

Chapter 51: A Kidnapping

Jiang Yao glared at Lu Xingzhi and gritted her teeth. "D*mn you!" It was the only curse she could manage to blurt out.

"So what?" Lu Xingzhi raised his eyebrows mischievously. He saw right through her answer by her pursed lips. He growled, sounding alarming. "You asked for it."

After a year of endurance and missing moments, he thought he would have the time of his life slowly savoring her sweetness and tenderness as they got together. Unfortunately, Jiang Yao didn't work with him together, so he could only redeem whatever he could get at one go.

Lu Xingzhi walked the talk. Jiang Yao was tormented passionately throughout the night. As the sky was painted with the dawn light, he finally stopped his torment and let her sleep as they cuddled.

When the alarm rang, Jiang Yao felt as if she had just closed her eyes and fallen asleep. She shoved the man next to her and asked him to switch off the alarm. She wanted to continue her slumber.

However, she realized the abnormality once she moved.

"Are you awake?" Lu Xingzhi didn't withdraw himself from her all night. When it was time to get up, he scanned her up and down with his insatiable desire. Then, he left her warm body longingly and gently pinched the naked woman's waist. "Get up and take a shower, then get changed. You're sending me to the airport."

"Over my dead body!" Jiang Yao flared up. She didn't expect him to be so beastly. He walked the talk indeed, he did it all the way til seven in the morning!

She was so sleepy that she closed her eyes as she talked. She fell asleep instantly after she finished talking.

Lu Xingzhi realized that he was too excited about it, but he wanted to spend more time with Jiang Yao. Therefore, although she was extremely exhausted, he carried her up from the bed, showered her, and dressed her. Then, he let her lie on the bed and went downstairs alone for breakfast.

When his parents saw Lu Xingzhi came down alone, they knew that Jiang Yao was not going to see him off at the airport. Although they were accustomed to it, they shrugged in dismay. They talked for a moment over breakfast before both parents went to work.

After his parents left, Lu Xingzhi went upstairs again and carried the woman who was sleeping like a log. He carried her down the stairs and into the car.

The driver gaped in shock at the unbelievable sight, but seeing Young Master Lu's indifferent expression, he didn't dare question him. Looking at the man who sat in the back seat with his eyes closed while hugging his soundly sleeping wife, the driver got into the car silently and started driving. As a competent driver, he practiced the professional motto of the job: 'see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil'.

Jiang Yao woke up while they're on the way to the airport. She was stunned in a daze when she opened her eyes. She rubbed her eyes, thinking that she was still dreaming, until Lu Xingzhi's voice echoed into her ears and she looked up at him clumsily.

“Are you finally awake? You’re on the way to send me to the airport now. We should reach the airport in 20 minutes,” Lu Xingzhi said in an obviously delighted and cheerful tone.

Jiang Yao didn’t even have the strength to roll her eyes at him. She massaged her forehead and muttered in her heart, ‘I don’t even want to see you off! This is clearly a kidnapping! This monster!’

Jiang Yao wondered if she had been too lenient to him for the past two days. Initially, he was discreetly treading the fine line and testing the waters bit by bit. Now, his progression developed by leaps and bounds that she was caught off guard.

For the remaining twenty minutes, Jiang Yao slept in Lu Xingzhi’s arms until their car reached the airport. Lu Xingzhi woke her up.

“We’re here, let’s go.” Lu Xingzhi cuddled his wife out of the car, ignoring the curious glances from the onlookers. He then turned and said to the driver, “Wait here, we’re going to buy some breakfast. Send her back later.”

The driver nodded profusely, realizing that he would be an annoying third wheeler if he followed them.

Then, Lu Xingzhi held her hand and walked into the airport with a contented smile.

Chapter 52: Deal!

The airport in the city was just a few years old. It was a small airport that accommodated several domestic flights, so it was not as crowded as the large international airport in Jin City.

Jiang Yao rubbed her sleepy eyes and walked like a corpse across the airport as she was led by Lu Xingzhi. As she walked lazily, she even yawned with her mouth wide open.

As the broadcast of the flight times echoed across the airport hall, Jiang Yao realized that Lu Xingzhi had left the house at the very last minute. As soon as they arrived at the airport, he was just in time to check-in and board the flight.

“Hurry! Hurry up!” Jiang Yao shook off his hand and pushed him towards the gate.

Glancing at her little impatient face, Lu Xingzhi bowed his head and kissed her. He even nipped her lips until she yelled in pain. He let go of her but increased the intensity of the kiss, their tongues curling around each other like a pair of mating snakes.

The people pacing at the airport stared at the kissing couple in awe and shock. Although the current society was more open-minded than it had previously been, raw and intense kissing between couples was still a rare sight in public.

The kiss lasted a full five minutes until it was exactly the time for Lu Xingzhi to check-in and he had to end the kiss. However, he still held on Jiang Yao tightly and whispered, “Come see me on National Day, okay?”

The ‘okay?’ sounded like a tone for negotiation, yet it carried a vibe of seduction and allure.

Jiang Yao admitted defeat and nodded profusely. “Okay! Okay! I’ll go! Are you satisfied?” Gosh, this guy was unbelievable in the pestering department. Her initial intention was to give him a surprise visit, but

from the looks of it, she bet he might continue to pester her regardless of his flight if she didn't agree to his request there and then.

"Is that a yes? Deal?" Lu Xingzhi gaped in utmost surprise. He simply wanted to try his luck for the last time, but unexpectedly, the person who didn't surrender after a whole night of torment had agreed to him now.

"Yes, yes, deal!" Jiang Yao uttered her answer anxiously, pushing the man who was unwilling to let her go. "Do you want to see if the plane will wait for you? Hurry and board the plane now!"

Eventually, Lu Xingzhi let go of her hand. He pinched her cheek and mumbled, "Such a good girl." With her promise, his footsteps felt lighter and his departure not so devastating.

"When you get to the base, remember to call home," Jiang Yao reminded Lu Xingzhi as she stood behind him and pushed him all the way to the gate.

Regardless of his perseverance, Lu Xingzhi boarded the plane eventually. After watching his flight take off and disappear into the dense cloud, Jiang Yao left the airport.

After thanking the driver for buying her breakfast, Jiang Yao sat in the car and smiled at the thought of Lu Xingzhi's pestering.

Previously, she used to think that Lu Xingzhi was a reserved person by nature. The charismatic aura he exuded was rather intimidating and cold. But after spending two days with him, truth be told, Lu Xingzhi was childish and mischievous when he was with her.

Jiang Yao reached her place at around ten o'clock. She thanked the driver for the ride and entered the house, her body sore and exhausted.

There was no one at home at this moment. As she entered her room and witnessed the messy warzone after their passionate battle, she blushed and cursed the man who was currently on the plane.

The traces of last night's passionate battle were imprinted on the silk bedsheets. She blushed timidly and began removing the bedsheets and placed them into the washing machine. In a swift motion, she cleaned the room and washed the laundry, including the set of clothes that he had changed into after taking a shower last night.

Lu Xingzhi had merely stayed at home for two days, but she felt the void and emptiness in the room after he left.

She had to admit that he had only been gone for over an hour, but she missed him already.

Chapter 53: Missing a Wit

After tidying up the room, Jiang Yao went back to bed to sleep. She was deep in slumber until Mrs. Lu went upstairs and called her for lunch.

"Did you go to the airport this morning to send Xingzhi off?" Mrs. Lu asked as she saw Jiang Yao's creased clothes. She must have changed before going out and immediately slept after she returned.

Jiang Yao nodded sleepily. "Yes, his flight was at nine o'clock, I got home at ten. I was a bit sleepy so I lay down for a nap, but I didn't expect to sleep for so long."

Mrs. Lu smiled instead, she wasn't blaming Jiang Yao. She glanced into the room and saw that the bedsheets had been replaced and the room cleaned. From the looks of it, she knew that her son was the reason Jiang Yao couldn't get enough sleep. Lu Xingzhi must have tormented her all night last night.

Mrs. Lu was even more delighted when she heard that Jiang Yao had sent Lu Xingzhi to the airport. It seemed that the seed of love in Jiang Yao's heart had blossomed.

"It's okay. Come, let's eat, you can continue your nap after lunch," Mrs. Lu said with a gentle smile. She even thought about cooking something delicious for Jiang Yao that night.

Jiang Yao was convinced that her mother-in-law hadn't suspected anything since she had cleaned the room so thoroughly. She nodded and went downstairs for lunch.

In the afternoon, when Jiang Yao slept until three o'clock, she was awakened by a phone call. Initially, she thought that it was from Lu Xingzhi. When she picked it up, it was actually Lu Xiaoxiao who wanted to ask her out for a movie in the county.

"Sister, it is a very funny comedy. The driver is already on his way to pick you up. Stay over at my place tonight and I'll send you home tomorrow." After their conversation last night, Lu Xiaoxiao knew that Jiang Yao liked to watch comedies and she was eager to go to the movies with Jiang Yao. She said that it would be more interesting for two people to watch and laugh together.

Lu Xiaoxiao felt sorry for Jiang Yao too as she listened to Jiang Yao's tale about watching a comedy with Lu Xingzhi where he didn't even laugh once. Lu Xiaoxiao had always thought that going to the movies with Lu Xingzhi was a form of self-torture because it was hard to make a zombie laugh.

Yes, Lu Xiaoxiao described Lu Xingzhi as a zombie. Although her classmates thought that Lu Xingzhi was handsomely arrogant and cool, the only opinion she had of him was that he was an emotionless zombie.

After Jiang Yao took a shower and got changed, the driver appeared at the door at the right moment. Half an hour later, the two girls met at the county cinema's entrance.

As usual, Lu Xiaoxiao would fling herself onto the person she was meeting regardless of who it was, even when Jiang Yao was so fragile and thin. She giggled excitedly as Jiang Yao endured her embrace and shuddered.

"Sister, Brother is not around. When my uncle and aunty go to work, you are left alone at home. Why don't you stay with me in the county for a few days? My dad has gone on a business trip these days and I'm all alone." Lu Xiaoxiao let go of Jiang Yao and shook her hands. "I don't want to be alone, I'm scared."

"There are maids in the house, as well as the driver." Jiang Yao was a little overwhelmed by Lu Xiaoxiao's endless badgering and finally surrendered. "I'll call Mom first."

Jiang Yao thought to herself that no one was at home at the moment. What if Lu Xingzhi called and no one answered? Would he call his mother's office and let her know?

“Of course!” Lu Xiaoxiao pulled Jiang Yao to a nearby phone booth to make the call. She talked to Mrs. Lu over the phone and hung up. Then, she turned to Jiang Yao and shrieked, “Yes, my aunt has agreed! Let’s go to the movies!”

Jiang Yao squinted at her in disbelief. Was this girl missing a wit when she was born?

Chapter 54: He’s Hiding Something

Jiang Yao was still thinking about Lu Xingzhi’s call back at home, but this young lady hadn’t given her much chance to state her opinion.

Shaking her head, Jiang Yao was helplessly dragged to the cinema. Lu Xiaoxiao picked a somewhat old comedy film. She bought soda and popcorn and pulled Jiang Yao into the cinema hall.

Compared to Lu Xingzhi, who didn’t smile at all throughout the entire movie, watching a comedy with Lu Xiaoxiao was a delight. There were some funny scenes that made both of them laugh and hug each other. At some point, Lu Xiaoxiao even lifted her legs and accidentally dropped the popcorn to the ground.

When they came out of the cinema hall, both of them were very hungry. Lu Xiaoxiao suggested a newly opened western restaurant, but since she didn’t know the exact location, they spent almost an hour finding it and they ended up hungry like wolves.

“Sister, my friend told me that this restaurant’s steak is the best in town. I had never expected their business to be so good, I’m not sure if we can get a place.” Lu Xiaoxiao looked into the restaurant through the large floor-to-ceiling glass window and stared at the food on the diners’ table like a glutton while whispering, “Sister, look. The food looks so tasty.”

Jiang Yao couldn’t help but follow Lu Xiaoxiao’s gaze into the restaurant. Unexpectedly, she did not see the food on the table clearly but she stumbled upon an acquaintance inside instead.

“Sister, look! It’s Brother-in-law!” Lu Xiaoxiao saw him too, obviously. She hopped excitedly at the outside, but the person inside couldn’t hear her across the thick glass, so she pulled Jiang Yao directly into the restaurant.

Jiang Yao was dragged into the restaurant. As they ran towards Zhao Zhuangzong’s table, she stood behind Lu Xiaoxiao and watched him recoil in shock and panic when he saw them and quickly move his hand away from the belly of the lady sitting beside him.

“Brother, what a coincidence! How is it? Hurry, tell me how good the steak is here? We came straight here after watching a movie. I didn’t expect such a crowd, so I’m not sure if we can get a place,” Lu Xiaoxiao blurted out continuously when she saw Zhao Zhuangzong and didn’t seem to notice their peculiar expressions.

“Ah... Yes.” Zhao Zhuangzong discreetly observed Lu Xiaoxiao and Jiang Yao’s reaction as he spoke. “I also heard the good reviews so I came to try it. It just so happened that I bumped into a friend here, so we sat together.”

As the old saying goes, he’s hiding something.

Lu Xiaoxiao only noticed the pregnant woman sitting next to Zhao Zhuangzong upon him mentioning it. Lu Xiaoxiao smiled a big smile at her and greeted, "Hi, I'm his sister-in-law!"

It would've easily become a greeting with a hidden meaning but when it came to Lu Xiaoxiao, it was literally a warmhearted and polite greeting.

However, Jiang Yao clearly saw the minute changes in the pregnant woman and Zhao Zhuangzong's expressions .

"Zhuangzong, I have to go now. Excuse me," the pregnant woman uttered and quickly turned to go.

Zhao Zhuangzong wanted to go after her, but then remembered that he had a bigger problem to handle, which was the two ladies. He slowly retraced his footsteps.

Chapter 55: Speculation

Zhao Zhuangzong was speculating the circumstances. How long had Lu Xiaoxiao and Jiang Yao been here? Did they see anything from the outside? Did he do anything overly affectionate earlier that would cause any misunderstanding?

Then, he lifted his speculative glance at Lu Xiaoxiao's innocent smile. She was still scanning around the restaurant curiously at the moment. Zhao Zhuangzong assumed that the sloppy and clumsy Lu Xiaoxiao wouldn't notice anything peculiar and offbeat.

As for Jiang Yao...

Zhao Zhuangzong squinted and pondered. Although Jiang Yao was Lu Yuqing's sister-in-law and they had interacted several times because of their connection, Jiang Yao had always been a sullen and reserved person. He couldn't figure out her temperament and personality, and he wasn't sure if she had noticed anything.

In his opinion, Jiang Yao was not an easy character to be up against, unlike Lu Xiaoxiao. She was not as foolishly innocent as Lu Xiaoxiao was. After all, Jiang Yao was a top student in school, and the intelligence level of a person who excelled academically was exceptionally high. Besides, although she and Lu Xingzhi spent very little time as husband and wife while they were married, Lu Xingzhi was very protective of and affectionate to her. It could be concluded that Jiang Yao was a sophisticated and astute woman, and that she had some tricks up her sleeve.

When he thought of this, Zhao Zhuangzong began to worry. Did Jiang Yao see anything? Did she figure something out?

Zhao Zhuangzong couldn't find the slightest hint of answers to the questions based on Jiang Yao's external expression. Jiang Yao was being her usual self. She greeted and smiled politely at him. Then, she just stood there quietly without any change of expression on her face.

At this moment, Zhao Zhuangzong felt that Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi were very much alike.

"Brother, since you're done, why don't you let me and Jiang Yao take your seat, please?" Lu Xiaoxiao blurted out, anxiously impatient to chase him away. "We're so hungry! Pretty please?"

At her remark, Zhao Zhuangzong nodded with a smile and said, "Okay, your meal is on me, order whatever you like. Enjoy your meal." Then, he stood up and strode towards the cashier next to the entrance.

Jiang Yao couldn't hear what Zhao Zhuangzong was saying to the cashier due to the noisy ambiance, but she could see that both he and the cashier were looking their way. He must have been saying that he'd pay for their meals as well.

It seemed that Zhao Zhuangzong knew the owner of the restaurant, or in other words, he was a regular here that even the staff knew him. Hence, Zhao Zhuangzong could settle their bill before they had even ordered, regardless of how much it would cost.

After their table was cleaned, Lu Xiaoxiao urged Jiang Yao to sit down. She said with a proud smile, "See, I made the right decision to dine in here, didn't I? Brother-in-law even paid for us! He's so generous! We're so lucky!"

"Yup, you're right," Jiang Yao answered with a mysterious smile. Everything flooded back into her mind—Zhao Zhuangzong dining in with the pregnant woman, as well as the way he placed his hand tenderly on the pregnant woman's belly. If she hadn't come here and witnessed this, she would have hardly remembered this incident before rebirth.

Jiang Yao thought that the only person in the world who would believe in Zhao Zhuangzong's nonsense was a silly naive girl like Lu Xiaoxiao.

It would still be believable that Zhao Zhuangzong would dine alone in this restaurant even if he had a wife. However, would a normal pregnant woman come to this restaurant alone?