized Yang Chen as his grandson, he wanted to avoid hurting his son Yang Pojun too much. Yang Pojun was almost guaranteed to be elected. Being his father, it wasn't considered nice if he stood by the side and did not help his own son.

Furthermore, whether or not Yang Chen was willing to follow Guo Xuehua wasn't made clear. It wouldn't be good if their relationship turned bad again.

Yang Chen on the other hand was completely indifferent. He didn't give much thought to stuff like this. He merely asked Hui Lin and Zhenxiu whether they had relatives to visit or not, and the two ended up shaking their heads.

Hui Lin had come over by obeying Abbess Yun Miao. She was completely clueless on things other than Yun Miao's guidance.

Zhenxiu had always been alone. Her relatives from her mother's side were all living in Korea, all of whom she had lost touch with after her mother ran away from home with her father. On the other hand, the relatives on her father's side had all passed away, while it wouldn't make a difference whether or not she visited her distant relatives.

Thus, since no one had anyone to visit. So they continued doing what they usually did—work and study.

On the first day of the new year, Hui Lin went to work together with Lin Ruoxi as usual, while Yang Chen took his time to come to Yu Lei Entertainment afterwards.

Although it was still the period of Chinese New Year, the core members of the respective companies still had to come to work, albeit less work. They could come to work late and get off work early, without their schedule being monitored.

Yang Chen came to his office and sat on his chair. His office desk had been placed with stacks of thick documents. They were mostly about the new talent show 'Star of Yu Lei' which would be launched effective immediately. It was the first major project Yu Lei Entertainment had ever taken on. Being the organizer and investor, whether the senior managers of the company could gain acknowledgement by their headquarters would depend on how well this project was carried out.

Yang Chen wasn't worried at all. He had shamelessly asked Christen Steward over. Her appearance was guaranteed to make Yu Lei Entertainment famous .

Having looked through the details of a few documents, Yang Chen didn't feel the need to amend anything. Experience wise, Zhao Teng and Wang Jie were much more experienced than him. There was no need for him to step in and embarrass himself. They handed the documents over only as a respect to their superior. They didn't insist on getting new ideas or participation from Yang Chen.

Yang Chen switched on the computer and contacted Yuan Ye who had visitors at home. The fellow too escaped to his room and went online. As a result, the two teamed up to play a few rounds of Warcraft.

When it was almost eleven o'clock, his office door got knocked on.

Yang Chen looked at the clock before informing Yuan Ye that he was going offline. He called for the person to enter.

The person who entered was Zhao Teng who was in charge of administration. He had a weird facial expression going on. He looked like he witnessed something out of the ordinary. He walked forward and said, "Director Yang, the secretary whom you want to interview is waiting outside now. Do I let her in now?"

"Secretary? My interview?" Yang Chen was stunned. "What do you mean? When did I say I wanted to interview a secretary?"

Zhao Teng widened his mouth in shock. "So you've never said such a thing before? But...but the personnel office told me that this person was specifically hand-picked by you from the short list of candidates."

"When did I say I wanted a secretary? I don't even know where the personnel office is. What nonsense are you talking about?" Yang Chen frowned as he found the matter odd.

"It doesn't matter now, Director I'd advise you to meet the interviewee. The lady... isn't an ordinary person..." Zhao Teng said awkwardly.

Yang Chen pondered for a short while. He wasn't afraid of monsters or demons, but it was evident that the lady came for him. "Let her come in."

Zhao Teng relieved himself, as if a huge burden had been removed from his shoulders. He then invited the interviewee into the office.

"Hiss..." Yang Chen inhaled deeply. It was none other than An Xin whom he hadn't met ever since coming back from the country!

An Xin closed the door in a natural manner before winking at Yang Chen in a naughty manner. "Director Yang, I'm the new applicant for the secretary position, An Xin."

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "My dear madam, what are you up to this time?"

An Xin stuck her tongue out before glancing at the surroundings of the office. She slowly walked towards Yang Chen's side. "This time, I'm for real. I came to look for a job."

Yang Chen moved his index finger at her as he signalled her to come closer to him.

Confused, An Xin leaned downward and placed her white and clean cheek closer to Yang Chen. Her pouty lips had a light-colored lipstick applied, causing her to appear exceptionally charming.

Yang Chen used two fingers to pinch on An Xin's nose lightly.

"Ouch!"

An Xin stepped away as soon as she felt the pain. Rubbing her nose in dissatisfaction, she said, "Why did you pinch me? Even a mistress has her pride. You're not allowed to bully me!"

“What are you talking about? Are you looking to trouble me with more burden than I already have?” Yang Chen asked gloomily. “Your dad has total control over the assets of the Liu clan now. In Zhonghai, the An clan is already the strongest second only to the Yuan clan. Being the pearl of the An clan, Miss An Xin, why aren’t you enjoying yourself in a spa, training yoga, tasting Lafite or something? Why have you come to be my secretary instead? Are you trying to announce to the entire Zhonghai that you, as a vixen, have successfully seduced me in bed?”

“How distasteful... Why do you have to say ‘vixen’ and ‘bed’ all the time?” An Xin pouted her mouth in dissatisfaction. Her cheeks were pinkish, but she looked like she discovered something else. “What is it? Is your wild, untamable desire for women gone? Or are you afraid of your legal wife?”

Yang Chen coughed a few times. “Stop talking about irrelevant things. Honestly, what did you come here for?”

An Xin pouted. “I said I came to look for a job. I can’t eat and sleep day after day like a pig right? I’ve always had a job. Now that you’ve managed to make me yours, and I’ve given you everything I have, I very well can’t leave your side for very long, can I? So, since I can’t be a stewardess, I’ll have to look for a new job. I’m not interested in taking charge of the An clan, and I get pissed every time I see my father. I’m also unwilling to work with the hypocritical people, so you were my last resort.”

“But there are always other companies. Why here?” Yang Chen asked.

An Xin let out a strange smile. “Dear, don’t you know how many men out there are trying to get close to me, a wealthy woman?”

Yang Chen widened his mouth in shock. He finally figured it out. Smiling bitterly, he said, “So you somehow managed to get my company’s personnel office to work with you, and arrange for you to come over as an appointed secretary?”

“Yeah, I actually had to go through the formal proceedings. I want to see you more often. If you don’t want me as your secretary because you’re afraid of pissing off the queen, you can arrange any job for me. I can sweep the floor, clean the toilet or wipe the windows... I can do anything.”

Yang Chen looked at An Xin’s resentful look. Although he was aware that she intentionally put up the act, he still found it hard to reject her. He couldn’t really treat her like a canary and feed her in a birdcage.

An Xin obviously enjoyed having freedom, as she left home to become a stewardess back then. Making her stay in Zhonghai obediently was already a huge sacrifice to her. The more Yang Chen thought about it, the more he had no reason to reject An Xin’s offer to work by his side. After all, he was the one who first grabbed her in his arms.

“Can you really be a secretary? Do you have any experience?” Yang Chen asked doubtfully after thinking for a while.

An Xin nodded seriously. Elated, she answered, “Don’t underestimate me. Although I don’t have a Master of the Business Administration degree, I’ve done similar work before. I have been tasked to take care of various duties in the clan before. It’s just that I was never officially employed.”

“But the secretary is supposed to provide assistance, not be the CEO,” Yang Chen said.

An Xin let out a cunning smile as her eyes shone. "My dear boss, haven't you heard of a saying?"

"What is it?"

"The secretary does the work, while the boss..."

"The boss does the secretary..." Yang Chen helped An Xin complete the sentence before swallowing his saliva audibly. He then examined An Xin's officewear. When he looked at her carefully, she indeed had the perfect combination of charm and intellect. "Secretary An, you have successfully convinced me. I think we will get along just swell."

"So director, have I passed the interview?" An Xin chuckled.

"Yeah, but there's a final test," Yang Chen replied seriously.

An Xin blinked her eyes innocently. "What is it?"

"Perfect results come from tests. Secretary An, we'll need to simulate a future working experience," Yang Chen said before walking forward and pulling An Xin's soft body into his arms.

An Xin moaned softly. Her fragrant body fell on Yang Chen's thighs just like that. Her tall bosom was immediately covered by a huge moving hand, instantly causing her to blush so much that blood threatened to leak from her cheeks.

Yang Chen held An Xin's shoulder with one of his arms, while playing the balls of abundance with another. Satisfied, he said, "I won't hold myself back from eating the meat that has been delivered to my mouth. After we're done with work, we'll have lunch if you're hungry."

An Xin suddenly hugged Yang Chen's neck before raising her head to forcefully give Yang Chen's cheek a kiss. "Then should I call you Hubby or Boss?"

"Erm... call me Boss. It suits the theme more that way. I'll call you Secretary An," Yang Chen said with an evil smile.

An Xin rolled her eyes. Biting her lower lip, she nodded her head slowly in a shy manner.

When Yang Chen flipped An Xin's body over and pressed her against his desk in preparation to 'work', the door of his office was knocked on yet again. Knock! Knock! Knock!

Chapter 405: Unreasonable

This sudden knock instantly stopped Yang Chen in his tracks. Dispirited, he smacked An Xin's bouncy buttocks and asked her to tidy up her messy clothes and hair.

An Xin understood the urgency of the situation. She was careless to not lock the door when she came in earlier. If the person came in without knocking, they would be in trouble.

After tidying her clothing, An Xin stood behind Yang Chen. The upbringing of the young lady of a major clan made her lose the charm she held earlier. This time she composed herself in a strict upright manner, fitting of a well brought up woman. Yang Chen then said, "Please come in."

The door got slowly pushed open. A figure whom Yang Chen didn't expect suddenly walked into the office.

It was a lady dressed in a light gray coat and an orange-red, high-neck sweater. It was the newest trending winter wear, which made her look extremely stylish.

Lin Ruoxi's hair was let loose. Holding a small, white, casual handbag, she walked into Yang Chen's office.

As soon as she entered, the pair of ice-cold eyes swept across Yang Chen and An Xin back and forth. Soon, the coldness in her eyes intensified.

Yang Chen's heart stopped beating for a split second. What kind of dumb coincidence is this? Why would she suddenly come into my office?! She had never been here before!

An Xin immediately recognized Lin Ruoxi's identity. Although Lin Ruoxi seldom showed herself on public occasions, being the young lady of the An clan, she had vaguely seen Lin Ruoxi a few times before, but hadn't had a chance to greet her properly.

Lin Ruoxi was standing right in front of her. Lin Ruoxi merely glanced at her for a while, but she carefully observed her appearance from top to bottom.

Other than the fact that Lin Ruoxi was more beautiful than her, An Xin could feel that coldness and arrogance was all she had going for her.

Lin Ruoxi only darted An Xin a glance, which meant she didn't pay much attention to her, displaying her arrogance. It wasn't because she felt contempt for others, this was just her inborn personality. Perhaps in her world, any women she didn't know, beautiful or ugly, wasn't any part of her interest.

Whereas most ladies would feel satisfied to see a woman with an inferior appearance, and feel envious to meet a more beautiful one.

However, when Lin Ruoxi looked at An Xin, it was obvious she wasn't comparing anything.

Having travelled to many countries in the world, An Xin was quite good at reading people. She quickly formed two possible hypotheses regarding the wife of her lover: she was either so naive that she thought differently from most people in the society, or her mentality was simply incomprehensible by normal people.

An Xin found it hard to believe a young lady like Lin Ruoxi to have such mentality. However, that did not mean Lin Ruoxi was a naive lady, judging by her identity as the CEO of Yu Lei International, a formidable multinational company. It would be absurd if the mastermind of a business empire was a girl with a naive mind.

Of course, just because she was emotionally naive did not make her a fool. The success of her company attested to her intelligence. Naiveness was merely used to describe her emotions.

An Xin personally felt that she was great in handling feelings and emotions. For example, during the nights in Hokkaido, she put in a lot of effort to please Yang Chen for as long as possible and ended up exhausted almost every day. Her intentions was to make Yang Chen unwilling to leave her, and to make up for the time she wasn't able to spend with him.

However, An Xin was sure that this woman in front of her, despite her quick wit and sharp mind, could not flirt to save her life. It wasn't because she didn't want to flirt, but she simply didn't know how.

Women usually had sharp instincts toward other women. An Xin's prediction was really accurate. It was true that Lin Ruoxi indeed was bad in managing relationships between men and women.

If Lin Ruoxi would tease Yang Chen once in a while and let him enjoy a little sweetness, Yang Chen might not need other women. Also, he wouldn't have visited the bar earlier due to his moodiness on that night, which meant he wouldn't have bumped into An Xin.

Unfortunately, it was always hard to predict what would happen next. Lin Ruoxi's shortcomings coincidentally formed the relationship between Yang Chen and An Xin. This same gap was also present which caused Yang Chen to be with Mo Qianni, Liu Mingyu and other women.

"Erm... Wi—erm, no, Boss Lin, why are you here?" Yang Chen asked as he tried his best to force a calm smile.

The moment Lin Ruoxi saw Yang Chen and An Xin together, her sharp instinct allowed her to suspect something. She found An Xin rather familiar, but failed to recall which family or clan she was from. However, she didn't really care about it. The thing that truly pissed her off was—Is that a lip print on his face?!

It was as clear as day what had transpired in the office before.

"Is your right cheek bitten by a mosquito?" Lin Ruoxi asked coldly.

"How are there mosquitoes in the winter? Ruoxi, you're really good at making jokes... Hehe..."

As soon as Yang Chen finished speaking, he quickly realized what Lin Ruoxi was referring to. He hurriedly rubbed his right cheek before looking at his hand. As expected, it was rather red...

Gloomily, Yang Chen glanced at An Xin who acted ignorant as he thought, What kind of shit quality is this lipstick... Why did the color come off? He then smiled awkwardly and said, "I can explain this..."

"You don't need to. It's not the first time after all. But I'm interested in knowing this lady's identity." Lin Ruoxi turned the spearhead to An Xin.

Being pressured by the 'first wife', An Xin's 'mistress universe' exploded. Clearing her voice, she said, "Nice to meet you Boss Lin. I'm An Xin, a newly appointed secretary of Director."

Complex thoughts flowed through Lin Ruoxi's eyes. Soon, she seemed to have thought of something. Frowning, she asked, "You're the young lady of the An clan?"

"I don't know which An clan Boss Lin is referring to. But An Zaihuan is indeed my father, however much I hate to admit it."

Lin Ruoxi appeared to have thought of something absolutely ridiculous. With her face filled with disappointment, she said to Yang Chen, "So... the mysterious person whom the entire Zhonghai had been discussing about last year, the one who snatched the bride of the Liu clan away and helped the An clan take over their assets... is you?!"

Yang Chen was astonished. Lin Ruoxi knew about the incident that took place in Hokkaido! Yang Chen noticed he was being overly careless. Of course the people from the upper classes would be privy as to the knowledge of such a major event

Although Lin Ruoxi didn't usually involve herself in public occasions like banquets, her subordinates would make frequent reports to her.

The Liu clan which used to be the second largest clan in Zhonghai got swallowed up together with the elopement of the An clan's young lady with a mysterious man was all over the news. For once, the rumors proved to be true.

Lin Ruoxi originally found the incident bizarre, but didn't pay much attention to it. Today, she managed to find out that the highly competent mysterious man was her seemingly useless husband.

An Xin pouted her mouth. She had nothing left to say. She was aware of just how infuriated Lin Ruoxi would become for this matter.

There is not a single wife in this world that would like to hear that their husband had snatched another woman away from a wedding.

Yang Chen's body stiffened. Only a bitter smile was left on his face. He had no clue what he was supposed to say to make the situation better.

"I'm impressed. I finally realized how much potential you actually have as director. You're so competent that you can destroy the Liu clan just because you want to, while the An clan quickly became the second largest clan in Zhonghai under your lead..." Lin Ruoxi's eyes had turned watery. Coldly, she said, "Yang Chen, I think I'll let you be the CEO of Yu Lei International as well. How about turning Yu Lei into the largest company in the world? After you took Miss An over, the An clan received such wondrous results. At the very least, we're legally married, aren't we?"

Yang Chen felt incredibly guilty and regretful when Lin Ruoxi spoke to him this calmly, as if she was making a joke. "Ruoxi, please don't do this. I'm sorry that I have to do this to you..."

"What is there for you to be sorry about? Why would I dare to make you feel sorry to me? You're such an influential person that you can obliterate the Liu clan by messing around, and take any women you want, even one from Hokkaido," Lin Ruoxi said with her eyes reddened.

"Look at you. You're not giving me a chance to explain. Stop being unreasonable!" Yang Chen yelled.

"I'm being unreasonable?! Did you just say I was unreasonable?!"

Lin Ruoxi's eyes were wide open while her face paled. She staggered backward, as if she found it hard to believe what she just heard.

Yang Chen realized the mistake in his words. But like all other things, what has been said cannot be unsaid.

"Yeah, I'm being unreasonable. I wanted to come and invite you out for lunch, and check on the progress of your project. Who would have thought that I was going to interrupt your celebrations with your new secretary. It's my fault... I'll leave right now and stop disturbing you two. I'll stop being unreasonable..."

Nothing but coldness and resolution filled Lin Ruoxi's eyes. She turned around and walked out of the office.

Yang Chen wanted to stop her, but didn't know what he should say. He subconsciously slapped his forehead before sighing

An Xin looked troubled as well. It wasn't her intention to cause such a scene, but she was indeed the root of the problem. Because of her, there was no turning back for the situation.

"Sorry... I... I didn't mean to worsen your relationship..." An Xin murmured softly before clenching her teeth. Her eyes had reddened as well.

Yang Chen smiled as he patted An Xin's head. "Stupid, how is this your fault? These are the consequences I have to face for messing around so much. There's nothing I can say."

"Do you want to chase her? I'm a woman as well. I know that Boss Lin must be depressed right now. I... I feel that you should go console her," An Xin said reluctantly.

Yang Chen sighed, "What do I do after I catch her? I can't tell her I'm willing to cut off any relations with you and stop contacting you right... No matter how I spin this tale, the result will still be the same. I can only blame one person and that is me. I can never change my bad habit."

An Xin silently lowered her head. She too had noticed nothing could be changed. It was impossible for her to let go of Yang Chen.

Lin Ruoxi, you shall hate me. It was me who stepped foot between you two. But I won't give up just because you're suffering... An Xin thought resolutely as she clenched her teeth.

Chapter 406: Absolutely No Interest

The director hiring a new secretary quickly become old news as it wasn't uncommon for a director of a company to do so. Fortunately, Yu Lei Entertainment was a rather huge company, so not many employees were too concerned about the new secretary that had just been hired. However, when they saw just how stunning this secretary was, they quickly understood why she was chosen by their director.

In such a major city filled with people brimming with carnal desires, it wasn't rare for cases like this to happen. Thus, it wasn't gossip worthy news.

However, An Xin was in fact a huge help to Yang Chen. Having been involved with numerous business activities of the An clan, she was indeed capable in handling various tasks. In fact, before she became a stewardess, she had been trained by An Zaihuan as a candidate to one day takeover the An clan. She was his only daughter after all.

The businesses operated by the An clan weren't considered the largest in Zhonghai, but they still held some pull in their respective markets. Otherwise the Liu clan wouldn't have picked them as a partner to go against the Yuan clan.

From An Xin's perspective, the newly founded Yu Lei Entertainment was just like high-grade polymer clay which she could shape to her will. Since Yang Chen had delegated a few tasks to her, An Xin had been rather happy about it. She wanted to use her ideas to shape the future of the company.

An Xin's eyes shone when she found out that the first project undertaken by Yu Lei Entertainment was a talent show. She was a young lady after all, she had a passion for things like dance, music, fashion, etc. Now that she was part of the project, she couldn't contain her excitement anymore.

Zhao Teng and Wang Jie weren't ordinary employees. They managed to investigate An Xin's background within a few days. They were shocked when they found out An Xin was the young lady, inheritor of the An clan.

The An clan today, was unlike what they had been several years ago. Upon taking over the Liu clan, they had truly gotten a foothold in the top positions in Zhonghai. Except the Yuan clan, they were left with no other rivals that could challenge them. It was also rumored that the An clan had close relations with the Rothschild clan which was behind the world's finance, immediately causing the An clan to attract the most attention among major clans for a while.

Although An Xin was the young lady of the An clan, she had always disliked social events, so not a lot of people knew her. However, people who wanted to investigate her could still find out her background.

Why did the young lady of the An clan come to be our director's secretary?!

When this news was spread into Zhao Teng's and Wang Jie's ears, they quickly formed various horrifying conclusions. At last, they only ended up with one—Director Yang is too impressive.

Yang Chen had no clue that he had gained even more admiration from his two assistants. He was currently sitting on the sofa in his office made of real leather as he enjoyed some green tea made by An Xin. The forty-one-inch LED television was playing the recent news about some upcoming artists.

An Xin sat by Yang Chen's office table focusing on reading the various documents that he had tasked her to. They were all delivered over by Wang Jie and Zhao Teng, regarding the name list auditions that were soon to be held.

Yang Chen watched the news for quite a while before pressing the pause button on the remote control. The screen stopped at a female singer who looked rather masculine.

Yang Chen said to An Xin, "Little Vixen, what do you think of this brother? He's been famous for many years already. I believe he debuted in a talent show as well, am I right?"

An Xin glanced at the screen before pouting. "She's clearly a girl. How is she a brother?"

"Oops, my mistake. It's mainly because everyone calls her something-Brother, so I thought she was a guy." Yang Chen scratched his head.

An Xin contemplated for a short while. "We're in the midst of choosing judges for the show. Although she's really famous, inviting her would make the event seem too casual. It's not in line with our vision of professionalism. Perhaps another candidate."

Yang Chen nodded in agreement. Yu Lei Entertainment wasn't looking to train a comedian. They didn't have to sacrifice professionalism just to spice up the event. Thus, Yang Chen continued watching the news.

After around two hours, they picked five judges and planned to pass the list to Wang Jie so that she could personally meet the people who were nominated.

Yang Chen looked at the names. Frowning, he said, "These people all seem to have exceptional backgrounds. In other talent shows, these candidates were picked one or the other, and not altogether. It is very likely for us to exceed our budget if we invite them all."

An Xin smiled cheerfully. "Hubby, don't worry. I'm quite sure that they won't dare to ask for higher prices. They would even request to participate even if we don't pay."

"Why?" Yang Chen asked.

"Don't you remember whom our judge for the grand finals is?" An Xin winked.

Yang Chen thought for a while before smiling and saying, "You're right. With Christen as our main star, I bet they're all dying to benefit from her fame. After all, I don't think even the most famous artists in China have had the chance to collaborate with her."

Elation filled An Xin's eyes. "Hubby, how do you know Christen so well? She has obtained the title of most popular person worldwide, just like Michael Jackson did back then. I'm a big fan of hers. When I was in France, she coincidentally took part in a fashion week in Paris. I waited outside for an entire day, but she still managed to slip away. I was so pissed back then."

"When she comes later, I'll ask her to stand in front of you and let my Babe An Xin hug and kiss her however much you want," Yang Chen said generously.

An Xin chuckled. "Hugging her will be fine. Hubby, wouldn't you be jealous if I kissed her?"

"Why would I get jealous? Seeing the woman get embarrassed is something worth celebrating." Yang Chen pouted.

An Xin winked. "Hubby, don't get angry. I feel something is rather odd about it though. Since you're so close with Christen that she agreed to come to China just because you asked her to, why would you leave such a beauty alone and not mess with her, but instead hold playful hatred towards her?"

Yang Chen pinched An Xin's cheek. "In what world would a woman speak to her man like this? Although Christen is good-looking, I have absolutely no interest in her. I can't explain the reason specifically. In short, don't talk about it."

An Xin stuck her tongue out and remained quiet.

Yang Chen looked at the delicate clock hung on the wall. It was lunchtime already. "Let's go and check on Hui Lin downstairs. We'll invite her for lunch together."

An Xin nodded gently and stood up to keep her stuff.

It had been a little more than a week since she joined this company. By the end of February, An Xin had been familiarized with the usual operations of the company.

An Xin was also determined to find out more about Yang Chen. Of course, it included the people around him.

Except the time where she left a bad impression for Lin Ruoxi, An Xin had had no issues interacting with other people around Yang Chen.

The most interesting people were Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu. They came over to Yang Chen's office like it was planned, and introduced themselves to An Xin before leaving.

Yang Chen didn't know what they were up to. However, as long as they didn't keep their distance after meeting An Xin like Lin Ruoxi, Yang Chen was more than happy to let them get close to each other.

The one who was the closest to An Xin would be Hui Lin. In the entire company, Hui Lin had the purest, most naive, child-like heart. Coincidentally, An Xin behaved like a child who hasn't grown up as well. She was rather rebellious and held ridiculous ideas. Having been to many places and seen many interesting things, An Xin had a lot to talk about when she was with Hui Lin. She would confuse the heck out of Hui Lin, and get a sense of achievement every time Hui Lin was engaged in the conversation.

During the afternoons on weekdays, Yang Chen would bring the two ladies out for lunch. It wasn't because he disliked the food in the company, but he would most likely bump into Lin Ruoxi if he dined in the employee canteen.

If he was with Hui Lin and her alone, it would be fine. However, if he brought An Xin along as well, it would mean that he was trying to challenge Lin Ruoxi's limits. Yang Chen was certainly not that brave and courageous.

Yang Chen and An Xin came to the recording studio together. Unlike what they would usually see before, Hui Lin wasn't working hard practicing singing techniques and music knowledge. She was just sitting alone on a chair quietly with her head lowered and hands clenched together, as if she was enduring something.

Yang Chen frowned as he approached her. "Hui Lin, what happened? Are you not feeling well?" Logically speaking, Hui Lin wouldn't have stomach aches or similar discomfort since she could cultivate internal energy.

Hui Lin suddenly raised her head. There were two lines of tears on her face while her eyes were red.

Yang Chen and An Xin were shocked. Hui Lin had been crying badly for sometime now.

"Brother Yang..." Hui Lin said. "My grandpa... Did he... pass away?"

Yang Chen remained quiet, while An Xin was a little shocked. She looked at Yang Chen in doubt.

"Whom did you hear it from?" Yang Chen asked.

As Hui Lin sobbed, she said, "Grandma brought Grandpa Gray Robe over earlier. Grandma told me... Grandpa was harmed by bad guys. She went back to Beijing to host a clan meeting, after asking me to stay here for now and listen to you obediently..."

Yang Chen frowned slightly. Apparently, Abbess Yun Miao chose a half lie than the full truth to keep what her Grandfather did a secret from her. Yang Chen could see the reasons for doing so. Thus, Yang Chen acted like he knew nothing and chose to go with what Yun Miao wanted.

"That's right. Your grandpa isn't here anymore. I was afraid that you'd get overly sad so I didn't want to tell you," Yang Chen said as he nodded.

Lin Zhiguo was actually brought away by Ling Xuzi from 'Hongmeng'. It was no different from saying he was dead.

When Hui Lin once again confirmed this matter, she couldn't hold back the tears that threatened to fall from her face once again.

Although she hadn't stayed by Lin Zhiguo's side for very long, to the naive Hui Lin, Lin Zhiguo was her grandfather, which meant he was her family. She found it hard to accept the truth.

Chapter 407: Tough Blessing

The south was especially cold during the beginning of the year, around February to March. Cold air billowed all around the land, with spring nowhere to be seen.

Initially, this wasn't an issue for the people in the villa. Everyone would go through New Year's as per usual. However, Hui Lin had been grieving over the supposed 'death' of Lin Zhiguo, causing her aura and the people around her to feel cold.

Being concerned seniors, Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma had asked her what had happened, to which Hui Lin wasn't willing to confess to, but shrugged the question off instead. They concluded that Hui Lin was troubled by things normal to people her age, so they decided to stop asking her.

Yang Chen was well aware of the situation and how she was feeling. He was discussing with An Xin if they should bring Hui Lin out for a trip to take her mind off things. Being Hui Lin's sister-like friend, An Xin was really supportive of this suggestion. Hui Lin had been downhearted in the recording studio for the past few days. Singing and learning to write songs for the whole day wasn't helping solve anything. They were still discussing where to bring Hui Lin to. Although spring was coming soon, it was still too cold to travel outside.

On the Friday night near the end of February, Yang Chen returned to his room and prepared to take a shower after he finished watching the news downstairs.

At this moment, the door of his room was knocked on.

Yang Chen expected it to be Guo Xuehua, as she would deliver snacks to him occasionally. He quietly accepted the love from his mother. While it was definitely a strange feeling, it wasn't unpleasant in the slightest.

However, upon opening the door, he saw Lin Ruoxi who looked slightly nervous, anxious, shy and reluctant.

It was the first time Lin Ruoxi was willing to interact with Yang Chen since the day they argued in Yang Chen's office because of An Xin. As a result, Yang Chen was shocked and delighted at the same time.

Lin Ruoxi wore a red crew-neck cardigan and a gray skirt on her lower body. She looked extra stunning when matched with her charming eyes, especially when she was biting her lower thin lip, as if colorful azaleas bloomed in spring, looking incredibly gorgeous.

"Babe Ruoxi, are you finally willing to see me?. Did you miss my hugs? Or are you looking for some warmth during the winter night?" Yang Chen giggled.

Lin Ruoxi clenched her teeth while she stared at Yang Chen angrily. She then walked into Yang Chen's room before turning around and taking out a knitted, gray scarf from her back.

The scarf had a simple design, and was made using high-grade soft cashmere which was adequate in keeping people warm.

"Is this for me?" Yang Chen was stunned as he gazed upon Lin Ruoxi. "Babe, did you knit this scarf for me?"

Embarrassed, Lin Ruoxi turned her head away before saying, "It's made by Aunt Guo. But she asked me to... wear it for you..."

Lin Ruoxi's voice became softer and softer as she spoke. She was having difficulty in explaining what she wanted to say.

Yang Chen understood the situation. His mother was constantly concerned about his relationship with Lin Ruoxi as husband and wife. Guo Xuehua wanted to smooth things over this way, and hopefully help them become closer than before.

However, Yang Chen didn't expect Guo Xuehua to secretly knit a scarf for him. Although he essentially didn't need warmth from any clothing, it was the significance behind the gift that was the gift itself. Yang Chen couldn't help but think if he should start calling her 'Mom'.

"I'll put the scarf here. I... I'll go now..." Lin Ruoxi placed the scarf onto Yang Chen's bed before turning around to leave. She couldn't imagine what it would be like if she really put on the scarf for Yang Chen. It would have made her extremely uncomfortable.

"Don't go," Yang Chen said before grabbing Lin Ruoxi's arm with a wicked smile, "Are you going to disobey your mother-in-law?"

"You... you're bullying me again." Lin Ruoxi was so nervous that her face had reddened.

"How is this bullying? What's wrong with a wife putting on a scarf for her husband? I'd be glad to put on your panties for you if you're willing to," Yang Chen laughed.

"I don't need your help to wear the... the something." Lin Ruoxi stomped her foot. As she failed to get away from Yang Chen, she took the scarf over angrily and said to Yang Chen, "Take your pig hand away. How am I supposed to do it with one hand?"

Yang Chen replied, "Pigs don't have hands. They have trotters."

Lin Ruoxi ignored him. As Yang Chen let go of her hand, she shut her eyes to avoid looking at Yang Chen's teasing gaze, so that she could spare herself from getting mad and awkward. She swayed the scarf out and wrapped it around Yang Chen's neck.

However, Yang Chen was quick in taking advantage of Lin Ruoxi's shut eyes. Hastily, he pulled Lin Ruoxi's fragrant body into his arms and hugged her.

"Ah," Lin Ruoxi moaned softly. When she opened her eyes, her scented lips were covered by Yang Chen's.

“Mmh...”

Lin Ruoxi widened her eyes in shock. Her watery eyes were filled with agitation, shyness, and anger. However, she lacked the energy to resist. Her entire body softened as if she was without bones, and allowed Yang Chen’s robber-like tongue enter her mouth. Her clumsy dodges then became Yang Chen’s toy.

Yang Chen indulged in the kiss. Every time he hugged this treasure, an enormous amount of pleasure surged through his body. His sense of achievement when he managed to conquer the goddess-like woman was indescribable. The feeling of hugging her was one not to be compared to the warmth of a woman but to the warmth of the world.

When Yang Chen’s arm tried to reach to Lin Ruoxi’s firm bosom, Lin Ruoxi finally couldn’t bear with it any longer. Her irresistible panic caused her to forcefully separate her lips from those of Yang Chen, and block the approaching arm.

Yang Chen too noticed he was too impatient. Why would he expect to succeed this time after slightly reconciling with Lin Ruoxi?

As he looked at Lin Ruoxi’s teary eyes, Yang Chen smiled awkwardly and said, “Alright, alright, I won’t kiss you. I’ll just hug you.”

“Let go of your trotters,” Lin Ruoxi said coldly.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. Her learning ability is too strong, he thought.

“If you’re really that thirsty, you should look for your secretary instead. Don’t expect to open a dyehouse after I give you a little bit of colors. Had Aunt Guo not asked me to come over, there would have been no reason for me to entertain you,” Lin Ruoxi said coldly.

Yang Chen didn’t get mad. He said, “I know. I’m thankful enough that you’re willing to come over. It’s all my fault after all.”

Lin Ruoxi stopped talking as Yang Chen admitted to his mistakes. However, she was sure that the fellow, despite being aware, wasn’t about to correct his mistake. The fact that he had more and more lovers caused Lin Ruoxi to feel exhausted, not to mention she had to endure the suffering herself.

As the man got more absurd, her foot in the mud seemed to have fallen deeper. When she was hugged and kissed earlier, she had lost the intention to resist deep down her heart. All she did was try to instinctively dodge as she was a reserved person.

Does this mean that I have started viewing his actions as logical things to do...

Every time she thought about this, Lin Ruoxi would try her best to avoid thinking about it. She soon thought of something else. “Hui Lin told me that person passed away. Is this true?” she asked.

Lin Ruoxi stared at Yang Chen calmly.

Yang Chen was slightly surprised. He didn’t expect Hui Lin to tell her about Lin Zhiguo. But nonetheless, this relieved him from telling her himself.

The obstruction lying between the sisters was their different viewpoints at their grandfather Lin Zhiguo. Now that Lin Zhiguo was gone, they didn't have to avoid such things anymore.

"It's real. He'll never appear in front of you ever again." Yang Chen nodded.

Sorrow surfaced in Lin Ruoxi's eyes. "Even he is gone..."

Yang Chen remained quiet. He was aware that although Lin Zhiguo wasn't a responsible senior, and could even be considered as someone she hated, he was still family and family was something she treasured a lot.

However, Lin Zhiguo was less significant to Lin Ruoxi than Hui Lin. In a way, his passing was actually a kind of relief for Lin Ruoxi.

"You've found out Hui Lin's identity, haven't you?" Yang Chen asked.

"Mhm," Lin Ruoxi hummed in acknowledgement. "I found out when I heard Yang Lie call her 'Lin Hui'... But Hui Lin was still Hui Lin. I won't treat her badly just because she's the granddaughter of that person. She's a good girl. I like this younger sister a lot."

"Your good younger sister has been really moody lately. An Xin and I are discussing to bring her out to do something someday. Where do you think we should go?" Yang Chen smiled weirdly.

Lin Ruoxi expectedly asked another question. "Why are you and that woman bringing Hui Lin out to play?"

"Oh? Judging by how you put it, Babe Ruoxi, are you willing to bring Hui Lin out with me?" Yang Chen asked.

Lin Ruoxi frowned. "Hui Lin is my younger sister. Why should I allow her to be brought away by someone else? I have no interest to be with you."

Yang Chen slapped his forehead. "Yikes. What should I do now? An Xin is Hui Lin's good friend, and I've brought it up to Hui Lin before. I can't just tell her we're not going with her anymore, but her elder sister will be bringing her out instead, can I?"

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes. "I want to bring Hui Lin to my spa resort. Drive yourself if you want to follow."

Yang Chen said seriously, "Then do I stop An Xin if she wants to tag along? Babe Ruoxi, I bet you don't want to see her very much."

"I don't care about her. Do you think I have so much time to intervene your shameful relationship?" Lin Ruoxi ridiculed in dissatisfaction.

Yang Chen smirked. "I knew it. Why would the much-respected Boss Lin be afraid of An Xin? We'll go together at that time then."

Lin Ruoxi was exasperated, but decided that it was in her best interest to remain quiet. Otherwise she would really appear afraid of An Xin. Subconsciously, she snorted coldly before walking out of the room.

Yang Chen felt relieved. He came to a sudden realization that it was possible for them to get along if they met more often. It was no different from Mo Qianni, who was Yang Chen's lover as well. She was well and alive even when she had to face Lin Ruoxi every day.

Although he felt guilty that he put Lin Ruoxi through this, there was still no way that he would hurt one woman for another. Unless of course he stopped messing with them from the start, which was impossible now. How was he supposed to abandon his other women after taking advantage of them? This blessing of being loved by beauties wasn't as easily enjoyed as imagined.

Chapter 408: I've Fallen for You

Yang Chen managed to discuss with Lin Ruoxi about their upcoming trip with Hui Lin, but had to put it on hold as they both still were the directors of their respective companies.

When Yang Chen reached his office the next day, Wang Jie was already inside waiting. She looked rather disparate, as if she had run into difficulties.

"Manager Wang, is it possible that you got teased by a client?" Yang Chen joked.

Wang Jie forced a smile. "Director, stop joking around. I won't mind something like that, not to mention there aren't many people who dare to hold intentions toward employees from Yu Lei."

"Then what happened?" Yang Chen asked.

Wang Jie sighed and thoroughly explained to Yang Chen.

So, there were less than two weeks left until the official launch of the audition of the Star of Yu Lei. However, they have not set the venues for their registration and auditions yet.

After discussing with the team, Wang Jie decided to partner up with a nationwide company from the tertiary industry. However, Wang Jie ran into a roadblock midway through the process.

When the company found out that Wang Jie was the department manager of Yu Lei Entertainment, they chose to reject the negotiation as they only wanted to deal with the director himself.

Yang Chen frowned. "Which company is it? Why do they behave like kids?"

"I know right!" Wang Jie yelled angrily. "What's the point in doing this if we are both listed companies?"

"You haven't told me which company it is eh."

"Oh," Wang Jie said as he passed a folder to Yang Chen. "It's the largest entertainment company in Zhonghai which is ranked top ten in the nation—Maple Group."

Yang Chen was stunned. He took a careful look at the summary as he smiled bitterly. Maple? Isn't it Tang Wan's company?!

Yang Chen quickly understood why Wang Jie was turned down and requested to ask the director over for the negotiation. Tang Wan must be aware that Yang Chen was the director of Yu Lei Entertainment and did it intentionally to meet him.

Since Tang Tang's incident, Yang Chen hadn't contacted Tang Wan as often. Although Yang Chen was hungry, he didn't shamelessly approach the mature beauty who had confessed her love to Yang Chen out of the blue for her meat.

He had been busied with various events recently. Moreover, it wasn't as if he had no trouble with the women currently in his life. He already got into fights once in awhile, why would he have time to mess with Tang Wan?

Although Yang Chen had admitted that he was unfaithful, he wouldn't fall in love with just any woman in the world.

He was attracted to Tang Wan's body at most. He lacked the same feelings which he held for his other women to her. The two had seldom interacted up till today, not to mention there was a sizeable age gap between them, he found it hard to fall in love with her as natural as he did with An Xin. Thus, he wouldn't miss Tang Wan even when they hadn't met in a while.

Tang Wan was a proud woman. Lots of people wanted to but hadn't had the chance to take advantage of her. When she told the man more than ten years her junior that she wanted to have something between them, the man didn't give her much attention. This evidently challenged Tang Wan's pride. Since Yang Chen didn't take the initiative to look for Tang Wan, she naturally wouldn't contact him either.

However, just because she had not taken the initiative to seek Yang Chen in awhile, that didn't mean that she had fell out of love with him. Having been singled for so many years, Tang Wan had finally fallen in love with a man. It was impossible that she'd cut ties with him just because she said so. As a result, it was totally reasonable that she was feeling resentful.

"I know why it happened more or less. I'll pay Maple a visit personally. I don't blame you for it since it's mainly due to my past interactions with them," Yang Chen said with a smile.

Wang Jie was dumbfounded as she was at a loss for what truly transpired. Forcing a smile, she left the room to continue with her work.

Yang Chen sat in his office for quite a long time before An Xin arrived with her handbag. She wore a light brown winter clothing together with a pair of high leather boots, which made her look like someone shopping at Avenue des Champs-élysées instead of an office woman.

Yang Chen had no objections toward this little vixen's appearance. He'd be fine as long as she looked stunning. He had to just ignore the whispers of the common folk.

"Babe An Xin, stay in the office. I'm going to a place to talk business," Yang Chen informed.

An Xin didn't expect Yang Chen to go out this early in the morning. She blinked her eyes a couple times as she felt confused. "Business? Can't you bring me along?"

Yang Chen knew that the current Tang Wan must have much dissatisfaction toward his behavior. If he brought a soul-hooking female secretary along, the consequences would be dire. Thus, he waved his hand and answered, "No need. Stay here. This is something that I have to take care of personally."

An Xin stopped asking questions and obediently nodded. She gave Yang Chen a kiss as an encouragement before he left.

Yang Chen checked the address of the headquarters of Maple Group before driving there alone. He was at a loss as for what to expect. Being liked by a woman like Tang Wan was considered a blessing, but he would have to suffer if he took a misstep. The present was a good example. He had to visit the other side to apologize before even being involved with her, to explain why he hadn't contacted her for so long.

When he came to the headquarters, he noticed that the building was slightly aged. However, there were still many luxury cars parked outside. Maple Group naturally had large amount of reserves, reserved for the upper management.

Yang Chen came to the counter and reported his name and origin before the lady working there smilingly brought him to Tang Wan's office.

Expectedly, Tang Wan had been expecting Yang Chen's arrival, otherwise he wouldn't have been let inside so easily, without being asked questions like the appointment made beforehand.

Yang Chen came to the office and knocked the door which hung a 'CEO' sign. Soon Tang Wan's familiar voice could be heard, "Come in."

The lady working at the front counter made a gesture to invite him inside before turning around and leaving.

Yang Chen shrugged his shoulders and cleared his voice before opening the door and entering the office.

Tang Wan's office was about half the size of Lin Ruoxi's, but was grand looking nonetheless. The various furnitures were all carefully crafted using redwood. Yang Chen had guessed that they were hand crafted by some Italian crafter.

There hung an imitation of the Fan Kuan scroll on the wall. The fact that Tang Wan was a fan of such ink paintings was largely correlated with her mature mentality.

[TL note: Click here to see how a Fan Kuan scroll looks like.]

Behind the office table, sat Tang Wan who had her head lowered while she was reading something. She showed no intentions of paying Yang Chen any mind.

Yang Chen smiled faintly as he recognized the signs of anger, but he wasn't annoyed. He walked to a sofa made of real leather before sitting down and shutting his eyes to take a rest.

After a while, Tang Wan finally raised her head. Her water-like, smooth and shiny face was alluring as ever, but displayed a hint of dissatisfaction. With an unfriendly gaze, she looked at the man who was leisurely resting and said, "Director Yang really is bold to have come here and taken a rest on my couch."

Yang Chen opened his eyes and sighed, "Wasn't it because CEO was busy? I didn't want to interrupt you rudely."

Tang Wan snorted coldly as she stood up before walking slowly toward Yang Chen. Her monochrome cardigan and tight-fitting black jeans made her look gorgeous. Her swaying butt and upright bosom was no doubt the cause of many mens fantasies.

Yang Chen swallowed his saliva audibly. This chick looks so much more seductive in winter clothing, he thought.

“Do I look good?” Tang Wan asked.

Yang Chen nodded. “You’ve always looked good.”

“Then what took you so long to come have a look?”

Yang Chen scratched his head as he giggled. “It’s because I’ve been busied with many tasks, not to mention Chinese New Year is here. I have to stay with my family, don’t I?”

Tang Wan snorted before laughing as she refused to believe him. She then sat opposite to Yang Chen before gracefully sipping on a cup of hot coffee. “I don’t believe all you did was stay with family. You were playing the snatch-the-bride game instead.”

Yang Chen was stunned. “You know about this as well?”

“I’m a lot more capable than you imagine,” Tang Wan replied with a smile.

Yang Chen pouted before nodding his head. He really couldn’t hide anything from this woman. Judging from the fact that the Party Secretary Fang Zhongping had liked her for so many years but hadn’t had the guts to displease her the slightest, she naturally wasn’t just the CEO of a major corporation. She had other things to back her position as well.

“You know why I’m here today, don’t you?” Yang Chen asked.

Tang Wan shook her head. “I don’t know.”

Yang Chen got gloomy. Smiling bitterly, he answered, “Do you have to do this? We’re not enemies. I admit that I don’t ask about you often enough, but it doesn’t mean we we don’t have a substantive relationship, does it?”

Tang Wan’s cheeks turned cold while her gaze at Yang Chen was as sharp as knives. “So this is how you see the relationship between us?”

Yang Chen’s heart contracted violently for a split second. He smiled awkwardly and said, “Erm... that isn’t totally the case. But I feel that dwelling in small matters is beyond us as we’re both adults. We should talk about work when we’re working.”

Tang Wan smiled coldly. A worrying light flashed in her eyes. “Yang Chen, do you know that I won’t hesitate to slap a guy who tells me ‘I’ve fallen for you’ after knowing me for only a few days? Because it’s the same as telling me ‘I want to sleep with you’, but said in a different manner.

“However, when I tell a man whom I had interacted for just a few days ‘I’ve fallen for you’, to me, it’s the same as saying ‘I want to entrust everything to you’. But obviously, the man I confessed to treats it as something to not be taken seriously.”

Yang Chen remained quiet. He didn't expect the degree of importance of the conversation that they had to be so high. If what Tang Wan had said was true, he had indeed gone over the line.

"Actually based on your qualifications... I am not the right match for you. You should be very aware that I can't give you a lot of things that you want," Yang Chen said.

Tang Wan let out a pathetic smile. "Do you know why Cupid would always cover his eyes before firing the arrow of love according to the ancient Greek mythology?"

"Why?" Yang Chen asked, as he had never heard of anything of that sort before.

"Because," Tang Wan calmly stared at Yang Chen while her eyes were filled with agony and complexity, "Because, love is blind."

Chapter 409: Exceptional Background

Yang Chen couldn't help but reconsider his position when Tang Wan said the word 'blind'. This woman was especially aggressive in front of Yang Chen, while he had been the passive one. However, Yang Chen didn't think that Tang Wan was the one who had the advantage, since he was the one who could truly make a change.

"I seem to have... made some cruel mistakes," Yang Chen said with a faint smile.

Tang Wan shook her head. "You have been cruel, but you didn't make any mistakes. I'm just trying to get something I want. Of course, you can choose to overlook everything I've said. I will talk to you professionally for work related purposes, so you shall be at ease."

Yang Chen reached to his shirt pocket as he wanted to smoke a cigarette, but soon realized he was in someone else's office. Embarrassed, he withdrew his hand and said seriously, "This isn't something that can be forced. In the future, we'll meet up to have a meal together when we have time. Even if we fail to become lovers, I'm fine with being just friends."

Tang Wan smiled. "I'm glad enough to hear you say that."

"Can we talk about work now? Our Star of Yu Lei audition is coming really soon," Yang Chen said with a smile.

Tang Wan nodded. She wanted to say something, but her phone rang which acted as an interruption.

Tang Wan took out her phone and instantly frowned when she looked at the screen. Picking up the call, she asked, "What happened?"

Yang Chen couldn't hear what Tang Wan was hearing. After she finished talking, she didn't look too happy.

"Stay put. I'll be there in half an hour," Tang Wan said before ending the call and sighing.

Yang Chen had never seen this helpless expression of Tang Wan before. Concerned, he asked, "What happened to Tang Tang?"

Tang Wan smiled vaguely and said, "What will happen to that kid? She's hiding in her school to prepare for the college entrance exam. It's my younger brother who got himself into trouble."

“Your brother?”

Tang Wan hummed in acknowledgement. “Actually, I returned to Beijing a while back when we weren’t in contact. I have just recently returned back to Zhonghai. But this time, my younger brother Tang Jue followed me back here. The brat is a through and through trouble maker. The seniors at home asked me to watch over him, but I didn’t expect a trouble so soon.”

Yang Chen wasn’t aware that the Tang clan was from Beijing. Tang Wan’s younger brother seemed to be a worrying person according to her.

“What happened to him?”

Tang Wan clenched her teeth. She then remembered something. She asked, “How’s your driving skills?”

“How does it compare to your fighting skills?”

Yang Chen found her question odd. He thought for a while before answering, “I’m not the best, but I guess I’m decent enough to be considered a half expert at it.”

Of course, if you want me to compete in a car crash competition, I’m definitely the best in the world since I’m not afraid of death, Yang Chen thought.

Tang Wan clapped her hands once before saying, “How about this? Do me a favor and I’ll immediately agree to your terms for our partnership. I’ll give our most favorable plan to you for sure.”

Yang Chen was confused. “Are you trying to make me your driver?”

“Follow me to a place. You’ll find out soon.” Tang Wan’s mysterious smile made her look like a scheming and cunning fox.

After around twenty minutes, Yang Chen was ushered into Tang Wan’s limited-edition black Land Rover and arrived at an empty land near the suburb of Zhonghai. Signs and billboards could be seen from afar.

Yang Chen finally found out that he was brought by Tang Wan to a place called Maple Racing Club. Evidently, it was one of the businesses owned by Maple Group. Similar to other facilities owned by them, this one was a place for wealthy people who loved cars to have a place where they could enjoy.

Many world-famous cars like Lamborghini, McLaren, Pagani costed an absurd amount every time the engine was switched on or mileage was added to its meter .

At a few Lamborghini clubs abroad, if tourists wanted to have a test drive, not only did they have to pay huge sums of insurance fees, they were also required to pay hundreds of American dollars to start the engine to test drive one on the racing tracks.

When these cars were driven on road, their owners had to pay for the large amount of petrol consumed together with the high maintenance fees, which would bring high risks. Thus, car clubs were opened to satiate the enthusiasts who weren’t willing to risk the payments of their own car .

Of course, not every wealthy person could set up such a club. Without Tang Wan’s unfathomable background, she certainly wouldn’t dare to start operating such a luxury place. After all, the regulars to

this place were not ordinary people after all. Tang Wan had to gain their trust before they were willing to place their highly expensive cars at her place.

Yang Chen had been curious about Tang Wan's true background. Now that he knew her clan was also in Beijing, he slowly developed a rough idea of what was going on, but he didn't know what position she held in her clan.

After parking her Land Rover at an exclusive VIP spot, she brought Yang Chen into a modern building which had a design similar to that of an airport. The huge road had numerous connected pathways. In fact, as they walked, Yang Chen saw a few helicopters and passenger planes. Evidently, not only did the building store countless luxury cars, there were also private jets owned by the wealthy inside.

Yang Chen was rather speechless. Although Lin Ruoxi was rich, much wealthier than Tang Wan's Maple Group, it was impossible for her to build such an airport if she wanted to.

China was not like America. America had more than half of the world's private jets, so airports were much more common there.

In an extremely strict country like China, not only did Tang Wan manage to set up a club for luxury cars, she had also built an airport for private jets. She was just like an empress from the past.

"Is this shocking to you?" Tang Wan asked, elated. She noticed the surprised expression on Yang Chen's face.

Yang Chen nodded. He joked, "The more I interact with CEO Tang, the more I feel you have superpowers."

Tang Wan smiled and answered, "On many occasions, a woman likes a man when she can't completely dissect him. When a man likes a woman, although it's less obvious, it is still the case occasionally. This can be considered a good example."

Yang Chen shrugged his shoulders. He must admit that men would never come to a point where they could have been said to truly understand a woman.

When they came to a beautifully decorated hall, a middle aged, elegantly dressed lady came forward to address Tang Wan respectfully and said, "Boss, Young Master Tang Jue is at the rest area of the first track."

"Who's the guy who raced with him? Have you checked his background yet?" Tang Wan asked strictly.

The lady nodded and answered, "Yes, I have. He's an arrogant racer from the Austrian Formula 1 Redbull team called Webber. He's the champion of the German race, and the highest-performing racer in this year's world championship."

"Why would he come to our club? Who brought him here?" Tang Wan asked doubtfully.

The lady answered, "It's Young Master Ning. Mr Webber is his friend from overseas. He came to Zhonghai for a race this time, and came here in his downtime. Who knows... Young Master Tang Jue..."

"His gambling addiction took over again." Annoyed, Tang Wan rubbed her forehead. Suddenly, she continued, "Wait... did you say Young Master Ning? Which Ning clan is he from?"

“He’s Ning Guodong from the Beijing Ning clan,” the lady replied.

“So it’s him...” Tang Wan appeared to understand the situation.

Yang Chen who was standing beside pouted his mouth. Why am I so much fated with Ning Guodong? I came to do Tang Wan a favor, and I’m supposed to compete against the racer he brought over.

However, since he’s Ning Guodong’s friend, I shall leave no mercy. I hate pussies who have their attention fixed on someone else’s wife, Yang Chen thought.

Chapter 410: How Can I Take This

After the manager explained what had happened in the club, they walked to the rest area of the first track.

It’s official title was a rest area, but was actually a spacious living hall. Sunlight shone through the transparent tempered-glass window, while the heater in the area warmed the room. Quite a few plants were placed around the area giving it a very nice and inviting feel.

“You’re richer than I could have imagined,” Yang Chen said after looking at the sumptuous facilities around.

Tang Wan smiled as she smiled, “No one would be willing to come if you cut corners to try to save money. The people who come here have money as their lowest priority.”

Yang Chen nodded his head in agreement.

As they spoke, a few figures could be seen clearly standing at the parking area in front.

Expectedly, it was the subject of the matter Ning Guodong. However, he wasn’t dressed in a suit today. He only wore a casual Armani shirt with a scarlet necktie, looking stylish as usual.

There stood a well-built western guy beside Ning Guodong who had a thin face with moustache which made him look masculine. He wore a multi-colored dad hat and held a bottle of Martell in his hand. He was happily chatting with Ning Guodong while gulping the occasional mouthful of his drink.

A huge-bodied silhouette suddenly rushed over from there. He shouted, “Elder Sister! Elder Sister!”

Yang Chen was surprised to see him. He was in every way, the definition of a burly man from the north. Being around 1.9 meters tall and weighing around 100 kilograms, he had curly hair and a square face in addition to abnormally large nostrils. Wearing a leather coat, he appeared to be distressed and resentful which caused him to look rather childish.

Such facial expressions came across as odd on such a body. Yang Chen almost burst into laughter after seeing this man.

“How many times must I remind you not to gamble anymore? When are you going to change your bad habit?” Tang Wan scolded. Although she had to raise her head to look at him, she used the tone of a senior to teach him a lesson.

The huge man lowered his head as if he was wronged. Using his hoarse voice, he spoke softly, “Ning Guodong brought a westerner to show off at our place. Shouldn’t we continue our ancestors’ excellent tradition to rise and resist?”

“Get a kitchen knife if you want to rise and resist. Why on earth would you agree to race him? Are you a racer? Or have you started joining running competitions since the Eight-Nation Alliance? Do you think this is the Olympics?!” Tang Wan yelled.

The huge man forced a smile as he tried his best to put on a cute act to get on Tang Wan’s good side. He reached his huge hands out to get a hold of Tang Wan’s before swaying it from side to side

“Elder Sister... Elder Sister, you’re the only one I can turn to. Please help your pitiful Little Tang Jue... The 599 GTO is my birthday present from you. How can I lose it to someone else?”

Yang Chen who had witnessed this scene behind almost fainted. The huge man’s tone and actions were extremely triggering, making any ordinary man go crazy. How much longer can I endure this?! he thought.

The employees and bodyguards nearby had to act like they had seen nothing. It was really difficult for them.

At this moment, Ning Guodong brought Webber over. He passionately greeted Tang Wan upon seeing her. However, when he noticed that Yang Chen was there as well, he started looking irritated.

“Why are you here?” Ning Guodong asked as he frowned.

“Why can’t I be here?” Yang Chen tossed a question back.

Ning Guodong smiled coldly. “Are you even aware of the kind of fees required to be a member here? Based on your unimpressive wage, I don’t think you can even pay ten percent of the upfront fee.”

Tang Wan replied calmly, “Yang Chen is my friend. I have asked for his help to compete with Mr Webber for the car.”

As soon as Tang Wan finished speaking, not only did Ning Guodong start looking at Yang Chen with a strange gaze, even Tang Jue widened his eyes largely as he examined Yang Chen. To Tang Jue, Yang Chen was nothing more than a supporting role. He didn’t expect such a person to be his elder sister’s friend, let alone his saviour.

The more Tang Jue looked at Yang Chen, the more he noticed some form of intimacy...

“Miss Tang, are you taking my friend and I as jokes?” Ning Guodong asked with a weird smile. To him, Yang Chen and Webber had a day-and-night difference.

Even if Tang Wan simply picked a cab driver by the road, Ning Guodong felt that the person would still be more reliable than Yang Chen.

Webber couldn’t understand Mandarin, so he asked the person beside him to help translate.

When he found out that the man surnamed Yang wanted to race him to get back the car Tang Jue had lost to him earlier, it sparked his interest and he looked at Yang Chen with an interesting gaze.

It was true, an expert had no reason to fear the common folk. Instead, they spend the better part of their lives in search for a worthy opponent.

Webber had no reason to look down on Yang Chen based on looks alone. The only way a racer could truly have been said to stand above the rest is when they have had respected each and every other racer.

The more Yang Chen listened, the more confused he got. He interrupted them and said, "I'm still not sure what's happening here. You've been talking about car racing and winning back the car. What's going on? Can someone explain to me?"

"I'll tell you!" Tang Jue volunteered, acting like a bystander to the incident. He started explaining what had happened in the past few hours like an outsider.

So, Tang Jue only came to Zhonghai with Tang Wan from Beijing because he was bored. Since he had nothing to do, the various facilities owned by the Maple group became his own personal playground.

He coincidentally came to the racing club today. He was trying out a few new race cars that had just been imported, and Ning Guodong who happened to be in Zhonghai brought his friend over to pass time.

When Ning Guodong described how skillful his friend Webber was, Tang Jue wanted to show off and shine through a race...

Thus, Tang Jue challenged Webber to a race, with the the prize being the others car.

Lastly, not only did Tang Jue embarrass himself, he also lost his Ferrari 599 GTO which was given by his elder sister on his birthday. He was unwilling to surrender his car. Ignoring the fact that the car was produced in extremely limited quantities, it wouldn't be the same if he bought one himself. There was no significance in the value behind the car.

After that, Tang Jue called Tang Wan for help in hopes of retrieving his car.

Yang Chen felt gloomy after listening to Tang Jue's story. Apparently, he came over to take care of the mess caused by Tang Wan's foolish younger brother.

"Hey, Brother-In-Law, are you very good in driving? Are you confident in winning?" Tang Jue let go of Tang Wan and put his arm on Yang Chen's shoulder.

"Stupid Rabbit! What are you talking about!" Tang Wan kicked Tang Jue on his thigh as she instantly blushed. It wasn't an occasional kick by the looks of the strike.

Tang Jue took a few steps back awkwardly before saying timidly, "Elder Sister, you've never brought a boyfriend home before. Now that one is finally here, can he not be my brother-in-law..."

Tang Wan had the urge to smack his idiotic younger brother with a brick. She clenched her teeth as she stared at him angrily before saying to Yang Chen, "I'm sorry. His brain is filled with nothing but nonsense. Don't treat him too seriously."

"I'll really suffer if I treat him seriously." Yang Chen rubbed the cold sweat off his forehead.

Tang Wan rolled her eyes before looking at Ning Guodong who was shocked. "Mr Ning, you should be well aware of the car's price. You also know that it's a car I gifted my useless younger brother on his birthday. Although he has indeed lost, I hope you could give us a chance to compete again. What do you think?"

"Miss Tang, you should also be aware that a fully cooked duck can't fly anymore. There should be no reason for us to gamble away the car." Ning Guodong smiled wickedly.

Tang Wan frowned in contemplation. After a while, she said, "How about this? I'll let Yang Chen pick a car from my garage to race with Mr Webber. If we lose, the car Yang Chen picks will also belong to you and Mr Webber. If we win, we just want our Ferrari back."

Chapter 411: Camry-Level Race

Tang Wan's offer was actually quite appealing to him.

Firstly, Ning Guodong and Webber wouldn't bear any losses, but would get an opportunity to take home yet another car instead.

Moreover, Webber's car was able to race a Ferrari 599 GTO. Although he won mainly due to his driving skills, it also meant that it was incredibly difficult for ordinary sports cars to defeat his. Thus, if Yang Chen wanted a higher chance to win the race, he had to pick a more domineering one.

When Webber heard the news, he happily accepted the challenge. He wasn't a fool after all. Why wouldn't he accept such a good deal?

Ning Guodong was also waiting to watch Yang Chen embarrass himself. He said, "Alright then. Since you're racing, pick a track and a car."

Knowing that he couldn't slip away, Yang Chen had to show his ability since he had promised to help Tang Wan.

"You may pick any car you want from the garage. Don't hold back," Tang Wan said generously, and sent a waiter to lead him to the garage.

Yang Chen hesitated for a while before asking, "What kind of track will we be racing on?"

Tang Wan turned her head to look at Ning Guodong. The track was decided by the challenger. The club had an enormous land which had various types of tracks, so she wasn't sure which one was chosen.

Ning Guodong smiled and answered, "The general layout is a simulation of the city. Don't worry, you guys will not be competing on the Formula 1 track that my friend excels in."

Yang Chen ignored Ning Guodong's sarcasm and turned around before leaving.

After Yang Chen walked away, Tang Jue rubbed his hands together as he asked out of concern, "Elder Sister, is Brother-In-Law fine? Why would he only ask for the track and not the make of the opponents car?"

"Why didn't you say anything earlier?" Tang Wan suddenly noticed Yang Chen didn't ask about what car he would be competing against.

“I didn’t remember just now... Do you want me to tell Brother-In-Law now?” Tang Jue asked before winking.

“I told you he isn’t your brother-in-law! If you refuse to stop your nonsense, I’ll send you back to Beijing!” Tang Wan yelled with her eyes wide open.

Tang Jue chuckled before he continued to act like a spoiled kid. “Elder Sister, Little Tang Jue is your favorite. Why would you send me back to Beijing? Hehe...”

Tang Wan was pissed and yet pleased as she looked at her foolish, big-bodied younger brother. At last, she shook her head and remained quiet.

Before long, Yang Chen drove the car of his choice over to the front of the rest station.

Tang Wan and the others including Ning Guodong went to the entrance, and were all stunned for a moment.

It wasn’t because the car picked by Yang Chen was unique, but... it was too average!

Yang Chen had chosen a sapphire-blue Lotus Evora and slowly came to them.

“Are you sure this is the car you wish to race with?” Ning Guodong asked with a strange smile.

“Can I not choose this car?” Yang Chen rubbed the exquisite steering wheel of the Lotus. “I find it quite appropriate.”

“Although Lotus is considered to be on par with Ferrari and Porsche, this Evora you picked is... Sigh...” Ning Guodong shook his head.

Before Ning Guodong explained why, Tang Jue who had lost his patience yelled, “My great brother-in-law! Please stop joking around! I don’t blame you if you want to save money for Elder Sister. But you should’ve at least chosen a dependable one! Although Evora is made by Lotus, it’s using the engine of a Toyota Camry! I’ve lost my Ferrari GTO, but you’re driving the equivalent of a Toyota Camry against a supercar! How are you supposed to race?!”

As soon as he finished speaking, a car honk resounded from another side. Shortly after, a yellow car swiftly arrived in front of them.

The mad lines together with the wide car body and the golden logo allowed the car to exude the aura of a beast.

Yang Chen opened his mouth to whistle as he admired the beauty in front of him.

Webber put down the window and pointed a thumbs-up sign at Yang Chen. He spoke in English, “Koenigsegg CCR, 4.8-litre V8 engine, zero to a hundred in 3 seconds.”

This was no different from people who would sword fight in the past—they would introduce their weapons at the start.

Yang Chen replied in English, “Lotus Evora, 3.5-litre V6 engine, the one used in a Toyota Camry, zero to a hundred in 4.9 seconds.”

Webber let out a friendly smile in affirmation to Yang Chen's data. Yang Chen was at least competent racer which put some thought into picking his car. Being a professional racer, Webber was clear about the performance and disadvantages of numerous cars. He wasn't sure that he could win just because his Koenigsegg could accelerate faster.

Tang Wan stopped Tang Jue who attempted to ask Yang Chen change his car. She walked toward Yang Chen's car and said relaxedly, "Follow Mr Webber to the starting point. There'll be professionals in charge of the race operations."

Yang Chen nodded. He wanted to roll up his window but was stopped by Tang Wan. "Eh," Tang Wan hesitated for a while as she bit her lower lip, "Be careful. Don't do anything too dangerous."

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. Does she think I'll lose for sure as well? I thought she was confident with my ability.

He came to the starting point with Webber, with the latter rolling down the window and asking, "Do you need to familiarize yourself with the track?"

Yang Chen shook his head. "You're a guest here as well, I'll pass."

Yang Chen roughly looked at the map of the track displayed by the road, and memorized the pattern in his mind.

The professionals working at the club swiftly concluded their preparations for the race. One gunshot and two screeching tyres later, the sports cars shot through the starting line like sharp arrows.

Since the track was a simulation of city roads, they quickly reach fifty to ninety-degree turns.

The Koenigsegg was obviously much faster than Yang Chen's Lotus. The sound of the engine was just like a roaring tiger. In the blink of an eye, it distanced itself from Yang Chen's car.

Yang Chen wasn't worried. He tried his best to catch up behind the car. At the turning corner, he pulled his handbrake and swiftly drifted!

Webber on the other hand didn't use any drifting techniques. It wasn't because he didn't know how to, but drifting wasn't exactly his forte. He was a Formula 1 racer which meant that drifting wasn't a very big part of his career.

Thus, through every corner, Yang Chen would catch up slightly to Webber. Gradually, the distance between the two had significantly shortened...

Ning Guodong, Tang Wan, and the others at the rest station witnessed the process on the huge screen. When the Lotus miraculously got closer to the car in front, Ning Guodong and Tang Jue thought they were dreaming. Tang Wan was the only one who had a smile on her face.

This man has always been so unfathomable. He's looked so underwhelming since the day I met him, but he's always been so dependable on critical moments.

"Are you kidding me! A Camry is capable of defeating a Koenigsegg?!" Tang Jue shouted in astonishment. Even he forgot who he was supporting.

At the same time on the track, Yang Chen was so close to Webber that he was basically touching the Koenigsegg when he drifted. It was an extremely dangerous maneuver as he could have hit the door of the Koenigsegg at any point in time!

Webber's forehead was currently covered with cold sweat. He's basically drifting at every turn. There are only two possibilities: he's so confident in his drifting ability, or he isn't afraid of death at all! Doesn't he know that he could end up in a severe car accident in some of these turns?! Also, why is he blocking me beside my door intentionally?! Webber thought.

No matter what, Webber hadn't been able to throw off Yang Chen who had been clinging onto him like a demon.

When the two cars neared the finish line, everyone watched as the Lotus crossed the finish line leaving a trail of dust and several hundred metres of distance behind him!

Ning Guodong who was standing in the resting area almost had his jaw touching the ground. He opened his eyes in shock, while he refused to believe the sky-turning result.

Tang Jue, however, started screaming and shouting like a howling wolf at midnight, causing Tang Wan's eyebrows to furrow. Fortunately, Tang Wan was in a good mood, so she didn't remember to kick her younger brother.

The two cars returned to the rest area. Webber got off his car and approached Yang Chen's car. They both shook hands in a sign of acknowledgement.

"Congratulations. You're the best Asian driver I've ever seen," Webber said with a smile. Victory and loss were both extremely normal to soldiers, so he didn't mind it too much.

Yang Chen shook his hand and said, "My victory can only be credited towards the track being a city road. You guys at Formula 1 are used to turning large corners, which allowed me a chance at victory. If we talk about the precision of control, I'm still much more inferior to you."

"Losing is losing. You made me witness such magical drifting techniques today," Webber praised.

Tang Wan and the others walked over. Smiling, she said to Ning Guodong, "Mr Ning, I'll have my brother's car back."

Ning Guodong nodded before asking Webber questions like how he felt about the race. He was completely unwilling to look at Yang Chen.

Tang Jue licked his lips and walked to the Lotus behind Yang Chen and touched it before kissing the door a couple times, leaving a lot of saliva there. "Haha, this cheap Camry really managed to win the Koenigsegg! This is too magical! We should invest into more Camry cars in the future!"

Yang Chen smiled faintly and replied, "Although this engine belongs to the Camry made in North America, Lotus had its unique electronic control unit. Having gone through various adjustments, the exhaust system had been redesigned as well. So the two cars are in completely different levels. Although the Evora can go around 200 kilometers per hour max, while the Koenigsegg can go more than 300, such speeds don't play a part in tracks such as this one. There's no use going that fast. On the contrary, the central engine design of the Lotus together with its lighter body became a huge advantage."

Tang Jue was deeply confused. At last, he whispered, "Brother-In-Law, which car manufacturer do you work for?"

"Firstly, I'm not your brother-in-law. Secondly... your elder sister wants to kick you again."

As soon as Yang Chen finished speaking, Tang Wan kicked Tang Jue on his buttocks. The furious Tang Wan had her face greatly reddened. Her brows and eyes held killing intent when she gazed upon her foolish younger brother. The usual kindness and charm had completely vanished from her face. She currently held the position of an elder sibling educating a younger one.

Ning Guodong darted a glance at Yang Chen while hatred intensified in his eyes.

Chapter 412: Fiery Red

Yang Chen hadn't forgotten the original reason he came to Tang Wan in the first place. After getting rid of the foolish Tang Jue, Yang Chen signed a partnership contract with Tang Wan. At last, the Star of Yu Lei was set to be held in the various venues owned by the Maple Group.

In fact, this was an extremely beneficial deal for Tang Wan as well. After all, a superstar like Christen would gather the attention of millions. This meant that the Maple Group was also going to benefit from that publicity.

Ning Guodong and his racer friend Webber left later than them. Where they had gone to was a mystery. Before he left, he bid farewell to Tang Wan and Tang Jue, leaving Yang Chen out. It was obvious that he had a distaste to Yang Chen.

Webber, however, generously shook hands with Yang Chen. To outsiders, regardless of what thoughts he held in mind, he had a much higher decency than Ning Guodong who held a respectable position in the government.

Of course, no one would expect Ning Guodong to behave this way when he was faced with highly ranked government officials. Pettiness was a taboo when it came to working in the government. But personally, he held dislike toward Yang Chen, or even hatred.

Tang Wan also noticed that Ning Guodong seemed to harbour some hatred towards Yang Chen. After she dealt with the partnership, she asked out of concern, "Yang Chen, there seems to be some animosity between you and Ning Guodong. This certainly isn't good news to you."

"Are you referring to the Ning clan in Beijing?" Yang Chen asked in an indifferent manner.

Tang Wan wasn't surprised that Yang Chen knew Ning Guodong's background. They weren't ordinary people after all. She didn't feel a need for Yang Chen to pay attention to normal people, but it wasn't the case for Ning Guodong.

"As you have seen just now, I do indeed know Ning Guodong. I didn't intentionally hide it from you, I just had no reason to bring it up. Now that you're not on good terms with him, I might as well tell you about him, to prevent you from underestimating his abilities," Tang Wan said as she lightly frowned. "In Beijing, our Tang clan is one of the more established major clans. We're currently ranked top four in terms of influence and authority. The Ning clan which Ning Guodong is from, is in the similar circle that people call 'The Four Major Clans of Beijing'.

“The Ning clan didn’t become the most established and stable clan just because of Ning Guangyao who managed to become the youngest premier ever. They have been growing in their power as time went by due to the lack of any major obstacles since the country was founded. It is not an overstatement to say they’re the number-one family in China. While Ning Guodong is the only son of Premier Ning Guangyao, it isn’t guaranteed that he’s going to inherit the clan master position. That’s because there are too many competent young people there. Ning Guodong’s position in the government actually isn’t anything impressive.”

After listening to Tang Wan’s description, Yang Chen asked out of curiosity, “Other than the both of you, who are the other two clans?”

Tang Wan could tell that Yang Chen wasn’t afraid of anything judging by his look. She sighed, “One of the other two clans is the Li clan controlled by Vice Premier Li Moshen. He’s around the same age as Ning Guangyao. Although he’s ranked lower than Ning Guangyao, the Li clan has had deep relations with the national spy agents since the era of the Republic of China. When the government had to retreat in defeat some years ago, many hidden, underground powers were taken in by the Li clan. They are the most low-profile clan among the four, but also the most violent.

“Regarding the other clan, it is the Yang clan which had the most disastrous development.”

“The Yang clan?”

Yang Chen was stunned. He expected the Yang clan to be a very strong clan, as Yang Jieyu managed to pull off so many impressive acts. However, he didn’t know the Yang clan was among the four major clans.

Tang Wan failed to notice the change in Yang Chen’s expression. She was far too immersed in her thoughts. She continued, “The Yang clan is the oldest one among the four. They have a history that dates back thousands of years. This is a pride no other clans could rival. They also have the least members, but each and everyone of them hold strong and fervent beliefs towards the clan. As a result, they have risen up stronger with each defeat, they have contributed much to the glories that China can now boast.

“Actually, the Yang clan had significantly declined when the country was first founded. However, their old clan master Marshal Yang Ye, who was the father of the current clan master Yang Gongming, was a genius in the military. He had been a key player during the War of Resistance, Civil War, and the Korean War. Many of the best forces in the country were formed by the old clan master. Thus, the reputation of the Yang clan in the military is unrivalled.

“It could be said that the old clan master had single-handedly kept the Yang clan from being wiped from existence. At the same time, he had trained a son who continued to grow the Yang clan to its glory, Yang Gongming. If the old clan master was the hero of the military who revived the Yang clan, then Chairman Yang will be the hero of the government during the upheavals. Many of his students are now highly ranked officials. He’s the true hero who stabilized the Chinese government and sped up the economy during that period.

“Right now, the Yang clan is an uncontroversial member of the four major clans. Although they have the least influence and wealth on the surface when compared to us Ning, Li and Tang clans, their true power is in the Chinese military and countless people in the core of the country.

“In this world, no matter how strong one believes itself to be, nothing can stand the force of a million beasts.”

Yang Chen fell into silence after he listened to Tang Wan. The clan appears to be filled with pride and glory. Those things... have never been far from my reach all this time, he thought.

“Oh... I think I talked too much,” Tang Wan said with a smile. “Actually, the Yang clan is my favorite among the wealthy clans in Beijing. It is the one filled with the most legends. Oh yeah, you’re surnamed Yang as well. Do you feel your blood heating up after listening to me?”

Yang Chen shook his head. Smiling, he answered, “It’s just like listening to a story. An old one.”

“That’s because you haven’t lived that era before. Only people of my age had a chance to witness Chairman Yang Gongming’s brilliance back then. Look at you, you’re reminding me of how old I am again,” Tang Wan complained.

Yang Chen looked helpless. When Tang Wan wasn’t paying attention, he reached his arm out to pinch her cheek. It was elastic, delicate, and smooth.

“Your cheek is so soft. Little Wan, you’re only eighteen this year, aren’t you?” Yang Chen asked with a smile.

Tang Wan rolled her eyes before looking at the time on her watch. “Now that we’re done with serious stuff, although it’s already one o’clock, we should still have lunch, shouldn’t we? May Director Yang bestow me with the honor of having lunch with me?”

Yang Chen looked at the surroundings. They were still in the rest area of the racing club. “Are you telling me we’re getting a lunchbox here?”

Tang Wan burst into laughter. “You’re the only one who can think of lunchboxes. To be honest, I’ve never tried that thing before. Although I had the urge to try it once, I was too embarrassed to ask someone get it for me.”

“Then shall I buy one for you?” Yang Chen asked.

Tang Wan stared at him angrily. “What makes you think I’m asking for a lunchbox?”

“Then what are we eating?” Yang Chen thought, We wouldn’t be going at it back and forth if you just make clear what you want to eat? he thought gloomily.

Tang Wan winked. She put on a seductive expression on her charming face before saying in a naughty manner, “I’ll eat whatever you like.”

Yang Chen swallowed his saliva audibly. I knew there was something different about this woman. She managed to hook my desire so easily, he thought. He giggled and said, “Then I guess you’ll have to suffer.”

“Why?” Tang Wan was confused.

“Because the thing I love to eat most is right in front of me. I can eat it, but I don’t know if you can,” Yang Chen explained.

“What is it?” Tang Wan looked at the surrounding as she felt puzzled. There’s no food here, is there? she thought.

“Aren’t you something I like? Can you eat yourself, Little Wan?” Yang Chen asked with a wicked smile.

Tang Wan instantly blushed. She used two of her slim fingers to pinch Yang Chen’s arm, but Yang Chen was still smiling as if he wasn’t affected at all. Annoyed, she said, “Can you just act like it’s painful even if it isn’t? It’ll at least make me feel better.”

“I’ll say it if you let me eat you,” Yang Chen said in a serious manner.

Tang Wan’s alluring eyes were fixed on Yang Chen. Her real age right now was anyone’s guess, but if they were to guess, it would be in the twenties.

“I said I allowed you to eat it that night, but you’re the one who chose not to” Tang Wan complained.

Yang Chen swallowed his saliva audibly. Giggling, he said, “Sigh... this woman. What should I say now? I’ll be able to eat you if you don’t allow me to... But now I’m too embarrassed to open my mouth when I have your direct approval.”

What Yang Chen said made Tang Wan laugh so hard that she bent down. Yang Chen’s shy and helpless expression was new to her, and she found it extremely entertaining.

At last, the two had some western food in a restaurant nearby the club. What they were eating didn’t matter. They appeared incredibly in sync when they were talking about embarrassing topics.

Yang Chen noticed he actually had a lot to talk about with Tang Wan, more so than some of his other women.

Tang Wan was an experienced woman. Not only did her age bring her a kind of mature beauty, it also meant that she had a wealth of knowledge. On the other hand, although Yang Chen was young, he was more experienced in many aspects compared to men his age, especially about the cultures overseas. This was largely credited to his perfect memory. He could remember something clearly just by taking a short glance.

The two chatted for a long time with their age gap not affecting their conversation. On the contrary, they seemed to have connected really well. This feeling made Tang Wan feel immensely comforted at heart, Yang Chen found it really pleasant as well.

They chatted from the afternoon as they enjoyed their Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee. The sky soon turned dark.

Yang Chen had a look at the time. It was four o’clock already. The people at his company were getting off work immediately, so he decided to head home directly.

“I’ll send you back,” Tang Wan said as she stood up. Although she was reluctant to leave him, she knew that Yang Chen wouldn’t really eat her now.

Yang Chen accepted her offer and sat Tang Wan’s car back to Maple Group before driving his own car back after bidding farewell to her.

Although the two didn’t say much at last, their gazes had become much more intimate. This made Yang Chen feel blessed and yet annoyed. If this continued, he might really fall for the adult woman one day. When that happened, the kid Tang Tang wouldn’t call him ‘Uncle’ anymore, but ‘Father’ instead. He felt a chill up his spine just by the thought of it.

When Yang Chen was heading home, Guo Xuehua suddenly called him. “Yang Chen, Mom and Wang Ma will be getting a facial treatment later. We’re bringing Hui Lin along, since that child has to take part in a competition soon. Female artists need to take care of their skins regularly. You’ll be eating with Ruoxi outside as there’s no one to cook at home.”

Yang Chen was stunned. His mother wanted him to reconcile with Lin Ruoxi so bad that she made such a far-fetched coincidence.

However, he couldn’t do anything about it. She wasn’t willing to let the cold war between him and Lin Ruoxi continue for long. Thus, Yang Chen decided to go with Guo Xuehua’s intention.

Yang Chen made a U-turn and drove to the parking lot of Yu Lei International. It was about time for Lin Ruoxi to get off work. Guo Xuehua had already made a call to her. She wouldn’t decide to stay away from home just to avoid seeing him, would she?

As Yang Chen thought, two silhouettes walked out from the staircase in front. One of the figures was Lin Ruoxi. She was wearing a white European coat and a pair of stylish, tight-fitting, red leggings. Her black hair was let loose, which caused her to much more gentle than usual. It could be seen from her elegant face that she was rather exhausted.

The person beside her, however, caused Yang Chen to have the urge to smash his head into the steering wheel. Isn’t the pussy Ning Guodong?!

Not only did he seek my wife in my absence, he’s also holding a bouquet of fiery red roses?! Yang Chen thought.

Chapter 413: Smell of Jealousy in the Car

There stood the body of Ning Guodong, who held the smile of a perfect gentleman, usually reserved when meeting diplomats. However, no matter how much he tried, he could not contain the burning desire in his eyes. From his perspective, Lin Ruoxi’s smooth neck and the snow-white skin between her collars could be seen. When matched with her unique fragrance and coldness, Ning Guodong struggled with the urge to toss the flowers and give the woman a hug.

Lin Ruoxi had noticed his strange gaze, which greatly discomforted her. However, regardless of what he did, he was still the son of the premier. It wouldn’t end up well should she treat him like she treated any other men.

Citizens shall not fight against the government, no matter how bad one was at communicating. Lin Ruoxi was aware of this point.

“Ruoxi, these flowers were specially imported from Netherlands through flight. They had bloomed yesterday night, and are matched with carefully modulated French rose perfume. Don’t you like them?” Ning Guodong asked intimately.

Lin Ruoxi frowned slightly. The thickness of his skin was certainly comparable to that of her husband’s. She wasn’t close to him at all and barely knew him, but he didn’t hesitate to call her without her surname. However, that alone didn’t warrant any hostile behaviour.

“Head Ning, these flowers are very rare under such a cold weather. But we’re not close at all, it’s inappropriate for me to accept your gift. It’s better if you can take them back,” Lin Ruoxi said.

“Sigh, pretty flowers have to match a pretty person.” Ning Guodong looked serious and sincere. “Ruoxi, I actually wanted to come over during Chinese New Year. I’ve been thinking of you after returning to Beijing ever since I first saw you at the meeting. Don’t take my advances as aggression, I’ve always been this straightforward and practical. I won’t back off so easily when it comes to women I fancy.”

Lin Ruoxi couldn’t stand Ning Guodong’s straightforwardness. Due to her coldness, there had basically been no guys who chased after her. Now that she was faced with such a fellow where a whip to him is like a tickle to his skin, she had given up her attempt to isolate him. She couldn’t help but feel get a headache.

“Head Ning, it’s about time for me to head off. The sky is turning dark, it would be on your best interest to head home as well.” Lin Ruoxi frowned as she walked toward her Bentley.

Ning Guodong blocked her from proceeding. “Ruoxi, if you refuse to accept these flowers, you’d be looking down on me, Ning Guodong. Even if you wish to return home, I’ll still follow behind you. No matter what, you have to accept this gift of mine. This is my one and only request for now. Are you so heartless to reject an innocent gift of flowers from an admirer?”

Ning Guodong was no stranger to politics. His words were crafted to be more convincing than others, which made Lin Ruoxi who was not familiar with these, stand there with a lost for words. She had heard of the Ning clan’s authority in Beijing. It wasn’t a side Yu Lei International could afford to anger.

Lin Ruoxi turned her head away to think for a while. Soon, she sighed deeply before taking over the flowers from Ning Guodong’s hands.

At this moment, the headlights of a BMW flashed a couple of times from the road in front. Soon, the sound of the friction between the tires and concrete floor resounded loudly through the parking lot!

Honk!

The BMW was like an enraged beast as it headed right toward Ning Guodong and Lin Ruoxi!

Lin Ruoxi felt relieved when she recognized the car. She didn’t know what Yang Chen was up to, but one thing she did know was that she was safe. Thus, she stood there calmly as she waited.

Ning Guodong, however, had no clue that it was driven by Yang Chen. He immediately assumed it to be an insane person who was practicing their drifting in an underground parking lot. His face instantly paled!

“Ruoxi! Get down!”

Although Ning Guodong yelled at Lin Ruoxi to ask her to get away, he had long retreated to the rear of a pillar before nervously looking at the oncoming car.

Screech! The BMW’s break paddle was violently stepped on. It flicked its tail beautifully before parking in front of Lin Ruoxi. There was only a meter between her and the car.

The windows of the car rolled down slowly, revealing Yang Chen’s smiling face. He winked at Lin Ruoxi who was as calm as usual before looking at Ning Guodong who was hiding behind the pillar. “Oh, isn’t this Young Master Ning? Fate must’ve brought us together again. What happened to you now? Is your body not feeling well? Why do you look so pale? Do you have foundation applied on your face?”

Ning Guodong finally realized he was being played by Yang Chen. It was obviously intentional, while Lin Ruoxi evidently knew what car Yang Chen drove so she wasn’t afraid.

“Did you... did you just... dare... dare to scare me with a car?!” Ning Guodong stammered nervously.

“Hmm? Did Young Master Ning get frightened?” Yang Chen asked as he put up a curious look.

Ning Guodong’s expression turned serious. “Who said that? Why would I—”

“Then why did you accuse me of scaring you, Young Master Ning? I thought you weren’t frightened,” Yang Chen said.

Ning Guodong got an immense headache after getting fooled by Yang Chen. Before he could analyze the situation, Yang Chen said to Lin Ruoxi who was standing by the car, “Wife, get in. We’ll be having dinner ourselves tonight.”

Lin Ruoxi hesitated for a bit. She originally didn’t intend to have dinner together with Yang Chen. She was still mad about An Xin’s matter. However, with Ning Guodong present, it would be inappropriate if she turned down Yang Chen. After all, deep down in her heart, she had already accepted Yang Chen as her husband.

Lin Ruoxi hummed in acknowledgement. Holding the flowers, she got into Yang Chen’s car.

Ning Guodong’s eyes were wide open in shock. He looked at Yang Chen take Lin Ruoxi away as he got speechless.

“Wife? Did Yang Chen call Lin Ruoxi ‘Wife’? Are they married?!”

Earlier at the Chamber of Commerce held in Zhonghai, Ning Guodong had briefly asked about Lin Ruoxi’s family. However, he was unaware that she was married. So he decided to start going after her under broad daylight. But that was far different from the actual case.

If Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen are married, then why does no one in the Zhonghai government know about it? The CEO of Yu Lei International isn’t just the average person on the street, he thought.

What further irritated Ning Guodong was the fact that Yang Chen could indeed be Lin Ruoxi's husband, since she had accepted his invite personally. In his mind, this constituted to an insult of the highest degree! The cheap fellow managed to marry such a goddess? Ning Guodong felt that his veins almost exploded out of anger.

At the same time, Yang Chen had his mouth pouted in the car as he glanced at the expressionless Lin Ruoxi occasionally and the bouquet of flowers she was holding.

Lin Ruoxi looked at him emotionlessly. "He didn't let me leave if I didn't take it."

"Then you should've called me. I would've dealt with it for you," Yang Chen said hurriedly. "Get rid of the flowers. I'll look for a roadside trash can for you to throw it in."

Lin Ruoxi vaguely sensed Yang Chen's jealousy and felt rather pleased. This man had always made me feel bad when he goes out looking for other women. Does he finally know that I'm in demand by men now? she thought.

Lin Ruoxi shook her head and acted innocent. "These flowers smell good. I don't see how it could hurt if I left them at home."

"How are they good?!" Yang Chen scolded. "The pussy might've poisoned them!"

"Is being rude all you know? Aren't they just a bouquet of flowers?" Lin Ruoxi frowned and looked displeased. However, she was so contented that she actually wanted to laugh.

"How can I talk passively and sit idly by as my woman has been gifted flowers by another man?" Yang Chen sighed. He then tried to please her. "Babe Ruoxi, please be obedient and get rid of them. I'll get you more and bigger flowers. The perfume is horribly overdone. I'll get you some lighter ones."

Lin Ruoxi shook her head. "No way, it'd be a waste. These flowers are good enough."

Yang Chen turned displeased. Strictly, he said, "No! Before we have dinner tonight, you have to throw them away!"

Lin Ruoxi finally couldn't hold back her laughter anymore when Yang Chen put up a tough act. She gazed upon the man and said, "You're jealous."

"Why should I be jealous? I just dislike the pussy, and ergo dislike anything he gifts," Yang Chen said as he avoided to look at Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes before putting the window down.

The car was on a highway at this moment. The cold wind outside blew Lin Ruoxi's hair into a mess. With her eyes half-opened, she forcefully tossed the flowers out!

The bouquet of flowers flew down the bridge of the highway. They scattered into different directions after being blown by the wind.

When Lin Ruoxi rolled up the window again, Yang Chen asked gloomily, "Why then have you decided to throw them? What happened to putting it at home?"

"I felt the aura of jealousy thicken to a suffocating degree in this car, so I chose to throw them away," Lin Ruoxi said with a smile.

Yang Chen shut his mouth in awkwardness.

"Let's head for dinner. I'm hungry," Lin Ruoxi said.

Yang Chen was surprised. "It's so rare of you to say you're hungry."

Lin Ruoxi bit her lips and nodded. Smiling, she said, "I'm in a good mood now. Of course I'm hungry."

When Yang Chen carefully analyzed her words, he finally understood what she meant. He couldn't help but hold a bitter smile on his face. She finally found something to control him by.

However, Yang Chen felt more relaxed and pleased to finally see Lin Ruoxi smile again. Even the distaste he had toward Ning Guodong had slightly weakened.

Chapter 414: Am I Very Thin

It was rare for peace to be within the same area as Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi. Yang Chen felt that this was the perfect opportunity to further their relationship. In an attempt to please Lin Ruoxi, Yang Chen asked her what she wanted to eat for dinner.

But Lin Ruoxi failed to come up with an idea. She had her meals at home and in the office all the time, or visit hotels when she had to eat out. There was no need for her to eat at such a high-class restaurant when she was with Yang Chen alone.

Yang Chen tried his best to think of something. He found it meaningless to always bring Lin Ruoxi to roadside stalls. The fresh experience wouldn't still be present, while roadside stalls would never be able to serve food as good as a proper restaurant. Furthermore, Yang Chen finally had the opportunity to eat with her alone. Roadside stalls would not do for such rare occasions.

Having pondered for a while, Yang Chen made a U-turn and drove to the seaside of Zhonghai.

Although Lin Ruoxi drove almost every day, the places she drove to basically consisted of work related areas only. Thus, she had no clue where Yang Chen was bringing her to. She got slightly nervous and asked, "Aren't we going to have dinner? Why are we heading to the beach?"

"You'll find out later. Don't worry Babe, your husband won't starve you to death," Yang Chen said with a smile.

Within 15 minutes, the car was parked outside a seafood hot pot restaurant near the seaside. It wasn't half bad of an idea to have hot pot nearing the end of winter and the coming of spring .

Lin Ruoxi looked at the hot pot restaurant which was filled with steam and neon lights. She then inhaled the smell of seafood which was blown over by the wind. She was first curious and a little bit nervous, but soon felt more and more hungry.

"How do you know of this place?" Lin Ruoxi asked.

Yang Chen only recognized this place because of Tang Wan. The place he met Tang Wan the other day was near the seaside, so he had passed by the restaurant before. However, there was no way in hell that

he was going to tell Ruoxi that after the An Xin business. "I'm always so bored. It's no wonder that I wander around all the time."

"Do they serve hot pot?" Lin Ruoxi asked.

"Of course. Why did you ask?" Yang Chen was confused as to why she asked such an obvious question.

Lin Ruoxi blushed slightly. "I... I've never tried hot pot before, so I asked."

What? Is she serious?! he thought. This time, Yang Chen had once again witnessed for himself what a young lady of a wealthy clan was like. But it actually made sense when he thought about it. Lin Ruoxi had grown up around ladies all her life. There had been no reason

for her to eat in such manly manners. Furthermore, it was common knowledge that consuming too much hot pots resulted in blemishes.

"I shall take your first time then," Yang Chen said in a serious manner.

Lin Ruoxi gave him an angry stare. She managed to get the implied meaning in Yang Chen's words.

Isn't it just a hot pot? I see that a lot in Korean dramas. Don't underestimate me, Lin Ruoxi thought.

Immediately after entering, they were ushered to a table near the window. As they walked in, Lin Ruoxi received numerous gazes, which despite the frequency of the occurrence, still made her uncomfortable. It was her first time witnessing a scene where smoke filled the room and people were chatting loudly.

Yang Chen was dissatisfied when he saw how small the table was. He saw that the most he could pile onto the table were five to six plates. Frowning, he said, "Get us a bigger table. How can you expect me to eat comfortably like this?"

The server was a young man. How troublesome. Aren't you two the only ones eating? Why would you need a big table? he thought. However, when he looked at Lin Ruoxi's appearance and how well she was dressed, he figured that they were not part of the common folk. Thus, he smiled and said, "Sir, although the table is small, we provide trays to accommodate for the extra dishes should it be necessary."

Yang Chen shook his head. "It's rare for my wife to come here. It'd be tiring for her to take the plates up and down. Get me a round table, it'd be best if we could get one for ten people. If possible, give me an entire room."

"Sir, as it is, we have very limited rooms to offer. We may not be able to provide for customers with larger groups should we choose to give you this room," the server explained with a smile.

Lin Ruoxi had no clue what was going on. When Yang Chen seemed to be having an argument with the server, she wanted to ask him to forget about it, but she stopped herself from doing so when she realised that it seemed important.

Taking out his credit card, Yang Chen said to the server, "I'll pay immediately. I want a room to ourselves no matter what. I don't care if I have to pay twice the price."

This time, there was no reason for the server to reject him. Although he felt that this customer was being unreasonable, he took the credit card and went to the counter to discuss with the manager. At last, he accepted Yang Chen's request.

After the two walked into a room, Lin Ruoxi asked, "Why did you request for such a large table? A smaller one would have been fine. Does it not feel weird for the both of us to use a table meant for ten people?"

Yang Chen smiled and said, "It's your first time having hot pot. First impressions are the most lasting impressions. So I must make it the best. It's not like my Babe Ruoxi lacks money, the increase in spending isn't significant. Also, although it's a little weird, it'll make this meal more memorable, won't it?"

Lin Ruoxi was too lazy to reply to Yang Chen's absurdity, but felt a hint of sweetness in her heart.

In fact, although eating at a crowded place would be a newer experience to Lin Ruoxi, she would attract way too many gazes which would then make her feel awkward. Lin Ruoxi was an introvert. She was rather afraid of eating hot pot for the first time in front of so many people.

Yang Chen had obviously taken these into account. Why would he insist on getting a private room otherwise?

After the hot pots were served, although there were just the two of them, Yang Chan had devoured the amount equal to five or six times the normal portion. He had ordered ten rolls of lamb alone, which shocked the server who was taking the order.

Lin Ruoxi's face reddened slightly as she ate the hot and spicy hot pot. Sweat exuded on her forehead causing some hair to stick on her face. This made her look more haggard than usual. Compared to her usual coldness, she appeared much more lively.

Lin Ruoxi repeatedly puffed hot air from her mouth as her eyes started to water. Yang Chen felt that she currently looked like a young lady in her twenties, appearing incredibly adorable. When Lin Ruoxi wasn't paying attention to him, he leaned toward her and kissed her on her pinkish cheek.

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes. Frowning, she said, "There's oil on your lips. Don't do that."

"Does it mean I can kiss you when oil is absent?" Yang Chen let out a wicked smile.

Lin Ruoxi pouted and moved to two seats away. Ignoring Yang Chen, she continued dragging the vegetables in the hot pot.

"Eat more meat, it's not like you're fat. You'll look prettier with more flesh," Yang Chen said before putting a bunch of lamb and beef into her plate.

Lin Ruoxi blinked her eyes a couple of times as she felt confused. She asked, "Am I considered a very thin person?"

Yang Chen shook his head. "Your figure is just right."

It was the first time Lin Ruoxi had ever talked about her figure to Yang Chen. She no longer found the hot pot spicy. However, since the subject had been started, she had nothing to fear for. "Then why do you still want me to grow more flesh?" she asked.

Yang Chen giggled and answered, "I like to look at slim women, but I like to touch fleshy ones more."

Lin Ruoxi had the urge to slam her plate into Yang Chen's face. Never have I ever met anyone so shameless that they spout nonsense such as this! she thought.

However, Lin Ruoxi silently chewed the meat Yang Chen placed in her bowl.

They left the room soon after completely stuffed to the brim.

"Sir, it's 1206 yuan in total." When the lady working at the counter said this amount, she was a bit shocked. She knew that Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi insisted on getting a private room with only two people. However, they managed to eat an amount that even ten people wouldn't necessarily finish.

Yang Chen suddenly pointed at two men sitting nearby and said, "I'll pay for theirs as well."

The lady was surprised, but still nodded and allowed Yang Chen to settle two bills.

After exiting the hot pot restaurant, Lin Ruoxi asked, "Did you know them?"

"Nope, I don't" Yang Chen shook his head.

"Then why did you pay for them?"

After getting into the car, Yang Chen turned on the engine and pointed at the restaurant's entrance. "Look. There they come now."

Lin Ruoxi instantly understood what he meant. "Are you trying to say we've been followed?"

"More accurately, they're watching what we're doing," Yang Chen said with a smile.

Lin Ruoxi was puzzled. "Who would do that? Why are they watching us?"

"Think Ruoxi, who else is so interested in our relationship that they felt the need to stalk us?" Yang Chen asked.

"Ning Guodong?" Lin Ruoxi immediately thought of the troublesome fellow. He was the only one who knew she came out for dinner with Yang Chen. He also had the capability to send someone to watch them.

"Did you insist on getting a room to avoid being seen by them?" Lin Ruoxi suddenly asked.

Yang Chen smiled and answered, "This is one of the reasons, but I did that mainly to please my dear wife. Babe Ruoxi, how's the meal tonight?"

Lin Ruoxi ignored Yang Chen's joke. Worried, she asked, "By paying, was that your way of calling Ning Guodong out? Doesn't that mean you've become Ning Guodong's enemy? No doubt he is not a good person, but he's the premier's son. What if he really wants to do harm to you?"

Yang Chen said happily, "If I was afraid of him, I wouldn't have called out his actions so obviously. I'll entertain him for doing this today. If he really ends up on my bad side one day, I'll make sure he pays in ways unimaginable to a person."

Lin Ruoxi felt slightly relieved to see Yang Chen's confidence before sighing again. Other married couples would understand more about each other as time passed. However, the more she spent time with her husband, the more she realizes that she knows so much lesser than she thought.

It was almost ten o'clock at night when they arrived at home. Guo Xuehua, Wang Ma and Hui Lin who went out for a facial treatment had returned home. Zhenxiu who was out for tuition, had returned as well, and was currently doing her revision upstairs.

Guo Xuehua let out a kind smile when the two walked into the living hall. "You're back. Have you had fun just now?"

Lin Ruoxi pouted as she kept quiet as she signalled Yang Chen to do the talking.

Yang Chen nodded. "It felt more lonely when just the two of us were eating. You guys don't need to go out all at once anymore in the future."

"Mom is thinking on your behalf. You two are not close enough, it's better if you can spend more time together." Guo Xuehua didn't try to hide her intention.

Yang Chen smiled in acknowledgement. He then saw a large number of plastic bags by the sofa. "You guys went shopping as well?"

Embarrassed, Wang Ma answered, "Yeah. Young Master, I didn't expect us to get so many clothes at once. When we looked them through after reaching home, a lot of them are actually unnecessary."

"No they're not. Wang Ma, you look great in these shirts," Hui Lin said sweetly.

"I am but an old woman. New clothes are for the young," Wang Ma replied. Crow's feet formed beside her eyes when she smiled.

After they chatted for a while, Wang Ma made tea for Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi. She was then reminded of something. She said, "Miss, after Miss Zhenxiu moved in, our house seems to be rather occupied. Madam Guo raised a rather true statement while we were shopping. You and Young Master will have your children in the future. Families like ours definitely need more children. When that comes, there won't be enough rooms in the house to accommodate for us all. Why don't we move to a bigger house now when we still can?"

"Children?"

Lin Ruoxi's mind came to a halt. All she heard was the word 'children'. Stunned, she looked at Guo Xuehua who was nodding happily before glancing at Yang Chen who was rubbing his nose in innocence.

Lin Ruoxi was sure that she had never wanted the floor to open up and swallow her this badly in her life.

Chapter 415: Ruler of a Feudal Society

In the presidential suite of a five-star hotel in Zhonghai, stood Ning Guodong who had just finished attending a banquet. He removed his handmade suit made by a designer from Milan. After pouring a glass of Bordeaux wine, he made his way to the leather seat by the window, before sipping on the wine. He stared into the distance, mind filled with countless thoughts.

His phone vibrated. Ning Guodong had a look at the number before taking up the call. Expressionlessly, he asked, "How did it go?"

The person sounded rather downhearted. It was the hoarse voice of a man. "I'm sorry, Sir. We were discovered by a man named Yang Chen..."

"What?!" Ning Guodong said, hoping he heard wrong. "What kind of shithole have you guys com from?! Aren't you all supposed to be trained in the special forces?! If so, is a simple task such as this one too difficult for you to carry out?!"

"Sir, even we are not sure of how he managed to discover us. Our stalking methods were flawless. We have no idea why Yang Chen managed to identify us. He even paid for our bill... He's... he's really too damn godlike..."

"Godlike your ass! Fucking pigs!" Ning Guodong scolded. "You're fired. Go home. I have no need for incompetent trash in my life"

Ning Guodong ended the call as soon as he finished speaking. He looked disappointed as he stared outside the window. He murmured, "It looks like... the prick really knows a thing or two. I even met him at the Yang clan's military camp... Yang Chen... Yang Pojun... Yang Gongming..."

"Hmm... is there possibly a connection between them?"

Ning Guodong wasn't a foolish person. He was far smarter than most wealthy children. Otherwise he wouldn't have been able to obtain such a position in the government at such a young age. Combing the time where he met Yang Chen at the military camp, Yang Chen's driving skill he witnessed earlier today, and the fact that Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen appear, Ning Guodong was sure that Yang Chen was more than just an employee of Yu Lei International, contrary to his earlier belief.

"Yang Chen... no matter who you are, count your days for I am coming for you. Lin Ruoxi... no women can reject me, including you!"

Ning Guodong poured the wine and ice into his mouth before crunching the ice cubes into pieces.

...

In the living hall of Dragon Garden, Lin Ruoxi looked at Guo Xuehua's gaze which held high expectations. Troubled, she said, "Aunt Guo... I... Yang Chen and I are not planning for children at this moment."

"It's fine, I know that you two are busy these days. It's not too late to have children after moving to a new house." Guo Xuehua conveniently set the time to after they move away.

Yang Chen noticed Lin Ruoxi's blushing and pale look and felt sympathetic. Smiling, he said, "You guys haven't suggested where we should move to. Since Wang Ma mentioned it first, do you have a house in mind?"

Wang Ma asked, "Why look for a new one when we have a perfectly fine one waiting for us? Our old house is still empty and available for use. I send people there to clean the place every week. We can move in anytime. The house is so huge that fitting all of us and more would not be a problem."

The old house Wang Ma was referring to was none other than the one occupied by the late Lin Kun.

Since Lin Kun's death, all of his assets had been transferred to Lin Ruoxi's name including the villa.

However, Lin Ruoxi had been busy with other tasks. Moreover, she tried her best to avoid the house as it brought back memories of her family, both good and bad ones.

Sorrow surfaced in Lin Ruoxi's eyes now that Wang Ma had talked about it, but she remained silent.

Wang Ma sighed, "Miss, I know how you feel about the house. I sometimes think of the old mistresses of the house. But avoiding the issue isn't going to solve anything. That is our true house after all. Now that I've mentioned it, the only reason why we moved here was due to your fights with the late master. In my heart, I've always hoped to move back one day."

Lin Ruoxi bit her lip. After a while, she finally nodded. "Yeah, I think it's about time we went back to the house. Wang Ma, get us a moving company to help shift all the things we need. We're bringing Hui Lin out for a day soon, just pick that day."

"Alright, don't worry. I'll be sure to watch them." Wang Ma felt pleased.

Guo Xuehua and Hui Lin had heard about the past of the Lin clan from Wang Ma. They knew that Lin Ruoxi wasn't feeling too great about this idea. They walked forward and each held Lin Ruoxi's hand, the latter of whom smiled faintly to signal she was fine.

Yang Chen went upstairs and left the four ladies to chat. He came to Zhenxiu's room and knocked on the door.

The door was soon opened. Zhenxiu's naive and pretty face popped out looking tired. She had a ponytail tied while her lips were dry. It could be seen that she had been working hard for the approaching college entrance exams.

"Brother Yang, you're back. Do you need anything?"

Yang Chen pinched her cheek and said, "Don't exhaust yourself. You have plenty of time. Rest if you must. Do you need help with any questions?"

Zhenxiu smiled sweetly and answered, "It's fine. Studying for an exam is still easier than opening a stall to earn money. Brother Yang, you're the one who should rest well. I'm not as tired as working people such as yourself."

Yang Chen actually felt guilty. His work was basically stress-free. Everything was done by An Xin. His job was to delegate. Today, for example, all he did was flirt with Tang Wan.

Zhenxiu was a child who had to bear hardships. Yang Chen knew that his concern wasn't needed. On the contrary, his concern might make her feel uncomfortable. So he stopped asking questions and returned to his own room.

The next morning, Yang Chen came to his office in the morning. When he entered, An Xin was already inside shifting through some documents. She was seated on the directors chair. This vixen actually looked like a successful businesswoman.

“Ah.” An Xin immediately put down the stuff she was holding when Yang Chen entered. She approached Yang Chen and bowed, much like what the people in dramas. “Welcome, Master.”

Yang Chen couldn't refrain his laughter. “What are you doing now? I'm not a feudal ruler.”

“I have no options. Every time I go home, my dad would inform me to properly serve you. He warned me to not anger you no matter what, and I'm not supposed to throw a tantrum.” An Xin pouted before saying, “So the best I could come up with was to find new ways to please my boss.”

Yang Chen walked forward and hugged An Xin's soft body before sitting down on the chair, putting her firm and round backside on his thighs. He asked, “Since your dad is so annoying, why don't you move out?”

An Xin pouted before leaning against Yang Chen's shoulder. Softly, she said, “So what if he's annoying or despicable? He is my father despite everything. I wouldn't have been born without him, and he's the one who raised me... When I was disobedient back then, he would still deposit money into my card. Although he has done a few ridiculous things to me in the past, he has always seen me as his daughter.

“I've thought it through already. In this world, no one would unconditionally treat someone well. It just depends on whether or not the temptation is worth abandoning the person. Back then, my dad was willing to give me up for the Liu clan. Right now, because of you, he's unwilling to let me go.”

Yang Chen frowned. “What you say makes sense. But why is it that I still have the feeling that something is off? What if you meet a man stronger than me one day? Does it mean that you will have to follow him then?”

An Xin blinked her huge eyes a couple of times in an innocent manner. Smiling, she said, “Of course I won't. I'm only clinging onto you because I'm aware of that. I'm very different from my father. This apple fell very far from the tree. I'd find myself detestable if I ever do so one day. Moreover, is anyone out there more impressive than my hubby?”

Yang Chen shrugged his shoulders. “In such a vast world, there are bound to be people who are.”

“I still won't change. Although you're just like the ruler of a feudal society, having lots of women and power in your hands, I still like you a lot. What can you do about it?” An Xin asked gently.

Yang Chen rubbed An Xin's butt with one of his hands. “Little Vixen, we didn't manage to do it yesterday. Let's make up for it now.”

An Xin's cheeks suddenly turned so red that they looked like blood could come out anytime, while her eyes appeared rather watery. “It's so early morning in the morning. What if someone comes in for something urgent?”

“What's the worst that can happen? Look at you. Your lips are so pouted that they're practically waiting to be kissed.” Yang Chen held an evil smile on his face.

An Xin immediately shut her mouth tightly as she stared at Yang Chen. She could only blame the overly enticing feeling of exercising with this man pounding in her head. Other women may not get a single climax after doing it for tens of times, but she was pushed to the clouds every single time.

When Yang Chen's demon claw reached into An Xin's skirt, the phone on his office table rang.

Yang Chen sighed. He picked up the call and asked, "Who is it? It's so damn early now."

Who would call over so early in the morning? An Xin rolled her eyes.

Silence remained for a short while. A familiar female voice could then be heard. "Am I disturbing you getting intimate with the vixen An Xin, my little lover?"

Yang Chen instantly felt cold sweat roll down his back. Awkwardly, he answered, "Oh so it's Babe Mingyu. Erm... how do I put it? I had been thinking about you earlier. I wanted to look for you but was interrupted by your call, so that's why I was displeased."

Liu Mingyu burst into laughter although she knew that it was a lie. "All you know is lying. Alright then, since you miss me now, come to my office for a while. I have something to tell you."

"Right now?" Yang Chen looked at the temptation right in front of him waiting to be consumed. He licked his lips and asked, "How about one hour later?"

"No, I have a meeting to attend. Do your naughty business later," Liu Mingyu said angrily.

Yang Chen giggled and answered, "Alright then. It's not like I can't do it with you."

When Yang Chen ended the call, An Xin looked at him with disdain. "You're flirting with another woman right in front of your woman, and even said something so direct. You're behaving more and more like the ruler of a feudal society in ancient times."

Yang Chen pinched her cheek. "What else am I supposed to do? I can't just get rid of all of you, can I? Since that can't happen, I can't be expected to try and resolve this in a depressed mood all day, can I? Since I can't cry, all I can do is face the problems head-on."

Although An Xin knew that Yang Chen was talking nonsense, she silently admitted his reasoning.

Yang Chen put An Xin down from his legs and stood up as he prepared to leave to Liu Mingyu's office. Ever since becoming a department head, Liu Mingyu had been busy all day like Mo Qianni, but had taken the initiative to invite Yang Chen over today, which made him curious.

Chapter 416: Pseudo Democracy

It had been a while since Yang Chen last came to the public relations department. Yang Chen was surrounded by a group of ladies dressed in various colors. The place reeked of perfume, which to some was suffocating, but to Yang Chen it felt nostalgic.

"Little Yang, do you think you are so impressive now that you are a director, you don't even have to pay your sisters a visit?" one of the ladies said.

Yang Chen smiled awkwardly. "Chinese New Year took place not long ago. I felt that everyone must be really busy. I have been missing all of you beauties all this time."

“How glib-tongued. I heard you got a vixen-like secretary. Who knows all the naughty stuff you have been up to,” Zhang Cai who was chewing on a cream biscuit said.

Yang Chen was shocked. How do the people in headquarters know about An Xin? Even outsiders think she’s a vixen. Is it because women are able to read other women well, or An Xin has always been so eye-catching? he thought.

“Don’t accuse him of doing such things. He might very well be her official boyfriend,” Zhao Hongyan said as he looked at Yang Chen strangely.

“How is he her boyfriend? He told us he was married,” Zhang Cai said.

“You should focus on eating your biscuits. Don’t be a busy body.” Zhao Hongyan poked Zhang Cai’s round cheek.

Yang Chen had a vague feeling that they were keeping tabs on him, but he was too embarrassed to ask them.

When he walked into Liu Mingyu’s office, she was at her desk using the computer.

She was dressed in a moon-white uniform while her neck purple scarf wrapped around it. Her long, black hair was held up, and her bright cheeks appeared particularly white. The aura of a mature woman had strengthened compared to when Yang Chen first met her.

What surprised Yang Chen the most, was the black-framed spectacles she was wearing. She was diagnosed with short-sightedness some time ago, but she was too lazy to put on contact lenses in her own office, so instead she had on a pair of normal glasses.

Liu Mingyu looked like an intellectual with the spectacles on, much like a professor giving a lecture in a university, which caused a fire to start burning in Yang Chen’s eyes as he thought of naughty things .

Liu Mingyu smiled when she saw who had entered. She wanted to remove her spectacles, but was stopped by him.

“Eh, don’t remove them!” Yang Chen said with a smile.

Confused, Liu Mingyu blinked her eyes as she gazed upon Yang Chen, before putting down her arm.

Yang Chen walked toward Liu Mingyu and carefully examined her with his head slightly slanted, causing her to blush lightly. Smiling, he said, “Babe Mingyu, from who have you learnt to look like a spectacles girl?”

“Damn you. What spectacles girl...” Liu Mingyu instantly understood the fellow’s intention. She then quickly removed her spectacles and put them back into her desk drawer.

Yang Chen felt sad when she did that. There was nothing he could do about it since Liu Mingyu was so shy. No matter how alluring she looked with spectacles on, he felt that they were not yet at a point where he could demand what clothes she wears.

Liu Mingyu tapped on the desk and ordered Yang Chen, “Stop wandering around in my office. Sit opposite me.”

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "We haven't gotten intimate for so long and you don't feel the need to flirt with me. Your request for me to sit away from you makes me even more sad."

"Don't try to make me feel guilty. I told you I wasn't a little girl anymore. Having passed that phase of my life, I don't have the time to spare to flirt with you." Liu Mingyu rolled her eyes. "I have something serious to discuss with you."

Yang Chen walked to the water dispenser and poured a glass of water before slowly sitting on the chair opposite Liu Mingyu. Taking a sip of the water, he asked, "What is it?"

Liu Mingyu looked slightly agitated at what she was about to say next. "My parents want to see you."

"Pfft!"

Yang Chen spat out the water he had in his mouth. Dissatisfied, Liu Mingyu pouted her mouth into a frown. "Is this really something that you should be laughing at?"

Yang Chen waved his hand and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Does your parents even know of our relationship at all?"

Slowly and softly, Liu Mingyu said, "Naturally, I haven't told them that I was in a relationship with a man who shags like rabbits. I just told them we were in a relationship, but only informed them this late because I was too busy."

"So Uncle and Aunt want to see me?" Yang Chen more or less understood the situation.

"Can they?" Liu Mingyu asked nervously as she felt rather afraid.

Puzzled, Yang Chen asked, "Why can't they see me? They're your parents, while all I've done is stole their daughter. It is only normal for them to get to know me. We have to ask the owner when we want to borrow something, so how can I not ask the parents when I've caught a woman?"

"You're making it sound really horrible. Nobody is snatching anybody here. Why can't you articulate properly?" Liu Mingyu blushed, but was evidently elated. She heaved a sigh of relief after hearing Yang Chen's acceptance.

Soon, Liu Mingyu seemed to have thought of something. Troubled, she asked, "But what if they want us to get married? You... you are already married..."

Yang Chen looked into her eyes. Smiling, he asked, "Are you willing to marry me?"

Liu Mingyu was stunned for a while. Having contemplated the question, she shook her head as she answered, "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't willing to. But I know for a fact that you would not want me as your bride. In your heart, I may not even rival Qianni, let alone your unknown wife and the girl An Xin. Actually, I only chose to get together with you mainly because I needed a person to rely on. Of course, I really like you, love you. But... also because of that, all I want now is to stay beside you and keep things status quo. I'm beginning to contemplate things like marriage less and less..."

"Stupid Woman, stop being absurd. I'm not biased as you described. I'll take care of this. Arrange a time with Uncle and Aunt since they want to see me. However, I'll only be free some time later from now," Yang Chen said.

The two then got into silence. Liu Mingyu was thinking about something while Yang Chen was trying to think of a way to meet her parents.

Suddenly, Liu Mingyu said, "Hongyan found out and you and me."

"Hmm?" Yang Chen wasn't able to understand what she said.

"I said Hongyan found out that I was your lover. She came to my office to ask me about it two days ago, to which I've confessed to. The kid was rather interesting. She advised me to not give up my life-long happiness for a short-term relationship. Does this make any sense to you?" Liu Mingyu asked as she held back her laughter.

Yang Chen slapped his forehead. Back in Japan, he had a feeling that Zhao Hongyan had discovered his relationship with Liu Mingyu. She was in the same room with her after all. When such a huge disturbance took place that night, she must've noticed the absence of Liu Mingyu in her room.

Women are often much more acute when it came to topics like this. Zhao Hongyan must've went poking around to have uncovered this.

"Yes, she's right. There really isn't any reason to follow me when you could have a man which treats you the way you deserve to be treated. However, you have given up that choice. Getting together with me is the same as entering a dead end. You shall walk in the dark until the end," Yang Chen said confidently.

Liu Mingyu rolled her eyes. "I knew you would say such a thing as a bully. You sound democratic and righteous, but you're in fact more selfish than everyone else."

Yang Chen rubbed his nose to cover his awkwardness and let out a smile.

"Oh yeah, I have a colleague gathering tonight. Do you want to come along?" Liu Mingyu asked with high expectations.

Yang Chen asked, "Is it the public relations department?"

"Not all of them. I discussed with Qianni two days ago to organize an association between the finance and public relations departments. There are many competent guys with bright futures in the finance department, who will suit a lot of our ladies," Liu Mingyu said with the smile of a busybody.

There wasn't a doubt in Yang Chen's mind that they were trying to play the role of cupid. But Yang Chen didn't expect Liu Mingyu to have gotten this close with Mo Qianni, so close that they had started organizing activities together.

When he was reminded that Mo Qianni had moved to stay together with Rose, he then found out these three women of his were actually, in some way, connected, and were building a deeper connection each day.

Yang Chen was considering if he should invite An Xin over as well, to allow the four women play Mahjong together.

"You must be thinking something ridiculous for you to have held that smile for so long. Your jaw looks like its about to fall off," Liu Mingyu said. Dissatisfied, she asked again, "So are you coming or not?"

“I won’t make things awkward... if I go right?” Yang Chen asked as he felt slightly worried.

Liu Mingyu burst into laughter. “Do you think Qianni and I are young girls who would easily get jealous? We’ll have fun ourselves. We only asked you to tag along since you used to be one of us. Otherwise, humph, don’t think you’re any impressive just because you’ve become the director of the new company. We still won’t entertain you in that case.”

Yang Chen nodded his head generously. “Since that’s the case, I have to go then. I’m not someone who would forget his roots.”

After he finished speaking, he made a phone call home to tell Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma that he wouldn’t return home for dinner.

He then contemplated on whether he should call Lin Ruoxi or not. It was the most basic form of respect between a married couple. Since he remembered his mother, he had to remember his wife as well, didn’t he?

He finally decided to call her. The call was quickly connected, with Lin Ruoxi’s voice coming from the phone, “What do you want?”

Yang Chen had long gotten used to the way she spoke, so he didn’t mind it too much. “Are you busy now? It actually isn’t something important. I’m just telling you I won’t be having dinner at home tonight.”

Lin Ruoxi remained quiet for a while. She then asked, “What will you be doing?”

Yang Chen was astonished. Is she concerned about what I’ll do later?! She’s never asked anything like that in the past, even when I was abroad for a while, he thought.

“Should I be surprised that you’re interested in what I do?”

“You call me out of respect. I respect you as well, so I’m asking you what you’re doing later. It’s fine if you don’t want to say.” Lin Ruoxi had the urge to end the call after saying this.

“I’ll tell you.” Yang Chen smiled bitterly. He seemed to have stepped on the softest part of Lin Ruoxi’s heart and made her shy. “It’s a gathering for the finance and public relations departments. I was invited to go as well.”

Lin Ruoxi asked, “Is it organized by Qianni and Liu Mingyu?”

“Erm... Yeah, is there a problem with that?”

Lin Ruoxi replied, “I’ll go as well.”

Bash!

Yang Chen lost grip on his smartphone, causing it to instantly fall to the ground!

Chapter 417: Different Kind of Anxiety

Boss Lin’s sudden ‘kindness’ had frightened Yang Chen. After Lin Ruoxi said, “I’ll go as well,” he was completely dumbstruck.

Liu Mingyu was shocked to see Yang Chen's phone fall from his hand together with a shocked expression form on his face. She couldn't help but suspect Yang Chen had been bewitched.

"Are you okay?" Liu Mingyu asked out of concern.

Yang Chen picked the phone up from the ground and raised his hand to signal he was fine. He continued speaking to Lin Ruoxi, "Erm... Wife, is it possible that you are not feeling well today? This doesn't sound like you. You never do stuff like this!"

Coldly, Lin Ruoxi answered, "Is there a problem that I'm taking an interest in the personal lives of my employees? Can't I participate in activities with them? Or is there something you want to hide from me?"

Yang Chen hurriedly replied with a bitter smile, "There's nothing to hide. I'm glad you are coming."

"It's settled then. Come to pick me up after work. I'll give you a call to signal I'm ready," Lin Ruoxi said before ending the call directly.

Pick her up after work? Won't others find out we're together this way? Is this her twisted way of announcing our relationship?! Yang Chen thought.

He was deeply confused as he was unaware of Lin Ruoxi's intentions. But to him, all of these didn't matter. As long as Lin Ruoxi wasn't afraid of being troubled, there was nothing he needed to hide.

"Is your wife pregnant?" Liu Mingyu asked out of curiosity.

Yang Chen smiled stiffly and said, "What are you talking about? Who told you she was pregnant?"

"Then why did you ask if she was feeling fine?" Liu Mingyu let out a cunning smile.

Yang Chen didn't feel the need to hide it from his woman. She'd find out sooner or later anyway. Thus, he said, "My wife said she wanted to attend the gathering as well. You'll finally be able to see the face behind the title of my wife."

The smile on Liu Mingyu's face instantly vanished. Worried, she asked, "Then... do I have to prepare anything?"

"What do you want to prepare?"

"A gift or something of course. What do you think your wife would like?" Liu Mingyu asked softly.

Yang Chen smiled strangely. "We are not living in the past. There are no first or second wives here. Why do you look so afraid?"

"How can you expect me to stay calm in this situation? Based on your indifferent personality, of course you'd be fine. I've actually been rather worried about it for quite a while. If we turn out unhappy, both you and I would suffer together. Also, it isn't my intention to be a mistress at the start, so it's me being unreasonable."

"You don't need to prepare anything. You'll find out when you see her later. Gifts have no value to her," Yang Chen said.

Yang Chen was actually right. Her job and wage were both given by Lin Ruoxi. Preparing any gifts would be the same as returning the stuff she had been given.

Liu Mingyu was up in her own world filled with thoughts. She started pondering about the problem as she ignored him.

Yang Chen saw that Liu Mingyu wasn't in the mood to perform that sort of activities, so he left her office as he didn't want to force her.

The afternoon had passed in the blink of an eye. It was time for people to get off work. Yang Chen punctually arrived at the parking area at the headquarters as promised to Lin Ruoxi.

Upon stopping his car, Lin Ruoxi who was dressed in a simple, light brown, furry, collared, sleeveless top with a pair of laced stockings slowly walked toward his direction while holding a small, coffee-colored handbag.

Lin Ruoxi who had usually appeared to be cold and strict currently looked younger and sexier.

Of course, only a man like Yang Chen who had gotten used to seeing his wife would give such an understatement. Should other men have witnessed this scene, There would be no doubt that their eyes would've been glued to her persons for an uncomfortable amount of time.

"Not bad at all. You didn't forget to dress appropriately for the evening party. My Babe Ruoxi isn't ignorant at everything in the world, is she?" Yang Chen said, elated.

Lin Ruoxi seemed displeased by his words. Biting her lower lip, she sat into the car before saying softly, "I asked Qianni what I should wear. This is what she came up with."

Yang Chen's facial expression instantly stiffened. No wonder she suddenly changed into something I had never seen before. So it's because she had asked Qianni for her opinion! Yang Chen thought.

So that means Qianni is aware that I'll be bringing Ruoxi over tonight. Will she already have told Mingyu about my relationship with Ruoxi?

When he thought about his two lovers and wife would interact tonight, Yang Chen couldn't help but feel worried and unconfident.

The meet-up location was a rather well-known, high-class nightclub in Zhonghai named Zi Yue Xuan. There were different kinds of entertainment facilities there, so it could also be considered a karaoke bar.

After handing over the car to the parking valet, Yang Chen walked into the dimly lit hall of the nightclub together with Lin Ruoxi.

Since it was still early, there weren't many customers there. The servers were dressed smartly, completed with neckties. Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi followed them to a pre-booked, huge, private room.

Before their arrival, various discussions had been carried out in the private room. They were mainly talking about the shocking news brought by Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu—Boss Lin is coming to tonight's party as well?!

These young employees from the finance and public relations departments hadn't dared to meet Lin Ruoxi for several reasons. She was just like the goddess from above—she could only be gazed upon from afar, while one would suffer when standing nearby.

Today, their goddess would finally descend to party with them together. Why wouldn't they burst in elation and get astonished?

"What should I do? Tell me! I wanted to sing tonight, but I'll be so shy that I won't even be able to open my mouth when Boss Lin is here later," a female employee from the public relations department said.

A guy from the finance department laughed and said, "We'll ask Boss Lin to sing for us later. I'm really curious to find out how good her singing is."

"Boss Lin might get angry and reduce your salary!" a lady said.

"It'll be worthy to listen to Boss Lin's singing even if I have to surrender my one-month salary..." At this moment, the door got pushed open from outside. Yang Chen was the first one to enter the room smilingly. Soon, Lin Ruoxi's elegant figure walked inside as well.

In the huge private room containing tens of people, the atmosphere was pin drop silent. Everyone had their gaze fixed on Lin Ruoxi who was dressed in a slightly seductive manner. The former blurry look of their goddess had shocked them when looked at such a close distance at such clarity.

"Bo—Boss Lin!" a male employee greeted nervously and bowed down ninety degrees.

The other employees refrained from laughing, but still greeted Lin Ruoxi.

Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu were chatting away happily at one corner of the room. When they noticed Lin Ruoxi's arrival, Mo Qianni winked at her in a natural manner, while Liu Mingyu didn't dare to look into her eyes, as if she was guilty about something.

Having witnessed this scene, Yang Chen instantly confirmed his guess that Liu Mingyu had found out his relationship with Lin Ruoxi. She must've been terrified by the news.

Lin Ruoxi was initially rather nervous. But she soon felt relieved when she saw how much more nervous the people around were. Smiling faintly, she said, "Let's sit down. I only came to mingle today, not to inspect anything."

"Haven't you all heard what she said? Why are you still standing like wood piles?" Yang Chen couldn't help but laugh.

At this moment, the people finally noticed Yang Chen's presence. Most of them held the same thought. Why did Director Yang come with Boss Lin?

However, no one would be willing to investigate into this matter. No one would believe Yang Chen to be Lin Ruoxi's husband. They would at most be busybodies for a short while, to gossip about the personal relationship between the two.

A few of the employees emptied out a space to allow Lin Ruoxi sit at the center, right beside Mo Qianni. Yang Chen, however, didn't have such a privilege. He only managed to find a little stool at a corner.

Taking a handful of sunflower seeds, he sat down and observed just much respect the employees had for Lin Ruoxi.

Liu Mingyu currently stared at Yang Chen angrily, but later revealed a wronged look.

Women's gazes do speak a lot of words, Yang Chen thought. It only took Liu Mingyu a look to make him feel embarrassed. The identity of Yang Chen's wife had been kept a secret for so long, and she turned out to be Liu Mingyu's employer at last.

"Let's not surround Boss Lin anymore. We all came to celebrate and party instead of getting on the boss's good side. Quickly pick some songs and dance," Mo Qianni ordered.

The few young people surrounding Lin Ruoxi smiled awkwardly before leaving to the song-picking device. Some of the ladies from the public relations department cheerfully went to dance along the song's rhythm.

While no one was paying attention, Liu Mingyu reached her slender arm out to violently pinch Yang Chen's thigh. "Stupid! Why didn't you tell me earlier?! You've kept it a secret from me for so long, I feel so ashamed!" Liu Mingyu said using a loudness that only Yang Chen could hear.

"What's there to be ashamed about? You've never asked me who my wife is before," Yang Chen said helplessly.

Bitterness filled Liu Mingyu's face. "But Boss Lin must be aware that we're together... and I still walked around under her sight every day. I feel so embarrassed now when I think about it."

Yang Chen held Liu Mingyu's palm which was rather cold. She shivered a little as she nervously glanced at Lin Ruoxi. At last, she didn't withdraw her hand as Lin Ruoxi wasn't looking at her direction.

"Don't look so terrified. Since I dare to bring Ruoxi over, it means I'm not afraid that she'd confront you. It's an undeniable fact that you're my woman," Yang Chen said to console her.

Although I feel sorry to Ruoxi by saying this, I have to regulate my relationship with my women. So I'll have to sacrifice her position a little. In the worst case, I'll find a way to tease her and make her slightly happier, Yang Chen thought as he felt guilty.

"Sigh... To be honest, I used to think if I had the chance to outperform your wife, I'd do so to the point where you would choose to marry me instead... Although I knew I was daydreaming, I could at least think about it occasionally. However, right now, I completely lost hope in changing your mind, and I bet Qianni feels the same too."

Yang Chen smiled in acknowledgement. He was aware that Liu Mingyu saw Lin Ruoxi like her idol, just like many other employees from Yu Lei International. So he wasn't surprised by what she said.

The young people started from the song 'Strip' and ended up singing an old, emotional, English song 'Home'. A few of the male employees could sing really well. They took turns to sing line by line, and seemed like professional singers.

When the mic was passed to Yang Chen, the employees looked at Yang Chen with high expectations. Yang Chen didn't reject them by not choosing to sing. Although he didn't usually listen to trendy Chinese songs, he was an expert in overseas ones.

“Another summer day has come and gone away in Paris and Rome, but I wanna go home...”

After he sang a few lines, Yang Chen was prepared to pass the mic to someone else. However, the employees all insisted that Yang Chen continue singing after listening to his slightly hoarse voice together with his fluent British accent.

Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu both clapped for Yang Chen in encouragement.

However, Lin Ruoxi silently sat on the sofa and looked pale.

Other than interacting with her employees, she initially only decided to come because she wanted to prevent Yang Chen’s lovers from forming an alliance. While Mo Qianni was her close friend, it would do more harm than good to Lin Ruoxi if she became too close with Liu Mingyu. Thus, she decided that showing herself would be the way, and at the same time pressure Yang Chen so that he could behave himself.

However, Lin Ruoxi finally noticed she had overlooked a factor—she wasn’t good at singing. Moreover, her voice when she sang would challenge the absolute limits a person could take! Although she had learned a little from Yang Chen, she quickly gave up because the panda-like actions were overly stupid.

Seeing how Yang Chen’s voice won over such a loud cheer, and the fact that everyone there could sing was quite evident, Lin Ruoxi knew that she could very well be next... Although Lin Ruoxi hated to admit, she still had to agree that if she sang a song today, she would wipe out everyone’s impression of her. How was she supposed to raise her head in front of these employees in the future?

Although Lin Ruoxi had always looked indifferent, it didn’t mean she wouldn’t get shy or embarrassed.

As Lin Ruoxi felt agitated, Liu Mingyu left her seat as she planned to go to the washroom. However, since she didn’t dare to face Lin Ruoxi, she had her face lowered when she walked out.

Lin Ruoxi on the other hand got an idea. Hurriedly, she said, “Eh, Mingyu, are you going to the washroom? I’ll come with you.”

Before Liu Mingyu could react, Lin Ruoxi walked out of the room before her.

Liu Mingyu thought Lin Ruoxi had been waiting for this opportunity to talk to her personally. She got so nervous that her palms had started sweating. She turned her head around to give Yang Chen a furious stare before walking out.

Chapter 418: Voluntary Confession

Lin Ruoxi exited the room quietly and retreated to a corner. She leaned against the wall for support, taking in a sigh of relief.

Had she stay in the room, her employees would most likely have demanded her to sing. Under such circumstances, she certainly couldn’t decline to sing lest she disappoint her employees greatly. However, if she decided to sing, she would disappoint them further.

Since young, Lin Ruoxi had never felt that singing was this important.

Liu Mingyu who walked out and followed Lin Ruoxi was incredibly worried. She originally wanted to get to the washroom. However, she had completely forgotten about it currently.

When Lin Ruoxi suddenly stopped walking, with her back facing her, Liu Mingyu was certain that Lin Ruoxi wanted to confront her.

Clenching her teeth, Liu Mingyu gathered her courage and approached Lin Ruoxi. "Boss Lin, please give me your forgiveness regarding me and Yang Chen."

Liu Mingyu's initially white face instantly turned pinkish after saying it while worry, fear, shyness, and helplessness could be seen on it. Panicked, she silently waited for Lin Ruoxi's judgement.

She knew that she definitely wouldn't end up well if the woman in front of her wanted to be merciless. Ignoring the fact that her job was given by Lin Ruoxi, which could be taken away anytime, even if Yang Chen wasn't willing to leave her, there would still be nowhere left for her to go.

I'm only an outsider after all... Liu Mingyu thought. She despised herself.

Lin Ruoxi on the other hand was a little surprised, but soon understood what Liu Mingyu meant.

In fact, Lin Ruoxi had seen Yang Chen interact with Liu Mingyu rather intimately before, but she didn't have the luxury of investigating them, so she didn't manage to confirm her guess.

All Lin Ruoxi knew previously was Mo Qianni, Rose, and An Xin were Yang Chen's lovers, with Liu Mingyu still in doubt. When she decided to attend this party, seeing if Yang Chen was involved with other female colleagues as well was part of her plan.

Seeing the aggrieved woman who was in fact a few years older than her, Lin Ruoxi let out a faint smile which held sourness and helplessness.

Liu Mingyu relied on her prestige and performance to become the head of the public relations department. So Lin Ruoxi actually saw her as a key player for the future of Yu Lei International and very competent worker. However, today, Liu Mingyu became Lin Ruoxi's love rival.

To put it in another way, Liu Mingyu couldn't be considered a 'rival', but a mere competitor.

That was because that man would never give up on his other women for Lin Ruoxi's sake.

"Do you know that..." Lin Ruoxi circled her hair as she looked at Liu Mingyu who had her head lowered. Softly, she said, "Before you told me, I was only suspecting you two. I never knew if my suspicions were right"

Liu Mingyu violently raised her head while her eyes were enlarged in astonishment and mouth was slightly opened. Dumbfounded, she held the look of awkwardness and complex emotions.'

Did I just make a confession willingly?!

Liu Mingyu scolded Yang Chen a hundred times in her heart. Why didn't that bad guy tell me earlier? She still doesn't know about my relationship with him! she thought.

However, since she had made the confession herself, Liu Mingyu put on a brave face and said, "Boss Lin... I... I know that I'm sorry to you. I have suffered from accusations and rumors in the company for

the past few years, but you have never showed doubt on my performance, and even allowed me to have retained my current position... But... but I really didn't know Yang Chen was your husband..."

Lin Ruoxi tossed back with a question. "If you knew, would you still have gone for him?"

Liu Mingyu was lost in words.

She's right... Would I have foolishly followed this married man again if I knew he was Lin Ruoxi's husband? Would I have avoided him as much as possible? Or would I still act surreptitious like what I'm doing now? she thought.

"You can't think of an answer, can you?" Lin Ruoxi asked. "You only became what you are now because you chose him, not because of my absence."

"Boss Lin, I..."

"There's nothing left to be said. There's also nothing for me to say on this matter," Lin Ruoxi said. She then fell into contemplation. "Even I haven't managed to figure out why I decided to marry that man. So to me, regardless how he interacts with other women, it doesn't matter."

Liu Mingyu frowned as she didn't expect such a reaction from Lin Ruoxi. Not only was she not scolded or treated coldly, Lin Ruoxi didn't seem like she was blaming Liu Mingyu at all, which made her feel like she was having an illusion. Are they really married? Why would a wife behave so calmly and naturally when her husband has women outside? Liu Mingyu thought.

Lin Ruoxi seemed to have felt Liu Mingyu's doubt. She snorted as she felt contempt for herself. "To be honest, when I found out you were indeed Yang Chen's lover, I certainly did feel unhappy deep inside. No women in the world would love to see their man messing around outside. But how am I really supposed to express my discontent?"

"I don't know how to scold someone, nor will I be able to do so, let alone fight you like an insane woman. I even failed to find a way to show my struggles.

"Do you know that I've been trying really hard to be a good wife, but things always go the complete opposite? Sometimes I feel that... I was born without the mentality of a woman. Maybe those things that I don't have, happen to be what you all have, so Yang Chen decided to get together with you all instead of staying loyal to me."

Liu Mingyu managed to feel the disappointment and loneliness buried in Lin Ruoxi's words, and the kind of helpless sorrow, causing the supposedly disadvantaged Liu Mingyu to feel empathetic for Lin Ruoxi.

At this moment, Liu Mingyu wanted to say something to make Lin Ruoxi feel better, and the environment less awkward to put this matter at rest. However, a familiar figure approached her from junction in front.

Liu Mingyu instantly turned displeased. She frowned slightly and turned her head away as she was unwilling to talk to that person.

Lin Ruoxi noticed her weird expression. Curious, she turned her head around and saw a man nicely dressed in a stripe suit walk to her direction.

“Mingyu? Have you come to enjoy as well? How coincidental. I didn’t think we could bump into each other here,” the man said happily and walked toward the center of Liu Mingyu and Lin Ruoxi, with a wicked smile on his face.

“Qi Kai, I have no business with you. Would you please leave me alone?” Liu Mingyu asked coldly.

This man was Liu Mingyu’s ex boyfriend Qi Kai who appear a while ago. However, he got injured after being whacked by Yang Chen earlier. After that, he failed to seek help from the police, so he started behaving himself a little and stopped looking for Liu Mingyu’s trouble. Unexpectedly, they had crossed paths today. Moreover, he looked every bit more sinister than before.

As Qi Kai spoke, he reached his arm out as he wanted to touch Liu Mingyu’s face.

Liu Mingyu hurriedly took a step back and stared at Qi Kai in caution. “Go away. Have you forgotten how you were beaten by Yang Chen until you spat blood?! You know what? He’s just in the private room behind me. If you dare to continue, I won’t hesitate to call him over.”

Qi Kai’s eyes looked as if they were on fire. “So he’s here too. Humph. I’ve been finding time to look for that villager one day. I guess it’s better to do it now than later.”

Lin Ruoxi who was listening to the conversation was in contemplation. She seemed to have understood how Yang Chen’s relationship with Liu Mingyu started. Her seemingly useless husband had been another woman’s knight in shining armour.

Lin Ruoxi sighed slightly as she noticed the blaze in Liu Mingyu’s eyes. I guess she must’ve been severely hurt by this Qi Kai guy in the past. She’s a pitiful woman as well. Why would I choose to do more harm to her then? Lin Ruoxi thought.

“Mingyu, let’s go back to the room and ignore him,” Lin Ruoxi said softly after walking closer to Liu Mingyu and holding her arm.

Qi Kai finally noticed Lin Ruoxi. He didn’t pay much attention to her when she had her back facing him. His eyes instantly revealed a violent passion, as if a starved beast had just discovered a fresh and alive sheep. He even started panting a little.

“Where is this beauty from again? Mingyu, why haven’t you introduce her to me?”

Chapter 419: What Don’t You Understand

Qi Kai’s wicked smile made him lose his original gentlemanly look His stare at Lin Ruoxi’s face was hungry, much like a tiger would look at its prey.

Lin Ruoxi shifted uncomfortably under his withering gaze. She frowned a little, but due to her lack of interactions with people, didn’t know how to shrug him off, nor did she like to speak to strangers. Thus, she ignored Qi Kai and pulled Liu Mingyu before walking toward the room.

Liu Mingyu was more concerned when Qi Kai changed his focus from her to Lin Ruoxi. She was the main cause of that after all, that Lin Ruoxi was at the receiving end of the gazes. How am I still supposed to face Yang Chen? I don’t think I can continue working at her place anymore, she thought.

“Boss Lin, let’s go in quickly,” Liu Mingyu said as she pulled Lin Ruoxi’s arm. She wanted to get back to the private room to look for Yang Chen. It was much better for him to deal with these sort of matters.

“What’s the rush?” Qi Kai was in the special forces. His speed allowed him to block the two ladies from returning. With a strange smile, he turned his head to sniff the fragrance of the two in enjoyment.

Lin Ruoxi had never been teased this way by a stranger. She staggered backwards nervously while her face reddened in anger.

“Haha, you’re quite shy, aren’t you?” Qi Kai asked in elation. He took yet another step forward, which forced the two ladies to retreat. “I’d used the bitch Wang Yue too often I got bored of her really quickly. I had been complaining for the lack of an appropriate woman to fill the gap. I didn’t expect to meet such a treasure today...”

Wang Yue was the lady whom Yang Chen called ‘Matsushima Kaede’ when they met in a restaurant back then with Qi Kai. Apparently, she had been dumped by Qi Kai by now.

[TL note: Matsushima Kaede is a JAV star.]

“Shameless!” Liu Mingyu scolded as she couldn’t stand what she just heard.

“So what if that’s the case? Why not you come and have some fun with me?” Qi Kai said as he continued leaning toward Liu Mingyu.

At this moment, the door of the private room was opened. Yang Chen took out a cigarette from his shirt pocket as he smiled at Qi Kai in a teasing manner.

Although the room was filled with loud music, Yang Chen’s acute hearing allowed him to listen to the conversation outside just now. Thus, he gave his colleagues an excuse to come out.

Qi Kai felt cold sweat run down his back. When he turned around, he saw Yang Chen as expected.

“It’s you.” Qi Kai clenched his teeth. It was this average-looking man who beat Qi Kai up and embarrassed him severely back then. Now that Qi Kai had met his enemy, his eyes had turned particularly red. “Thanks to you, I had to consume more medicine than you may ever see in your life. I won’t allow you to leave easily today,” he said with a hoarse voice.

Yang Chen ignored his provocation. He was too lazy to entertain an oddly high confident guy like him. He walked past Qi Kai and said to to Lin Ruoxi and Liu Mingyu, “Are you two fine?”

Lin Ruoxi shook her head, while Liu Mingyu looked at Yang Chen apologetically.

Yang Chen smiled faintly to signal everything was under control. He then turned around in an indifferent manner before saying, “Are you done?”

Qi Kai thought Yang Chen would say something angrily. But he noticed Yang Chen had nothing he wanted to say, but asked him what else he wanted to say instead.

Yang Chen was straight-up not taking him seriously!

Qi Kai got so mad that he laughed. Widening his eyes to give a cold gaze, he said, “Did you just ignore me? Do you believe that i’m powerless against you just because you have someone’s backing and the

police force doesn't dare to touch you? So what if you're good in fighting? Do you know who I came here with?!"

Yang Chen had already taken his much loved cigarette out. He was too embarrassed to smoke in the room earlier as there were many ladies there. He had wanted to smoke much earlier out of boredom, so now he lit his cigarette up.

Yang Chen inhaled the smoke in satisfaction before exhaling the sharp-smelling secondhand smoke of his poor-quality tobacco.

Qi Kai frowned as he looked at Yang Chen in disdain. "Why aren't you talking? Do you think you're the boss of an underground syndicate just because you can afford a stupid cigarette worth a few cents?"

Yang Chen snorted in contempt. Suddenly, he slapped Qi Kai's left cheek quicker than lightning!

Unable to react to the incredibly abrupt attack, Qi Kai was flung violently as a result of the momentum from the slap!

Having witnessed Yang Chen's sudden strike, Lin Ruoxi and Liu Mingyu retreated behind Yang Chen as they were shocked, albeit happy that Qi Kai was struck.

Qi Kai's left cheek instantly swelled up, while blood started to leak from the corner of his lips.

He refused to believe he was slapped as he touched his left cheek. Soon, his lips twitched repeatedly while he stared at Yang Chen furiously. Enraged, he yelled, "You... you dare strike me again?!"

Slap!

An even louder slap could be heard from Qi Kai's right cheek!

Qi Kai only finished speaking a sentence before he received yet another blow, causing him to slam into the other side of the wall.

As a result, both corners of his lips were drenched with blood!

Qi Kai was astonished. What's wrong with this guy? Why doesn't he say anything before striking?! he thought.

Also, Yang Chen's speed was far beyond his imagination. He was trained in the special forces, but still had no clue why Yang Chen could strike him without him realizing it. Both the times he was slapped, after regaining awareness, he saw Yang Chen standing at the same position, smoking his cheap cigarette looking at him like a fool!

Qi Kai who had a proud heart was unable to accept being looked upon this way. The hatred within him yet again intensified.

"Are you expecting me to express my anger just like what you did, before taking action? You're very wrong unfortunately. There's no need for me to waste my breath with the likes of you. I'll grant you a slap for every sentence you speak. I won't kill you, but I don't mind slapping you all day. If you want to be slapped again, speak," Yang Chen said as he frowned while exhaling smoke.

Lin Ruoxi and Liu Mingyu had been surprised by Yang Chen's merciless behavior. They started feeling sympathetic for Qi Kai, as he was beaten so terribly that his head swelled up to that of a pig.

Infuriated, Qi Kai wanted to say something again, but immediately stopped himself from doing so. His face had gotten so numb that he had lost sense of it.

Qi Kai soon thought of the person he came here with who could take revenge for him. Staring at Yang Chen, he didn't plan on continuing the fight with Yang Chen. As he sprinted away, he shouted, "Faggot, stay here. I'll call someone over to take care of you!"

Qi Kai then ran into a private room nearby.

Yang Chen turned around to face Lin Ruoxi and Liu Mingyu. "Get inside first. I'll deal with this here."

Lin Ruoxi's gaze at Yang Chen held complex emotions. She knew that she couldn't be of much help if she stayed here. However, she wasn't too worried as she knew a thing or two about Yang Chen. "Be careful," she said, before pulling the anxious Liu Mingyu back into the room.

After the two returned to the room, he looked at the direction Qi Kai ran to, only to find a people who rushed out from there.

There were four bodyguards dressed in black who emerged. They appear to be cultivators who were trained in the military, since their temples bulged, while their faces remained stoic.

Qi Kai soon returned as well with a huge guy while pointing at Yang Chen and speaking.

The guy had a few ladies following behind dressed in revealing clothing. They were evidently prepared to watch what was going to happen next.

"Mr Tang, this prick believes he can do all he wants just because he has connections in the Zhonghai police force. He whacked me until I spat blood earlier at the hotel, and you can see how he has beaten me now. I haven't even raised a mere pinky at him!" Qi Kai complained in a resentful manner.

However, before Qi Kai finished speaking his script, the guy referred to as 'Mr Tang' looked elated and excited. "Brother-In-Law!" he shouted as he rushed toward Yang Chen.

Everyone there was instantly astonished. Brother-In-Law?

The person whom Qi Kai claimed to be his support was coincidentally Tang Jue, the person Yang Chen had just met a few days ago who happened to be Tang Wan's younger brother.

Yang Chen smiled helplessly when he saw Tang Jue. He was rather afraid of seeing this huge guy who would call him 'Brother-In-Law' like nobody's business. He felt a sharp pain in his gut everytime he saw Tang Jue.

"Haha, Brother-In-Law, fate has brought us together again. I had been wondering why my left eyelid twitched so badly when I left home today. It must have been because I would meet my saviour!"

"Are you back up for this jerk?" Yang Chen asked as he refrained from laughing as he looked at Qi Kai who was dumbstruck.

“Don’t listen to his nonsense! His father works for us. He had begged me for quite a few days to have fun here, otherwise I would’ve come here today. But he’s under our clan. Being a member of the clan, I have to give him a little respect, don’t I? He came into my room and told me someone was looking down on the Tang clan and came to challenge me. If I knew he was referring to Brother-In-Law, I would’ve caved his head in with a beer bottle!” Tang Jue said before laughing.

Qi Kai instantly felt a chill up his spine as he found it hard to stand still.

He naturally knew who Tang Jue’s sister was. There could only be one woman. Since Tang Jue calls him ‘Brother-In-Law’, is he possibly Tang Wan’s husband?!

No, Tang Wan is not married. There were no rumours, not even one of a boyfriend. But Tang Jue doesn’t look like he’s fooling around. Although he isn’t the brightest, he’s known to be arrogant and reckless. He wouldn’t entertain anyone without real power and support. Qi Kai thought.

No matter what the situation was, Qi Kai was obviously damned.

Originally, he thought that he could obtain the support of the Tang Clan as he was vaguely connected to them. But judging from the situation, he was far inferior to this ‘villager’!

“Get your ass over here!” Tang Jue yelled in dissatisfaction as he moved his finger.

Qi Kai was as silent as the cicada in winter. Looking bitter, he walked toward Tang Jue helplessly while avoiding to look at Yang Chen.

“Kneel down,” Tang Jue ordered.

“Eh?” Qi Kai was shocked. Being stared by Tang Jue furiously, he didn’t dare to resist. Thus, he decided to kneel down.

Tang Jue scolded, “God damn it! Where are your pathetic eyes? Is my brother-in-law someone you can provoke?! What makes you think you deserve my help? The Qi clan will end at your generation!”

As soon as he finished speaking, he kicked Qi Kai’s face without hesitation!

“Ouch” Qi Kai shouted in agony. He fell on the ground after being kicked, while the outline of a leather shoe could be seen on his face!

In an imposing manner, Yang Chen looked at Tang Jue teach Qi Kai a lesson from the beginning to end. He was too lazy to voice his opinion. After finishing his cigarette, he threw the bud on the ground. “Since he’s one of the Tang clan’s dogs, take him and watch him. Of course, there’s no need to feed dogs that don’t learn.”

“Yes, yes, yes. Brother-In-Law is right, hehe,” Tang Jue said happily. “Brother-In-Law, when can you teach me how to drive? My sister gave me a McLaren! Also, when are you going to officially marry my sister?”

Yang Chen felt a headache. Frowning, he waved his hand and said, “There’s no need for you to step between your sister and I. I’m still having a party with my colleagues. You may leave with your men.”

“Aye, no problem.” Tang Jue wasn’t angered. He even felt that that Yang Chen’s behavior was what an impressive person should have. However, he didn’t leave immediately, but waited for Yang Chen to walk back to his room instead.

Yang Chen didn’t know if he should cry or laugh. Having a naive personality, Tang Jue had repeatedly tried to get on Yang Chen’s good side since he started seeing Yang Chen as his brother-in-law.

Yang Chen had originally wanted to torture Qi Kai, since he never seemed to be able to change his bad habit of bullying his women. However, Qi Kai was in a much more unfortunate position as his clan might have just lost their support.

Yang Chen shook his head before entering the private room.

Tang Jue sent Yang Chen off happily before sighing. It wasn’t known what he was sighing for. After a while, he finally turned around.

He appeared to be reminded of something. He squatted down and picked up the cigarette bud thrown away by Yang Chen. He held it in his hand like a treasure before calling one of his bodyguards over. “Do you know what brand this cigarette is? Is it nice?”

The bodyguard looked at Tang Jue awkwardly. Softly, he said, “Sir, this is the cheapest kind of cigarette with the lowest-quality tobacco. It costs 2 bucks per packet by the road. It’s the worst kind a person can smoke. It can burn someone to death.”

“You ignorant prick! The cigarette my brother-in-law can’t be ordinary!” Tang Jue slapped his bodyguard’s head. He then said, “Go and buy a box of cigarettes like this. I’ll start smoking this from now on. Don’t give me that cigar bullshit anymore.”

“Huh?” The bodyguard doubted his hearing.

“What part of that do you not understand?! This is the cigarette a man should smoke!” Tang Jue looked joyous. “You will never understand. I’m learning Brother-In-Law’s charisma. Didn’t you guys see how domineering Brother-In-Law was? That is what a real man should be like. Sigh... I’ve wasted too much of my life. If I had met Brother-In-Law earlier, Formula 1 would’ve been my playground, or I could become a national racer... Sigh...”

The bodyguards looked at each other after observing Tang Jue’s behavior. Qi Kai who was lying on the ground since he didn’t dare to stand up even had the urge to kill himself. Are the members of major clans all insane?!

Chapter 420: What Am I

When Yang Chen returned to the private room, the female members of the party were partying so hard that they had invited Mo Qianni to sing on the mic, by shoving the mic in her face.

Mo Qianni seemed to be fine with such a rude behavior. These employees were rather drunk after consuming so much alcohol, and were so excited that they had completely forgotten their positions in the company.

Liu Mingyu forced a smile, while Lin Ruoxi was seated on the sofa as she silently pondered over something. When Yang Chen entered the room, the two ladies looked over together.

Yang Chen smiled and nodded, to signal the issue had already been dealt with.

Liu Mingyu first looked relieved, but soon revealed a sense of guilt on her face.

Yang Chen approached Liu Mingyu quietly and patted her shoulder. He didn't hide his concern for the woman just because Lin Ruoxi was there. Instead of covering up everything, Yang Chen felt it was better to honestly express his thoughts.

Indifferent, Lin Ruoxi looked at Yang Chen's action and ignored the nervous gaze she received from Liu Mingyu.

"Let's go," Lin Ruoxi suddenly said.

Yang Chen only sat down for a few seconds. Stunned, he asked, "Go?"

"I don't feel to well," Lin Ruoxi said expressionlessly.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. There's clearly nothing wrong with her body, it most likely had to do with her heart, he thought.

"Are you unwilling to leave?" Lin Ruoxi asked coldly. She appeared to be rather mad.

Yang Chen was not sure of how he managed to piss this madam off again. Although quite a few things had taken place tonight, there was no way he could afford not to follow her request. Otherwise he would be clearly telling her that he didn't want to be with her anymore.

"Alright. Since you're not feeling well, let's go back then," Yang Chen said before standing up. He then said to Liu Mingyu, "We have to leave now to deal with something urgent. Please don't overthink."

Worried, Liu Mingyu glanced at Lin Ruoxi, only to find that Lin Ruoxi was looking at her as well while shaking her head.

Based on her years of experience in Yu Lei, she naturally knew what Lin Ruoxi meant—it was none of her business.

"Then you shall send Boss Lin home. Drive safe," Liu Mingyu said softly. Her voice almost couldn't be heard in the room filled with loud music.

Yang Chen nodded and turned around before leaving with Lin Ruoxi.

A few of the workers who were still sober were really curious when the two left together. However, when they asked Liu Mingyu, they only got the answer that Director Yang wanted to convene with Boss Lin to deal with something urgent, but even Liu Mingyu didn't know what had happened specifically.

On the other hand, Yang Chen who had left the nightclub Zi Yue Xuan followed behind Lin Ruoxi. The two hadn't spoken a word during their journey to the parking area, not even when they entered the car.

The car exit the parking area and drove to the city highway.

It was currently night time. Different colors of lights filled the city, causing it to look magnificent.

The radio in the car was playing an American song in the background. Lin Ruoxi who had remained silent all this time stared outside the window for quite a while before suddenly switching off the radio in the car.

“You still refused to listen to me,” Lin Ruoxi said, dejected.

Yang Chen frowned. “What happened?”

“I heard something while I was standing by the door earlier. The man who called you ‘Brother-In-Law’ must be Tang Wan’s brother, isn’t he?” Lin Ruoxi gazed upon Yang Chen calmly.

Yang Chen smiled awkwardly. “It’s just the ramblings of a boy who talks too much. Don’t listen to his nonsense.”

Lin Ruoxi lightly shook her head. “I told you not to involve yourself with Tang Wan, but as expected, you only care about yourself and won’t listen to me... Can’t you refrain yourself? Do you have to mess with every beautiful woman?”

“Ruoxi, I really didn’t approach Tang Wan. She took the initiative to look for me instead. She has feelings for me. I can’t just kick her away, can I? I’ve also never asked her out before. We recently had to meet due to a work related partnership, so I coincidentally got to know her younger brother Tang Jue in Zhonghai,” Yang Chen said helplessly. What he had said was all the truth. He wasn’t trying to push the responsibility away to Tang Wan, but merely described the fact.

Lin Ruoxi seemed to be rather shocked, but didn’t get too happy. “Even if Tang Wan finds you, if you really have nothing going on with her, I heard Tang Jue call you brother-in-law. Moreover, I have long reminded you to stay away from Tang Wan, and I shall not stop you from looking for other women. Did you really have to go behind my back and break the one rule I set out for you? Do you know how powerful the Tang clan in Beijing is, and how complicated Tang Wan’s background is?”

Yang Chen smiled. “So you’re aware that Tang Wan is from the Tang clan in Beijing. I only found out two days ago. It looks like my wife has quietly grasped a lot of information.”

Lin Ruoxi ignored Yang Chen’s joke. “Why do you think Tang Wan managed to control Maple Group and become their CEO as a woman? Do you think Secretary Fang doesn’t dare to touch her just because he is deeply in love with her? If it isn’t for the Tang clan’s support, it’s likely that Secretary Fang would’ve taken her by now . Why else would he wait for Tang Wan for more than 20 years, without taking any actions?”

Yang Chen hadn’t thought about it before. He only understood the cause after being enlightened by Lin Ruoxi.

It was no wonder that Fang Zhongping had endured Tang Wan’s cold treatment all this time, and insisted on waiting for her for so long. Being the closest man to Tang Wan, why would he give up such an opportunity? After all, he had a child with Tang Wan—Tang Tang.

“So this means that Fang Zhongping hates me a lot now? I seem to have snatched the position that he so desperately wanted,” Yang Chen said as he giggled.

“Why are you still smiling? Not only did you offend the Fang clan, you might’ve provoked others from the Tang clan as well. You... you... you’re...”

“What am I?” Yang Chen looked at Lin Ruoxi’s reddened face. He found it amusing to look at her speechless face.

“You’re a jerk!” Lin Ruoxi exclaimed angrily.

“Aye. You should be saying ‘You’re my great husband. I don’t want anyone to take you away from me’ instead. How cute would that be,” Yang Chen said.

Lin Ruoxi had the urge to cover her head. It would even be fine if she could shrink away her head into her collar. Why is this man so shameless to say something so cheesy? she thought.

Although she had indeed wanted to say ‘you’re my husband’, she wouldn’t put it so frankly.

“Don’t worry,” Yang Chen said as he touched Lin Ruoxi’s cheek when she wasn’t paying attention. “I know why you were mad just now. But your worries are nothing. Although I don’t like to be troubled, I’m not afraid of trouble as well. I’ll take care of everything regarding Tang Wan, Fang Zhongping and the Tang clan. Everything will be fine.”

Lin Ruoxi shrank her body away and basically crouched against the door to dodge Yang Chen’s perverted hand. Shyness filled her watery eyes. The intimacy between them had significantly increased nowadays, which made her heart beat so fast that she felt that she had changed.

“I don’t have time to babysit you. As long as Aunt Guo doesn’t think it’s because of me again that you’re messing around outside all day. I have tried to stop you from doing so before,” Lin Ruoxi said as she felt wronged. What kind of a wife am I? Which wife on earth would help her husband pick lovers? she thought.

Although I didn’t fully carry out my roles as a wife, doesn’t this fellow have too many lovers?

Yang Chen fell into some kind of contemplation. He hadn’t spoken a single word during the journey to home, causing Lin Ruoxi to feel rather strange.

When they returned to the villa, the lights of the living hall were still on. The television was showing a replay of the news, but Guo Xuehua was the only one watching it. Wang Ma and Hui Lin should’ve gone to bed already.

Guo Xuehua was dressed in a pyjamas and wrapped in a blanket while her hair was let loose. Exhaustion was written all over her charming face.

Guo Xuehua turned her head around when she heard a noise, and immediately let out a pleasant smile when she saw that Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi came home together. “You’re back. Did you guys have fun?”

“Mhm,” Lin Ruoxi hummed in acknowledgement. “Aunt Guo, you don’t have to wait of us to come back. We’re not children anymore.”

“You will always be children in my eyes. No mother in the world isn’t worried about her child. You’ll soon understand when you become a mother in the future,” Guo Xuehua said with a smile.

Lin Ruoxi had her head lowered as she didn't dare to reply. She was afraid to be told to bear a child again. Although she was prepared to live the rest of her life with Yang Chen, she felt that having a child was still something that required more thought.

Although the two had had the experience of a married couple before, the one time had caused Lin Ruoxi a lot of consequences. It should be mentioned that, in the two decades of her life before getting to know Yang Chen, she hadn't even held hands with a guy before. Furthermore, the feelings shared between men and women were alien to her. However, she somehow gave her chastity to a hawker selling mutton skewers by the road, not to mention she had zero memory of that night. At that time, Lin Ruoxi had even wanted to jump off a building in contemplation of suicide.

Even if Yang Chen became a completely different person now, to Lin Ruoxi, she still had too many unforgettable scars, so it was only natural to feel fearful.

Yang Chen looked at Guo Xuehua with a complicated gaze.

Guo Xuehua had no clue what had happened to her son. Concerned, she asked, "Yang Chen, did something happen?"

Yang Chen took a deep breath before holding Lin Ruoxi's relatively small hand with one of his hands, which caused her to feel shocked. Is this shameless fellow trying to force me into doing something difficult in front of Aunt Guo? she thought.

"Ruoxi, don't call her Aunt Guo anymore. Call her Mom," Yang Chen said.

Lin Ruoxi was dumbstruck, while Guo Xuehua was astonished as well.

Yang Chen said before kneeling down, causing Lin Ruoxi's body to subconsciously kneel down as well.

"Mom, we didn't get to kneel down during Chinese New Year. Now, as your children, we'll kneel down and kowtow before you. Grandpa is right. In this world, no parents in the world owe their children anything. There's no reason for me to hold back from calling you Mom. That's because the person who has pointed a gun at me isn't you, but that person instead."

[TL note: Kowtow: kneel and touch the ground with the forehead in worship or submission as part of Chinese custom.]

As soon as Yang Chen finished speaking, he leaned toward the ground and touched his forehead to the ground.

Dumbstruck, Lin Ruoxi witnessed Yang Chen finish every step. At last, she involuntarily followed Yang Chen and kowtowed as well. As her ears and cheek turned pinkish, using a voice as soft as a flying mosquito, she said, "Mom."

Tears flowed down Guo Xuehua's face like pouring water. She had so much to say but was held back by the uncontrollable tears streaming down her face.