

Chapter 411: Want

He wrote this letter before his marriage to Jiang Yao. Back then, he was busted by Zhou Weiqi and Chen Xuyao for secretly looking at her pictures. After knowing his intentions for Jiang Yao, they started coming up with plenty of ideas for Lu Xingzhi to go after her.

Confessing with a love letter was one of the methods mentioned. Lu Xingzhi read plenty of romantic and lovey-dovey publications just to write it. He did not have the courage to give it to Jiang Yao even after completing it, but he did not want to throw it away as well. In the end, it was placed under lock and key together with other things in the drawer.

Lu Xingzhi was positive that Jiang Yao would never come to see this love letter.

Who would have thought!

“You needed their help in writing a love letter? Tsk!” Jiang Yao said disapprovingly. Lu Xingzhi did not look happy, and knowing that he was embarrassed, she mellowed out and put the letter back into her bag.

It did not matter; she could always read it again whenever Lu Xingzhi was away. Nonetheless, one glance and she remembered every single word written in the letter.

Weird. Her memory was getting so much better these days. She could instantly remember any nurse that walked past her in the hospital, recalling their names perfectly the next day.

This had never happened before. Her memory was not the shabbiest, but she was also not the greatest at remembering faces and names.

“Why are you putting it in your bag?” Lu Xingzhi stretched his hand out. “Shouldn’t it be returned to its rightful owner?”

Jiang Yao smiled at Lu Xingzhi, pretending not to hear what he said and lay down on her bed.

Poor Lu Xingzhi, he was having an extremely hard time falling asleep. All he could think of were ways to murder Zhou Weiqi and Chen Xuyao.

Was there a lapse in his intelligence? Why did he listen to them and write the love letter?

Surely something was wrong then, why did he not destroy the love letter if he did not give it to Jiang Yao.

It felt weird remembering Jiang Yao’s face when mocking him. She was probably admonishing him in silence.

The next day, Luo Ruoran was the one sending meals to the hospital. It was an unusual weekend, with her free from any work, she picked up Zhou Weiqi on her way to the hospital.

After Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi had eaten lunch, they took a walk in the garden just by the side of the hospital.

The weather was perfect, and it was the season to come out and soak in the sunlight as much as possible. The hospital garden had always been a popular spot for the patients and the nearby residents as a place to relax and unwind.

The trio walked slowly, as Lu Xingzhi had still not fully recovered yet.

Zhou Weiqi brought up some news to Lu Xingzhi. "My friends have been busy looking for Sun Cuimei and Ge Wenwen for the past couple of days. They did not come back as of yet since they left with the man. However, we have some information as to why Sun Cuimei brought Ge Wenwen away."

Sergeant Ge was now in Jin City; however, he did ask Colonel Lin and Lu Xingzhi for their help in locating Ge Wenwen. There was only so much they—as military personnel—could do. It was still more appropriate for Zhou Weiqi to be handling things behind the scenes.

Chapter 412: Child for Rent

Zhou Weiqi's friends were people on the other side of the law; nothing happening in the city could escape their knowledge.

"Anyway, Sun Cuimei's man, Don, is probably pissed with her. When they got together, she did not reveal to him that her husband was a man in the military. Apparently, she saw that he was rich and made up a story convincing that she was divorced. After Sergeant Ge's incident, only then she confessed the truth. He was scared out of his wits; he wanted nothing to do with the military. Two days before Sun Cuimei took Ge Wenwen away, Don was seen interacting with a southern businessman called Phantom. Businessman's just a title, his dealings are, let us just say, in conflict with the law."

"Do you think that Sun Cuimei is actually selling her own daughter off?" Luo Ruoran came to the idea immediately after hearing the illegitimate business dealings of Phantom.

"Not that bad." Zhou Weiqi shook his head. "Sun Cuimei and Don are planning to rent Ge Wenwen to Phantom. He has a lot of children working for him as beggars. They are usually from very poor families in the countryside. He would pay their parents a set amount of money as rental and bring their children to the big cities to work as panhandlers. Once the rental period is over, the children are returned to their parents." Zhou Weiqi shrugged. "I believe they want to rent Ge Wenwen out to earn some money."

"And she said she was her mother!" Jiang Yao replied sarcastically. "Ge Wenwen is almost six years old, what about school?"

"You know how it is still a very prevalent idea among people that girls should not get too much education. Rent them out for a few years and earn a couple hundred in cash. Imagine this, they are not paying for their daughters' living cost, and the girls are well taken care of working as beggars. Once they reach the age of twelve, they are returned home and sent to school for three or so years, just for them to know how to read and count, you know, the basics. The girls will be fourteen or fifteen years old by then, the perfect time for them to work in factories and earn more money. And then they get married off when they are seventeen years old. Don't forget the dowry, that is another sum of money." Zhou Weiqi heard all these from his friends, who in turn, heard it from Phantom.

These were the thoughts of many people. Not just girls, many boys were also taken under his wing to beg in the cities.

In the poverty-stricken areas of the country, a family could have many children but no means to support them. Renting them out made monetary sense as they help ease the heavy financial burden on the families.

After all these years, Phantom had also earned quite a fortune, thanks to the children.

“Phantom left after renting two kids in Jin City. It seems like Don and Sun Cuimei were not able to rent Ge Wenwen out this time. My friends had people staking out around Don’s apartment and people that he frequently meets. It shouldn’t be a while before they return.” Zhou Weiqi meant to reassure Lu Xingzhi that Ge Wenwen would ultimately be returned to Sergeant Ge.

Listening to what Zhou Weiqi had to say, Lu Xingzhi raised his brows in deep thought. If not for the investigation into the whereabouts of Ge Wenwen, he never would have known an industry that subsisted on children begging existed in the world.

Chapter 413: Weiqi’s Marriage

“So, all the children under Phantom were rented? And he would return them after the rental period is over?” Lu Xingzhi was a little suspicious.

“It should be, at least according to what my friends have investigated. Phantom was seen in Jin City because he had to return five children, who were from the same village, and he had to pass through Jin City to get there. He was also here to see if anyone here wanted to rent their children out.” Zhou Weiqi understood Lu Xingzhi’s fear. “This guy, Phantom, he does have his own morals. My friends told me that he gave them a good impression and is actually a pretty decent person.”

The world was a weird place; with plenty of peculiar methods to earn an income.

In Jiang Yao’s opinion, the parents were in the wrong to rent their children out for money, but she had no issues with Phantom; at least he returned the children to their parents in good condition.

“You learn something new every day.” Luo Ruoran chuckled. “I am lucky, my parents treat me like a princess.”

“Your family is well-off, Ruoran. In the rural countryside, plenty of families have too many children but barely any money. This is actually a way out for them,” Zhou Weiqi explained.

“That’s right.” Jiang Yao nodded. There were always two sides to a coin.

Zhou Weiqi was right, maybe the parents did not have a choice in doing it. Jiang Yao was grateful that her family was not impoverished like many of the others were.

Even though they did not live a life of luxury, they did not need to go to bed hungry and had a roof over their head. She grew up with her parents’ and siblings’ love and care.

“Oh Weiqi, I heard from someone yesterday that your family wanted you to marry a Zhang... what’s her name? Who is that woman? I have not heard of her name before.” Luo Ruoran remembered something she heard when she tagged along on her parents’ friend gathering. “Don’t you have a crush on the lady with a cute smile in your department?”

“Zhang Lanxiang, Zhou Ning’s friend, or should I say Zhou Ning’s leech. An annoying woman at best.” Zhou Weiqi scowled at the thought of her. “Who knows what is going on with the Zhou family, always devising some weird plans. They summoned me home a few days ago, wanting to introduce a girlfriend to me. They said I am of age and should get married after my brother’s wedding is done.”

Jiang Yao did not catch what Zhou Weiqi was talking about. She turned toward Lu Xingzhi with a puzzled look and asked, “Who is Zhou Ning?”

Zhou Weiqi’s face turned the darkest shade at the mention of the name.

“Weiqi’s half-sister from his dad’s other marriage. He has another older half-brother, Zhou Changkang, Zhou Ning’s actual brother. They are both Mrs. Zhou’s children.” Lu Xingzhi was very familiar with the Zhou family.

“That evil lady wants to marry off her daughter’s best friend to you?” Luo Ruoran was shocked. “I remember that Zhou Ning always has a friend with her, they seem to be very close. I suppose she is Zhang Lanxiang! She would have known your standing in your family, why would she agree to marry you? Would Zhou Ning actually allow her best friend to marry you?”

Chapter 414: Robbery

“How should I know?” Zhou Weiqi scratched his head agitatedly. “Zhang Lanxiang’s father is an ordinary factory worker; her mother is a hawker. It is obvious that she is taking advantage of Zhou Ning to meet rich people.”

Zhou Weiqi paused briefly and shuddered at the thought of Zhang Lanxiang. It was obvious he hated her very much.

“Like what you said, how could she not know my situation? I was puzzled, why would an ambitious woman like her have eyes for me? Anyway, it seemed that she was not happy with the arrangement as well. I did not go back after that and that’s the last I heard from the evil lady.”

Jiang Yao knew earlier on that Zhou Weiqi was not valued in his family, although she did not know the exact details of it. It seemed like Zhou Weiqi had a dominant stepmother, and a despicable half-sister, who was always trying to one-up him.

She was listening in on the conversation but allowed her attention to wander as she did not know anything about the Zhou family. She held on to Lu Xingzhi and they both sat down on a stone bench, observing the passersby going on about their life.

Suddenly, a piercing scream tore through the air from afar.

Jiang Yao instinctively slowed her breathing and listened closely. There it was! Someone was screaming for help nearby!

“A robbery! A robbery!”

Jiang Yao stood up instantly, turned toward the rest and said, “There’s a robbery going on!”

Lu Xingzhi stole a look at Jiang Yao, and turned his head around, trying to hear it. He shook his head. "Where?"

"Someone's screaming for help in front, can't you hear it, it is so loud!" Jiang Yao looked at Lu Xingzhi confused. She turned to Luo Ruoran and asked, "Do you hear it?"

Luo Ruoran was deep in a conversation criticizing the Zhou family when she was suddenly asked the question. She looked at Jiang Yao blankly, "Did I hear what?"

"Someone was screaming for help, there's a robbery going on!" Jiang Yao repeated and kept glancing back at the direction where it came from. Weirdly enough, there seemed to be no commotion among the crowd.

"We didn't hear anything." Both Luo Ruoran and Zhou Weiqi shook their heads.

They were not fooling around with her, but Jiang Yao was very sure that she heard it and it seemed to be getting closer, even though nobody else was reacting.

Was she hallucinating? Jiang Yao took a step forward, rubbed her eyes and looked toward the direction where the cries of help came from. She opened her eyes to see a man in his thirties, with a black sweater and a pair of jeans on, holding a woman's purse in his hand. He was pushing the pedestrians away as he ran, while constantly looking back at a young lady and a few police officers running after him. This was the snatch thief and he was running toward the street right in front of the garden, which were separated by a high metal fence.

"There he is! He's running toward us!" Jiang Yao raised her voice, looked at the metal fence in her way and ran toward it instinctively. She grabbed the fence and leaped, jumping over the human-height fence with ease.

Everyone else looked at what just unfolded in front of them with bewilderment.

Lu Xingzhi saw Jiang Yao stand still for a second and looked toward something in front before running after it. She ran like the wind and disappeared into the horizon.

Chapter 415: Keep on Chasing

"Gosh! Is she shooting a movie? That is amazing!"

"Did you see how she leaped over the fence? It happened so fast, I did not see it!"

The crowd went into a frenzy. Zhou Weiqi returned to his senses and pushed his mouth shut with his hand. "Jeez! How cool was that!"

"Wait here! I am going after her to see what is going on! Don't follow me!" Lu Xingzhi had to act quickly; Jiang Yao was already out of his sight. He followed her and jumped the fence in one fluid motion.

He felt a sharp pain in his chest the instance he landed on his feet, almost losing his balance from the sensation. However, he could not care less, and ran after Jiang Yao.

"They are shooting a movie, right? Look at the man in his hospital gown chasing after her!"

"Amazing! How did they jump over the high fence just like that?"

Zhou Weiqi and Luo Ruoran looked at each other. "Shall we?"

"Can you run after them?" Luo Ruoran pointed to the high metal fence.

Zhou Weiqi shook her head. "What choice do I have?"

He started running, trying to jump over the fence just like Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi did. It looked easy, but Zhou Weiqi was stuck trying to get over it.

Luo Ruoran burst out laughing, seeing Zhou Weiqi's awkward predicament.

"Get down quick, don't embarrass yourself!"

She could not hold her laughter in, seeing Zhou Weiqi's clumsy attempt to climb over the fence.

"See! I did it! Stay here, Ruoran, I am going after them!" Zhou Weiqi landed on his bottom. Nonetheless, he was through.

He stood up, patted himself down and took off running. He remembered back when he was still in the military school, a wall this height was nothing but an easy challenge for him. His attempt today was humiliating, evident of the fact that it had been years since he last trained.

Lu Xingzhi's pace did not slow down even though he had injuries on him. He was much more worried about Jiang Yao's wellbeing. Fortunately, he caught up with Jiang Yao a little over a minute later.

He was meters behind and called out to her. Jiang Yao did not hear him as the commotion around drowned his voice out. He saw her suddenly accelerate and jump up into the air, kicking the robber with her leg out.

He flew for about three meters before crashing down heavily under a streetlight. He held onto his chest and lay down, not able to get up from the pain.

Lu Xingzhi was flabbergasted at what he saw.

This woman was his wife?

Chapter 416: Tackled

Jiang Yao ran toward the man she kicked down. He panicked seeing her approach and backed off.

"I only snatched a purse; did you have to kick me so hard?" The man in his thirties was reduced to tears. "I should have given myself up if I knew I was going to be kicked!"

Before Jiang Yao could talk, the snatch thief saw the approaching police officers and called out, "Officers! Officers! I am over here! I surrender!"

Jiang Yao stood there dumbfounded. What was wrong with the snatch thief? She had never seen a criminal actively asking for his own arrest.

The police officers looked at the skinny lady in astonishment before locking the snatch thief up in cuffs. They looked at the criminal and asked the crowd, "What happened?"

“Officers, this lady tackled him to the ground!” A pedestrian who witnessed everything pointed at Jiang Yao. “She was amazing, jump kicking the snatch thief!”

The witnesses were animated describing what unfolded. It was as if they had seen something unbelievable.

“Yaoyao.” Lu Xingzhi walked over.

Jiang Yao looked toward the direction of the voice and saw him. She hurried over when she noticed that his face looked pale. “Why did you come here? Where is Weiqi and Ruoran?”

Noticing something was off with Lu Xingzhi, she scanned his body using the Medical System. She was horrified to see a new tear on his wound. “Are you crazy? Are you oblivious about your wounds?”

Jiang Yao honestly did not expect Lu Xingzhi to come after her. When she knew what was going on, she instinctively ran over, wanting to stop the crime.

It was not until now when the crowd was talking about how brave a skinny lady was to tackle a burly snatch thief that Jiang Yao felt that she was too rash in her actions.

She realized, after everything went back to normal, that after her Force Value was activated, she subconsciously knew what to do when she used them. She acted out of instinct, as if she had been training for ages.

“Brother Lu! Jiang Yao! What is going on here!” Zhou Weiqi arrived to see Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao surrounded by a small crowd. Two police officers were there as well, together with a man held down by the officer.

“Where’s Ruoran?” Jiang Yao asked.

“She is back at the garden, I asked her not to come after us,” Zhou Weiqi replied.

Jiang Yao looked at Lu Xingzhi’s sweating and knew he was holding in the pain. She quickly told Zhou Weiqi, “There’s some problems with Brother Lu’s wounds, I am bringing him to the hospital now. Let Ruoran know; we will see you in his room.”

Jiang Yao then steadied Lu Xingzhi in her arms and walked him back to the hospital. Fortunately, it was a short five-minute walk away. Jiang Yao berated Lu Xingzhi on their way back, chiding him for neglecting his body and running after her.

Chapter 417: I Am Sorry

After arriving at the hospital room, Jiang Yao got straight to stitching Lu Xingzhi’s wound and hooked him up to the medicine retrieved from the Medical System. She came out of the bathroom to hear Lu Xingzhi on a phone call with Zhou Weiqi. He told him to bring Luo Ruoran home and not to come to the hospital.

After hanging up the phone, Lu Xingzhi waved at Jiang Yao, who was watching from afar, motioning for her to come closer.

Jiang Yao walked over and wiped his face with a clean cloth. "Don't do this again. You scared me. I was chasing after the snatch thief, why did you follow when your body is not fully recovered yet? Are you trying to be a hero? Even if I could not make it, there are still police officers, right?"

She finished speaking and the room fell into a hushed silence.

"So, you know that the police were there? Lu Xingzhi's voice was as cold as ice. "Don't you understand? I was running after you, not the snatch thief!"

He grabbed her hand, holding her fingers tightly, his veins popping out. "Like you said, I had no reason at all to be a hero. Why would I want to chase after a non-threatening criminal who was just after some cash?"

She still did not understand who was in the wrong!

Lu Xingzhi sighed and let go of her hand.

Jiang Yao was silent for a full ten seconds, she understood that Lu Xingzhi was genuinely angry.

She finally realized why he ran after her, ignoring his own injuries. It was out of concern for her safety, and not to take down the snatch thief like she thought.

Causing his wounds to tear, she was to blame.

"I am sorry, Xingzhi." Jiang Yao genuinely recognized her mistake. She should not have run off just like that, without a single explanation.

She held his hand. "It was my mistake. I swear, there will not be a next time!"

Lu Xingzhi looked at her remorseful expression and felt instantly weak.

There were more secrets to Jiang Yao than he thought.

Her leap over the metal fence was a feat no worse than his.

Yet, he was a professional soldier who graduated from military school and had never missed a single day of training.

And her? A demurred young lady who did not even venture out of her town before attending university, where did she learn all these skills?

Lu Xingzhi stretched his untethered arm out and wrapped it around Jiang Yao. "What is there to achieve by chasing after a snatch thief? He's not out for blood, let the police handle it. If human lives are involved, let me go instead. I am a soldier and protecting the people is my responsibility. Do you understand?"

Chapter 418: I Taught You This

Lu Xingzhi gently rubbed Jiang Yao's head. He could not forget how panicked he was, the moment he lost sight of her.

"Take care of yourself! Always remember that! It doesn't matter what happens to me, nothing can happen to you!" Lu Xingzhi was at his wit's end.

Reluctant to scold her and hit her, there was nothing he could do except to gently persuade, hoping that she would, at the end of the day, listen and remember his words.

Having a son seemed like the better idea now, Lu Xingzhi thought, you could hit him until he listened to everything you said, but you could not do that to your daughter.

The situation was delicate. He had to choose his words carefully. What if she cried after his scolding?

Jiang Yao rested her head on his chest, avoiding his wounds. Just like an obedient school child reprimanded for her behavior, she quietly acknowledged all that Lu Xingzhi said, neither denied nor explained her actions.

He looked down at her after his lecturing, and seeing that she did not cry after all, breathed a sigh of relief.

“If anyone else asks where you get those moves from, tell them that I was the one that taught you for self-defense.” Both Zhou Weiqi and Luo Ruoran saw how Jiang Yao leaped over the fence at the garden. They would surely want to get to the bottom of it.

Jiang Yao’s body trembled. Was he trying to find an excuse and cover for her?

He obviously saw the way she leaped over the fence, but he did not press on about wanting to know more. Moreover, he had thought of an excuse for her.

How perfect could her man be?

“Mm,” she answered softly.

“I need a nap; don’t you go running off somewhere!” Lu Xingzhi patted Jiang Yao’s back. He was drained, not too sure if it was the medication’s side effect, or if it was caused by his little sprint earlier.

Jiang Yao left Lu Xingzhi’s embrace and helped him lie down on his bed. She sat next to him and watched him shut his eyes.

Earlier, he was sweating profusely, and his face was extremely pale. It had gotten better now, his body temperature having returned to normal.

His breathing was steady, his long eyelashes throbbed from time to time, one of his hand was connected to an IV bag while the other was held by Jiang Yao.

“Xingzhi, are you asleep?” Jiang Yao asked gently.

“Not yet.”

He replied almost immediately, in a muted voice.

Jiang Yao lay down next to him, her head gently touching his shoulders, filling up the small hospital bed to the edges with their bodies, not leaving any additional space.

Feeling her presence, Lu Xingzhi opened his eyes and extended his free hand, pulling Jiang Yao closer while moving his body closer to the side to free up some space.

“It’s fine, I’m tiny. You’re going to fall if you move.” Jiang Yao stopped Lu Xingzhi and rested her gaze on his hand. She suddenly said, “Let me tell you my secret.”

Just a single sentence, and the hand that was on her waist suddenly trembled.

Chapter 419: A Secret in The Open

She could not carry the burden of his trust. She wanted to tell him all her secrets—everything buried deep down in her heart.

“Do you believe in reincarnation?” Jiang Yao prodded.

“No,” Lu Xingzhi answered bluntly. “Life ends with death.”

Lu Xingzhi did not believe in anything of the sorts. There was nothing else other than life and death. A buried body would become dirt and leave nothing, not even a trail, behind.

Jiang Yao thought maybe Lu Xingzhi would pretend to agree with her statement, just because she asked. His straightforward reply caught her off guard, leaving her speechless.

“I told you I will never lie to you.” Lu Xingzhi knew Jiang Yao was looking at him, and he knew that his answer was not to her expectation. Yet, this was his view, why did he have to lie?

After her initial shock, Jiang Yao laughed in relief.

That was right. This was Lu Xingzhi, who would never lie and tell stories just to make her happy. He said it himself that he was never good with words.

“It feels like a dream, and yet, it isn’t. In this dream-like story, I lived to thirty years old, which ended abruptly. When I woke up, I was back to my younger self, the day you came to visit me during summer break. With the blink of an eye, I felt like I lived a life more than everyone else.”

Jiang Yao raised her eyes and looked at Lu Xingzhi. She only noticed the slight twitching of his eye; his expression was as stoic as ever.

She continued, “I clearly remembered everything that happened and everyone that I met. I remembered the knowledge I learned in university and every single surgery I did after graduating. So, if I say that I was reborn, would you believe it?”

She grasped onto his shirt tightly, slightly nervous and a little afraid, would he think that she had turned delusional?

A while later, Lu Xingzhi moved his lips, “Of course I would, why wouldn’t I?”

Of course, he believed her.

To say her change during the summer break was drastic was an understatement. She had always avoided him, but he returned home to her embrace, as she kept saying how much she missed him. It was a moment he would never forget. When he held her in his arms, it felt like he was at the top of the world.

“Even without your rebirth, did our relationship become better toward the end?” Lu Xingzhi asked. If it were not for this, why would she embrace him with such quickness and vigor the moment she woke up?

It was unbelievable, her secret, yet it did not matter. She belonged to him and him only.

“Why do you think so?” Jiang Yao asked. Unfortunately, things were different, she thought to herself. His love for her was one-sided, even till the day he died. It was his death that awakened the feelings she had been repressing for a long time.

“Isn’t it so?” He was doubtful. With the way he treated Jiang Yao, it was only a matter of time before she fell in love with and accepted him.

“No.” Jiang Yao moved her body away from Lu Xingzhi’s embrace. She looked at his expression, filled with doubt, and asked, “Did you not think that we would divorce some years later?”

Chapter 420: Till Death Do Us Part

Lu Xingzhi sat in silence for a moment before chuckling and training his gaze on Jiang Yao until she moved her eyes away timidly.

That was all he needed to know; she was lying indeed.

He would never divorce her.

“Jiang Yao, I did not tell you how much effort I put into marrying you. The word ‘divorce’ did not for once cross my mind. I would never do that, even if I must waste my entire life away to be with you. As long as I live, you belong to me—Lu Xingzhi. Only till death do us part.”

It felt egotistical, but it was his intention. Once they were husband and wife, he would never separate from Jiang Yao, no matter what the circumstances were.

Truth be told, Lu Xingzhi had always known that he was a little lacking with words.

“I only have one regret in my life.” Lu Xingzhi pulled her toward him and covered her lips with his, only breaking apart after a good couple of seconds. “It was the way I married you.”

“What do you mean by that?” Jiang Yao followed up.

“If I knew you were a shallow person, fixated only on someone else’s looks, I should have seduced you before asking for your hand.”

It was a slight disappointment of his. He was young and dumb and had not the slightest idea on courting women. To him, once he had set his eyes on a person, he needed to marry the person, fast.

It was clear that his goal was to marry Jiang Yao. The method to do so was very straightforward and frankly, crude. He went straight to her parents and asked for their permission to marry their daughter.

How dumb was he! He liked her, but Jiang Yao did not even know who he was!

In the end they became husband and wife. Yet, Jiang Yao, for the longest time, was very unhappy and did not seem to care about Lu Xingzhi.

If only he courted her and proposed after the feeling was reciprocated, their lives would have been very different.

Jiang Yao rolled her eyes at Lu Xingzhi. "Did you see how dictatorial you used to be? I am sure that you only had one thing in your mind, that was to marry me! Say, what did you do to my parents for them to agree?"

Lu Xingzhi let out a soft giggle. He did not tell her how he was chased away by Mr. and Mrs. Jiang with brooms the first time he visited them and asked for their daughter's hand.

He persevered and visited at least a dozen times before they finally relented. And yet, Jiang Yao herself did not agree to the marriage.

Looking back, Lu Xingzhi was reminded of just how naïve and dumb he was.

He should have focused his attention on Jiang Yao, winning her affection. Instead, he put even more effort into winning the hearts of her parents.

Once Jiang Yao agreed to the marriage, although reluctantly, Lu Xingzhi was on cloud nine for the longest time. Not wanting to waste time, he brought his parents over to the Jiang family and formally proposed to Jiang Yao.

Jiang Yao was right though, Lu Xingzhi was a very authoritative person.