

Chapter 461: Contribution

His member lightly grazed her nose, like a soldier on duty—erected and rigid.

Lu Xingzhi laughed and said innocently, “Told you not to struggle so much!”

“Who started it?!” Jiang Yao was raging, the urge to end Lu Xingzhi’s life then and there was very strong. “Get changed and go to sleep! Don’t make me say it again!”

She removed the blanket wanting to get down from the bed.

“Where are you going?” Lu Xingzhi grabbed her wrist.

“The living room! We are not sleeping together tonight!” Jiang Yao lightly brushed her hair and gave Lu Xingzhi her sternest expression. “I am not kidding; you are not allowed to do it yet! The doctors would have said the same when you were discharged.”

“Oh? You mean the lame duck doctors at the hospital?” Lu Xingzhi snickered. “If they operated on me, I would not have lived.”

Lu Xingzhi did not release Jiang Yao from his hold. He was confident in his physical health. Plus, with Jiang Yao right next to him, how could he let her sleep on the couch tonight?

“We slept together in the hospital, why change it now?” He sat up straight, the bathrobe hanging loosely on his body, exposing a lot of skin.

She caught a glimpse of his manhood in its full glory out of the corner of her eyes. Embarrassed, she proceeded to cover his body with the blanket. “What about the times I’m not around? Were you this unrestrained too?”

“Nah. I am too spent to think about anything else after the exhausting trainings in the platoon. Plus, you weren’t there too, can’t really get myself into the mood.”

Lu Xingzhi pulled her in and grinned, “If you’re afraid of my overexerting my heart, how about you do all the work for me, eh?”

For that he received a punch from Jiang Yao.

“Darling, you’ve got to pity the little guy here.” Lu Xingzhi guided her hand to his groin. “For half a month, you tempted, seduced and led it along, it’s time to put an end to all its suffering.”

“I was just cleaning your body, that’s not...”

“Once,” Lu Xingzhi gently whispered, “just once.”

Jiang Yao was trying to resist but Lu Xingzhi had already removed her jacket. He pushed her down and buried themselves under the blanket.

Stretching his hand toward the bedside cabinet, he took a little packet out and quickly tore it open.

She knew it! Lu Xingzhi had planned everything from the start, that was why he brought her here.

The night was still young at Jindo City. The hustle and bustle of the metropolis never really left, encouraging its citizens to frolic till the dawn of a new day, beginning their morning with a bang.

Reality was often disappointing, as Jiang Yao came to realize. Never believe the numbers uttered by a man. Just once? Ha!

Even pigs could fly if a man stayed true to his word.

Lu Xingzhi recovered amazingly fast, to Jiang Yao's astonishment. After spending half of the night having fun, they bathed together and went to sleep with Jiang Yao firmly in Lu Xingzhi's arms. He woke up the next morning energized, not feeling the effects of yesterday's exertion at all.

Finally, after so long. He smiled in satisfaction.

"Your phone's ringing." Jiang Yao pushed his arms, reminding him to answer it.

Chapter 462: I Did It

"I heard it." Lu Xingzhi was not in a hurry to answer the call. Instead, he spent the next ten minutes making out with Jiang Yao, stopping only when his little member showed signs of going erect again. He rolled to the side and took a few deep breaths.

It was an unknown number. Lu Xingzhi picked up the call and after hearing who it was on the other end, became a little annoyed.

"I'll cook, you should get some sleep." Lu Xingzhi kissed Jiang Yao on her forehead and tucked her into bed. He then changed into comfortable clothing while listening to the person on the other end of the line.

Du Shihua called, obviously for matters pertaining to the Divine Doctor.

"Don't you think it's a little too early to ask what the two conditions are?" Lu Xingzhi walked to the living room and opened the windows. He then entered the kitchen, went through the refrigerator before retrieving the ingredients he was going to cook for lunch today.

Du Shihua instinctively replied, "Are you going back on your words? Do you now refuse to introduce the Divine Doctor?"

"Why should I help the Dus and the Zhous? Oh, before I forget, why do you have time to talk to me? Shouldn't you concern yourself with your brother-in-law, who's with the disciplinary committee right now?"

Lu Xingzhi said it nonchalantly, just as Du Shihua broke out in a cold sweat.

Mr. Zhou was invited by the people from the disciplinary committee to a questioning last night. He had not returned since. Only a few knew about the incident, how did Lu Xingzhi know?

"Did you do it?" Du Shihua knew better.

"Yeah." Lu Xingzhi laughed. "Tell your sister this: come talk to me about the Divine Doctor only when she and Zhou Ning have figured out what's wrong."

“Why did you have to do that to Mr. Zhou? Nobody is gonna say anything if you don’t want to help us!” Du Shihua almost choked himself in rage. Lu Xingzhi was not a person to mess with; he had extremely grisly means to get things done and knew enough people who would execute it. Even though Du Shihua was infuriated, he dared not speak against Lu Xingzhi for fear of his retribution.

One wrong move and he might actually see Mr. Zhou soon, behind bars.

“Well then, please let Mrs. and Ms. Zhou know that insulting my wife is never the right thing to do!”

He hung up the phone right after.

“Wife? Wife?”

Du Shihua could not fathom what he just heard. He grabbed his phone tightly, his hands shivering out of control.

“What’s going on? Whose wife? What are you saying? Did you ask Master Lu?” Mrs. Du pushed her husband impatiently.

“Ask?! Rongzhen and Ning had the audacity to ridicule Mrs. Lu right in the face of Master Lu! Why would he still help us?” Du Shihua smashed his phone on the floor out of sheer exasperation.

Mrs. Du broke out in tears after hearing it.

“It’s all your sister’s fault! It’s all her fault! A bitch through and through! If only she didn’t offend Master Lu and Mrs. Lu, we would still have a chance!” Mrs. Du sat on the floor wailing.

The commotion in the living room surprised the person outside. Du Chen pushed himself indoors and saw his parents in a huge wreck. Yet, he was calm after hearing their conversation.

Chapter 463: Apologize

“Dad, Mom, it’s fine. It’s been years since and I’ve gotten used to it. Why did you have to humiliate yourself by begging for help?” Du Chen consoled his parents.

“No, it’s not fine! You’re our only son! Even if I’ve to die for you to stand up, I’ll do it!” Mrs. Du hurriedly dried her tears, and to Mr. Du she said, “Your sister and Zhou Ning should apologize to Master Lu! We’ll need Zhou Weiqi’s help, there’s still a way! I know it!”

Du Shihua finally got back to his senses. Du Rongzhen and Zhou Ning had to apologize, that was for sure. Regardless of whether the Divine Doctor was in the picture, the mother-daughter duo would have to do it anyway, for Mr. Zhou.

The Zhou family was a mess right now. Zhou Changkang returned to the Zhou family exhausted, after a night with little rest, teetering at the edge of collapse.

“How’re things with Dad?” Zhou Ning did not get any sleep too since Mr. Zhou was taken away. He was gone early morning—a little after midnight. The Zhou family visited many contacts since but did not get to even see Mr. Zhou once.

Zhou Changkang looked at her mother and sister like a man watching the clowns in a circus.

“Dad was taken away because he offended someone. I spent a considerable amount of my energy to find out that the Liang family was behind it, but Lu Xingzhi was the one that ordered the detainment.” Zhou Changkang was furious. “Uncle Du called me just now and told me that you actually insulted Master Lu’s wife in front of his face, twice? My dear mother and sister, that’s very brave of you.”

Zhou Changkang did not know what went down at home as he was away yesterday. He quickly returned home after receiving the call from Du Shihua.

“What?! Wife?” Mrs. Zhou’s body shuddered violently. She only lashed out at one woman yesterday. After Mr. Zhou’s angry departure last night, Mrs. Zhou realized that the woman was perhaps someone important to Lu Xingzhi. Yet, she did not know that the woman herself was actually Lu Xingzhi’s wife!

“Impossible! I’ve not heard any news about Lu Xingzhi’s wedding!” Zhou Ning shook her head in disbelief. “That woman is not Lu Xingzhi’s wife! Not once have I seen her in Jindo City’s social circle. Why would Lu Xingzhi marry someone without fame and money, an unknown person? Nobody attended his wedding too!”

“Master Lu said it to Uncle Du himself; do you think he’s lying to us? Who do you think we are? The Zhou family is past its prime! Don’t you get it? Plus, Master Lu has no connections with us, why should he invite us to his wedding?” Zhou Changkang reached his tipping point and slammed the coffee table with his hand.

Zhou Ning was stunned by his sudden outburst and stopped crying.

“What can we do now?” Without Mr. Zhou, Zhou Changkang was now the decision-maker of the family.

“What else? You and Ning get yourselves over to Master Lu and apologize!” Zhou Changkang exclaimed.

Zhou Ning immediately responded, “I would never go! Over my dead body!”

Chapter 464: Go Die

“You should go die then! At least I can say you are offering the apology with death, perhaps Master Lu will let Dad off the hook seeing our sincerity!”

Mrs. Zhou was anxious. “Is there any other way?”

“If you want Dad to go to prison after his meeting with the disciplinary committee then just stay at home and do nothing with Ning! Perhaps you can all have brunch together, do some shopping after and start a fight with people you don’t like. Maybe I’ll be joining Dad in the prison soon. If that happens, the Zhou family is under your control. Whatever you two women want to do has got nothing to do with us!”

Zhou Changkang left the house in rage.

Both the Zhou and Du family were in utter mayhem, while back at Kin City, Jiang Yao’s morning was pleasant and tranquil.

Lu Xingzhi spoke loudly on his phone in the living room. Jiang Yao knew what kind of person he was talking to but did not bother to ask further.

After lying in bed for some time, she smelled something cooking in the kitchen. Jiang Yao could not hold it in any longer; she put on her jacket and followed the scent.

Sporting simple clothes and an apron, Lu Xingzhi was hard at work cooking in the kitchen; his cell phone was left off-handedly on the kitchen counter. He heard some noise from the door and his eyes shifted toward it.

“Hungry? Just a couple more minutes, the soup will be ready soon,” Lu Xingzhi said. “Go freshen up!”

Jiang Yao nodded and took a deep breath. “Seaweed and egg soup!” She smiled in satisfaction and went off to the bathroom.

Lu Xingzhi’s cooking skills were decent at best; at least the food was edible.

The seaweed and egg soup, however, had Jiang Yao asking for seconds. She still preferred her food to be a little bland.

“Was it the Du or the Zhou family that called just now in the morning?” What did you say?” Jiang Yao asked, after finishing her lunch. “Are we going back tomorrow or tonight?”

“Early in the morning tomorrow,” Lu Xingzhi said. “It was the Du family. I had Mr. Zhou taken away to the disciplinary committee last night.”

Jiang Yao was speechless so she gave Lu Xingzhi a thumbs-up instead.

“Only just now did my friends let them know who they provoked and insulted for the calamity to fall on Mr. Zhou.” He looked at Jiang Yao’s empty bowl and asked, “More?”

Jiang Yao shook her head. She stood up and showed Lu Xingzhi her slightly bloated belly.

“It’s flat. You should be fine though; we used rubber last night.”

Jiang Yao almost choked. She grabbed a cherry tomato and threw it at Lu Xingzhi. “I’m showing you how much I ate!”

Lu Xingzhi caught the tomato with ease, looked at it a little disgustedly and put it back. “I don’t eat this.”

“It’s not for you anyway!” Jiang Yao rolled her eyes and put the tomato in her mouth. She liked eating it, a little sour and a little sweet, very refreshing, and quite frankly, delicious.

They left the house after lunch. There was nothing planned, Lu Xingzhi just wanted to bring Jiang Yao out and about for some sunshine.

“Where do you want to go?” Lu Xingzhi drove slowly. He was quite inexperienced at going out on a date with women, yet he did not want to waste such a beautiful day by staying indoors.

Chapter 465: Deep Alley

After all, spending time with her alone usually led to things that she was not happy to do. The best thing to do now was to bring her outdoors.

“I don’t know, where did you usually go when you were still in school?” Jiang Yao did not know Jindo City that well. The tourist attractions would take too much time to check out, plus, she did not want Lu

Xingzhi to feel too exhausted at the end of the day. “How about a place where we can eat and drink and also get some sunshine?”

After giving it some thought, Lu Xingzhi turned his car around and drove toward the entrance of an alley. Walking down the alley together with Jiang Yao, they came to the entrance of a tea shop which Lu Xingzhi had heard of but had never been to.

The tea shop was called “Deep Alley”. A simple piece of wood plank with the name boldly carved on hung at the entrance of the shop.

“It’s opened by the sister of an ex-schoolmate. I’ve not been here before.” Lu Xingzhi entered holding Jiang Yao’s hand.

The first thing Jiang Yao saw when she entered had her in awe.

It was a slightly old-fashioned compound, with a massive water tank placed in the center. The water tank was very commonly found back in Jiang Yao’s hometown; each family would have at least a few of them at home.

However, it was used to cultivate water lilies here. Not knowing which variety was planted here, yet a few water lilies were in bloom even out of season. The leaves were as green as ever, with dew clinging onto them.

The walls on either side were covered with a variety of colorful flowers. They all grew from the same stalk of plant, but it was amazing to see how the flowers were cultivated to grow into such distinct and vibrant hues.

A little further in front were flowers, as blue as the sky, planted in little flowerpots, hanging from the ceiling.

A few sets of old tables and chairs were placed right in front of the hanging flower pots; each one of them had an umbrella—closed and put down—beside it, perhaps only used during rainy days. Right now, the sun, radiating its warmth, was shining brightly into every corner of the compound.

“Where’s the owner?” Jiang Yao looked around puzzled.

Lu Xingzhi pointed to the second floor and motioned for Jiang Yao to look in the direction. She then saw a lady dressed in a black coat waving her hands toward them, pointing at where she currently stood and went off serving the other customers.

“The owner is a mute, apparently caused by an accident when she was still a teenager,” Lu Xingzhi explained, before going upstairs holding Jiang Yao’s hands.

It was obvious that the owner was a very tidy person and loved plants. Plenty of greens and flowers decorated the space on the second floor, with a little ceramic vase placed in the center of each table. A few stalks of vibrantly colored flowers were arranged in the vase.

The owner silently smiled at Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao after they sat down. Jiang Yao instantly felt a little better seeing her infectious smile.

They were going through the menu when Lu Xingzhi's cell phone rang. Jiang Yao stole a glimpse at it and saw that it was Zhou Weiqi who called.

Chapter 466: Chomp and Gnaw

"Brother Lu, are you guys still in Kin City? Are you free now?" Zhou Weiqi asked casually. "Mr., Mrs. Du and Zhou Changkang want to see you and apologize to Jiang Yao."

"We're in an alley here at Kinli; do you know the tea shop Deep Alley? My car is parked at the entrance to the alley. Once you see it, walk further down into the alley and you'll see it. We are on the second floor." Since they were here to apologize, there was no need to stop them from doing so.

Jiang Yao asked, "Is Weiqi here for his dad?"

"He's not that dumb. He knew I was the one behind it, he wouldn't come all the way here just for that," Lu Xingzhi answered calmly.

Seeing Jiang Yao's puzzled expression, he explained, "Mrs. Zhou and Zhou Ning want to apologize." Just as he stopped speaking, he stood up and wrapped the scarf around Jiang Yao's neck.

"It's too warm!" Jiang Yao slapped Lu Xingzhi's hand. "Don't you see how warm it is in here?"

Lu Xingzhi coughed a little. With a raspy voice, he hinted, "There're kiss marks on your neck."

As if on cue, Jiang Yao frantically adjusted her scarf, deciding then and there that she would not remove it no matter how hot the weather became. She stared at the person-in-question angrily and said, "What are you, a dog? Chomping and gnawing off like there's no tomorrow!"

"Couldn't help it." Lu Xingzhi grinned. "What do you want to drink? Wolfberry tea? Hot milk?"

"Wolfberry tea sounds good." Jiang Yao's attention was instantly shifted away by his question. Looking at the menu, she added a fruit platter and a piece of cake to the order.

The Zhou family lived not far from where Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao were currently at. They arrived as soon as their food was served.

There were six of them; two from the Du family, three from the Zhou family and including Zhou Weiqi the sixth person. Lu Xingzhi motioned for Zhou Weiqi to take a seat, and ordered a cup of herbal tea for him, ignoring the rest of the pack.

Zhou Weiqi did not heed Zhou Changkang's winking and immediately sat himself down. Seeing the cake on the table, he took a large bite and said, "Pretty good! Perfect for me since I've just woken up and not eaten anything yet."

Jiang Yao immediately ordered some more food and did not concern herself with her hijacked cake.

Zhou Changkang stood at the side and looked at them. He finally saw Lu Xingzhi's wife. Just as Zhou Ning said, she looked unfamiliar, never seen in Jindo City.

He was sure that he would never forget a face like hers if he ever saw her himself.

“Master Lu, Mrs. Lu, we are very sorry for what happened yesterday. My mom and my sister were disrespectful and offended you both.” Zhou Changkang shifted his gaze away after a few moments of observation. He knew deep down that however pretty Mrs. Lu was, he could never get too close to her.

Chapter 467: Immature

That was Zhou Changkang’s signal for Mrs. Zhou and Zhou Ning. The duo immediately stepped forward and apologized.

“Mrs. Lu, we are very sorry. We didn’t know who you were and insulted you, please forgive us.” Mrs. Zhou gave her daughter, who was looking very upset, a push.

“Mrs. Lu, I’m sorry. I was acting very immature last night.” Zhou Ning apologized dryly. She was thinking, however, that once she gets married Chen Feibai, not even Lu Xingzhi could afford to cross her again.

Du Shihua added, “Master Lu, Mrs. Lu, Ning is still very young and immature, please give her a chance!”

Jiang Yao almost choked on her tea hearing that remark.

Back at the platoon, Mrs. Ge used to say Ge Wenwen was immature as an excuse for her behavior.

Fine, Ge Wenwen was indeed only a little girl.

Yet, Zhou Ning was older than Jiang Yao herself. And they had the audacity to say that she was young and immature?

“Young? How old? Three years old? Or even younger?” Jiang Yao chuckled and looked at Zhou Ning in disgust. “Ms. Zhou looks older than me though. Do you want to say that Mrs. Zhou is young too? That both of you are young and immature?”

Zhou Weiqi did not expect such savagery from Jiang Yao, he instantly spit out the fruits in his mouth, trying his best to hold in fits of laughter.

“We’ve apologized, what else do you still want!” Zhou Ning cried out; her eyes were getting teary. She stood here putting herself down while the lady in front of her acted all high and mighty. She lost control and yelled, “This is outrageous! Do you want mom and I to kneel down for forgiveness?”

“Ning!”

“Zhou Ning!”

In an instance, everyone behind her turned as white as a sheet.

“I don’t think that’s a bad idea.” Lu Xingzhi replied coldly.

Jiang Yao added, “Why don’t you do it then? Perhaps I will actually forgive you if you get down on your knees.”

“We are not obliged to accept your apology,” Jiang Yao said in a very serious manner. She then turned toward Zhou Weiqi with a handful of sunflower seeds in her hand. “This weather is perfect for some sunbathing and chatter with friends! Not forgetting some tasty sunflower seeds too!”

“You are living the life! Xuyao and I went for drinks yesterday and got very drunk. He woke up this morning like nothing happened and went to work! I slept through the morning and only woke up just now.” Zhou Weiqi did not eat the sunflower seeds, instead he chose the fruits. He asked, “When are you going back to Jin City?”

Zhou Weiqi looked at Zhou Changkang and the Dus when he asked the question. He was reminding the people standing that Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao were leaving Jindo City soon.

Chapter 468: Kneel Down

If they took their time, they might just lose Lu Xingzhi without achieving their goals.

“Tomorrow morning,” Lu Xingzhi answered. “There’s plenty of work awaiting.”

Mrs. Du panicked hearing Lu Xingzhi’s reply. If he were to return to the platoon, the Du family would not be able to locate him as they did not have connections in the platoon.

“Master Lu, yesterday’s incident was Rongzhen and Ning’s fault; they were being disrespectful. What do you say, Master Lu? Would you forgive them?” Du Shihua was anxious as well, he could ignore the plight of Mr. Zhou but could not ignore the fact that his son’s wellbeing now clung dearly onto their meeting with the Divine Doctor.

“Didn’t Ms. Zhou say it herself? Kneel down and beg for my wife’s forgiveness.” Lu Xingzhi looked annoyed. “If you want to apologize, do it genuinely. If you don’t want to, get lost!”

Lu Xingzhi’s temper was reaching its tipping point. He had no patience at all for people who treated his wife badly.

“If you don’t want to apologize, leave, don’t waste your time here. You’re better off using that time to look for a good lawyer so that Ms. Zhou’s father can be released sooner.” Jiang Yao turned her back against them and continued her enjoyment of the pleasant weather.

She was not a ruthless person; she just could not stand Zhou Ning’s egotistical attitude.

Plus, Zhou Weiqi was right here. He had all the rights to the Zhous’ apologies!

Mrs. Zhou was still hesitant and reluctant but hearing Mr. Zhou being mentioned, her face turned a shade darker.

They understood that without Mrs. Zhou and Zhou Ning getting down on their knees apologizing, nothing could be done about Mr. Zhou, plus they would never get to meet the Divine Doctor.

Zhou Changkang wanted badly to give his sister a lesson she would never forget! What a burden she was! He could ignore the plight of Du Chen, but he could not leave his father alone. If Mr. Zhou was sent to prison, it was the end of the Zhou family.

He hated Lu Xingzhi, but what else could he do? This was the reality; only the strong had the power to manipulate the weak. Did he not used to do the same to people below the Zhou family?

Observing Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao's interaction with Zhou Weiqi had Zhou Changkang realized that Lu Xingzhi treated Zhou Weiqi just like his own brother. He did this for Zhou Weiqi. Too bad the Zhou family never treated Zhou Weiqi well; he would not help them.

"Get on your knees, Ning!" Zhou Changkang urged.

Mrs. Zhou looked at her son, who looked frightening, and immediately dropped on her knees. She pulled at Zhou Ning, "Get down! You know what happens if you don't! Zhou family will be no more. At that point, you are nothing!"

Zhou Ning, who was in tears, was pushed down by Zhou Changkang and Mrs. Zhou. Even though she was reluctant, she knew that with her dad in prison, she would ultimately lose all her rights to do as she pleased.

"Master Lu, Mrs. Lu, we are very sorry for yesterday. It was our fault. We were being very disrespectful, please forgive the Zhou family just this once!" Mrs. Zhou bawled her heart out. She cried because her husband was taken away, because her impulsive actions yesterday caused so much misery and because of how humiliating and disgraceful it was to be kneeling down.

Chapter 469: Unsightly Kneel

Whatever it was, Mrs. Zhou knew that she had to get on her knees and apologize sincerely.

"It was disrespectful, alright." Lu Xingzhi laughed wryly. "There're a lot of people here; you kneeling down doesn't look too good. Go back home, I'll let the Zhou family off the hook this time."

Reading between the lines, Lu Xingzhi actually wanted Mrs. Zhou and Zhou Ning to kneel longer if not for the commotion it might bring.

Zhou Changkang and Du Shihua quickly helped Du Rongzhen up, hearing Lu Xingzhi's words. If not for Du Shihua's urging, Zhou Changkang actually wanted to ignore the still-crying Zhou Ning.

It was all her fault, if only she kept her cool, they would not have to stoop so low and beg for forgiveness.

"Master Lu, Mrs. Lu, about the Divine Doctor..." Du Shihua asked.

"Two conditions." Lu Xingzhi did not even look at them. "First, the Zhou family is to publish a notice on all major newspapers in Jindo City declaring the severance of all ties between Zhou Weiqi and the Zhou family; Zhou Weiqi will cease to be Mr. Zhou's son. Second, five hundred thousand in cash."

Fifty hundred thousand...

Jiang Yao choked on her tea. Lu Xingzhi was being ruthless; she planned to only ask for a hundred thousand as payment.

The Du and the Zhou family were speechless at the conditions laid out by Lu Xingzhi.

With the declaration of severance in effect, Du Shihua and Zhou Changkang realized it was Lu Xingzhi's plan for Zhou Weiqi to fully escape the Zhou family's control. They had a hunch that Lu Xingzhi had plenty of good things planned for Zhou Weiqi in the future.

Anyway, there was nothing to be done about it. However! Lu Xingzhi wanted five hundred thousand as well!

Five hundred thousand!

"It's too much..." The Du family had means to pay for it but what if the Divine Doctor wanted more for himself? Old Man Du would never agree to it.

What if the Divine Doctor could not mend Du Chen's leg?

"I'll let you in on a secret. The Divine Doctor is very confident that the operation will go smoothly." Jiang Yao looked at the hesitant crowd with a smile on her face. "Plus, the Divine Doctor is a nice character. Once she agrees to the operation, she will not ask for any more money. So, we'll see if Du Chen is worth the half a million dollars you are hesitant in paying."

Jiang Yao had no qualms in self-praising.

"Call me after you've decided. By the way, the Divine Doctor is leaving Jindo City in a few days' time." Lu Xingzhi waved his hand, annoyed.

The two families, except Zhou Weiqi, left immediately.

The owner came over with their order of food after the departure of the sudden visitors. She put down the tray with a smile on her face and immediately turned her attention toward other customers in the vicinity.

"Stop ogling. What happened to your Qiuhe?" Jiang Yao patted Zhou Weiqi's shoulder and pushed the food toward him. "Didn't you say you have not eaten? This is for you."

Chapter 470: Five Hundred Thousand

Zhou Weiqi returned to his senses and explained, "Nah, I just think she looks pretty when she is smiling, just like how I appreciate your beauty. Besides, she's not my Qiuhe, alright!"

"Thanks for the compliment." Jiang Yao chuckled dryly. She then asked Lu Xingzhi, "When do you plan to release Mr. Zhou?"

"Tomorrow." Lu Xingzhi looked at Zhou Weiqi. "Initially I wanted you to make the decision, but I realized that it might take too long to wait for your verdict. I don't have the patience for it, so I gave the decision-making right to someone else."

"Brother Lu..." Zhou Weiqi sighed.

"Excuse me for being blunt, but you can't even compete with Zhou Ning's pet dog in the Zhou family." Lu Xingzhi did not mince his words. Yet, they were the truth. "If your father decides to keep you in the Zhou family, I'll be very surprised."

Zhou Weiqi did not speak, he kept his head down and munched on the cookies served.

What could he say? He was always disregarded and left behind; what else could he hope for?

“Get out of my way after you’re done eating.” Lu Xingzhi got annoyed looking at Zhou Weiqi’s sour expression.

Realizing that he was third wheeling here, Zhou Weiqi grabbed a handful of cookies, took a swig of tea, and walked away.

The afternoon sun was very bright, causing Jiang Yao’s face to flush a bright red. She leaned on Lu Xingzhi’s shoulder after Zhou Weiqi’s departure and said, “We should call Weiqi back. We three can play a game of cards.”

Seeing Lu Xingzhi actually reaching for his cell phone, Jiang Yao quickly stopped his hand and said, “I was just joking, you took it seriously?”

Lu Xingzhi did. It was not a big deal though, as it involved the simple act of giving Zhou Weiqi a call.

“Mrs. Zhou and Zhou Ning must be livid at us now.” Jiang Yao could not stop thinking about Zhou Ning’s expression, she thought it looked funny. “Weiqi and Xuyao asked me yesterday why I wasn’t angry, even Chen Feibai asked me the same question too. Do you know what I told them? Well, they need a favor from me. It’s only a matter of time before they’ll have to put themselves down and beg for my help. I did not expect them to get on their knees though, good thing Zhou Ning mentioned it herself.”

Seeing the pathetic reactions of Mrs. Zhou and Zhou Ning had Jiang Yao in a very chummy mood. She was reminded of the way they treated Zhou Weiqi yesterday and felt really pleased to see how the tables have turned.

“So, the five hundred thousand is Weiqi’s?” Jiang Yao asked.

“For Weiqi to leave the Zhou family, they would take back everything he had that was given by them.” Lu Xingzhi knew very well what the Zhou family would do. Even though they did not provide much for Zhou Weiqi, Lu Xingzhi wanted to at least get some compensation for all the hardships and injustice Zhou Weiqi faced all these years staying in the Zhou family.

“Five hundred thousand is not a lot of money, yet neither is it a small sum,” Jiang Yao said. “For an ordinary household, five hundred thousand is an amount of money they can only ever dream of having, just like my parents who are farmers. They can never earn that much even till the end of their lives. Yet for the Zhou family, it is nothing more than a mortgage for a villa or a loan for a luxurious vehicle.”