

Chapter 681 - Not A Bad Ending

Not A Bad Ending

“Boss Lin is married?”

“Her husband is Director Yang?”

“How have I not heard of this yet?”

“Who knew? I never expected this...”

“No wonder she trusts Director Yang so much...”

The executives who were following behind Lin Ruoxi started whispering in excitement. This news was much more significant compared to having a new human resources director named Chris!

Wu Yue showed a look of sudden realization on her face. She finally understood why Yang Chen always came looking for Lin Ruoxi for no particular reason, and why Lin Ruoxi was also always willing to see him.

Wu Yue stared at her boss's back, slightly annoyed. She couldn't understand why Lin Ruoxi did not tell her that she was married despite being Lin Ruoxi's personal assistant. *To think that I have been guarding against Yang Chen all this while. Turns out that the two are family! That practically makes me the clown in a circus for doing what I have been doing all along!* thought Wu Yue.

Yang Chen exchanged glances with Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu. Then, he walked forward expressionlessly and stopped right in front of Lin Ruoxi. He said calmly, “Follow me.”

Lin Ruoxi gazed at him coldly for a while. Instead of replying, she just walked past Yang Chen silently and continued her way out of the corridor.

Yang Chen turned around and said, “I'll count to three. If you don't come with me on the count of three, don't regret what happens next.”

Lin Ruoxi paused briefly in her steps, but she soon continued walking out. It seemed like she did not intend to respond.

“One.”

Lin Ruoxi continued walking.

“Two...”

Everyone watched in worry and curiosity. They wondered about what had happened between this married couple.

Yang Chen did not count to three. Instead, he turned around and caught up to Lin Ruoxi quickly. Amidst the crowd's exclamations, he bent down and picked her up off her feet!!

Lin Ruoxi felt that her legs were suddenly dangling in the air as he lifted her off the floor using his strong arms!

If not for her self-control, Lin Ruoxi would have screamed out loud!

Did this guy just bridal carry me in front of everyone else?!

Lin Ruoxi could no longer understand what she was feeling. She would have done anything to let this just be a dream. Yet, before she could continue her train of thoughts, Yang Chen had already started making his way towards the elevator outside the corridor.

Mo Qianni exchanged a glance with Liu Mingyu. Both of them could see a look of worry and doubt in each other's eyes. But they were in no position to interfere with this married couple's relationship.

Lin Ruoxi suddenly recollected herself by the time they entered the elevator. Struggling, she wriggled her body in an attempt to free herself from Yang Chen's arms. Her eyes were glaring straight at Yang Chen in despair.

But it was almost impossible for her to free herself from Yang Chen's strong arms. He hooked onto her legs tightly, and her arms were tightly secured as well. No matter how hard she struggled, she couldn't escape from him.

The lift descended one floor after another, stopping at some of the floors on the way down. All those who stood outside waiting for the elevator revealed a look of shock the moment they saw the scene inside.

The beautiful CEO that was akin to an ice mountain that never melted even in ten thousand years was being bridal carried by Director Yang of the branch company in the elevator?!

Upon seeing this scene, none of the employees dared to enter the elevator lest they die from awkwardness.

Lin Ruoxi was so embarrassed she wanted to bite a chunk of flesh off Yang Chen's chest. She even wondered if he was mentally disorganized!

Yang Chen lowered his head and smiled mischievously. "Lin Ruoxi, you better stop moving around. If you provoke me, it wouldn't be as simple as just carrying you. When we reach the ground floor lobby, there will be more people. I might not be able to control myself. Who knows, I might just hug you out and French kiss with you in public."

Immediately, Lin Ruoxi felt as though she had been struck by lightning. She dared not move around carelessly at all. But the grievances in her heart transformed into tears that kept rolling in her eyes. She clenched her teeth in anger and said, "You devil..."

"Ha!" Even Yang Chen's brows carried a sense of happiness. He laughed heartily and said, "At last you're willing to open your mouth and talk to me. Dear, how did you know that 'devil' is among one of my nicknames? Tsk tsk, it feels good to hear your voice once again."

Lin Ruoxi shut her eyes close in defeat. She knew that there was no way she could escape Yang Chen's arms.

But Yang Chen wasn't so vicious. He did not actually stop at the ground floor lobby. Instead, he went straight to the carpark and placed Lin Ruoxi down on the seat of his car, and proceeded to drive out of the building.

Lin Ruoxi stopped sobbing. With pale lips and a gloomy expression, she looked out of the window, unwilling to look at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen chose not to talk as well. He drove the car at high speed. About half an hour later, they arrived at the side of the west district central plaza.

Yang Chen parked his car and alighted. Then, he opened the car door for Lin Ruoxi, saying, "Come down."

Lin Ruoxi just sat there without moving an inch. She seemed determined not to listen to Yang Chen.

Yang Chen squinted his eyes. "You're being so difficult. You are basically begging for me to carry you again."

Lin Ruoxi gave Yang Chen an angry stare, but she had no choice but to oblige. She tidied her slightly messy attire up and asked, "Where are we going?"

"Just follow me." Yang Chen smiled mysteriously before leading around and leading the way.

Lin Ruoxi could do nothing about it but follow behind Yang Chen obediently.

A scene that attracted people's attention appeared on the plaza—a lazy-looking man with ordinary features walked in front yawning, while a stunning woman in grey dress and blue cardigan was following behind him unwillingly. It looked just like one of those movie scenes where a couple that was having their argument walked in the lazy afternoon sun.

A few minutes later, the two arrived at a cafe next to a fountain.

A look of doubt emerged on Lin Ruoxi's face. She definitely recognized the place, as she was the one who had first brought Yang Chen here.

"You haven't forgotten, have you?" Yang Chen turned around and smiled, saying, "Back then this was where we signed our wedding agreement."

Lin Ruoxi dazed out briefly, as though some memories had come to her mind. She nodded blankly.

Yang Chen let out a soft laughter. Then, he led the way into the cafe.

It had been a year since they last visited. Thus, the decorations and waiters were mostly different now. After a new, young waiter brought the two upstairs, Yang Chen requested to sit at the exact same spot where they had sat a year ago.

It was the same location with the same characters, only things were very different now than they were a year ago.

"Sir, what would you like to drink?" the waiter asked politely.

Yang Chen replied, "A blue mountain with milk but no sugar for this lady here. And I'll have a Naples coffee with American flavor."

The waiter took their order and was about to leave when Yang Chen called him out again.

"Give me four pieces of paper and a pen. You have those here, don't you?" Yang Chen asked.

The waiter was caught by surprise, but he immediately nodded, "Yes we do. Please hold on."

Lin Ruoxi sat looking at Yang Chen with complicated feelings in her heart. She remembered that when they first met here back then, the coffee that she had ordered was precisely blue mountain coffee. On top of that, Yang Chen even remembered that she wanted it with milk but without sugar.

After the waiter brought them four pieces of paper and a pen, Yang Chen asked him to leave. Immediately, their surroundings turned silent.

Yang Chen grabbed the pen quietly, took a piece of paper, and started writing on it.

"Why exactly did you bring me here?" Lin Ruoxi didn't like situations like this where she had no control. She had grown increasingly confused by what Yang Chen meant by doing these.

Yang Chen scribbled a few large characters on the paper swiftly, and then he held the paper up in front of Lin Ruoxi's eyes.

Lin Ruoxi's gaze instantly transformed from confusion to a mixture of shock, surprise, and doubt. She even felt a little flustered.

It felt as though a block of ice had sunk into her heart. Lin Ruoxi could feel an icy chill running down her back.

On that piece of paper, the title was: Divorce Agreement!

He wants a divorce?!?thought Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi had never expected that Yang Chen's sudden actions were all for such a decision!

Yang Chen sneered and said, "Babe Ruoxi, you seem to be a little slow. Why do you think I exposed our relationship in public so suddenly? Why do you think I hugged you so suddenly ignoring everybody's stares? Why do you think I ignored your anger and your hateful glare at me?"

"That's right. I was already prepared to get a divorce with you. Because I had planned to get a divorce, I couldn't be bothered to leave myself any way out."

Lin Ruoxi grabbed tightly onto her dress, her fingers pale. She bit her lips tight and almost couldn't catch a breath.

"Now that things have advanced to this stage, I no longer want to bother about what had been right or what had been wrong. Perhaps it was all destined. Let's sign our divorce agreement right here where we signed our marriage agreement. It would make quite the ending, wouldn't it?" Yang Chen said with a faint smile.

Lin Ruoxi's watery eyes stared straight into Yang Chen's eyes. She was trying to read his facial expressions for hints of playfulness.

In the end, Lin Ruoxi couldn't see the faintest hint of joke in Yang Chen's eyes. It would seem like he was serious about this!

Her face was overcome by a deep misery, and then it turned into a look of relief, as though she had put down a heavy burden. She smiled faintly at the corner of her mouth and said, "Looks like you have truly made a perfect choice."

Yang Chen's smile faded away as he said with a serious tone, "On my way to the company, I had already called to enquire. To get a divorce, we will need our account book, our identification documents, our marriage certificate and documents of the like. But those are trifling matters. The most crucial thing is to have a reasonable divorce agreement.

For normal married couples, they might have to negotiate over matters like distribution of their assets and their children's custody. But we have no child. As for our assets, it doesn't matter either. You don't lack money and neither do I. So I'll just write it the way it is. You shouldn't have an issue with it, do you?"

"No I don't," Lin Ruoxi said coldly. She lowered her head and raised her coffee cup.

Her hands that were holding onto the coffee cup trembled a little, but Lin Ruoxi quickly kept her wrists under control and prevented the coffee from spilling out.

After taking a sip, Lin Ruoxi sighed softly with relief. "Just write. Like what you said, there is nothing for us to fight over."

Chapter 682

Give Me The Pen

Yang Chen did not stand on ceremony. He started writing lines after lines of words on the piece of paper rapidly. Despite the fast speed, his handwriting was clear.

Lin Ruoxi sat there watching the man before her write down words that would separate the two. It felt as though he was building solid walls between them.

They were so near to each other; they were a couple who saw each other every day, yet all of that would no longer remain the same after this piece of paper becomes valid.

It took about ten minutes for Yang Chen to finish, but Lin Ruoxi felt like a century had passed.

When Yang Chen picked up the agreement that he had finished writing and placed it before Lin Ruoxi, she quickly wiped the tears off her face.

Even she had no idea when she had started tearing up. The day wasn't over yet, but the tears she had shed were more than she could count.

Yang Chen looked indifferent, like he hadn't seen it at all. He said solemnly, "You can take a close look at the terms written on it. I believe there shouldn't be an issue. I've already signed. All you have to do is sign on it and this document will then be valid."

Lin Ruoxi looked at the densely written terms on the piece of paper. She calmed herself down and perked up her spirits, and finally started reading it carefully.

This was a rather fairly written agreement. It involved no disputes of interests and it left nothing unmentioned. This was possibly the most peaceful divorce settlement in history.

She saw that Yang Chen had already signed his name on the signature column at the end. There was still an empty line waiting for her signature.

Lin Ruoxi lost her thoughts in a brief daze, and then she raised her head and said with a cold expression, "Give me the pen."

Yang Chen suddenly grinned and said, "Before I hand you the pen for you to sign, I have to clarify some matters. Only then will I feel at ease with this divorce."

Lin Ruoxi stopped for a split second. Then as she placed the agreement back to the middle of the table, she said, "Go on."

Yang Chen crossed his legs, drank his coffee, and said, "There are two main reasons why we ended up in our current circumstances. Firstly, you are not the only woman that I have. Some of them are even acquainted with you, and some are your close sister-like friends. Secondly, I misjudged you today. Or perhaps, I should say that I had my suspicions towards you. But I believe the second reason was more like the last straw. After all, I am no robot, nor a computer. I have feelings of my own too. Hot headedness is part of my character. So, I don't think that this was too big of an issue. But of course, I apologize for my stupidity and my rashness."

Lin Ruoxi gave him a cold smile. "That isn't needed. Since we're getting a divorce, there's no need to apologize."

Yang Chen shrugged and said smilingly, "Okay, then I'll get to the point. I believe that the greatest dissatisfaction that you bear towards me since my return from Beijing was hearing from Aunt Jiang Shan about my relationship with Ning'er and Yanyan. Though I'm not sure what she said to you, I think it would have sounded unpleasant to you no matter what.

"You must think that I like any beautiful woman that I meet, that I don't bother to think of you at all, and that's why I have affairs with your closest friends. But what I want to tell you is that even though I favor beautiful women, that doesn't make me a pig who falls in love with anyone I meet without caring about your feelings."

Lin Ruoxi snorted coldly and said, "Just say what you want to say, don't beat around the bush. All I know is that a certain man told me beforehand that he was going to Beijing to help a woman settle some troublesome matters. But not more than two days passed when I suddenly I received news that he had had an affair with two other women, and even their parents were aware of it. It left no room for change for anything at all. I fail to see any honesty, any sincerity, nor any so-called care that you mentioned in all of these.

"I endured it back then when you had Qianni, because what happened in Hong Kong was a result of my set-up. I felt guilty for landing both of you in danger. And you had already known Miss Rose even before we knew each other, so I had no right to ask you to erase your past.

“But whether it is Mingyu or An Xin, I don’t believe that you couldn’t reject them too. Even if they do have their pathetic stories, I accepted it since I hadn’t done my part well as a wife. I have no choice but to accept the budding of those relationships.

“I believe that you probably still have other women, like Catherine whom we bumped into in Paris. But that is your past, and I can’t change that.

“Yet, how do you expect me to understand that Yanyan who has been my friend since young is now involved as well? Even more so than that, Sister Cai Ning who is just like a sister to me. The closer their relationship is with me, the more painful it becomes. Because that is not snatching, that is betrayal!”

She had finished her words. Lin Ruoxi looked like she had expended a tremendous amount of energy. She panted for breath adorably, her gaze staring brightly at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen took a deep breath and said seriously, “Okay, then I’ll tell you in detail why Ning’er and Yanyan ‘betrayed’ you.”

Lin Ruoxi said nothing. She stared at Yang Chen coldly.

“Do you remember the first time you dragged me out of the west-district police station? It was from then that Yanyan started crossing paths with me. She thought that I was some bank robber.

“She was at loggerheads with me and always finding fault with me. There were even a few times where she made me angry and it was safe to say that I did not like her.

“Later on, I met Zhenxiu. Zhenxiu told me that Yanyan helped her before as the police chief. She helped Zhenxiu onto the right path so she could start a small business properly.

“It was then that I changed my opinion towards her, because she wasn’t a bad person. But I did not fall in love with her.

“I’m not sure why Yanyan fell for me either. Perhaps because I had saved her once in a shooting incident, or maybe it was some other reason. In any case, I had never thought of getting involved with her before.

“Do you still remember the time when she came to our house and accidentally left her white bag behind on the sofa? She did that on purpose. She used it as an excuse to meet me.

“To be honest, that trick of hers was very conventional. But it suited her personality. It was so innocent that it was cute.

“It was then when I had lunch with her that she suddenly told me that she was fond of me, and that she had already found out from you that our marriage was on a contract...

“I was a little stunned then. Lin Ruoxi, why did you tell her even that? Hmph, if she wasn’t aware of that, perhaps she wouldn’t have confessed back then.” Yang Chen shook his head with a bitter smile on his face.

Listening up to this point, Lin Ruoxi started to look a little awkward. Even she herself had forgotten about telling Cai Yan about their contract marriage. If he was speaking the truth, then she was indeed partially responsible for how things were now.

Yang Chen continued, "But despite feeling guilty and touched by Cai Yan's words, I rejected her on that day. I thought at that time that she was your close friend, so I shouldn't ignore your feelings. This is the truth.

"But I didn't anticipate Cai Yan to be so unyielding. She was actually silly enough to think that I didn't like her because she wasn't strong enough.

"Do you still remember the night when her sister Ning'er came running to our house, saying that I was cruel to Cai Yan, and that she wouldn't let me off if anything were to happen to Cai Yan?"

Lin Ruoxi nodded her head silently. She had always wondered what that night was about.

Yang Chen said, "In order to become stronger, Yanyan joined the selection trial of a special task force using her identity as a police. That was a special training where participants could possibly lose their lives if they're not careful during the training."

This time, Lin Ruoxi could no longer remain calm. She was so agitated she opened her mouth and asked, "Rea—really?"

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "Why else do you think Yanyan suddenly quit her police job and disappeared without leaving a trace?"

Lin Ruoxi recalled that she was indeed unable to reach Cai Yan during that period. She could feel her cold sweat the moment she imagined Cai Yan going through such a training.

Yang Chen sighed heavily and said, "Did you know? When I saw Cai Yan again who had survived the training and stood amidst a bunch of men, her face was dark from being under the sun all the time. She stood under the sun, trying her best to maintain a serious look and pretending that she didn't know me. At that time, I couldn't lie to myself at all. How could I disregard all the effort that she had put in?!

"She had been relying on just her imagination which showed no real promise for the future. Yet she made a decision that would risk her own life just to make me fall for her. What had I ever done to deserve such actions?! What have I sacrificed for her?! If I were to continue disregarding her existence, was I still human?"

"After all, we had crossed each other's path several times before in the past. With all those added up, I would be deceiving myself if I said that I had no feelings for her at all. That incident had merely made me admit all those."

Lin Ruoxi bit her lips. She had lost focus in her gaze as she asked, "Okay. Even if I can understand what happened between you and Yanyan. What about Sister Cai Ning?"

Yang Chen said with force, "About Ning'er, actually you played a part as well."

Lin Ruoxi furrowed her brows, "Why me again? Even though I know Sister Cai Ning, we aren't close at all."

"Zeng Xinlin. Weren't you the one who single-handedly planned the Zeng clan's incident?" Yang Chen gave her a bitter smile and said, "If it was not for your trick that crushed Zeng Xinlin's Changlin Media, it wouldn't have led to Zeng Xinlin and Xu Zhihong's joint revenge later on. If they weren't so hell bent on

killing you, I wouldn't have had to kill Zeng Xinlin. If not because of Zeng Xinlin's death, the Zeng clan's master Zeng Mao wouldn't have come to Zhonghai to seek revenge for his grandchild.

"Zeng Mao wanted to destroy Yu Lei International regardless of what it took. He wanted to harm you and kill me. I wouldn't have had to bear the risk nonetheless and kill Zeng Mao."

Lin Ruoxi listened to the series of cause and results, and she said in puzzlement, "Even if... I have a big part to play in all these, all I did was just what a businessman had to do. I couldn't have predicted all these to happen. Even more so... what does this have to do with Sister Cai Ning?"

Yang Chen rolled his eyes at her, "Do you think that it was such an easy job to clean up after Zeng Mao's death? He was the head of the Zeng clan. You know what? I wasn't the one who killed him in the end. It was Ning'er who killed him and bore the responsibility of his murder. She did it so I would be safe from the Zeng clan's revenge. She did it so that I could live in peace with the people around me, including you."

"What...?" Lin Ruoxi widened her eyes in shock. She had obviously never expected it to be such a case.

Yang Chen sighed and said, "Actually, you should find a chance to thank Ning'er. If not for her bearing the risk of being prosecuted on the military court and saving me, maybe nothing would have happened to me. But you and Yu Lei probably would have had no peaceful days. Maybe... it would have been a problem to even continue living in China like we do now."

Lin Ruoxi shut her eyes closed. She held onto her forehead and tried to calm down before asking, "Then because of Sister Cai Ning, has everything been settled?"

Yang Chen nodded and said with mixed feelings, "Fortunately, I have established a good relationship with the Li clan in Beijing during this trip. You can say that it's settled now. If I hadn't made the trip this time, Cai Ning was actually planning to listen to her mother and marry a country pumpkin.

"A woman who has nothing to do with me at all was willing to be prosecuted on the military court and lose her name for my sake. Even more so, she almost got married to a man whom she had no feelings for at all. How silly. She didn't gain anything out of this but yet she put her whole life on the line for me.

"If I were so stupid to be ignorant of her feelings, if I were to let her marry a stupid fellow who wanted to take advantage of the situation to possess her, wouldn't that make me even worse than that stupid fellow?"

Lin Ruoxi didn't say a word. She listened blankly, her hands holding onto the coffee mug. She felt awful in her heart.

Willing to sacrifice everything including their lives yet asking for nothing in return?

In comparison, what Lin Ruoxi had done for Yang Chen seemed to be pathetically little.

Yang Chen laughed in self-mock and said, "Sometimes, I really feel like I'm favored by the heavens. I've managed to get myself into such wonderful situations. Of course, I don't mean to say that you're no good. I just wanted to make it clear to you that I will never let go of anyone who loves me deeply and vice versa. Because it is what they rightfully deserve."

Lin Ruoxi lifted her head and she met Yang Chen's gaze.

“Lin Ruoxi, I am very grateful to have had your company for the past year. Although it did not end on a good note, these memories are really heartwarming for a man like me,” Yang Chen said with a faint smile.

Lin Ruoxi’s eyes reddened a little. Countless thoughts were flying through her mind. Their memories were appearing one by one in her mind just like a black and white film.

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“Miss Lin, you wouldn’t ask me to repay you for bailing me out, would you? I have no money to give you, only my pathetic life.”

“Marry me.”

“Miss Lin, please come again. Why do I feel like I am hearing things...?”

“You’re not hearing things. I said I want you to marry me! Right now!”

... ..

“A marriage without love, does it always end up like them?”

“It won’t. At least, we won’t. Babe Ruoxi, if you want to go to nightclubs and bars, just ask me out together. I’m very open-minded. Let’s all have fun together if you want to have fun.”

“Scram!!!”

... ..

“I have three options for you, watch a movie, go shopping, or visit the aquarium. Where do you want to go?”

“Let’s go to the aquarium. I like tropical fish. They’re very pretty.”

“The aquarium is going to close soon since it’s so late at night. Choose a different one.”

“Then shopping is fine too.”

“Shopping? Wouldn’t that tire me out?”

“Then where to?”

“Let’s go to the movies.”

“Then why did you make me choose?! Couldn’t you have suggested to watch a movie right from the start?!”

“This is democracy. Democracy. Hehe...”

... ..

“Dear, how much time do we have until the contract expires?”

“One and a half years.”

“How about shortening it? Make it six months. Let the two of us scorpions stay for six months more. At that time, even if we’re one of the same kind, we should be tired from all this, since there’s a gap between us after all.”

“I accept.”

... ..

“Are you mocking me? For whoever gave birth to me doesn’t matter, and I’m a child that nobody wants?”

“You’re wrong. In my eyes, none of these things concerns me. Whose daughter you were in the past didn’t matter. What matters most is where you are now. You are now my wife.”

... ..

Heart-breaking scenes appeared one after another, making Lin Ruoxi unable to suppress her tears from rolling. After she tried hard to calm herself down, Lin Ruoxi wiped the tears off her face.

Yang Chen was watching her. He was smiling leisurely.

“Give it to me.” Lin Ruoxi extended her hand.

Yang Chen was stunned, “What?”

“The pen.” Lin Ruoxi said emptily, “Don’t I have to sign on it? The divorce agreement?”

Yang Chen was taken aback for a while. He asked softly, “Ruoxi, didn’t you just cry for us? Why do you still want to sign?”

Lin Ruoxi said blankly, “What do you mean?”

“I’ve said so much. Aren’t you touched at all?” Yang Chen asked with an awkward smile.

The gaze in Lin Ruoxi’s eyes started to become clearer. She said, “Does that matter? Didn’t you say that you want a divorce?”

Yang Chen swallowed his saliva and let out a few coughs. Then he said with a serious face, “Actually, it hasn’t been easy for us to make it this far. Look at you, you’re already touched to the point of tearing from our memories. If we were to give up on this, what a pity it would be.”

By now, Lin Ruoxi had finally sort her thoughts out. A look of realization replaced the tears that were rolling in her eyes.

She let out a vague smile and said, “Is that so? I don’t find it pitiful at all. Give me the pen.” Lin Ruoxi reached her hand out again.

Yang Chen hurriedly hid the pen behind him and shook his head. “Think through it again carefully. This is not a joke!”

“Yang Chen, you were the one who suggested a divorce. You were the one who wrote the divorce agreement. Are you going back on your words now?!” Lin Ruoxi said, her eyes were wide open.

Yang Chen's expression was as bitter as it could be. He could only pull the pen out slowly and hand it to Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi snatched the pen from him in a second. She darted an icy glare at Yang Chen, and then she found the signature column and was about to sign on it.

But before she could land her pen on the paper, the piece of divorce agreement had already been snatched away by Yang Chen in the blink of an eye!

"Goodness gracious! Lin Ruoxi!! Is your heart made of stone?! I asked you to sign it and you really thought of signing it?! I asked for a divorce and you really want to do it?!"

"Do you have a conscience at all? After hearing such a touching story, don't you feel that your man is very responsible and the women are very pitiful?! Don't you know how to say things like 'Dear hubby, I understand everything now. I support you'?! How do you expect Yanyan and Ning'er to live with this! Things are already at such a stage, can't you leave us a way out?! What divorce agreement are you intending to sign?!" Yang Chen yelled. He wanted to cry so badly yet he had no tears.

Lin Ruoxi just smiled coldly. She looked like she had long anticipated this. She played with her hair and said, "I don't have such thoughts. Since you want a divorce, of course I'll do as you wish. You have already acted so recklessly towards me in front of so many employees in the company. What is there for me to hesitate about? Come on, give me the agreement."

Yang Chen's eyes rolled. He could no longer care less and he tore the agreement into pieces right before Lin Ruoxi's eyes. Then, he tore it into pieces before crumpling them together and throwing it aside!

"Why—why did you tear it apart?!" Lin Ruoxi confronted him angrily.

Yang Chen gave her a blank look and asked ignorantly, "What has been torn apart? I didn't do anything. Aren't we here for coffee?"

Lin Ruoxi let out a sigh. She furrowed her brows, showing a speechless expression. "Oh my word. How did I meet a man as thick-skinned as you? Even a year later, why are you still such a lousy man? You're totally shameless!"

Yang Chen held his coffee and turned his head aside, looking at the fountain outside. He clicked his tongue and said pretentiously, "My good wife, the fountain looks so good today. The water seems to be clearer than usual."

Lin Ruoxi glared at the shameless Yang Chen, grinding her teeth. She felt like breaking out in laughter yet she felt like scolding him at the same time. In the end, she just stood up and said out loud, "Waiter! I want the bill please!!"

"Hey! What bill! I'm still drinking!" Yang Chen hurriedly turned over and yelled.

"Drink?! Just drink to your death!"

Lin Ruoxi couldn't be even bothered to wait for the waiter to come. She just pulled out a few hundred-yuan notes and left in anger.

Yang Chen could no longer sit still. He finished his coffee in a big gulp and wanted to leave with her. But he saw that Lin Ruoxi hadn't finished her cup of blue mountain yet. Thus, he finished her cup of coffee in a big gulp again before he finally ran after Lin Ruoxi in a childlike manner.

Yang Chen ran all the way out of the cafe before he managed to block Lin Ruoxi's path. He smiled and asked with a shy face, "Dear little Ruoxi, please don't be angry. I—I had no choice either. I'm following you wholeheartedly for the rest of my life!"

Lin Ruoxi's anger had already been mostly appeased by now. She no longer felt as upset about Cai Ning and Cai Yan. More than that was her anger at Yang Chen for playing tricks on her. She lifted her head up high and pouted as she said, "Forget about it. I don't dare to believe the words of a shameless guy like you who doesn't honor your words."

"Please don't. What's more, the company employees are all aware of our relationship now. Are we going to get a divorce immediately after we announced ourselves as husband and wife? How embarrassing would that be? It's not an issue for me to lose my pride, but for dear CEO you to lose your pride is a big matter!" Yang Chen said righteously.

"Yo—you still have the guts to bring that up?!" Lin Ruoxi was going nuts the moment she imagined how news of her relationship with Yang Chen was spreading like wildfire in the company right now.

"Don't be rash! Don't be rash! Since that's the case," Yang Chen put on a solemn expression again and abruptly caught hold of Lin Ruoxi's hand, saying, "My dear wife, accompany me to one more place. I have no more tricks this time, really."

Chapter 683 - A Romantic Place

A Romantic Place

About twenty minutes later, the couple were seated in a noodles restaurant on the outer rim of the west-district market.

Due to poor ventilation and the use of lard, the walls and old tables and chairs in the restaurant were coated in a layer of dirty oil. There wasn't a common theme or color to the newspapers and posters on the wall. In short, the whole restaurant looked like a chaotic mess.

The air in the restaurant was filled with the smell of gas from the road and the smell of oil from the kitchen. It made the air look slightly foggy.

As it was already past lunchtime, there weren't many people in the restaurant. Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi sat opposite each other at a square table placed at the entrance of this restaurant.

A huge empty bowl of noodles sat in front of Yang Chen. At the same time, he was already busy slurping his second bowl of noodles—green mustard shredded pork noodles—and he did not seem intent on stopping.

Lin Ruoxi stared straight at the man who was gorging on his food before her eyes. She bit on her lips with her brows locked together, her eyes filled with annoyance.

She, too, was holding a pair of chopsticks. But her hands hadn't moved an inch, and she didn't even take a single bite out of the green mustard noodles before her.

Yang Chen had eaten half of his noodles. He drank a mouthful of the oily noodle soup before he asked curiously, "Dear, why aren't you eating? This noodle restaurant's chef has quite the skill. I used to come here often when I was still selling mutton skewers. It's a pity they don't have any fresh pork liver left. Pork liver noodles taste even better than this."

Lin Ruoxi suppressed her annoyance forcefully and asked, clenching her teeth, "The place you mentioned that you wanted to bring me was a noodle parlor?!"

Yang Chen grinned cheekily, "Didn't you tell Wang Ma that you wanted to eat green mustard noodles? I still remember it, that's why I thought of this noodles restaurant. They serve big portions of noodles here. On top of that, their prices are reasonable at five yuan per bowl. If we were in those restaurants out there, this could easily cost us more than ten or twenty yuan."

Noticing that Lin Ruoxi's expression were shifting back and forth, Yang Chen stroked the back of his head with his oily hands and asked, "Why are you looking at me like that? Could it be that you've suddenly realized how thoughtful I am? It's no big deal. I haven't had breakfast nor lunch yet, my stomach was empty and so I thought of having lunch."

Lin Ruoxi thought to herself repeatedly, *I can't take things serious with this man, or else I would die from self-irritation. I must stay calm.*

I thought this fellow would bring me to some romantic place and say some words to console me, or even give me some surprise.

But! I can't believe he brought me to this small stall for noodles!

Lin Ruoxi looked around at the dirty walls in the restaurant, and at the serviettes and disposable chopsticks that have been thrown all over the place on the floor. She was this close to hurling her handbag at this man's face!

Yang Chen gave it some thought and a flash of realization struck his eyes. He smiled and said, "It slipped my mind. Our Boss Lin has had a luxurious life since young. Hmm... you're different from a wild child like me who would gladly eat raw meat to survive. Forget it, since you find it dirty here, give me your noodles. I still have the stomach for one more bowl."

As he spoke, he reached his hand out towards the big bowl before Lin Ruoxi and was about to pull it towards himself.

Lin Ruoxi quickly stopped Yang Chen with both her hands and said angrily, "Are you mocking me for being spoiled and unable to endure hardship now?"

"No. Everyone has his or her own way of living. It's nothing," Yang Chen said with a relaxed smile.

"Do you think that I can't tell? You're a man but you're always beating around the bush and being so petty." Lin Ruoxi glared at him. She held tightly onto her bowl and sent the noodles into her mouth using her chopstick. She spoke again after taking a bite, "What you can eat, I can eat too. Don't look down on me!"

Yang Chen lost control and broke into laughter. He said, "Look at you being all angry now. Your face is so puffed up it's turning into a steamed bun. I was just joking. I know you can endure hardship. After all,

this 'hardship' that you're suffering in your taste buds now is nothing compared to the hardship that you have been through in your heart."

Lin Ruoxi soon stopped moving her chopsticks. She pursed her lips and asked softly, "Can you promise me something?"

"Mmm." Yang Chen raised his brows.

"Promise me, that in the future no matter the reason, you will never bring up those unhappy memories again." Lin Ruoxi looked at Yang Chen and said, "I think that it's very upsetting."

Yang Chen shook his head and smiled. "You mean things like eating dead human meat? I have already let go of that. It's just like a different me who's living in another world. You can think of it as my previous life. It's nothing to me."

Lin Ruoxi shook her head too and said gently, "No, I'm the one who will be upset. I don't want you to use your smile right now to mention those memories of the past."

Yang Chen was silent. He met Lin Ruoxi's gaze, and a faint feeling possessed his heart.

Finally, Yang Chen let out a casual smile and said, "Okay, I promise. Look at you, you're frowning so much. I won't mention it in the future."

"Mm..." Lin Ruoxi finally continued eating her noodles.

Yang Chen asked, "Dear, it's our wedding anniversary today. We received our marriage certificate last year at this exact date. Are you very disappointed that I didn't prepare any special present for you?"

Lin Ruoxi said without even looking at him, "Didn't you have a present? That agreement that you tore apart."

Yang Chen grinned, "You're still mad at me..."

Lin Ruoxi sighed. "I'm not like you. These things don't matter to me. I'll be glad as long as you don't follow me to the airport next time."

Yang Chen looked awkward. He forced a smile and immediately snuck his head down to eat his noodles.

In the midst of eating, Lin Ruoxi suddenly asked again, "About Qianni... what are your plans for her?"

Yang Chen was startled. He asked awkwardly, "Why did you bring this up so suddenly?"

"Qianni often loses focus during her work. Although I have no reason to support anything between the two of you, I don't want my right-hand woman to let her personal affairs affect her work performance," Lin Ruoxi said, "I have no interest in your dealings with her. And I won't make any compromises. But I hope that you can resolve the matter as soon as possible."

Yang Chen said with a slightly bitter expression, "I don't know how to be at two places at once, so I can't take care of everything at the same time. But I will definitely resolve the matter. But Babe Ruoxi, can't you just... I don't know... ease up your policies a little?"

Lin Ruoxi glanced at him coldly. "We have already agreed on a year's time. There are only a few months left. I won't reject anything outright. Of course, I know that I have many flaws, that's why I've been putting in effort."

"Then what will happen when the one year's period is up?" Yang Chen probed.

Lin Ruoxi's expressions changed back and forth for quite a while. She answered, "Don't ask me. We'll talk about it when it's time."

Yang Chen was jumping with happiness in his heart. Perhaps Lin Ruoxi had been influenced after hearing about the Cai sisters' matters. Her attitude now was much softer than before.

We'll talk about it when it's time? That means nothing is set in stone. A human heart is made of flesh. No matter how much she hates it, Ruoxi will find it difficult to ignore what the other women have done for me, Yang Chen thought.

After they had finished their much-delayed lunch, Yang Chen drove Lin Ruoxi back to the company.

When they reached the car park of the company, Lin Ruoxi alighted with a worried look. She was a little afraid of entering the lift and going upstairs.

Yang Chen suddenly grabbed onto Lin Ruoxi's hand and said smilingly, "You look so worried. Aren't you just worried that everyone has found out about our relationship? If you don't dare to go in alone, I'll drag you up."

Lin Ruoxi quickly swung his hand off and said, "Forget it. It was... it was embarrassing enough to be taken away by you like that. You better return to work. I don't think anyone would openly laugh at me."

Yang Chen looked completely in agreement with what she had said, "That's true. With this stressful vibe that Boss Lin gives off, normal people wouldn't even dare to take a second look at you."

"If you are done mocking me, you may leave." Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at the man. She turned and entered the lift.

Before the doors of the lift closed, Yang Chen put his hands into his pockets and said with a mysterious smile, "I'll have a special present for you to celebrate our wedding anniversary. Make sure you're mentally prepared later."

Lin Ruoxi was startled. She realized immediately that something special might happen, but before she could ask, the lift had already started ascending.

Yang Chen turned around and pulled his phone out. He went through his contacts and found Hui Lin's mobile number, which he dialed.

Because Yang Chen had specially ordered for Hui Lin to always carry her own phone, she picked up the call immediately this time. She asked happily, "Brother Yang, why have you called so suddenly? Have you reached home?"

"Yup, I've reached some time ago." Yang Chen asked smilingly, "Are you busy with your work?"

“There is quite a lot of work. But these uncles and aunts that you have introduced are all very professional. They’re really amazing. They’re making rapid progress in all of their work. Even Deputy Director Zhuang Feng was shocked. By the way, Brother Yang, is something up?”

Yang Chen clicked his tongue and said, “Hui Lin, it’s a rather special day today for your sister and me. I know that you’re busy preparing for your concert, but I would like you to take a few hours off and help me do something.”

“It’s about Brother Yang and Elder Sister?” Hui Lin was slightly baffled, but she immediately said, “I’m definitely glad to do it. But my schedule is jam-packed. I wonder if my manager Uncle Downey would agree to it.”

Yang Chen smiled and said, “Rest assured. None of them would dare to reject what I say.”

At the same time, Lin Ruoxi who was going up in the lift hung a weird expression on her face.

As the lift stopped at a few floors on the way up, every employee and executive that saw her was stunned for a while before they greeted her.

Lin Ruoxi could sense that the entire company was talking about the relationship between Yang Chen and her. This made her unable to calm herself down despite her usual composed manner. But she was surprised to feel a sense of relief too.

Perhaps, I should have let all these matters known to the public since long ago, Lin Ruoxi muttered in her heart.

Chapter 684 - Blooming Flowers on the Shores

Blooming Flowers on the Shores

Meanwhile at the branch company of Yu Lei Entertainment in Beijing, Deputy Director Zhuang Feng rushed into the recording studio upon hearing the news from his assistant. A few music producers and Hui Lin’s manager Downey were all in the studio.

Looking at Hui Lin sing in the recording studio, Zhuang Feng asked anxiously, “Mr Downey, why is Miss Lin Hui still singing here right now? According to her schedule, shouldn’t she be at the concert venue to rehearse with her dance crew?! How is it that she is still here and that I caught wind of the rehearsal being cancelled?!”

Downey shrugged and said, “Deputy Director Zhuang, we are doing as Mr Yang requests. He needs Miss Lin Hui to help him with something, so Miss Lin Hui is preparing for it.”

“Mr Yang?!” Zhuang Feng was surprised, “Is it Director Yang? Bu—but how can he mix personal matters with official ones? Does he realize the implications of his actions?!”

Downey said in a serious tone, “Sorry, Deputy Director Zhuang. Miss Lin Hui’s future prospects and her job might be important to us alright, but our priority service target is Mr Yang. If Mr Yang requests something, we will satisfy it unconditionally. None of us here has the slightest bit of courage to go against his will.”

Zhuang Feng was stunned. His worldview was toppled in an instant. Although he had already heard of Yang Chen's frightening background, seeing these international celebrities work at his service like his servants just made him sigh.

Not the slightest bit of courage? Could it be that Yang Chen would kill them all just because they fail to satisfy one small request of his?! Zhuang Feng thought. He had no idea that this was indeed what Downey and the rest thought.

In the city center of Zhonghai, as Yu Lei International was one of the leaders among international fashion businesses, they had a large piece of empty space on the east side of its building. It was especially eye-catching in the city center, where every single inch of land was as precious as gold.

Traffic was busy around the area, yet a huge garden style plaza occupied the center.

A magnificent man-made fountain that operated all year round stood in the center of the plaza. Lots of citizens exercised, strolled or rested in this plaza regardless of morning or dusk.

Around 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a team of construction workers arrived at the side of the plaza with various moving trucks.

Drivers and passengers who passed by, as well as employees in the office building were all baffled at what they saw before them. This team of construction workers was using the materials that they had brought with them to build some structure on the plaza.

Naturally, such an abrupt event attracted the attention of many. Yu Lei International was the most symbolic business in Zhonghai after all. Constructing such an illegal building right in front of Yu Lei International was an unacceptable action in the eyes of many of the company employees.

Yu Lei International's security team strode forward to ask the construction workers about it, and immediately restrained their originally fierce attitude when they heard what the workers had to say. This made many others all the more shocked and curious to know what the reason behind this was.

In the CEO's office, Lin Ruoxi had recollected herself from the awkwardness from earlier. She had many matters to attend to after all, so she didn't want to overthink. She was concentrated on reading some documents.

At this moment, someone knocked on the door from the outside.

Lin Ruoxi responded, and Wu Yue walked in with an odd expression on her face.

"What's the matter?" Lin Ruoxi asked flatly.

Wu Yue was still finding it difficult to accept the fact that Lin Ruoxi was married to Yang Chen. Upon seeing Lin Ruoxi, she dazed out a little before she said softly, "Boss Lin, a team of construction workers are building something in the plaza outside."

"What?!" Lin Ruoxi thought that she had heard wrongly. She stood up, walked to the floor-to-ceiling window and gazed downwards. Indeed, a group of people were working at full capacity, seemingly in the midst of building something.

Lin Ruoxi turned around with a hint of fury in her face and said, "Where's the security team?! I did not hire the lot of them to not do their jobs when it mattered!"

Wu Yue's expressions looked awkward as she said, "The security team had already confronted them, but—but they dare not interfere..."

"Why?" Lin Ruoxi frowned. "Is it some activity arranged by the government?"

"It's not the government." Wu Yue said with much difficulty, "They said that they're here on Director Yang's orders..."

Lin Ruoxi widened her eyes in shock and paused for quite a while before she put her hand on her forehead. She looked a little awkward in front of Wu Yue and was muttering to herself softly, clenching her teeth, "What is he thinking?"

"Boss Lin, now the entire company knows that Director Yang is your husband. Because he is the one to do something like this, it's only natural that the security wouldn't dare to stop them," Wu Yue said softly.

Her words made Lin Ruoxi feel even more troubled.

Wu Yue saw that Lin Ruoxi was lost in her thoughts. She couldn't hold it in anymore and said, "Boss Lin, Why did you hide the fact that you and Director Yang are husband and wife from everyone? Even if you didn't tell anyone, you shouldn't have kept it from me. You made me mis-judge him. Turns out I was the one who was making a fool out of myself."

"He is a bad guy." Lin Ruoxi snorted angrily and said, "I understand the situation now. I'll contact him. Relay my words to everyone to do what they ought to do. Don't let me hear of any rumors. If anyone were to be distracted from gossip, ask them to leave before I fire them!"

Wu Yue sighed and nodded before she left the room.

The moment Wu Yue left, Lin Ruoxi picked up her phone immediately and dialed Yang Chen's number.

But the only response that she got was that Yang Chen had turned off his phone!

Obviously, Yang Chen had turned off his phone beforehand, knowing that Lin Ruoxi would definitely confront him about it.

Lin Ruoxi almost threw her phone at the floor in anger. She stomped on the carpet furiously and said with her teeth clenched, "Damn Yang Chen, stupid Yang Chen. You're always so reckless in everything you do. You'll be the death of me!"

But once she thought about the wedding anniversary present that Yang Chen had mentioned, Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but feel a tinge of anticipation.

What exactly is that fellow planning to do?? Filled with anticipation and frustration, Lin Ruoxi slumped back against her chair helplessly.

Time passed by quickly. The plaza had always been a crowded area. More people caught eye of the odd scene that was going on and started discussing about it.

Soon it was evening. It was cloudy and the sunlight gradually turned dim.

The construction that was going on in the plaza had finally taken form. It was revealed to be a stage, several hundred meters long!

This was a wonder-filled day for all the employees of Yu Lei International. First, they had suddenly learnt that Boss Lin was secretly married to the director Yang Chen! Then, Yang Chen, the CEO's husband had started building a stage in the plaza below the building for no reason!

The employees in the Yu Lei International building were all preparing to knock off soon. Many were curious about the purpose of building that stage.

Yet at that moment, employees from every level of the building started letting out cries of surprise.

The employees enquired each other and realized that many of them had received an email from Yang Chen in their inbox!

The contents of the email was very clear. It was an invitation for all the employees of Yu Lei to watch the wedding anniversary special gift between Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi after work.

Wedding anniversary?!

There was a clamor among the employees. This was yet another shocking information. After all, Lin Ruoxi had always been lofty and overly secretive as a CEO. Thus any news about her was of interest to everyone.

Yet they had not only found out today that she was already married, but that it was her wedding anniversary!

All of the employees no longer had any intention of knocking off from work. They were even making phone calls to invite their friends to the plaza to watch this 'wedding anniversary present' together!

In the CEO's office, Lin Ruoxi was on the brink of a breakdown. Looking at the email that she had also received in her inbox, her face was red with helplessness.

"This shameless guy, what exactly does he plan to do?" Lin Ruoxi walked to the floor-to-ceiling window and looked down at the stage that had already been set up in the plaza below in a daze.

As more employees learnt about the news, a huge crowd of Yu Lei employees had all run out of the building onto the plaza. They surrounded the stage and were all waiting for the 'present' to appear.

Moving closer to the stage, the employees realized that not only lighting had been set up on the stage, there was also a set of audio-visual equipment which included a large piece of cloth for projecting video. It seemed as though he had planned some sort of video for her.

As more onlookers joined the crowd, even passersby and cars stopped to see what was going to take place.

The white-collared workers in the nearby buildings were also curious about what the Yu Lei International employees were waiting to watch.

With that, the plaza that wasn't very big was now completely filled with people!

When the Yu Lei employees told the other onlookers that it was a special event prepared for their Boss Lin Ruoxi and her husband's wedding anniversary, the crowd became even more excited.

Many were shouting for the performance to start quickly, and some others were yelling for Lin Ruoxi to come down from the building!

Besides Wu Yue, Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu were also gathered in Lin Ruoxi's office right now.

But not one of them spoke a word. They were all standing before the window scoping the crowd below them.

Finally, about half an hour after work, a figure made his way through the crowd easily and climbed on stage amidst everyone's anticipation!

This figure was naturally Yang Chen who had spent the entire afternoon preparing for this!

Yang Chen didn't seem to pay any attention to the onlooking crowd. After going through the various equipments on stage, he opened an audio box and took out a microphone. He adjusted the volume so that it could be heard by everyone in the crowd before he let out a cough and said proudly, "I believe that many of you have already explained on my behalf to the others about what is going on here. Actually, I'm quite the shy person. But since it's our first wedding anniversary, I was afraid that my wife would find me insincere and unromantic. That's why I had no choice but to do this. But if anyone intends to pay for the performance after watching, I wouldn't blame them for it."

The crowd laughed out in response, and Yu Lei employees were shrieking excitedly.

Even those women from the public relations department and Yang Chen's subordinates like Zhao Teng and Wang Jie were among the crowd, and they were all laughing uncontrollably.

Yang Chen raised his head and look at the top floor of Yu Lei building, saying, "But it seems like my wife is even more shy than I am. She refuses to come down from her office."

Immediately everyone roared in response to his words, yelling, "Come downstairs! Come downstairs! Come downstairs!"

Although they were a few dozen of floors apart, it was easy to know what was going on downstairs even from the faint voice that they heard through the opened window.

Lin Ruoxi's face was as red as a tomato. Her heart was beating crazily out of control. She didn't even have the energy to blame Yang Chen for being reckless right now. She lost all energy in her body and she even had difficulty breathing.

Mo Qianni who was standing beside her pulled at Lin Ruoxi's hands albeit being a little jealous. She said, "Go down. If you don't go down, it would break his heart. Of course, if you would like to give Mingyu and I an opportunity to take advantage of, we are glad to do it too."

Liu Mingyu rolled her eyes at Mo Qianni, "Why drag me into it? I've never thought of anything like that."

Lin Ruoxi glanced at them and pursed her lips, "I'm not over-sensitive like you think I am. I just don't want to make him lose his face."

As she finished her words, Lin Ruoxi walked out of the room, looking like she had finally mustered enough courage to do so.

Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu exchanged glances with each other. They shook their heads at each other and smiled bitterly. They would be lying to say that they weren't jealous. But they knew that Yang Chen did this for Lin Ruoxi and Lin Ruoxi alone.

A few minutes later, Lin Ruoxi appeared at the entrance of the building.

Yu Lei employees made way to a huge empty space for her automatically and applauded loudly. When they saw that even Lin Ruoxi could blush out of embarrassment, many even whistled at it.

Although she wasn't very near to the stage yet, Lin Ruoxi could already get a good look at Yang Chen who was on the stage and hear his sound from the speaker clearly.

Lin Ruoxi tried to ignore the crowd around her and just looked at Yang Chen from afar. She was grumbling in her heart about how terrible he was and how she would deal with him after this, but still, she couldn't hide the anticipation that she held from within.

Yang Chen scanned around from the stage. Seeing that Lin Ruoxi had no intention of getting any nearer to the stage, he just let her be. He ran to the side and turned on the visual equipment on the stage.

In the crowd's puzzled gazes, a clear image appeared on the cloth on stage.

What surprised many of them was that the image was actually from a video call. And the person that had appeared in the video was the super rookie Lin Hui who had rapidly gained popularity throughout the country within the recent two days.

Lin Hui looked rather nervous in the video call too. She was all the way in Beijing but the video call in front of the crowd still made her nervous.

Many onlookers were all Lin Hui's fans. Seeing their idol appearing before their eyes, they exploded into deafening shrieks of excitement!

Yang Chen said to the crowd, "Now, I will sing a duet with Miss Lin Hui, whom I believe many of you are familiar with. Although this song was not written by me, I feel that it describes our time spent together for the past year perfectly. Now may everyone please be quiet as we start."

The audience were surprisingly cooperative. After all, it was Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen's wedding anniversary, and what's more she was Yu Lei International's CEO. Of course they had to give her some face. They settled down immediately.

Lin Ruoxi was surprised enough to see Hui Lin. When she heard that Hui Lin was going to sing a duet with Yang Chen as a present for her, she was extremely touched. She knew that Hui Lin had definitely squeezed time out of her busy schedule for this.

On the other hand, Lin Ruoxi wasn't too surprised to see that Yang Chen had chosen to sing for her. Back then when they went to the karaoke with Yuan Ye and Tang Tang, she had already witnessed Yang Chen's superb singing skills. It was also then that she had given away the fact that she was tone deaf.

Standing behind Lin Ruoxi, Liu Mingyu asked Mo Qianni in puzzlement, “Qianni, why didn’t he let Boss Lin sing a duet with him? Wouldn’t that have made for a much better show?”

Mo Qianni gave her a curious smile and said softly right beside Liu Mingyu’s ears, “Ruoxi has been famous for being tone deaf even since she was in school.”

Luckily, Lin Ruoxi’s attention was completely focused on the stage. Otherwise she would have run away immediately upon hearing the conversation between the two behind her.

Right then, the music accompaniment started playing and Yang Chen finally started singing with Hui Lin through the video call screen.

...

The road traversed, like magic,

Turned all the good and bad things into mine

The bitterness in my heart- even if I forgot about it

Dissolved in a glance- turning into a song

...

And you’re like the sound of water flowing into a poem

Knocking at the door of my heart and entering, embracing all the hate within

Nourishing its dryness and believing that I could belong to you

...

It’s as if I can still see that sorrowful face of yesterday

Joy could sometimes be as spicy as a slap to the face

But it was you who reminded me not to be afraid to imagine,

Thinking of the desire that I was used to hiding in my heart

...

It’s as if I could see that corridor of tomorrow that will have two sets of footprints

By you, sorrow could at times be made to taste like candy

It’s you who held me tight, striding forward and looking

At the blooming flowers on the shores of my heart...

[TL note: Lyrics translation taken from.]

...

The light and cheerful melody echoed throughout the plaza.

As Yang Chen's high-pitched, clear voice combined with Hui Lin's ethereal, well-modulated voice, everyone was immersed in memories of their own relationships.

It wasn't a comical situation and it rang through in the crowd. No one laughed or shrieked.

It was as though every single person there could see the married couple's life together. There were sweetness and sadness, good days and bad days, but because of their support and encouragement for each other, they had made it so far.

Still standing in the same spot, Lin Ruoxi had covered half of her face with one hand. Her tears were streaming down uncontrollably.

Perhaps, the two of them would still have cold wars and arguments, not to mention countless problems awaiting them after tonight.

But, just like what's written in the song, no matter what happens, they would write each other into the lyrics of their hearts because of their love for each other.

Chapter 685 - I'm So Loyal

I'm So Loyal

As the singing gradually faded away, the crowd in the plaza of Yu Lei started shrieking and shouting once again. They had just gotten a taste of their idol and were not satisfied just yet.

Hui Lin's voice had received public acknowledgement once again. At the same time, many were touched by the scene before their eyes and they wanted to continue being immersed in this atmosphere.

However, someone among the crowd started shouting for them to kiss, and immediately all the audience had a new slogan!

"Kiss! Kiss!"

Amidst the city center, there was an explosion of shouts that rattled the surrounding buildings nearby.

Yang Chen stood on the stage grinning. He was bursting with happiness. *Who said that modern-day urbanites are cold and emotionless? These audiences here are all very loyal, finding a chance for me to get intimate with her.*

Lin Ruoxi who was standing outside the entrance of Yu Lei International reacted differently. If it was not for the fear that she would lose her face, she would've fled the scene immediately!

Kiss? In front of this large crowd that totaled more than hundreds or even thousands?!

She was shy enough even when the two of them were together alone. How could she withstand such a crowd? What's more, there were a large number of Yu Lei employees on the plaza. If the two of them were to kiss right under their stares, how was she supposed to face them in the future?!

Lin Ruoxi's face was red with embarrassment. She was at a loss, not knowing what to do. Yet again, the situation was once shifted!

The piercing sound of police sirens interrupted the clamor!

The police cars approached from two different junctions. They raced straight to the side of the plaza, ignoring any traffic lights along the way and stopped right there!

Following which, dozens of sturdy-looking policemen in uniform alighted from the eight police cars. With police batons in their hands and guns attached to their waists, they charged into the scene aggressively.

“What’s the situation?! Is this an illegal assembly?!”

“Disperse! Disperse!!”

“Who was the one who built this stage?! Who is the organizer?!”

The crowd lost their wits the moment they saw the police dashing towards them with fierce looks on their faces. The words ‘illegal assembly’ meant that they were breaking the law! They immediately scattered themselves into different directions!

All of a sudden, the plaza became a chaotic scene! Shouts of reprimand echoed everywhere, and no one was keen on staying any longer!

Wu Yue who stood behind Lin Ruoxi anxiously said, “Boss Lin, this is terrible! It must be because the scene that Director Yang created has been causing traffic congestions in the roads surrounding this area! And so many people have been shouting and screaming in the city center, it must be some unhappy citizen who reported it.”

Lin Ruoxi no longer had any shy look on her face either. She had felt a tinge of blissful happiness by Yang Chen’s ‘wedding anniversary commemoration activity’ originally, but who would have expected it to turn into an ‘illegal assembly’ so quickly! Even the police had to respond in light of civilian complaints!!

Indeed, that man would never stop being a worry to her...

“Ruoxi, if things go on like this, people will definitely find out that Yu Lei was the reason behind it. If we don’t handle it well, it will largely discount our business image and upset the society. We need to subdue the situation and subdue it fast,” Mo Qianni said worriedly.

Lin Ruoxi nodded her head. “When Yang Chen comes over, we’ll let him explain it on his own. All we have to do is to communicate properly with the media. I believe the police won’t make things too difficult for us.”

“I think he won’t be making any explanations,” Liu Mingyu said with a bitter smile.

“Hmm?”

“He has already escaped.” Liu Mingyu pointed at the stage.

Lin Ruoxi looked in the direction and almost fainted from her anger!

Indeed, Yang Chen who was still there a minute ago had now vanished from sight. All that was left was an empty stage in the center!

“Ho—how could he have just escaped on his own?!” Lin Ruoxi didn’t even wonder about how Yang Chen made his escape. Given his abilities, it was a piece of cake to escape among the crowd. But wasn’t he leaving behind an awful mess for her to take care of now?!

At that moment, Lin Ruoxi felt a vibration in her phone. She pulled it out and realized it was indeed a message from Yang Chen!

As she read the message, Lin Ruoxi felt like smashing her phone!

Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu stepped forward to have a look, and they were both amused yet didn’t dare to laugh out loud.

“Dear, I looked so dashing performing on stage today. If I were to be dragged down the stage by the police, it would be a huge blow to my pride. In order to ensure that the performance is perfect, I’ll be taking my leave as you handle the situation. I believe you can do it! Happy one year wedding anniversary!” — Yang Chen.

“Yang... Chen...” Lin Ruoxi uttered with her teeth grinding. She placed her hand on her forehead, trying to soothe her headache. She was at a complete loss for words.

By now, the police had indeed traced that Yu Lei International was the cause of the ruckus.

A sergeant along with two police officers walked towards Lin Ruoxi. The sergeant who was in the lead said with a solemn expression, “May I know if you are Yu Lei’s CEO?”

Lin Ruoxi could no longer avoid it. She had no choice but to nod her head in acknowledgement.

The sergeant was apparently rather uneasy when he faced Lin Ruoxi. But he still carried out his duty and said, “We received reports from many citizens complaining that there was an illegal assembly here causing a ruckus. As it also happened to coincide with the afterwork peak period, and this is the city center, the assembly has caused a serious disruption to the traffic and the other citizens’ lives. Thus, we have been tasked to investigate this matter and apprehend the person behind it. It seems that one of the higher-ups in your Yu Lei International was the one who started it. Could Boss Lin please verify if this is true?”

Lin Ruoxi was scolding Yang Chen in her heart hundreds and thousands of times, but this was all she could only say to the sergeant. “This was indeed started by one of the higher-ups in our company, but it was just a personal activity with no malicious intentions. It wasn’t an illegal assembly. Everyone who was at the scene can attest to this.”

“Boss Lin, you are a celebrity in the business industry of Zhonghai, so I hold you in high regards. But I hope that you can cooperate with us in our duties. We have to investigate this matter thoroughly to give the citizens an explanation. I hope that you can tell us clearly who the organizer is, what his position in the company is, and what the reason is. We will arrest that person and handle it accordingly after we question him or her,” the sergeant said with a solemn face.

Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu both had a look of anxiety on their faces upon hearing the word ‘arrest’.

Lin Ruoxi bit her lower lip and was scolding secretly in her heart, *?Darned Yang Chen stupid Yang Chen, what a terrible mess you've left for me! You just vanished without a trace once you're done having fun! What should I do now? You're not only a suspect, but a suspect on the run now?!*

Just when Lin Ruoxi was stuck in a dilemma, the sergeant received a phone call. He agreed to the caller repeatedly and suddenly said smilingly, "Boss Lin, our chief just called to inform us that the matter has been settled. Thank you for your cooperation. Goodbye!"

After he finished his words, the sergeant led his subordinates and left. They ran outside the plaza to direct the traffic and clear the crowd.

This sudden change in events stunned Lin Ruoxi and her company.

Lin Ruoxi's phone started vibrating once again. This phone call finally helped Lin Ruoxi understand what was going on.

She picked up the phone to hear Yang Jieyu's voice coming from the other end, saying smilingly, "Ruoxi, you must have been frightened. That lad Yang Chen suddenly told me that he had created some trouble. I've already contacted the police. As for the media, it shouldn't be a problem for you control them, so I won't interfere with that."

Ruoxi was surprised that Yang Chen would contact Yang Jieyu to resolve this problem. After all, Yang Chen had never initiated any contact with people from the Yang clan before this. Since the Yuan clan had a very widespread network in Zhonghai, it was a piece of cake for them to solve these problems. But Lin Ruoxi still thanked her gently, "Sorry to have troubled you."

Yang Jieyu sounded to be turning from smiles to grins. "Why are you standing on such ceremony? I'm your aunt-in-law after all. These things are trivial in my eyes. Oh, by the way, I didn't even know that it was you and Yang Chen's wedding anniversary today. I didn't manage to prepare any gift for you. Please forgive me."

"No—no—not at all." Lin Ruoxi was a little flustered. She somehow couldn't stop herself from getting nervous whenever she faced members of the Yang clan.

They chatted a little more before they hung up the phone.

Lin Ruoxi heaved a long sigh of relief, as though she had just been through a heart-racing journey.

Mo Qianni smiled and said, "Yang Chen did something again, didn't he? No more problems now?"

"Mm..."

"At least he still has conscience. I thought he was really taking his hands off it," Liu Mingyu chuckled.

Wu Yue asked curiously, "Boss Lin, has the matter been solved just like that?"

Lin Ruoxi nodded. After giving it some thought, she regained her calmness and said, "Wu Yue, contact all mainstream media and ask them to watch what they write. Tell them directly that if anyone dares to write any nonsense, or if anyone divulges anything without my permission, I am not afraid to acquire and take over their company. You know what to do."

“Okay,” Wu Yue responded quickly and she ran back to the office to execute the orders.

Until this point, it could be said that the matter was properly settled. And there weren't any major troubles.

About an hour later, Lin Ruoxi finally got back home.

When she stepped into the living room, she realized that the tableful of sumptuous dinner had been left untouched. Guo Xuehua, Wang Ma, and Zhenxiu were all sitting on the sofa watching the latest Korean drama on the television, whereas Yang Chen was nowhere to be seen.

Seeing Lin Ruoxi enter the house, Guo Xuehua stood up happily and said, “Ruoxi, you're finally back. Yang Chen said you might be a little late, so we waited up for you.”

Lin Ruoxi realized that the shameless man had indeed reached home long before she did. The anger that she had been suppressing rose up again and she asked, “Mom, where is he?”

Guo Xuehua noticed that Lin Ruoxi didn't seem too happy. She asked curiously, “This child, is anything wrong? You look very unhappy. Yang Chen said that it's your wedding anniversary today. But why do you seem upset about it?”

Lin Ruoxi forced a smile. “No... maybe I'm just a little tired.”

I was kind of happy at first, but your precious son made things difficult for me again right after he made me happy,?she thought.

Zhenxiu ran towards Lin Ruoxi and stopped behind her. She hugged Lin Ruoxi's slim waist and grinned as she said, “Sister Ruoxi, you're too petty. You didn't even tell us that it's your wedding anniversary. If it wasn't for Brother Yang Chen who rushed back for it from Beijing, we would have missed it.”

“You're always full of opinions.” Lin Ruoxi caressed Zhenxiu's head adoringly, pursing her lips and smiling.*?Wedding anniversary? Who would've thought that we were almost divorced just this afternoon??*she thought.

At this moment, Yang Chen who seemed to have just taken a cold shower walked down the stairs leisurely. His hair was still wet. When he saw that Lin Ruoxi had reached home, he grinned and said, “Dear, I'm so loyal, ain't I? I even waited for you to come home to have dinner together!”

Loyal?!

Lin Ruoxi wanted to hurl her bag straight at him and smash his face!*?How can this guy be so thick-skinned?!*

She rolled her eyes at him, which was an action meant to convey the message:*?you yourself should know it best.*?Then she suppressed her annoyance at him and sat down at the table with Guo Xuehua and the others.

As Yang Chen had specially given Wang Ma the order beforehand, this was an extremely sumptuous dinner. But while they ate, their topic was mainly on Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi's wedding.

Guo Xuehua asked with a concerned tone, “You two have already been married for a year, but you haven’t held a wedding ceremony yet. Now that you’ve disclosed your relationship to the public, why not choose a date to have the ceremony? It doesn’t matter whether it’s in Zhonghai or in Beijing. I think that either place is fine.”

“That’s right, Miss. You can’t keep dragging it on like this,” Wang Ma agreed.

Upon hearing the words ‘wedding ceremony’, Lin Ruoxi let out a shy look unconsciously. The truth was, although at the end of the day’s event, Yang Chen had made her clench her teeth in anger once again, but deep inside her heart, she was still surprised and touched by this ‘present’.

Furthermore, their relationship was now public. From the following day onwards, more and more people will learn of their relationship. Holding a wedding ceremony now didn’t seem that bad an idea to her.

“It’s still not time for that yet,” Yang Chen suddenly spoke.

His words pulled Lin Ruoxi’s thoughts back. She looked at the man beside her with a look of surprise.

Yang Chen chewed on his drumstick while saying with a smile, “Don’t overthink. I want to hold a wedding ceremony, but some of the preparations leading up to that day are not yet complete. There are still quite a lot of matters to settle. It won’t be too late to hold it when the time is more appropriate. It has already been a year after all. It doesn’t make that much a difference to drag it out a little longer.”

Lin Ruoxi was a little disappointed in her heart, though she didn’t show it on her face. This made her feel a little angry at herself too. *Hmph, do you think I want it so much? Let’s just not have it then.*

But Yang Chen seemed to be able to read what she was thinking. He asked smilingly with his eyebrows raised, “Babe Ruoxi, you seem very disappointed. Could it be that you can’t wait anymore? Tsk tsk, if that’s the case you should say it out loud. At most, I can change my plans. Let’s have it immediately!”

“Wh—who’s disappointed?!” Lin Ruoxi’s ears were burning red. She stared at Yang Chen with wide-open eyes and said angrily, “Don’t you spout nonsense! I can’t be bothered whether you do it or not. My job schedule is fully packed for the next one to two years. You can do as you deem fit.”

Watching the conversation between the two, Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma exchanged glances, and then both shook their heads, smiling bitterly.

Yang Chen didn’t argue further with her. He finished munching the drumstick in his hand, took another one, and then paused for a while. Then he suddenly said to Guo Xuehua, “Mom, I’m thinking of going to Beijing again some time later.”

Everyone at the table stopped what they were doing upon hearing his words. They looked at Yang Chen with puzzled faces.

Lin Ruoxi was a smart woman. She immediately thought of something and lowered her head without saying a word.

On the other hand, Guo Xuehua asked, “Son, do you have something you need to settle there again? Didn’t you just come back two days ago?”

Yang Chen shook his head, "I'm not going right away. There's still a lot to be done here in Zhonghai. I plan to wait till I'm free, and then I'll bring Ruoxi back home to have a look."

Guo Xuehua's eyes brightened up at his words. Even her hands that were holding on to the chopsticks were shaking a little as she asked agitatedly, "Rea—Really? You're willing to go back to the Yang clan?!"

"Mmm..." Yang Chen nodded and said smilingly, "During my trip to Beijing, that old man conveyed a certain message to me. I now have a different outlook towards some of the matters that have been going on in my life. Although I haven't fully decided yet, I think... I should at least go back and have a look before I take my next step."

Guo Xuehua's eyes turned red as she agreed to it repeatedly. She let out a smile of relief.

Back then when she decided to part with Yang Pojun to come and stay with Yang Chen, it took her a great deal of determination. However, she still felt guilty towards the Yang clan, especially towards her father-in-law Yang Gongming.

If Yang Chen could really return to the Yang clan, then she wouldn't have to continue wandering in a different city to accompany Yang Chen. Not only would she be able to fulfill her duty as a mother, she could also take care of her father-in-law.

To Guo Xuehua, what she wanted to see the most was for the family to be reunited.

"I—I'm going too?" Lin Ruoxi's focus was on Yang Chen saying that he would bring her along. She was getting butterflies in her stomach from being overjoyed and touched at the same time, but feelings of respect and worry also lingered in her heart, making her feel at a loss.

Yang Chen said naturally, "Of course you have to go. We have an official stamp and a certificate, who else should go if not you? What's more, didn't the old man like you a lot when he met you the last time? He'll probably be happy to see you."

Lin Ruoxi pursed her lips and sneaked a glimpse at Guo Xuehua. Seeing that Guo Xuehua was looking at her with an encouraging look in her eyes, Lin Ruoxi could only nod her head to agree.

Chapter 686 - Is That Really What You Want

Is That Really What You Want

After dinner, Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma continued to watch their Korean drama, which left Yang Chen in a bind. Since their introduction to the world of the Korean wave by Lin Ruoxi, they fell into a pit of addiction with no intentions of getting out from it. Even their recent meal options had been accompanied by kimchi, leaving Yang Chen in further misery.

It was Zhenxiu however who was rather welcoming of this change. As someone with half Korean ancestry, despite the hostility with the relatives in Korea, she was still rather accepting of its cuisine.

Seeing how no one understood his frustration, Yang Chen could only drag his heavy feet up the stairs to prepare for an early night. As he arrived at his room door, he turned around only to see the strange sight of Lin Ruoxi tailing his footsteps.

Shocked from Yang Chen's sudden turn, Lin Ruoxi forced herself to an immediate halt. Her pupils were focused on everywhere else but Yang Chen, as she noticeably had something in her mind.

Yang Chen carefully observed his woman before he replied with a sinister smile, "Babe Ruoxi, are you tailing me because of what I said earlier? Have you finally decided that you would like to go to bed with me?"

"What? No!" Lin Ruoxi reactively denied.

"Then what exactly do you want, just tell me." Yang Chen smiled helplessly.

Lin Ruoxi took a deep breath before she cleared her throat. "Have you really decided on going back?"

Go back? Yang Chen thought for a while before saying, "Oh, you meant going back to the Yang clan? Yes I have. I thought I made it clear a while ago at dinner."

"No I didn't mean it literally." Lin Ruoxi sighed. "What I meant is if you decided to return to the family."

Yang Chen's smile slowly vanished, as he silently stared at Ruoxi, before he asked, "Why did you ask so?"

Lin Ruoxi diverted her focus away as she mumbled, "You used to hate involving yourself with anything related to the Yang clan. But what you did today, you took the initiative to contact that man, which means you're initiating a reconciliation, am I right? I can't think of any other reason why anyone would do that."

"You don't seem to be too fond of this possibility. Don't you want to be the co-heir of a dominant clan?"

"I have never given such a possibility any thought. I have no interest in gaining anything from the Yang clan," Lin Ruoxi solemnly emphasized.

"Relax, there ain't any solid conclusions yet. These are all just plans."

Lin Ruoxi was not buying it. "I know you, you're not the kind that would change your mind for anyone. I'm just worried that... that kid Yang Lie and General Yang would have a hostile response towards your return. Even if Master Yang supports you, it might just make for a messy feud.

"After all, these people are related to you by blood. What will happen to your mother when she is caught in the middle of it all? She'll end up deeply upset."

Yang Chen gave a gentle smile. "How would you know that I'm not open to change? I have always taken your thoughts into consideration."

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes and pouted. "How much of a blur do you think I am? Nobody can have a say about anything you set your mind towards. Just like the agreement we signed today. If you really wanted a divorce you could have just left right out the door. You're always up for small tactics to coax me, never actually thinking of what I really want."

Yang Chen rubbed his nose awkwardly and said, "So you do know me. Hehe..."

"It took me awhile to realize that you were just up to one of your tricks again," Lin Ruoxi grumbled.

“Don’t make it sound so sinister, I did all that just so to make sure I can make things clear to you,” Yang Chen replied as he casually walked towards Lin Ruoxi, his arms open wide as he embraced her into his warmth.

Her alluring fragrance encircled him, which prompted him to close his eyelids and let out a long, relaxed breath. Lin Ruoxi surprisingly did not break free of his embrace, which felt a little weird to him, but nonetheless he was not complaining.

As she laid her head on Yang Chen’s chest, Lin Ruoxi felt Yang Chen’s warm breath on her ear.

When Yang Chen sighed, she couldn’t help but feel a little sorrowful too.

Back then when they hugged, Yang Chen would start placing his hands on inappropriate places. But right now, it was just a plain hug.

“I know what you are worried about, but this situation might be more complicated than expected,” Yang Chen continued. “There are certain things that I have to face now, or it would come knocking on my door sooner or later. I promise I wouldn’t make any rash decisions. After all, I’m not the man I used to be. Just like you, I like all of us being together as a family.”

Lin Ruoxi hesitated for a moment before her arms reached out to Yang Chen’s back as she held him tightly.

After a couple of moments, Yang Chen let go of his arms, as he let out a smile. “You shouldn’t burden yourself with those matters. I will deal with that man to man. Why don’t you think about our relationship more instead? Ruoxi, look at the how beautiful the night sky is tonight, why don’t you just come sleep with me for the night?”

What started as a joke had noticeably become deep consideration for Lin Ruoxi, as she confusingly stared at Yang Chen, before she appeared to have made up a mind as she bit her lip and replied, “I—is that really what you want?”

What Yang Chen had desperately looked forward to suddenly appeared, making him panic. He stiffly asked, “Wha—what did you say?”

Lin Ruoxi went bright red as she reassured, “If that’s what you really want then we can try it tonight...”

After she finished, she seemed to have depleted her energy, causing her body to sink like melting ice. Due to her conservative mindset, she had already reached her limit for saying that.

It may be a result of all the time they had spent together, or from the rollercoaster of emotions they had experienced together, or from the suppressed emotions piled up from within. Regardless, it seemed that she no longer resented his company.

Yang Chen blankly stared at her, before he let out a grin. “I was just casually talking about it. You don’t need to overthink it. Plus you don’t look like you’re ready. Like I said before, when the time is right, when we have our wedding ceremony, it wouldn’t be too late for this, would it?”

After his words, a glimpse of heartfelt warmth was expressed on Lin Ruoxi’s face, as she brought herself towards him and pecked him on the cheek, before immediately darting off to her own room in embarrassment!

Yang Chen was dumbfounded as he touched the part of his face that she kissed him on. It was still damp with lingering fragrance. "Yang Chen oh Yang Chen, you're a swine for acting like a gentleman..." he murmured and shook his head before subsequently returning to his room.

He initially wanted to check the news for a bit before he turned in, but that incident with Lin Ruoxi added complexity in his thoughts.

Yang Chen strolled towards the balcony, feeling the warm night breeze. The crescent moon looked as white as snow.

Yang Chen zoned out in thoughts for a moment, before noticing a shade of white at the edge of his sight.

As he glanced at a corner by the building right next door, by Rose's second floor balcony, a mesmerising silhouette presented itself. It was none other than Mo Qianni!

The lonely figure was dressed in a loose white-cotton nightdress. Her hair fluttered in the wind, with the side view of her gorgeous face staring at the night sky. She was enveloped with dejection and dullness.

It didn't take long until she realised there was someone staring at her. She turned to him and met his eyes. The two silently stared at one another. All that was heard was the sound of the night breeze slipping through the gaps of the sliding door.

It was Mo Qianni who eventually let out a smile, one presumably as a response to the awkward silence between them.

Yang Chen felt a sharp ache in his heart. The two of them were only a few meters apart, yet it felt like they were separated by a bottomless trench, destined to keep them apart.

Just weeks ago they were deep in love with each other. Yet at that moment, when Yang Chen attempted to strike a conversation, he was halted by Mo Qianni with a finger to the mouth.

Mo Qianni shook her head with a smile, unable to guess if it was to avoid Ma Guifang from knowing about their encounter, or that there really was no need for a conversation.

She subsequently pointed her finger towards the crescent moon, as she turned over and continued her stargazing.

Yang Chen solemnly stared at her for moments, before he smiled self-deprecatingly. Never would he expect a conversation between them both to be this hard. He eventually lifted his head up as they silently shared the view of the night sky as well, together with the woman.

Chapter 687 - Unbelievable

Unbelievable

At the Yang's courtyard in Beijing, although it was only mid-May, the weather was surprisingly good.

After the morning mist had dispersed, the green plants looked as vital as they could be, making the courtyard look pleasing to one's eyes while adding a faint fragrance to the air.

Yang Gongming was in his usual outfit—a thin t-shirt with soft cotton pants. After watering a few wisterias he had retrieved, he walked to the side of the stone table in his cloth shoes.

He lifted up a cup of red ginseng tea and took a sip. Looking at the plants that were in the courtyard, the old man let out a smile of satisfaction.

Right at that moment, a tall, young man in short-sleeved military uniform stepped into the courtyard. A sense of pride hung between his brows.

The young man stopped behind Yang Gongming. Looking at the plants in the courtyard, a gleam of despise flashed across his eyes and disappeared as soon as it came. Then, he smiled and said, “Grandpa, did you summon me?”

The young man was naturally Yang Lie.

Yang Gongming turned around and said smilingly, “Oh, you’re here. Come, sit down, sit down.”

After getting Yang Lie to sit down, Yang Gongming shoved a plate of exquisite pastries before him and said, “Try this. You probably haven’t had your breakfast yet. I can guarantee that it tastes decent.”

Yang Lie nodded and took a piece of green bean pastry. He swallowed it in one mouth and didn’t take a second piece. He asked directly, “Grandpa, is there a reason that you suddenly had me come back all this way today?”

“Actually, I should have told you about this a few days ago. But since you weren’t in the military these days, I just left it till later. Your mom called a few days ago saying that she’ll be coming back to Beijing soon,” Yang Gongming said smilingly.

Yang Lie frowned. “Mom’s coming back? Is she alone?”

Yang Gongming shook his head. “No, no. Your brother and sister-in-law will be coming too.”

“What?” Yang Lie stood up abruptly and said aloud, “Grandpa, you must be joking. What right does he have to enter our house? If that’s the case, I’d rather mom don’t come back as well.”

Yang Gongming frowned and signaled for Yang Lie to sit down. “What are you getting so worked up about? I asked you here today not to ask if you agree to this family, I’m the one who call the shots here. Whether you agree or not, they will come back.”

“Grandpa, you...” Yang Lie was filled with fury but he couldn’t say a word. Indeed, in this family, no one could rebuke Yang Gongming’s decisions.

Yang Gongming sighed and said, “Lie’er, your personality is just like your name. Overly aggressive. It’s good to have some temper as a young man, but if you continue like this, you’ll become vulnerable as a result of your stubbornness.”

“Hmph,” Yang Lie snorted, unable to deny it. “Grandpa asked me here today just to tell me this boring news?”

Yang Gongming wasn’t provoked by his words. He just said, “I just wanted to let you know, and also have a look at you while you’re here. Your father who is in the Jiangnan military rarely comes back. Now

that you are similarly serving in the military, I rarely see you as well. You're both very opinionated people. I'm just an old man, and I can't really force anything on you two. Eventually, your lives will depend on yourselves.

"However, I hope that while I'm still alive, all my grandchildren can have better lives..."

Yang Lie's expressions switched and changed a few times before he said, "Grandpa, without that fellow, my life would be perfect."

Yang Gongming raised his head and glanced at Yang Lie, before he shook his head with a smile. "Lie'er, whether you acknowledge it or not, Yang Chen will always be your elder brother by blood.

"You've grown up within the Yang clan since young. You even had Daoist Yu Jizi from Kunlun Sect as your master. Compared to Yang Chen, your life has really been a smooth and abundant one.

"Yang Chen is different from you. The fact that he could reappear before our eyes alive is already a blessing from the heavens. Although I don't believe in the supernatural, I believe that there is a thing called fate between people. It is all destiny."

"Grandpa, if all you're going to say is such nonsense, I shall take my leave," Yang Lie said in dissatisfaction.

Yang Gongming opened his mouth, but a look of helplessness flashed across his eyes. He sighed, "Nevermind, nevermind. You wouldn't listen to anything I say anyway. You have chosen your own route. If you want to go ahead, then just go."

Yang Lie bowed slightly and turned around before walking away. After taking a few steps, he stopped and said, "Grandpa, I know what you have in mind. I admit it, that fellow is more powerful than me. You're planning to use him to bring glory back to the Yang clan again. But let me make this clear now. I won't give away anything that rightfully belongs to me so easily. One day you'll realize that your decision is a terrible mistake. There is no certain who will be the true winner in the end. Even if Mom comes back, I will not return to see either of them."

Finishing his words, Yang Lie strode out of the courtyard.

Yang Gongming squinted his eyes. From the sparkle of his eyes, it was hard to tell what was going through his mind.

After a while, Yan Sanniang's hunching figure appeared behind Yang Gongming once again. She consoled, "Master, Master Lie's personality has always been so. I'm afraid it's difficult for him to change. There's no need to be overly worried. They're brothers by blood after all. There will be a way to resolve their feud eventually."

Yang Gongming smiled. "Sanniang, you've overthought. I'm not sad over all these matters. Regardless of how these little ones will turn out in the future, it's a result of their own choices. It depends not on the elders' restrictions for a family to be continued, but on one's own personality and attitude. Regardless of the outcome, the most I can do is provide some insight from the sidelines."

Yang Sanniang smiled and nodded her head. And then she spoke again, "Master, Master Lie's body is a bit different now."

“Hmm?” Yang Gongming asked, “Is it related to Yan Buwen?”

Yan Sanniang said, “I’m guessing that is the case. I’m not sure how he did it, but Master Lie’s cultivation was just destroyed by Master Chen recently. Yet now his cultivation has advanced instead of deteriorated. It’s now one level higher compared to before, almost stepping into the Xiantian realm. Plus, amazingly, Master Lie’s body looks completely different now. If I am not wrong, his body strength rivals that of Master Chen’s now. It really is unbelievable.

“Recently, Master Lie has been rather close to Yan Buwen. If there is anything different, it should be because of the Yan clan. I heard that apart from the underground experiment lab provided by the military, Yan Buwen still has other private experiment labs of his own. But even the Li clan couldn’t find anything fruitful. I think that someone yielding incredible power is backing Yan Buwen up from the dark. Otherwise, Yan Buwen wouldn’t risk turning against the world.”

Yang Gongming smiled lightly. “I’ve said this since very early on, that fellow from the Yan clan is a figure that would either win it all or lose it all. It comes as no surprise.”

“Actually the four dominant clans are all slightly aware of Yan Buwen’s recent actions. But the Yan clan yields great power now. Yan Buwen himself is a respected figure in the scientific community. He’s been doing so much in secret, yet he rarely leaves behind any evidence or traces. He hasn’t really posed any real threat towards the country yet. Instead, he has been providing the military with advanced weapons. The officers in the military are all very supportive of him. That’s why no one dares to make any contact with him recklessly yet, in case they give their suspicions away.

“But in my opinion, Yan Buwen is a mysterious man with hidden secrets. I wonder if things go on this way, will Master Lie become a pawn of his?” said Yan Sanniang.

Yang Gongming knocked his knuckles one after another against the stone table, before he said, “It’s a blessing, not a mishap. If it’s the latter, there’s no escaping it either. Sanniang, all you have to do is keep an eye on these matters. There’s no need to get involved. If that lad Yang Chen truly has the intention to claim the Yang clan from my hands, then he wouldn’t make it if he can’t even handle a mere Yan Buwen.”

“But Master Lie...” Sanniang was a little worried.

“Whether it’s a cat or a tiger does not depend on its outward appearances,” Yang Gongming said smilingly. “Their fight will reveal that answer. As for the outcome, it’s better to watch it while I’m still alive rather than have it happen after my death. This is already the younger generation’s show. All we have to do is watch quietly.”

Yan Sanniang nodded with a smile. “Master has a point there. Maybe I’m overly worried. For some reason, although Master Chen has already entered the stage where he can definitely keep the Yang clan safe, I can’t help but worry about unforeseeable accidents.”

Yang Gongming sighed. “Sanniang, rather than the two little ones, I’m more worried about you.”

Yan Sanniang’s wrinkle-covered face looked slightly touched. She lowered her head and said, “Master, it doesn’t matter. Sooner or later, Hongmeng is bound to find me. I was a little afraid in the past, afraid

that I wouldn't be able to repay you before I die. But now that Master Chen has already entered this stage, and is coming back to the Yang clan, it's finally time for me to retire."

"Sigh. You are still the same as back then." Yang Gongming looked up at the clear blue sky, as though recalling the distant past.

Chapter 688 - No Pride

No Pride

Yang Chen was unaware that before his arrival in Beijing, someone was already anticipating his fight. But whomever he fought against was not of concern to Yang Chen right now.

About a week had passed since his return to Zhonghai. The most sensational news in Zhonghai within the week was the same news that had spread throughout the entirety of China. It was about Lin Hui who had gained popularity throughout the country and even in some international markets.

Almost every shopping mall or restaurant was playing Lin Hui's songs.

Three days after the release of her new album, the demand for the album far surpassed the supply! At a time where the music album market was at its low and online digital music took the front seat, it was a great shock to many music critics and senior artistes to witness the craze that had overtaken the entire nation. Almost everyone wanted to have a copy of Lin Hui's, a rookie singer's physical album.

Lin Hui's popularity soared through the roof like no one had seen before. Her shyly smiling face filled the headlines of nearly every newspaper.

But it was puzzling to many fans that barely any paparazzi tried to find out her background despite her unparalleled fame. Thus, Lin Hui's background and her private life became the topic of speculation for many.

As the director of the entertainment company, Yang Chen was busy as well. Since it was Hui Lin's matters, he had to pay more attention to it despite his lazy attitude towards work.

Lin Hui had achieved tremendous success in her first concert in Beijing with tickets being fully sold out. All of her fans in the nation were clamoring to get to listen to her live.

About a week later, Yu Lei Entertainment released the news that Lin Hui was starting her nationwide concert tour. The cities included in the tour were decided based on the requests of netizens. All in all there were about thirty cities in total on that list!

At the same time, in order to satisfy the fans, Lin Hui also recorded her own cover of a number of classic songs. It surprised many that these classic songs were mostly in Spanish, French, and other minority languages! Needless to say, the universal language—English—songs were also recorded in the album.

Any concerned person could definitely tell that Lin Hui was taking her first step into the global music arena.

Naturally, these plans were all laid out by the team that Yang Chen had invited. To these figures who had already spent a considerable amount of time in the entertainment industry, it was not a difficult task to make a singer set foot on the global arena.

Since Lin Hui had practiced internal energy, she would not feel burnt out despite the long hours and tireless tasks. She could work for days and nights yet remain refreshed and energized at all times. Besides, she had superb memory, which boosted her speed at learning any type of language. On top of that, since she had always loved singing, she did not consider it a chore to continuously sing day and night.

Her talents were beyond the employees' imagination, and it made them grow more passionate towards their jobs too.

It was soon morning in Zhonghai. Yang Chen stretched himself with a yawn in his seat in the office.

He had been coming in for work early in the morning for the past few days. A rare departure from his usual late turn-ups—all for the discussion with Zhao Teng, Wang Jie, and other managerial personnel regarding details of Hui Lin's concert and tour performances.

They had to plan for performances in more than thirty cities, as well as for some other events in between the tours. It was not something that could be arranged in a short amount of time.

Yang Chen was looking at the week's financial report that he had received from the accountants on the computer screen, causing him to smile proudly.

According to the statistics, based on the current development, the revenue generated by Hui Lin alone could hit one billion by the end of the year!

Yang Chen didn't care much for the one billion yuan worth of revenue. But knowing that this amount of revenue belonged to his company, he found the financial report particularly adorable and felt a huge sense of achievement!

Yang Chen even wondered, Ruoxi always enjoys working and reading all sorts of documents. Is it because she also feels this same sense of achievement from her work? Is this why she is addicted to her work?

At that moment, a beautiful figure wearing an aquamarine one-piece dress with a black silk ribbon tied at her waist came to Yang Chen's side. She placed a cup of green tea on Yang Chen's desk.

Yang Chen raised his head and smiled at An Xin. "It must've been tough on you for the past few days. I've been busy working and didn't have much time to tend to you."

An Xin covered her smile with her hand while she shook her head saying, "Well, it's a rare chance for me to see my beloved man serious at work. I find it rather novel."

Yang Chen glanced at her from the corner of his eyes. Then, he grinned and pulled her onto his laps in a swift hug. He landed a smack on her sexy hips and pretended to be angry while saying, "Babe An Xin, you always reprimand me for slacking off and not working, don't you? Hmph, you find it funny that I'm sitting here?"

An Xin let out a sweet smile and buried her head into Yang Chen's neck, rubbing her fair and tender face against him as she said, "No I'm not. I know that although you don't usually pay much attention to your work, you're always aware of what's going on, aren't you? But... I just find it unusual to see my dear sitting here looking at the reports."

Yang Chen had a resigned look on his face. He had one hand caressing the curves on An Xin's back slowly as he said with an evil smile, "I haven't spent much time with you lately. How about... we have a round before lunch?"

An Xin was slightly taken aback. She asked gently, "Aren't you going to meet Vice President Mo today?"

The smile on Yang Chen's face faded away instantly. He was stunned and he couldn't utter a word in response.

There was a reason to An Xin's question. For the past week, Yang Chen had been visiting Mo Qianni's office to meet her almost every day during noontime and after work.

For some reason, Yang Chen felt that Mo Qianni was avoiding him on purpose.

After gazing at the moon for quite a while the other night, Yang Chen had dialed Mo Qianni's number the next day wanting to discuss about how to persuade Ma Guifang. However, Mo Qianni had asked to talk about the matter at a later time, saying that she was busy with work.

Out of worry, Yang Chen visited Mo Qianni's office to ask her out for lunch and talk about it. Yet, when he entered her office, Mo Qianni claimed that she was about to leave for a meeting.

Yang Chen had no choice but to visit her again on the following day instead.

In the end, despite his continuous visits for the past few days, Mo Qianni was always busy with work, or not in her office, or just about to leave for a business discussion. Not once could he find the time to sit her down and talk to her properly. And even if he opened his mouth to say something, she would immediately change the topic to something else and then leave the room.

Yang Chen was puzzled by Mo Qianni's sudden change in attitude. He could of course tell that she was deliberately avoiding him. It was evident in her reluctance to speak more than just a few words to him on the phone.

At the same time, Yang Chen also thought that it could be because he had hurt her feelings for not being able to resolve the matter all this while. Or perhaps she might have just been feeling slightly down coincidentally. Therefore, he persisted for more than a week and kept visiting Mo Qianni. Yet he could not see the end to his problems.

"Hubby, you'd better go." An Xin pouted and said, "I'm fine. We're together in the company every day anyway. I feel that Vice President Mo must be feeling awful in her heart and that's why she is always avoiding you. If you let her see your persistence, I believe she will be touched."

Yang Chen sighed, "I feel like she is hiding something from me. But I don't have the heart to force her to tell me anything. She's unwilling to face me all this while. It makes me frustrated, anxious and yet helpless at the same time."

An Xin gave him a smooch on his face and said, "Hmph, if you can't even resolve such a small matter, I think you should just go back to living your life with your Boss Lin obediently. This is to teach you a lesson about seeing other women. There'll be plenty of such matters in the future. Or do you think that us women are all unicellular organisms that abide to your every command and would never have any dissatisfaction towards you?"

Yang Chen let out a bitter smile. "I got it. You don't have to make it sound so bad right? Listening to you makes me feel a little scared."

Yang Chen stood up and hugged An Xin. He took a deep breath, lifted the cup of green tea and finished it in one mouth before he said, "I'll be going then. Call me if there's anything urgent. I must find Qianni and clarify things today. If I do get the chance to, it'll probably take some time."

An Xin said in a slightly worried tone, "Don't be too agitated. I think Vice President Mo will be very sad if you force her into doing anything. She's probably very vulnerable right now."

"You're always the devil," Yang Chen said while pinching An Xin's nose before he smiled and left the office.

The smile on An Xin's face gradually faded away after Yang Chen had left. She slumped into the chair tiredly, feeling the remaining warmth from Yang Chen. The corners of her mouth curved into a slightly bitter smile.

An Xin furrowed her brows. Her phone started ringing. As she pulled it out, she seemed like she had already anticipated who the caller was. She picked up the call rather unwillingly.

"Dad, I've already told you. I won't do that. That is your own problem. I beg you, don't make things difficult for me alright? No matter how you spin it, it's impossible! You should settle your own problems. Don't think about dragging Yang Chen into it! Hmph... Son-in-law? Would you really make such a request if you really saw him as your son-in-law?! I'm hanging up!"

An Xin hung up the phone. A look of misery appeared on her gorgeous face. Her eyes were watery and slightly reddish, but her gaze was determined and unfazed.

Meanwhile, Yang Chen who had gone to the Yu Lei International building was having rather heavy feelings as well.

Despite trying his best not to let it show before An Xin, Yang Chen felt extremely troubled the moment he thought about Mo Qianni's reluctance to meet him.

However, since it was a woman he loved dearly, Yang Chen could only bear with the pain and brave through it.

As his relationship with Lin Ruoxi was now public, the employees that he met on his way up the building were all sneaking glances at him. Everyone in the company was discussing about Yang Chen's frequent visits to Mo Qianni's office for the past few days. However, most people couldn't imagine that a man who was married to their Boss Lin would still dare to go near other women. Moreover, he had put up such a touching performance just a few days ago. Thus, the rumors were dispelled as soon as they were brought up.

Yang Chen didn't care about others' opinions either. The more openly he behaved, the less guilty he appeared to be.

He had arrived at the entrance of Mo Qianni's office. Yang Chen knocked on the door slowly.

"Come in please," Mo Qianni said formally.

Yang Chen was glad that at least she was there. He opened the door and stepped in, but immediately his smile faded away.

Four to five executives of the company were already seated in Mo Qianni's office. They seemed to be in the middle of discussing some matter.

"It's Director Yang. Please take a seat." A man in suit hurriedly invited Yang Chen to sit.

The others also knew who Yang Chen was. Although they were curious about why Yang Chen from the branch company would come over to this office, they still greeted him with smiles.

Yang Chen's gaze was fixated on Mo Qianni. But Mo Qianni just kept her head lowered, looking at the documents on her desk, as though she hadn't sensed a thing.

"Is this deliberate? Having a discussion during lunchbreak?" Yang Chen asked.

Mo Qianni said calmly, "Is there a matter that Director Yang has come for?"

A fire of fury was burning in Yang Chen's heart. He didn't expect Mo Qianni to arrange a meeting at lunch break just to avoid having to face him alone. Clenching his teeth, he smiled and said, "Of course I have something that I would like to talk to President Mo about."

Then, Yang Chen said to everyone else in the room, "Everyone, please give us some time alone. I have some personal matters that need discussion with President Mo."

As they saw the icy cold gaze in Yang Chen's eyes, everyone could feel a chill rising in their backs. They quickly nodded and left quietly.

They didn't dare to offend Lin Ruoxi's husband. What's more, it was only logical to deduce that a man who could marry Lin Ruoxi definitely had an extraordinary background.

Mo Qianni raised her head with dissatisfaction in her eyes. "What gives you the right to cut our meeting short?!"

"On the right that I'm terribly mad right now!"

Yang Chen locked the office door from the inside, leaving only the two of them in confrontation in the office.

Mo Qianni averted her gaze, unwilling to look into Yang Chen's eyes. She said coldly, "Just say what you have to say. I still have work in the afternoon. I don't have much time."

Seeing such a cold and indifferent attitude from Mo Qianni was heart-wrenching for Yang Chen.

Yang Chen walked towards Mo Qianni and stopped before her, and then he lowered his head and asked, "Why? Why are you avoiding me?"

Mo Qianni smiled faintly. "You're really annoying. When a woman doesn't want to meet a man, what other reason could there be except that she no longer feels anything for him?"

"No feelings?" Yang Chen was so enraged that he started laughing. "You mean that you no longer love me? Or, have you found someone else?"

“Whatever you think is the case.” Mo Qianni clenched her teeth and said, “Anyway, let’s end things here. I don’t want to have anything to do with you anymore.”

Yang Chen clenched his fists tight and said in a deep voice, “I don’t believe that a woman who gets up before dawn to apply makeup so that her man can see her prettiest looks; a woman who is willing to use her own body to shield a man from bullets without any hesitation, would just lose her feelings towards the man so easily. Mo Qianni, I may be carefree but I am not an idiot. And don’t underestimate my determination towards you. I’m a very sloppy person in every aspect except towards my loved ones. I never compromise when it comes to my loved ones.”

Mo Qianni’s eyes were turning red. Her petite body was trembling as she said effortfully, “Just leave. It’s over between us. Nothing you say will change anything.”

“It’s over just because you say that it’s over. Doesn’t that render me a man with no pride?” Yang Chen’s expression was solemn. Suddenly, he tilted forward, placing his hands next to Mo Qianni, pressing her body under his!

Chapter 689 - Mole Rats

Mole Rats

Face to face, they were so close that they could feel each other’s breaths.

Yang Chen stoically demanded, “Mo Qianni, look at me. If you really feel nothing towards me anymore, there’s no need for you to avoid my gaze.”

Mo Qianni bit her lip as she tried her best to turn around, only to no avail.

She ultimately shook her head as she mumbled, “Yang Chen... I’m begging you. Let it go. I don’t deserve you doing this for me. I’m just a nobody from the outskirts. I have no position nor do I have any notable background. All that matters to me now is to repay the old CEO for his kind deeds towards me.

“All that had happened between us, let’s just assume it’s a one-time mistake of mine. We shouldn’t even have interacted at all in the first place. The more time I spend with you, the worse I feel. I feel like I’m betraying the hands that brought me out of the trenches. I can’t even meet Ruoxi face to face anymore. The gap between us is just too big. You’re the high and mighty Yang Chen, while I’m nothing more than an ordinary woman. Can’t you see that we are not meant for each other?”

Yang Chen sneered, “Mo Qianni, I didn’t know you valued true love this little. Ordinary? You fell in love with the staff that started out as a mutton skewer boy. Does that even count as a man with unfathomable background? You’re just making up excuses as you go.”

Mo Qianni instantly turned back, broke free from Yang Chen’s grasps, stood up straight and lifted her head. As her eyes started getting teary, she glared at Yang Chen. “Love? Do you even know what it is?”

“Yeah, to some people love is truly important. To them, nothing else matters. And then there are others that had to sacrifice family, their worklife, and even their dignity in the name of love. Even when they knew it wasn’t right, they stubbornly pushed through anyway. Do you think that it’s the right thing to do?”

“Everything in life is so simple for you isn’t it? If you thought a heartless love amateur is more attractive than a woman with real emotions, I would certainly reject you.”

The air suddenly became bone-chillingly cold, particularly for Yang Chen.

Her words stabbed him deep into his heart.

Yang Chen painfully stared at that pale, fatigue ridden face of hers. Her pupils were strands of blood. He understood that she never had proper rest since that incident.

Yang Chen forced a smile. “I never once thought of sacrificing everything to keep you by my side. But why aren’t you even giving me the chance to solve our issue?”

“A chance?” Mo Qianni disdainfully laughed. “How am I supposed to give you a chance? You know that day when we stargazed together on the balcony, when I went back in my mom was there holding a bottle of sleep pills. She threatened to kill herself in front of me if I refused to end the relationship...”

Yang Chen expressions turned sour, unable to believe that a seemingly harmless incident that night would bring about such dire consequences towards her.

“I was single-handedly brought up by my mother. And because of me, she has spent most of her life in a tiny little village, alone to brave the odds. She was even picked on by that man Zhang Fugui. She’s my only kin in the world. How can I abandon my mom for what you call ‘love’?” Mo Qianni was bawling in tears.

Yang Chen was glued to his position, unable to yelp a word. It took a while for him to muster his courage as he responded, “You can call me cold-blooded, heartless, or whatever you like. But I will convince your mother. I just want you to promise me, that you wouldn’t give up on us.

“There are only two types of women in my life. Ones that are there to casually play with, and the others that deserve true emotions.

“If you did all that just to experiment if I’ll have a change of heart when things occur, then you should give up now. I have experienced so much, and yet I’m still here. What more can I prove for you?”

Mo Qianni continued sobbing. Her teary eyes stared at Yang Chen, looking completely hopeless.

Yang Chen held on to her shoulders tight as he proclaimed, “I can accept that you’re making a fuss about this, or that you wanted to push me away. But if you’re someone that’s not willing to even take the option of redeeming this love, then what’s the point of me coming over for you every day?

“So please, don’t give up on us. Trust me, will you?”

In the quiet office room, all that was heard was the sounds of exhaled breaths.

His fiery gaze left her helpless.

After what felt like ages, Mo Qianni turned her head away and smiled. “You didn’t change one bit. Whether if it was the first time you barged into my office for a debate, or now. You’ve never ever given me a chance to make my move, even when I just want to retreat.”

Glimpses of happiness flashed through Yang Chen's pupils. "I would never stop you from making your move, but if you were to retreat, I'll make sure it would lead right back into my arms."

Mo Qianni cracked a smile. "All you ever do is crack jokes. Why don't you take interest in making my mom agree to this instead? Otherwise don't even think about it."

Yang Chen reached out as he wiped the tears of her cheeks, before he replied, "Alright let's put that aside for now. It's almost noon now. Let's go out for lunch. Look at how thin you have become. It doesn't feel as satisfying when I touch you now."

Mo Qianni pouted as she pinched Yang Chen by the belly. "Always goofing around, how would you ever get my mom to agree with anything you say?"

Yang Chen burst into laughter as they exited the building hand in hand.

A temporary cure for Mo Qianni's woes was a huge relief for Yang Chen. As for convincing Ma Guifang, Yang Chen as usual could only hope to improvise when the time comes.

They took the elevator to the parking basement, before he drove Mo Qianni's car straight towards the central business district.

To cater towards her liking, Yang Chen took time to carefully choose an eatery specialising in Szechuan cuisine. After all, she wasn't usually allowed many options for spicy food when eating at the canteen.

He chose a large table, and ordered an array of Szechuan specialties that Mo Qianni favored.

Mo Qianni observed as their table was gradually occupied more and more by the foods they had ordered. She awkwardly mentioned, "I'm not a pig, so how can I even finish all of these? I understand your intention, but this is a waste of food."

Yang Chen let out a grin. "Well I'm here too aren't I? Just pick what you want to eat. I'll clean up the rest and make sure none of it goes to waste."

Mo Qianni picked up a clump of fish meat floss, and brought it right before Yang Chen's mouth. "Ahh... open up!"

Yang Chen aggressively chumped down on the food while biting onto the chopsticks in the process!

Mo Qianni was terrified at what he had done. "Why are you biting on the chopsticks? Loosen up!"

Yang Chen mumbled his reply while chewing, "Little Qianqian's chopsticks taste good too."

"Pfft..." Mo Qianni couldn't help but laugh so hard that she started to tear up. She knew he was trying his best to make her feel better.

After their romantic lunch date, Yang Chen paid the bill and they walked out of the eatery hand in hand. As they both had nothing much in hand for the rest of the day, they decided to go for a stroll nearby.

After she was finally allowed to spill out the words stuck in her heart all this while, she was visibly more lively. She held onto Yang Chen's hand as they walked hand in hand on the street, a rare occasion between just the two of them.

As they walked past an arcade store, Yang Chen abruptly stopped his footsteps, before he headed inside for a quick glance.

Mo Qianni was curious as she peeked into the arcade. It was loaded with all sorts of games: first person shooters, bikes, and plane simulations, but they were nothing uncommon. She never understood what had drawn him into this particular arcade.

Yang Chen turned towards her and said, "Little Qianqian, let's go here. I saw something really fun."

Mo Qianni was visibly uninterested, but nonetheless nodded in agreement. After all, a relationship was about compromise.

Yang Chen went ahead to exchange some tokens, but surprisingly skipped over the popular arcade machines, and went straight towards a 'whack the mole rat' arcade game!

This old fashioned game required hardly any skills as it has only just one step: hit the exposed mole rat. Most people play it just for venting stress piled up from within.

"Hubby... you want to play this?" Mo Qianni was confused.

"Not me." Yang Chen took the inflated hammer and stuffed it into Mo Qianni's hand. "You."

"Me?" Mo Qianni took a good look at the hammer, and then at the exposed mole rat, as she embarrassedly questioned, "Why would you want me to hit that?"

Yang Chen assumed she was unfamiliar with the game, so he went behind and held her by the hand, before he started hitting the emerged 'mole rats', while explaining, "See that's how you do it. It's super easy."

"Hubby, I'm asking you again. Why are we hitting mole rats out of the blue? We're not children anymore."

Yang Chen hesitated for a moment before he replied with a bitter smile, "I understand that you've gone through a lot of pain the past days because of me. I also realized that I'm not always here for you. So I thought it was a good idea for you to vent your stress out. If I can I would rather you slap me as hard and as much as you want, but I know you'd definitely turn down the offer. So I took you here instead. Just take those mole rats as me, and hit them as hard as you can until you are done."

Mo Qianni stared at the man in front of her, as words got stuck in her throat, despite how much she wanted to say them.

Yang Chen witnessed the inaction from Mo Qianni, gave his head a light scratch, before he grabbed the inflated hammer from her hands as he taunted, "Alright, if you can't do it then I'll beat the crap out of this rascal!"

Yang Chen upon ending his sentence instantaneously smashed down towards the mole rats. It was a relatively easy game for Yang Chen as he consistently scored bullseye with every hit. All he needed to do was to be wary of not breaking the machine in the process.

Mo Qianni stood by a corner as she observed Yang Chen diligently wrecking mole rats, giving out a long sigh.

In that instant Yang Chen who was all this while completely focused on hitting artificial mole rats felt a pair of arms hugging his waist tight. It was a sudden embrace by Mo Qianni.

“Are you alright?” Yang Chen turned behind, only to witness Mo Qianni staring at it with puppy eyes. “I don’t think this game is made for me, you want to switch?”

Mo Qianni shook her head as she pleaded, “Stop hitting it alright? I forgive that evil brat, I truly do. I feel a lot better now. It hurts me to see you continuously beating up the man I love more than myself.”

Yang Chen cracked a sinister smile. “Really? Then give me a kiss,” he said as he pointed at his mouth.

“Here?” Mo Qianni suspiciously looked around. The arcade was expectedly filled with quite a number of people.

“It seems like you still hate me,” Yang Chen mentioned in a disappointing tone.

Mo Qianni rolled her eyes, before she gave a coy smile, tiptoed as she went straight for a kiss.

The white noise from the back had instantaneously relegated to the backdrop as the couple engaged in an affectionate kiss.

Chapter 690

Hackers

Yang Chen accompanied Mo Qianni for the entire afternoon, in an attempt to lift her spirits. It took some convincing but she eventually felt less worried about their future prospects.

When he reached home after work, Lin Ruoxi was watching a TV drama with Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma.

When she saw that Yang Chen had reached home, there was an indescribable look in Lin Ruoxi’s eyes. One thing Yang Chen could be sure of was that Lin Ruoxi was a little upset.

“Mom, I’ll serve the dishes.” Lin Ruoxi stood up and walked straight to the kitchen without even glancing at Yang Chen’s way.

Yang Chen was a little baffled. *Didn’t we just make up yesterday? I was already thinking about our next step from now on. Why is she angry at me again?*

Thus, Yang Chen followed her into the kitchen. He took two dishes and followed behind Lin Ruoxi, smiling as he said, “Dear, why didn’t you even greet your husband who has just come home? This is so unharmonious.”

Lin Ruoxi placed the dishes on the table and turned around. She let out a disdainful smile and said, “What were you doing this afternoon?”

Yang Chen was too stunned for words. Judging by Lin Ruoxi’s behavior, she had probably found out that he spent the entire afternoon accompanying Mo Qianni.

“Can’t explain yourself? Let me say it out for you. The entire company was discussing about why Director Yang disappeared for the entire afternoon after leaving with Vice President Mo. Wu Yue even ran into my office asking if I knew what was going on,” Lin Ruoxi glared at Yang Chen in anger, saying,

“How was I supposed to answer any of their questions? Tell her I don’t know? What a joke that would be. I don’t even know that my husband went out on a date with my vice president right under my nose. Tell her that I know? Then what kind of situation would that be?”

Yang Chen shrugged resignedly. “I... didn’t think things through. Actually we didn’t really do anything. You of all people know the mood Qianni has been in. I brought her out for lunch, and we went shopping after.”

“You don’t have to report to me. I can’t control you anyway. I don’t want to become one of those jealous wives. You do whatever you like to do. I just hope that you would consider how your actions implicate me next time,” Lin Ruoxi said.

Yang Chen tried to please her and said smilingly, “How about this? I’ll spend the whole day with you tomorrow on a date. I happen to be free since I’m done with the busy office affairs.”

Lin Ruoxi darted a cold glance at him. “Hmph, how thoughtful of you. Sorry, you’re free but I’m not.”

As she finished her words, Lin Ruoxi couldn’t be bothered with Yang Chen anymore. She just continued walking into the kitchen to bring out the dishes.

Yang Chen scratched his head. He was at a loss of how to appease Lin Ruoxi’s anger. He had offended her while trying to please Mo Qianni. Even when he himself pictured the scenario where Wu Yue asked Lin Ruoxi about the matter, he felt extremely awkward and he wouldn’t know how to answer too.

Yang Chen couldn’t even taste what he was eating for the whole dinner because Lin Ruoxi didn’t speak a word. She just went back into her room upstairs to work after eating.

After cleaning up the dishes, Guo Xuehua removed her apron and suddenly called out to Yang Chen who was about to go upstairs. She said, “Son, follow me to my room.”

Yang Chen wondered what his mother was up to again. But he nodded his head nonetheless and followed her.

Entering Guo Xuehua’s room, Yang Chen was asked to sit on the edge of the bed beside her. She took a close look at Yang Chen’s face before she said with a warm smile, “I overheard part of the conversation between you and Ruoxi just now. Now, this is all your fault. How could you place her in such an awkward position? It’s fine if it’s just our own family members who know about it. If others learn about it, it would be extremely detrimental to both Ruoxi and Qianni.”

Yang Chen nodded silently. “I’ve thought about it too. I was indeed a little too rash. But I only did it because I haven’t been able to reach Qianni lately. I was starting to get anxious about how to deal with the situation. That’s why I couldn’t care less.”

Guo Xuehua sighed slowly, “Do you really like that girl so much? Even though her mother is so opposed to it, are you still unwilling to let her go?”

Yang Chen shook his head and let out a faint smile. There were mixed feelings in his eyes. “If I were to let go right now, then I wouldn’t have accepted her in the first place. People can say that I’m selfish or hypocritical, but all I know is that I don’t want to experience the feeling of losing a woman that I love anymore.”

Guo Xuehua was a little taken aback. She could tell that he was talking about some incident from his past, but she knew that it was definitely not a good memory. Thus, she evaded the topic and said, "Don't be too impulsive. You can't rush this."

Yang Chen smiled in relief. "Mom, rest assured. I know that Aunt Ma is the most important person to Qianni. No matter what, I will always take her feelings into consideration. I won't be reckless. I plan to meet Aunt Ma after I properly formulate an apology. Even if she chases me away, I will endure it. Even though this way of dealing with things makes me feel bottled up inside, this is the only way right now."

Guo Xuehua held onto one of Yang Chen's hand with both her hands. She patted on his hand and said in relief, "Mom was precisely worried that you would go overboard in this matter. Now that you have made things clear, I feel relieved."

"Did you know this, Yang Chen? Back then when I first saw you, before we acknowledged each other, your actions bore similar resemblance to a ticking time bomb. It made me very worried. Perhaps you were too used to living your life alone overseas. Or perhaps the environment that you grew up in shaped you that way, making you overbearing, oppressive, and sometimes even unreasonably bossy."

"Although I could tell all along that you are actually a kind-hearted child, you were always doing things according to your whims. This will make the people around you love and hate you at the same time."

"Now it seems like you've grown to pay more consideration to the people around you, and you're more attentive to details. Although it might be just like what you've said, that you feel restrained in doing things; many matters that used to be extremely simple are now dragged on almost like there's no end to them. But, to have all sorts of relationships that confine us during our time in this world, isn't that what makes life truly worth living?"

Yang Chen smiled brightly. "Mom, are you giving me a lecture now? Rest assured, I'll pay more attention in the future. I'll take into consideration everyone around me. I used to care only for myself, disregarding the deaths of everyone else around me. But now that I have family members around me, I know what to do and what not to do."

Guo Xuehua pressed her finger against her son's forehead once before she stood up and said, "It's good that you know that. Now, go back to your room and rest. Mom will cut you some fruits and send them to your room."

The next morning, Yang Chen who had turned up for work as usual had a simple meeting with Zhao Teng and Wang Jie. Around 9 o'clock after the meeting, he finally saw An Xin walking into the office with slightly unstable steps.

Yang Chen frowned. He picked up the smell of overnight alcohol. "Babe An Xin, did you drink last night?"

An Xin's face was a little gloomy. She forced a smile. "Mmm. My friend had a birthday so I drank quite a bit. Don't worry I'm fine. But I'm late, I hope you don't deduct my pay."

Yang Chen sighed and walked to her side. He held her hand in his and slowly channeled True Yuan into her meridians.

Ever since he broke through the Xiantian stage, his Xiantian True Qi had also transformed into a kind of energy closer to its origin called True Yuan. But it also carried with it the formidable recovery power

from the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture, thus making it easy and natural to repair any damaged tissues.

An Xin felt a surge of warmth throughout her body that was so comfortable she felt like sleeping. In the blink of an eye, her fatigue and dispiritedness were all gone.

It wasn't her first time witnessing Yang Chen's miraculous powers. She said with an endearing smile, "Hubby, you're just like a Doraemon. You're omnipotent."

"Stop comparing me to something that's not even human," Yang Chen joked. Then, he said, "Even if you have a gathering with friends, don't drink too much. If I catch you doing it again, I'll be sure to smack you. And I won't help you recover so soon. I'll just leave you to experience the miserable feeling."

An Xin pouted and said wrongfully, "Okay."

Since matters had been put in order, Yang Chen planned to leave the company to meet Ma Guifang to have a good talk about Mo Qianni. However, his subordinate Wang Jie who had just left the office came running back in a hurry.

With a flustered and anxious look on his face, Wang Jie said, "This is bad, Director Yang. Something has happened to the parent company."

Both Yang Chen and An Xin were stunned. Yang Chen frowned and asked, "Parent company? What's wrong with Yu Lei?"

Wang Jie wanted to explain, but he seemed like he didn't know how to put it into words. In the end, he let out a sigh, and then ran to Yang Chen's desk. Turning on the computer, he said, "Director Yang, come and have a look. Now the entire company is in a mess."

Yang Chen and An Xin walked towards the computer in puzzlement. They looked at the contents shown on the screen and Yang Chen was baffled, whereas An Xin's expression had changed instantly. She was staring at the screen with complete disbelief.

The contents on the screen were none other than various document files that had been placed in an online server for public access and download.

"How could this be? It's impossible..." An Xin murmured.

Wang Jie had a devastated look on his face, "Miss An Xin, the whole company is going nuts over this. Ho—how could this have possibly happened?"

Yang Chen was completely clueless. He quickly asked, "An Xin, what are these documents? What purchase and what tender..."

An Xin let out a heavy sigh and said, "These documents are Yu Lei International's purchasing plans, tender plans, negotiation plans, and partial acquisition plans for the next six months. And there's also details of our major customers, product designs, and the internal financial budget of Yu Lei in addition to allocation plans."

"I know what they mean. But what's wrong with these documents?" Yang Chen asked, puzzled.

An Xin said bitterly, "Put it simply, these documents are all highly confidential documents of Yu Lei International. If any of these documents landed in the hands of our competitors, it would be a huge blow to our company. Yet so many of these documents have now all been made available on a public online platform. This means that Yu Lei International's plans for the next six months is basically up for grabs right now. Think about it, we haven't even started the negotiations, yet our competitors already know how much we're going to bid. We haven't purchased our materials, yet others are already one step before us, purchasing all the materials that we want. In this case, even if Yu Lei doesn't go bankrupt, we'll be set back a few years or even many years depending on the situation."

"How did such important documents end up online?" Yang Chen finally understood the situation, "Could it be hackers?"

"Impossible," Wang Jie shook his head and explained, "Director Yang, you might not know it well. But these important documents are usually kept in paper form. After all, if it were online, it's impossible to guard against the skills of hackers nowadays. Big corporations like ours are their targets. That's why these documents are always kept in offices of the company's executives that hold the positions of general manager or even higher. They are stored securely in safes guarded by anti theft alarm systems."

Yang Chen squinted his eyes and seemed to suddenly remember something. He asked, "Do we know the source where these documents were leaked out from yet?"

Wang Jie looked a little awkward as he pulled a long face and exclaimed, "The contents of these documents are mostly about negotiations and tenders, and some of them involve market planning. According to the rules, they're all stored in the the public relations department. In other words, in Department Head Liu Mingyu's office."

Chapter 691 - This Is Official Business

This Is Official Business

After he had heard that sentence, Yang Chen said without the slightest change in his expression, "The parent company is already in a mess, but our branch company cannot follow in suit. Relay my words, every department should continue doing their jobs and don't discuss baseless gossips."

After hearing his words, Wang Jie nodded and immediately ran out to calm the subordinates down.

An Xin said worriedly, "Hubby, what should we do? Sister Mingyu definitely wouldn't do such a thing. This looks like a premeditated move, trying to frame her."

As Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu had both come to meet An Xin before, despite working in different buildings, they would still bump into each other occasionally during meetings. Even though they weren't very close, they knew each other to a certain degree.

Yang Chen smiled at An Xin. "Even if the sky was falling, I would still be here to hold it up. Don't worry. Are you afraid that I'll have no money to keep you all alive if the company goes bankrupt? You stay here and help me call the shots. I'm going to the parent company right now to check out the situation."

An Xin nodded obediently. She knew that as the important branch company, they shouldn't be chaotic right now.

More than ten minutes later, Yang Chen stepped into the Yu Lei building. Almost every Yu Lei employee that he bumped into hung a gravely solemn expression on their faces. They were all discussing about the mole in the company and the gloomy future prospects of the company.

Yang Chen asked around for Lin Ruoxi and the other executives' whereabouts. Then he headed straight for the level where the big conference room was at.

No fewer than twenty to thirty Yu Lei executives were already seated in the conference room. Lin Ruoxi, Mo Qianni, Li Minghe, Chris, and also the person in question of this incident Liu Mingyu were all present.

The atmosphere in the conference room was a dark one. Everyone looked awful at the news.

Gloomy clouds overcast Lin Ruoxi's icy cold yet unrivalled beautiful face. She had looks that could kill. Literally.

Mo Qianni, Wu Yue, and the rest sat on the two sides of Lin Ruoxi. They were all silent while their faces were burning with anxiety. Li Minghe, Chris, and the other executives looked equally worried.

Liu Mingyu was the most devastated among them all. Sitting on her seat, she looked like she had lost her mind. She was biting her lips while her hands were holding so tightly onto a pen, looking as though she was about to break it in half!

"What's wrong? Have you all become mute? Say something," Lin Ruoxi said coldly. She wasn't loud, but her words made the temperature in the completely silent conference room drop by a few degrees.

No one could say anything. Everyone's eyes were darting around the room avoiding her gaze and her question.

Lin Ruoxi smiled scornfully. "Why? Aren't you all always very full of opinions? Now that something has gone wrong, why have you all gone dumb?"

There was another round of silence. Finally, one of the executives gulped and said, trembling, "Boss... Boss Lin, I think that there's something odd about this incident. Our company's security is top-notch within the industry. How could someone... how could someone steal such important information and yet not be detected at all?"

Slam!!

Lin Ruoxi slammed one hand on the desk fiercely, making everyone shudder awake!

"Department Head Fang, I asked you all here to resolve the matter, not for you to report the incident to me. Everyone here knows what has happened! What I want to hear is a solution!! A solution!!!" Lin Ruoxi was obviously ready to explode. She was always calm and had never been as mad as this, even when they faced the bombardment from the foreign financial group back then. Her anger might have been credited to the fact that it was someone from inside the company!

Department Head Fang wiped off his cold sweat and hurriedly said again, "Yes, yes... Boss Lin, I think the priority now is to find the enemy who has stolen our company's data. If we can gather evidence within a short period of time, then we can file a criminal suit. With that, we might be able to take control of the situation. Even if we suffer some losses, we should be able to compensate that amount through the legal damages given from our opposition! I believe that a competitor who dares to lay their hands on

our company is definitely no small fry! As long as we can secure the situation and turn things around, then even despite losses, we can still make a comeback!”

As Department Head Fang finished his words, almost everyone shifted their gazes towards Liu Mingyu who hadn't said a word.

Another executive snorted and said, “Apart from Boss Lin, the passcode to the safe deposit box in every department head's office is known only to the respective department heads. Department Head Liu, we've been colleagues for so many years. I can't believe you did what you did! How dare you make such a move against the company?!”

“Hmph, back then I even voted for this woman to replace Vice President Mo's former position. I was so blinded!” A few others started joining in and said.

Immediately, all of their arrows were pointed towards Liu Mingyu! After all, Lin Ruoxi would definitely not leak the documents. Since Liu Mingyu was the only one who knew the passcode, naturally she was the most likely suspect.

Liu Mingyu's face was ghastly pale. There were tears in her eyes, but she didn't know what to say. She knew clearly that no excuse in the world could prove that she was innocent.

Mo Qianni spoke up for her angrily, “Think carefully. Since everyone knows that only Department Head Liu and Boss Lin know the passcode, if she still leaked out the documents under such circumstances, wouldn't it be such a dumb move on her part?! Is there such a stupid culprit?! Department Head Liu was obviously framed by others. The priority now is to find out the real culprit! Not to start internal arguments here!”

With that, everyone finally became quiet. Mo Qianni's reputation in the company was only second to Lin Ruoxi. What she said had made sense too. This was indeed too obvious. Even if Liu Mingyu wanted to betray the company, she wouldn't do such a silly thing!

Suddenly, Li Minghe who hadn't said a word spoke slowly, “Actually, you can't put it this way. Perhaps it's a psychological tactic by the culprit. Think about it carefully, we all think that it's way too obvious if it was done by Department Head Liu. And that's why she was framed. But what if, the culprit is making use of this to make everyone think that she was framed?”

Indeed, what Li Minghe said wasn't impossible either!

“Vice President Li, the way you're trying to pin the crime onto Department Head Liu right now, isn't it a little too motive-laden?” Mo Qianni said in anger.

“Vice President Mo, pardon me for being straightforward, but what I say speaks on behalf of the people in this room. Although we hope that Department Head Liu isn't the culprit, we don't want to let go of any opportunity to locate the culprit either, do we?” Li Minghe said honestly.

“You...” Mo Qianni was grinding her teeth in anger, yet she had no other ways to defend Liu Mingyu.

“That's enough!” Lin Ruoxi stopped everyone. She furrowed her brows and asked Wu Yue next to her, “Wu Yue, are the calculation results out yet? What's the estimated loss?”

Wu Yue looked at her tablet and nodded with a heavy expression, saying, "Yes, Boss Lin. I've done a rough estimation of the loss from those tender projects, purchasing projects, acquisition plans and design plans. We're looking at a loss of at least five billion. It's mainly because our purchasing and acquisition plans this year are expanding at a global level. Our budget has been completely expanded. Our contingency plan did not account for accidents like this one."

Everyone's faces sunk when they heard 'five billion'. Everyone in the room knew very well that regardless of how wealthy Yu Lei was, if there was a sudden loss of five billion in the company's cashflow, it would be a disastrous situation. It was equivalent to a super generator that had run out of oil abruptly!

"That's probably not all..." Chris who was still new to the company added with a bitter smile. "Now that our company's situation has been made public to everyone online, no one will have confidence in our financial status. When NASDAQ opens in the afternoon today, the entire world will be dumping our stocks in the market. When that happens, our assets will shrink terribly. With that, even if we manage to attain sufficient funds from a bank loan, it'll only be a temporary solution. Our business for the next half of the year will have to start from scratch and we'll have zero competitive strength."

Everyone started looking at each other. They all saw desperate and resigned looks on each other's faces.

"Damn it!" An executive thumped on the table and said miserably, "We don't even have a chance of retaliating!"

"If I find out who did this, I'll peel his skin off alive!" Some other executives even started swearing, unable to control their emotions.

Liu Mingyu could sense that everyone was glaring at her in boiling madness. Finally, she could withstand the burden no more. Tears started streaming down her face and she couldn't stop sobbing in her seat.

Lin Ruoxi looked at her indifferently and said, "Department Head Liu, what is there to cry about? Now that everyone suspects you, do you have anything to say for yourself?"

"Boss Lin!" Seeing that Lin Ruoxi not only did not console Liu Mingyu, but even treated her so harshly, Mo Qianni started persuading her, "Boss Lin, this was definitely not done by Department Head Liu. It might be possible if it were someone else, but Mingyu would never do it. You should understand what I mean. Don't you trust her?"

Lin Ruoxi glanced Mo Qianni and said mockingly, "Sorry, I really don't understand what you mean. Why should I trust her? Besides, Vice President Mo, don't start playing the relationship card at such critical moments. Our personal relationship means nothing in a business setting. As blatant as everyone can see, the only possible suspect now is Liu Mingyu, isn't it?"

Mo Qianni's face went pale. She stared at the emotionless Lin Ruoxi before her eyes in disbelief. She looked like a cruel icy statue that froze Mo Qianni's heart utterly.

"Ruoxi... why would you..." Mo Qianni was choking a little.

"Mind your words, Vice President Mo," Lin Ruoxi said flatly. "This is official business. I have a responsibility towards our dozens of thousands of employees across the globe. Right now, Liu Mingyu is

the key suspect. Whether she has been framed is something that we'll find out after an investigation is done."

Liu Mingyu raised her head pitifully and looked at Lin Ruoxi. She smiled miserably and said, "Boss Lin is right. No matter what, the documents were leaked out from my possession. I have to take responsibility for such a huge damage to the company."

"Mingyu! But you're innocent!" Mo Qianni was on pins and needles. Liu Mingyu was after all a subordinate that she had promoted, plus because of their relationship with Yang Chen, the two of them were as close as sisters. Seeing that Liu Mingyu was about to just admit for the sake of ending this, Mo Qianni was so anxious she stood up from her seat.

"Vice President Mo, your actions make us suspect if you have some special connections with Department Head Liu," Li Minghe interrupted.

Mo Qianni turned around and glared at Li Minghe furiously, "Don't be too happy. We'll eventually find out who's the one pulling the strings behind all these."

Li Minghe lifted his eyebrows and said smilingly, "I hope so too."

Right then, the door of the conference room was opened from the outside. To everyone's surprise, Yang Chen stretched himself with a yawn lazily and walked into the room. Then he said with a sigh and a smile, "I've been outside listening to your conversation since just now. Your discussion methods are so inefficient. Instead of wasting your time like this, why not we all go back to doing our own duties and prepare for the upcoming battle? As for tracking down the culprit, how about you guys just hand it over to me?"

Chapter 692 - How About Me

How About Me

Yang Chen's involvement had caused the environment to once again return solemn. The entire executive board stared at Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi in an obnoxious manner.

As their secretive marriage was exposed to the world, the perceptions they had towards Yang Chen went from a hooligan with a pretty face to a man with an unforeseeable background. No one present knew much about Yang Chen's origins.

Upon Yang Chen's entrance, Liu Mingyu dried the tears on her face as she kept her head low. She avoided looking at him despite wanting his comfort at a time like this.

That tiny gesture, however, had not evaded Yang Chen's sight as he went towards her and gently patted her on the shoulder.

Liu Mingyu was terrified by his simple reaction, notably in front of everyone including Lin Ruoxi. She was obviously deeply moved by his act of support and adore, but at the same time was genuinely worried about the aftermath that potentially follows.

Which prompted her to abruptly swipe his hands off her shoulders as she shook her head while she reassured, "I'm fine, Director Yang."

“Why are you still crying then? Take a day off, go home and get some rest,” Yang Chen gently replied.

Liu Mingyu that had just recently dried her tears felt new ones circling her eyes as she felt genuine emotions gushing through the same head that she shook vigorously, trying her best to indicate that she was fine.

The ambiance in the room took a huge turn as the incident took its place, an act by Yang Chen that had exposed his illustrious relationships.

Meanwhile, Lin Ruoxi appeared hardly affected by the turn in events, without expressing a single change in emotion. She watched the scene unfold before asking, “How do you plan to handle this?”

Yang Chen turned his head towards that stern wife of his, before he awkwardly giggled, “That uhh... Wifey, quit that seriousness. I’m a little scared now.”

Lin Ruoxi stressed her brows ever so slightly before she emphasized, “I’m not kidding, not to mention this is a company, Director Yang.”

“Uhh...” Yang Chen scratched on the back of his head as he scanned across the plenary before he ambiguously smiled. “I haven’t decided on how to investigate yet, but rest assured the truth is going to be revealed soon.”

The executive board was left stupefied, finding it absurd.

“Oh yeah!” Yang Chen clapped excitedly at an apparent discovery. “Well, we have CCTV in every corner of the company right? Why don’t we just rewind on the tapes and see who else tried their hand on the safe besides Liu Mingyu?”

Everyone was in a loss for words, as they awkwardly glanced at one another before Mo Qianni eventually explained, “Director Yang, you do realize that we intentionally excluded the CCTV from the executive floor right? It was for the confidentiality of business conversations.”

Yang Chen froze at the knowledge of this newly acquired information. No CCTVs? Doesn’t that mean no one would know who had laid their hands on the safe?

“Director Yang, I highly suggest you consult your thought process before speaking,” Li Minghe sneered.

“What other ideas do you have in mind then?”

“Me? Well, I wish I do but unfortunately this might not be my line of expertise.” Li Minghe quickly evaded the responsibility.

“Then keep your mouth shut,” Yang Chen sarcastically replied before turning towards Lin Ruoxi. “Wif—erm no, rest assured Boss Lin, that I can guarantee a lead in this case in two days’ time.”

Lin Ruoxi, on the other hand, remained silent before turning to Wu Yue. “Are the police here yet?”

Wu Yue quickly nodded. “Yes, they were here 5 minutes ago and are currently in a separate room awaiting the end of our meeting.”

“Let them in.”

“Yes, ma’am.” Wu Yue upon replying immediately left the conference room.

Yang Chen heard their conversation as he frowned. “So you did call the police.”

Lin Ruoxi vaguely glanced at him as she replied, “Who wouldn’t? Even if I didn’t, the police would make their way here.”

Yang Chen seemed to have something in mind as he raised his voice. “Wait, are you going to make them take Mingyu away?”

Lin Ruoxi nodded without hesitation. “The police will know what to do. Liu Mingyu is currently the biggest suspect; theft and exposure of business confidentiality is no small matter. If Yu Lei’s share price experiences a sharp fall in the next few days, it’ll undoubtedly lead to a significant hit in Zhonghai’s economy. It is their job to interrogate the suspect after all.”

Upon her speech, the executive board was amazed at her just and headstrong execution, after all, Liu Mingyu had been her trusty employee all these years. They would have mostly expected that she would personally interrogate her, but instead, she called the police in such early stages to take her away.

Liu Mingyu appeared to be in a confused state, she never would have expected that Lin Ruoxi would make the call, as she sat by her corner awaiting her fate.

Mo Qianni, on the other hand, was stupefied by the turn of events, as she stared at Lin Ruoxi. She shifted her focus over to Yang Chen, hoping that he could once again save the day.

At this moment, two men in full police attire entered the conference room. Wu Yue pointed at Liu Mingyu and as expected the two policemen walked up towards Liu Mingyu and stood by her sides.

“Miss Liu Mingyu, in accordance to the latest presented evidence, we hereby suspect that you’re involved in corporate confidentiality theft, unauthorized exposure of customers’ information and multiple other accusations towards business misconduct. Please follow us to the station for interrogation. You have the right to remain silent or demand a lawyer but it is advised that every word you say from this point onwards might be used against you.”

After he was done, he made an invitatory pose towards Liu Mingyu.

Liu Mingyu took a deep breath, without any sign of resistance stood up and was ready to go with them.

“Wait...”

Yang Chen grabbed onto Liu Mingyu as he questioned Lin Ruoxi in a deep, coarse tone. “Lin Ruoxi, are you seriously going to do this?”

Lin Ruoxi was unfazed. “It’s not my decision to make. Based on how the events unraveled, this has to be done.”

“All these years I’m sure you knew what kind of person she truly is.” Yang Chen was deeply frustrated that Lin Ruoxi was actually ready to send Liu Mingyu to the police station.

Lin Ruoxi coldly replied, “Look, Yang Chen, I can only believe the facts and they point to her. So, if you want to personally investigate this incident then feel free to do it. As for now, I need to be held

accountable for the incident that has happened within Yu Lei International, towards my employees and shareholders. Personal relationships have nothing to do with what is happening now. Henceforth, the police under my approval shall be allowed to take Liu Mingyu away.

“After this case is put on pause, I still need to host a series of urgent meetings on the firefighting of this matter and its aftermath. So if you excuse me, I don’t have time to be wasted here with you.”

Lin Ruoxi’s gaze was headstrong and unwavering, not afraid to go head on with Yang Chen.

Yang Chen sarcastically laughed, “Wow what a great boss you—”

Before he could finish, he felt a jerk on his arm.

Yang Chen turned back, only to see Liu Mingyu with her teary eyes shaking her head at him.

“Stop... please stop. Boss Lin’s decision is right. I was unable to provide an alibi. I have no idea it would turn out like this. If you really want to help me out, then find the culprit. Arguing with Boss Lin will not solve anything.” Liu Mingyu forced a smile. “I’ll be fine, I’ve not been sentenced yet. I’m just assisting the investigation. All I need to do is tell them the truth.”

Staring into Liu Mingyu’s desperate eyes, Yang Chen felt worse to continue making her life harder. So with an aching heart, he had to let the police take her away.

Lin Ruoxi didn’t really pay much attention at the escorted Liu Mingyu as she proclaimed, “Alright if there is nothing else to discuss, assume your roles. Amidst the departure of Liu Mingyu, the public relations department will be overseen by someone else for now. An urgent meeting will be held shortly in regards to the aftermath and the solutions that follow. I will send Wu Yue to notify all of you regarding other meetings this evening. Dismiss.”

Everyone else instantly evacuated their seats in the conference room and hurried back to their positions. Boss Lin was not someone to be trifled with.

As the employees gradually left the conference room, Mo Qianni was hesitating if she needed to convince Lin Ruoxi about the handling of the incident, but as she saw Yang Chen firmly stood right where he was, she could only let it go and headed out to deal with more pressing matters.

After everyone had left only did Lin Ruoxi prepare to return her office, accompanied by Wu Yue.

Yang Chen stood there stone cold as he taunted her. “Why won’t you let me prove her innocence? You know I can! Besides, what hurt would sparing her for one more day do to you?”

Lin Ruoxi turned towards him as she halted her footsteps. She hesitated for a moment, ordered Wu Yue to leave them, before she solemnly replied, “I just followed the law, that’s all.”

“Mingyu did all she could for the company, and yet she’s not even worth an extra day? Do you not care how this is going to affect her?” Yang Chen was furious.

Lin Ruoxi was unfazed, as she stared coldly into his eyes and said, “What about you? You stood by her side in front of everyone, did you care about how I felt?”

Yang Chen was stunned, before he replied, "You saw how she was attacked by all sides. Was I supposed to just leave her alone to brave the odds?"

"Well, what about me then? Everyone knows you are my husband, but you came towards another woman's defense in front of my face. So I mean less to you now, is that what it is? If you can put me in that position just to defend her, then why should I care about how she felt when she was sent to the police station? Not to mention it was only fitting in that situation."

"Are you telling me it was all because you were jealous?" Yang Chen was stupefied.

Lin Ruoxi was firm. "You can think whatever you like. I have work piling up on me as we speak. Arguing with you only wastes my time. As you said, you're so very great aren't you? Money and power you have it all. If you really wanted to get her out of her misery then go investigate and solve the case. But I'm warning you, this crisis involves the wellbeing of the company and its functions. It's not something that can be dealt with using money."

Upon giving her orders, she instantaneously left the scene.

Yang Chen could only watch as Lin Ruoxi went into the elevator. He took a long breath before he threw a small tantrum. The situation was clearly more complicated than he had expected.

After he calmed himself down, he tried to reevaluate the situation. It was obvious that Li Minghe was the prime suspect. He was the most persistent in making it seem like Liu Mingyu was the culprit.

Not to mention that he recently met that prick on his way to Liu Mingyu's office. According to what she mentioned, Li Minghe was frequently visiting her in her office to chat and to discuss work matters. In addition to his relationship with Wu Yue, there was no telling the number of things he would've seen and heard.

However, the key to this incident was to prove that Li Minghe masterminded it all despite the absence of security camera footage. Even if Yang Chen were to murder him, it would not prove Liu Mingyu's innocence.

Not to mention that an insignificant person like Li Minghe to be able to blatantly accuse Liu Mingyu as the culprit, someone powerful must definitely have offered him unwavering support behind the scenes. Moreover, it would have to take more than one party to be able to achieve a perfect crime.

As a result, it was never a doubt to him that his top priority would be gathering evidence for Li Minghe's crime and the people in support of his crime.

Yang Chen contemplated for a short while before he dialed out Molin, Captain of the Sea Eagles' squad.

"Your Majesty Pluto, are you calling in regards to the bombshell news from Yu Lei International early today?" Molin proudly mentioned.

Yang Chen pinched on his nose, frustrated that the news was no secret to anyone anymore. He taunted, "Alright cut the jokes. I need you to stop by Yu Lei International right now. I require your professional wisdom to clarify some of my doubts..."

Chapter 693 - Doesn't Make Sense

Doesn't Make Sense

Molin chuckled ominously and said, "I saw the news online this morning. I guessed you might need our resources for the investigation. Unfortunately, I am not adept in crime scene investigation, but I will instead assign one of our best to pay you a visit."

"Send whoever you deem fit for the job." Yang Chen sighed for a bit before he continued, "Oh yeah, there's this man from Yu Lei International by the name of Li Minghe. He works as the vice president of the corporation. I need your team to do a thorough background check on him, the deeper the better. Report anything you find on him to me by the end of the day. Should you run into trouble, just message me."

"Got it."

In no time a petite Caucasian girl arrived at the lobby of the building. She was exactly the person he was expecting—Fanny from the Sea Eagles.

In pink shades, while carrying a humongous leather bag, Fanny made her way towards Yang Chen. She shyly paid her respect, and in a nervous tone she mumbled, "Your Majesty Pluto, before I inspect the crime scene, do you mind briefing me on the security protocols undertaken in this building?"

Yang Chen took the lead as they went on the elevator, along the way he mentioned, "The executive floors are voided of any security cameras, but any conference rooms have security cameras on all four corners of the room and are monitored closely by the security personnel twenty-four seven. If anyone were to steal information from the office it would most definitely be caught on camera. It's worth mentioning that although the information was leaked today, there is a possibility that it was stolen much earlier so keep an eye out for people who have entered prior to this."

Fanny attentively listened as she nodded every once in a while.

As they exited the elevator on their way into the public relations department, Yang Chen cracked up. "Fanny, why are you coiled up around me? Am I that terrifying to you?"

Fanny instantly shook her head profusely as she awkwardly smiled. "No, definitely not. Your Majesty, just that it's my first time meeting you alone and I would never want to fail you."

Yang Chen patted her on the shoulder. "All you need to do is support my claim that the safe was manipulated, or cracked open by a third party. I'll handle the rest myself."

"Understood. I know exactly what to do."

As they were discussing, the two arrived at Liu Mingyu's office, only to see the public relations department in a mess. The vice department head who would temporarily take Liu Mingyu's place was a young woman. Seeing that Yang Chen was accompanied by an investigator, she helped to unlock Liu Mingyu's office.

The other public relations employees curiously stared at Yang Chen and Fanny. Never would they think that a Caucasian woman with a modest figure would be an expert in crime scene investigation.

Yang Chen soon shut the door and allowed Fanny to wield her expertise. Since the entire company were busy with urgent matters, they did not give much attention to the two.

Fanny retrieved a silver-colored laptop from her huge bag along with some wires and intercepting equipment as she sat on the ground next to the huge safe before she began analyzing its structure.

Yang Chen might have stored an ocean's worth of knowledge in his head throughout the years, albeit it was mostly just blatant memorizing, not much would he consider as actual comprehension.

Therefore it was no surprise when Fanny's computer displayed rows after rows of codes, Yang Chen could do nothing but watch.

Knowing that Fanny might require some time for the analysis, Yang Chen felt like he had to make himself useful as he ran down towards the security monitoring room and ordered the security personnel to retrieve the footage recorded from the cameras for the past two weeks.

All he wanted to reassure was the people caught on tape entering Liu Mingyu's office in recent days.

About a little more than an hour later, Yang Chen fast forwarded through all the security footages and unsurprisingly besides an array of business partners and internal employees, Li Minghe was caught on camera four times.

What stood out the most for Yang Chen however was in the evening the day before, Li Minghe entered Liu Mingyu's office in her absence, as it was evidently shown on footage that she only returned approximately five minutes later.

And after that, slightly more than ten minutes, Li Minghe once again made his exit.

However Yang Chen noticed something extremely peculiar, how did he manage to smuggle all that information out after obtaining it? He went in and left barehanded!

Yang Chen was in deep thought before he checked the time and understood that it was time to return to Liu Mingyu's office.

Upon entering the office, he noticed that Fanny was also just done with her inspection as she wiped the sweat off her forehead and turned towards him. "Your Majesty, I apologize for the delay. The complexity of this lock rivals or exceeds those found in banks. It is truly an unbelievable creation, to think that it's a safe of a corporation..."

Yang Chen lifted his brows. "How so?"

Fanny was more than excited to brag about her line of profession as she explained, "The lock system of the safe was created by the famous European brand, Casa, as a multi-turn free range lock, in which case according to the preferences of the beholder, every numerical figure constructs a distinct combination. On this safe, in particular, the wheel goes from zero to ninety-nine, which means there are a hundred different combinations for each code.

"And a safe of this format allows a combination of four, resulting to a hundred to the power of four. In short, the possible combinations of this are in the hundred millions.

"The fastest way to crack a safe of this calibration would require an advanced calculator connected to the combination unlocking system, and during the process of random calibration, the wheel has to be turned to the opposite direction—"

“Stop, stop, stop!” Yang Chen cut her short as he embarrassingly giggled. “I know you’re a professional but I want to know, for a master of lock combinations, what is the shortest duration possibly required to crack the safe?”

After some thought, Fanny continued with equal enthusiasm as she replied, “If it’s the cream of the crop, it might take about an hour or so. But to my knowledge, there are only less than five people on this planet who are capable of this. To be honest with you, even with an entire day, an ordinary person wouldn’t even come close to cracking this lock.”

Yang Chen squinted his eyes. “So what you mean is, for someone with no knowledge of the password to open the safe, the possibility of it happening is negligible, right?”

“That’s right, Your Majesty,” Fanny replied as she stood up.

Upon reassurance Yang Chen started searching around every corner of the office, thoroughly scanning through every nook and cranny of the room.

Fanny saw his actions and asked, “Your Majesty, are you searching for a micro-camera?”

“You guessed it. The only other possibility of this happening is if our thief was watching the safe be unlocked,” Yang Chen replied.

Fanny smiled bitterly. “I apologize for keeping this from you, but I actually conducted a scan throughout the office, and if I am mistaken, there was no trace of surveillance equipment.”

“What?” Yang Chen was stupefied at a true shocker of a revelation; he was previously confident that there had to be a camera in the room, just like the ones used to monitor Master Tang’s movements. He definitely did not expect this to be the case!

Yang Chen knew that Fanny was serious. As a member specifically sent by the Sea Eagles to assist him, she was definitely the best of the best in the field.

Yang Chen was tense as the situation took a quick turn against his favor. With no leads, there was no way he could provide sufficient evidence to prove Liu Mingyu’s innocence.

“I’m truly sorry, Your Majesty. I wasn’t much of a help.” Fanny guiltily held her head low.

Yang Chen reassuringly replied, “It’s fine, you did your best. I’m going to investigate somewhere else. You can return now. Tell Molin to speed things up on his side.”

Fanny agreed and immediately packed her equipment into her bag before making her exit.

Yang Chen was considering his next move when his phone started vibrating. It was Liu Qingshan.

Yang Chen facepalmed as he saw the caller. What a perfect timing he had, clearly making the call in regards to his beloved daughter getting arrested, which was a clear embarrassment for Yang Chen, but he ultimately decided to pick up the phone.

“I know you must be really pissed off right now, but I...”

“Cut the nonsense, I don’t want to hear excuses from you! I gave you my daughter’s hand in the belief that you would take good care of her. I did not consent to allow her fate to be decided in the hands of

Ruoxi! Before I recall my word she better be out of that police station. If you're incapable of doing I strongly suggest you cut back on your hookups!" Liu Qingshan was not holding his punches as he taunted Yang Chen.

Yang Chen was bitter with his own incompetence, but he was no longer the man he once was, the brash little brat that would kill whoever that crossed him. Frustrated, he replied, "Bringing her out of the police station is clearly the easiest part. Right now proving her innocence is our main goal. Don't you think that's important? The mastermind had clearly planned it in detail and if we go against each other we would have fallen right into their trap, wouldn't we? If you don't mind her being guilty for the rest of her life then I can get there right now and blow the station up, are you fine with that?"

Liu Qingshan was furious, but with Yang Chen's composure, he tried his best to do the same as he replied, "Alright, you get one more day. If you fail to prove my daughter's innocence at the end of the day then you can count yourself out. I'll bring my men to deal with this by myself."

Yang Chen was slightly agitated as he continued, "Don't you worry, I won't let them keep her in there for much longer. If anything happens to her, I will personally level the station."

"Make sure you hold true to your words..."

Before Liu Qingshan managed to finish his sentence Yang Chen abruptly hung up on him. This was obviously not the time for long chats as he was left puzzled. *What part of the incident did I miss? Everything doesn't make sense now. Every detail pointed towards Li Minghe but I still can't seem to figure out how he did it.*

All of a sudden the threads connected as he grabbed his phone and instantly dialed Lin Ruoxi's number.

Even though they were just in a huge argument, she ultimately picked up the phone as she emotionlessly replied, "What did you find?"

Yang Chen continued without hesitation, "I need to know, among the stolen information, what was the time taken to complete the first and last section. Also, how many copies does your company have of the leaked information?"

Chapter 694 - Can't Do Anything About You

Can't Do Anything About You

Lin Ruoxi tried to recall the information and said, "Because they were all documents that involved planning, we started the preparations one after another since the beginning of this year. The earliest ones were probably completed in January, and the rest were finalized last week. Only two people in the entire company, Mingyu and I, have the copies. Although the executives from the other departments were involved in the discussions, they did not have access to the compiled documents. Although the documents online are all in digital format, they are all in the official, standard format which means they were definitely leaked from the inside. Since we didn't have any original documents in digital form, they're definitely not fabricated. Why? Have you found something out?"

"All the documents including last week's were leaked?" Yang Chen continued asking in detail.

Lin Ruoxi replied with a confirmation, "You can't possibly be suspecting me, are you? After all, I also had access to the documents and thus can become a suspect. Plus it's not like I don't have a motive to do it."

Yang Chen didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. "Ruoxi, is there a need for sarcasm right now? Ninety percent of Yu Lei International's shares are in your hands. I can't think of a person that would damage their own business. I know that you probably don't like Mingyu that much in your heart, but you wouldn't resort to such a method to bully her. You're a proud woman after all, aren't you?"

There was a brief silence from Lin Ruoxi. Then she ignored Yang Chen's comments at the end of his sentence and said, "There's only fifty-five percent of shares left in my hands now."

"What?" Yang Chen was startled, "How did it suddenly drop to only fifty-five?"

Lin Ruoxi said, "Since the launch of new materials, the company has been expanding at a large scale. Plus I've been acquiring various entertainment and recreational businesses in the past few months. I needed some form of funding. I've already paid back the entire loan that we took from the Union Bank of Switzerland. The market value of our company is very high now; our reviews have been very high globally. Naturally, our share prices have skyrocketed since. That's why I sold off thirty-five percent of my shares. After all, as long as I'm the one holding the company, it doesn't matter how much I have either."

Yang Chen said, "There wasn't a need to repay the Union Bank of Switzerland's loan at all. Didn't the bank manager explain that to you? Why bear an unnecessary burden on the company? Besides, if you're short on money, just ask it from your husband, me. Why sell off the shares on your own?"

"Hmph, it's not like I don't have my own money. I can keep myself alive. Why do I have to ask it from you?" Lin Ruoxi was obviously unhappy about Yang Chen's male chauvinism.

"Do you think I would threaten you if you asked me for money? Am I really so petty in your eyes? Besides, why didn't you think it through? Now that you only have fifty-five percent of the shares in your hands, what would you do if there was a huge fluctuation in the company's shares and someone declared financial war against you?" Yang Chen asked, frowning.

Lin Ruoxi replied in a rather upset tone, "Do you think I'm a deity? How would I know that something like this would happen? Plus, I'm just the CEO of a multinational corporate. Others who hold positions like mine, for example, Microsoft's Bill Gates only holds twenty percent of shares as well. Me holding about fifty percent of the shares is already a rather generous amount. What in the world would've made me think to keep the majority of my shares?"

Yang Chen was unwilling to continue going rounds on the topic. He sighed and said, "Okay okay, it doesn't matter now. What I want to say is that, if I'm not wrong, Wu Yue is the one in charge of making photocopies of those documents."

Lin Ruoxi asked hesitatingly, "You suspect that Wu Yue did something to the documents?"

Yang Chen said, "Where are the photocopy machines? I remember you don't have those in your office."

Lin Ruoxi said, "Yes. They're all in Wu Yue's office. But something of that sort is quite unlikely. Because I personally supervised Wu Yue finish photocopying most of those important documents before bringing them back to my office. If Wu Yue were to do something to it, I would definitely have known."

“One last question, the original copies of those documents are still inside the safe in Mingyu’s office, aren’t they?” Yang Chen said.

Feeling puzzled, Lin Ruoxi asked, “You... opened the security safe?”

Yang Chen said, “No, I’m just guessing.”

Lin Ruoxi replied truthfully, “They’re still inside indeed. We know that much. But technology is so advanced nowadays, as long as she has some digital equipment, she could have easily copied the physical documents into digital format anytime. This doesn’t help to prove Mingyu’s innocence. After all, it’s even riskier to bring the physical copies around. If I were the thief, I wouldn’t take the physical documents with me either.”

“Hmph, in that case, everything makes sense now. Wu Yue didn’t do anything to the documents on purpose. But she had unknowingly helped the person responsible for the mishap.”

Recalling his memories, Yang Chen’s thoughts become clearer and he smiled with a sigh of relief.

However, there was no reply from Lin Ruoxi’s side at all, nor did she ask any more questions.

Yang Chen was still waiting for her to ask him so that he could boast to her. But after waiting for a while, all he heard was the sound of something hitting against a hard object.

“Ruoxi? Ruoxi? Are you still there?” Yang Chen’s heart tightened. “Dear please don’t frighten me.”

There was no reply at all from the other end of the phone, but the line was still connected.

Yang Chen suddenly realized what might have happened. He raced out of his office and dashed into an empty emergency staircase, made two leaps and then immediately arrived at the floor of the CEO’s office.

As Yang Chen appeared in the corridor abruptly, Wu Yue who had just left her office and was about to head to Lin Ruoxi’s bumped straight into him.

Wu Yue panicked a little when she saw the anxious look on Yang Chen’s face. Before she got a chance to greet him, Yang Chen had already dashed towards the entrance of the CEO’s office, and he pushed the door open.

When Yang Chen stepped into the office, what he saw next made his heart sink.

Lin Ruoxi was lying unconscious on the carpet in front of the office desk. She still had her phone in her hand. It was clear that she was still talking to Yang Chen when she suddenly fainted.

Wu Yue who had followed Yang Chen into the office screamed upon seeing this scene. She dropped the pile of documents she was holding in her hands, her eyes filled with panic.

Yang Chen took a moment to calm himself down before doing anything. He walked over to Lin Ruoxi and squatted down. He took her wrist in his hand and held her body in his embrace. He then transferred True Yuan into her body while carefully investigating the conditions of her body.

Shortly, Yang Chen’s eyes started burning with fury. His body was trembling a little.

Upon checking her body, Yang Chen discovered that an area near Lin Ruoxi's liver contained a large accumulated amount of unknown substance that was probably toxic.

Although these substances were not fatal, they would obviously corrode Lin Ruoxi's internal organs gradually and destroy the healthy cells. If he were to allow things to progress, he was sure that it would soon develop into a form of cancer.

Lin Ruoxi probably had a sudden onset of the disease just now, which led to an aggressive reaction from her body's immune system, making her lose consciousness as a way of protecting the body.

"Wha—what's wrong with Boss Lin?" Wu Yue's face was full of sorrow. She started tearing and trembling, totally dumbfounded.

Yang Chen transferred a surge of True Yuan and stabilized Lin Ruoxi's condition before he asked, "Did Ruoxi eat or drink anything just now?"

Wu Yue was stunned for a short while. She pointed towards a half-empty cup of hot coffee on the desk and said softly, "I only served Boss Lin the cup of coffee."

Yang Chen asked with a solemn face, "Did you make that coffee personally, without anyone else involved?"

Wu Yue's face went ghastly pale, "Director Yang, it's not me. I really don't know how this has happened. This coffee is Boss Lin's favorite flavor. She has been drinking it all this while."

Yang Chen lifted Lin Ruoxi up with his arms and said to Wu Yue, "I'll be sending someone over later. Pass the coffee to that person and let him collect something from your office. If anyone asks about Ruoxi's whereabouts, just say that she is feeling slightly unwell. Other than that, you may assume your previous task."

In the past, Wu Yue had always found Yang Chen a pain in her eyes. But she didn't dare to be reckless right now. She could only nod her head repeatedly to agree. And her eyes were filled with worry.

With Lin Ruoxi in his arms, Yang Chen went all the way downstairs to the parking lot. Driving Lin Ruoxi's car, he immediately left the building and headed to the hospital.

While he was on the road, Yang Chen made a phone call to Molin. Molin was in the middle of investigating Li Minghe's background and he couldn't leave. Thus, Yang Chen made him send another team member to Yu Lei's office to bring the two pieces of evidence back to their secret base for analysis. At the same time, they had to monitor Li Minghe closely to know his exact location. They didn't want to attract his attention just yet, but they couldn't let him disappear either.

Thanks to Yang Chen's formidable True Yuan, Lin Ruoxi's condition remained stable during the journey to the hospital.

Yang Chen got an intensive care unit of the highest standard, but he did not ask for any doctors in the hospital. He had no intention of relying on normal medical treatment to cure Lin Ruoxi's illness.

Yang Chen locked the room door and switched off his phone to prevent any distractions. Then, he started combining the cell restoration characteristic of the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture into his now formidable True Yuan and used it to clear the poison that had accumulated in Lin Ruoxi's meridians.

Compared to the poison in Tang Wan's bloodstream previously, the poison in Lin Ruoxi's body was much weaker. If not for the large amount that had accumulated, it wouldn't have affected her in such a way.

However, this made it easier for Yang Chen to treat her. He didn't have to use his own blood just to purge the poison out. Instead, using just his True Yuan, he could guide the poison out of her body.

To avoid damaging Lin Ruoxi's internal organs, Yang Chen was very careful with how he proceeded with this. He spent nearly an hour to finally remove most of the poison in her body.

When Yang Chen finished removing the poison, a sickly flush appeared on Lin Ruoxi's pale face. A mouthful of black blood clot surged out from the corner of the still unconscious Lin Ruoxi's mouth.

Yang Chen was already prepared for this. He wiped it all off with a piece of wet towel so that none of the blood would get on Lin Ruoxi's clothes.

Looking at the pale and dry lips of the woman before him breathing in and out feebly, and the hair strands that stuck to her forehead, Yang Chen sighed heavily. He held Lin Ruoxi's hand in his and got lost in a daze.

In fact, in Yang Chen's eyes, no matter what happened to the company, as long as she was fine, nothing else mattered. Compared to the trouble in the company, Yang Chen's heart was clenched even more tightly when he saw the unconscious Lin Ruoxi. He almost couldn't catch his breath for a second.

Just as Yang Chen was immersed in his thoughts, Lin Ruoxi regained her consciousness slowly. She looked at her surroundings in confusion and realized that she was in a hospital ward. She seemed to remember what had just happened, and she slowly shifted her gaze towards Yang Chen who was standing in front of her bed, asking weakly, "The company... How are things going now?"

Yang Chen was delighted to see that Ruoxi had come to. He ran to get a cup of lukewarm water so that Lin Ruoxi could rinse her mouth with it. But the moment he heard her words, the joyous expression on his face froze immediately.

After slowly placing the cup of water on the table, he turned to look at Lin Ruoxi with an unpleasant look on his face, saying, "Can't you think of anything else in your mind? Is the company really all you care about? You're already lying in the hospital. Don't you know how to worry about yourself first? Lin Ruoxi, this behavior of yours is not professional dedication but stupidity."

The more he scolded her, the more worked up Yang Chen got. He stood up and started walking up and down before her hospital bed with his hands on his hips. He pointed his finger at Lin Ruoxi and continued saying, "If I had known this, I wouldn't have saved you so quickly. I would've left you there. Yu Lei International going bankrupt might've been a good thing. You could be a housewife. And you wouldn't have to hold meetings or work overtime so often. You're a married woman and yet you're busy working from day to night. If others hear of this, they might even think that your husband enjoys mistreating you, making you earn to keep the family alive. Do you know that you were poisoned? If I wasn't by your side, it might have turned into cancer. Do you know that?"

Yang Chen just went on and on scolding her like that, totally infuriated.

However, Lin Ruoxi went from her initial confusion to looking at him with a gentle gaze. A smile then crept onto the corners of her mouth.

Noticing that Lin Ruoxi was not angry and was smiling shyly instead, Yang Chen was slightly taken aback. He said aloud, "Why? Do you find it funny? Let me tell you, even if you call me selfish or a male chauvinist, that's just how I am. So be it if I'm a petty man. I can't be bothered about the lives of those people in the company. I don't believe that their entire lives revolve around you being the CEO."

Lin Ruoxi lowered her head. She was pinching and grabbing at the blanket with her hands as she said, "Right now, Mingyu is still in the police station. While you're here saying all these to me, don't you worry about how she's doing now?"

A resigned look flashed across Yang Chen's eyes. He said with a bitter smile, "I'm worried. Of course I'm worried. But there's an order of priority to everything."

Lin Ruoxi raised her head and said, "I'm feeling much better now. You can proceed with your other business."

Yang Chen's temper was all gone now. He sighed in resignation, "Lin Ruoxi, I really can't do anything about you. You're still doing this to me at such a time. It's already total chaos outside, and Mingyu is still in the police station. But even at a crucial time like this, I've turned off my phone to focus solely on you. I ignored everything else just so that I can focus on removing the poison in your body. Do you possibly need me to dig my heart out and cut it into slices for you to observe under a microscope before you will understand my feelings towards you?"

Chapter 695 - Of Course There's No Evidence

Of Course There's No Evidence

The hospital ward fell silent. The faint smell of sanitizer in the air felt almost like the fragrance of flower. It was rather refreshing.

Yang Chen and Ruoxi's gazes converged and turned into ripples.

After a long pause, Lin Ruoxi furrowed her brows. Her gaze was gentle as she grumbled, "What is all this about digging your heart and cutting into slices all of a sudden? It sounds so crude. Can't you make it sound a little nicer?"

Yang Chen rubbed the back of his head and curled his lips while saying, "Take it as 'a filthy mouth that can't utter decent language'. Would you be willing to listen to me even if I put it nicely? Might as well just make it sound more exciting."

As he said so, Yang Chen grabbed the cup of water that he had put on the table just now and passed it to Lin Ruoxi again. "Rinse your mouth, and drink some water. You've only just recovered. Although you're mostly fine now, it's still better to get some rest."

Lin Ruoxi took the cup of water and slowly moved to get down the bed, saying, "There's still a lot of matters I have to deal with. I'll tidy myself up a little and go back to work. I'm fine now."

Yang Chen let out a long sigh. "I knew that you wouldn't listen."

"I'm alright. You should turn on your phone and find a way to solve Mingyu's problem." Lin Ruoxi glanced at Yang Chen with a faint smile on her face. Then she went to the restroom to wash up.

Although Yang Chen couldn't bear to see her start working again, he also knew that after channeling True Yuan into her body, despite still being weak, Lin Ruoxi would recover quickly. Work shouldn't be an issue. Furthermore, without her acting as the brain of Yu Lei, it would be very difficult for the company to progress any further. Thus he did not impose his expectations on her.

Turning on his phone, Yang Chen immediately saw a few missed calls on the screen, including the ones from Molin, Mo Qianni, An Xin, and Wu Yue.

Yang Chen was just about to call Molin to ask how things were going when his phone started ringing. It was Mo Qianni.

He picked up the phone and Mo Qianni started saying worriedly, "You've finally switched on your phone. Yang Chen, are you with Ruoxi at the hospital? How is she now? Is she in danger?"

Yang Chen said smilingly, "Don't worry. She's fine now. I'll send her back to the company in a while. Why did you call me so many times? Is it just to ask about Ruoxi's body condition?"

Mo Qianni replied in frustration, "I'm on the verge of a breakdown. After such an incident to the company, the mainstream media have approached us, asking us to explain the situation. But just now, someone leaked the news and now all the reporters know that our CEO has fallen sick. Those reporters have completely surrounded the compounds of our company. And they're coming up with all sorts of ridiculous conspiracy theories in their news. I think if Ruoxi is fine, it's better if she comes back as soon as possible. The employees have all lost their direction upon hearing that the news. When the stock market reopens, it will be the last punch needed to knock us out. We'll really be done for then."

Yang Chen snorted. "They're really chasing us relentlessly, driving us into a dead end."

Some emergency situation seemed to have occurred at Mo Qianni's side again. There was a clamor, and it sounded like something was being reported. Mo Qianni had no choice but to excuse herself and hang up the phone.

Yang Chen let out a bitter smile and shook his head. Then, he dialed Molin's number.

"Molin, how's the analysis and investigation that I made you do?" Yang Chen asked.

Molin sounded a little embarrassed as he said, "Your Majesty Pluto, I'm very sorry. Li Minghe's background is slightly too complicated. I can't compile anything of substance just yet. I need a bit more time. But as for the two things that you asked us to analyze, we've already gotten the result."

Yang Chen frowned. "Complicated? Li Minghe is just a managerial employee that was sent over by Hong Kong's Muyun Corporation. He's at most just a distant relative of the Li clan from Hong Kong. Why would information about him be difficult to obtain?"

"Actually..." Molin said, "I thought so too initially. But according to the information that I've gathered so far, Li Minghe is not his actual name. He seems to have changed his name after he started working in Hong Kong. Besides, Li Minghe seems to have no connection to Muyun's Li clan at all. Their common surname is their only tie. This is what misled our investigations at first. His resume appears very fishy too. Lots of the content have been altered. Clearing things up might take some time. It's difficult to explain it clearly now. I hope that Your Majesty can give me a little more time. I guarantee you that I'll complete the task."

Yang Chen did not expect so many problems to arise upon investigating Li Minghe's background. But, without a doubt, this also meant that matters were much more mysterious than what he had expected.

"What about the evidence that I made you investigate then? How is it?" Yang Chen asked again.

This time round, Molin replied rather confidently, "We've already gotten the results. There is poison in that coffee indeed. It is a substance similar to 'tannin' that can be found in tea leaves. When this kind of acid is combined with a certain extract from animal protein, for example a substance in the proteins of dogs, it will produce a type of carcinogen that destroys humans' internal organs.

"This cup of coffee contained not just tannin, but also some unique protein that usually isn't found in coffee. We can say that this cup of coffee was made with the intention of causing harm to its drinker.

"But since it takes a long time to accumulate this kind of poison before it can yield a strong effect when it's triggered, hence according to my deduction, the person who put in the poison in must be familiar with the victim of the coffee. The culprit added the extract into the coffee in a well-planned manner according to how much the drinker usually drinks. Although I can't deduce the exact time of the first disease onset, but according to my estimation based on the ratio, I estimate about one week ago."

Listening up to this point, a thick killing intent had already emerged in Yang Chen's eyes. He thought to himself, To think that Ruoxi has been drinking coffee that contains chronic toxin all this while! Regardless of whether Li Minghe did this behind Wu Yue's back, I can't let Wu Yue continue being Lin Ruoxi's assistant anymore. Even if it means I have to kill her.

"As for the thing that you mentioned," Molin continued, "Just like what you said, it was indeed tampered with. But it is a little insufficient to be presented as an evidence..."

By the time Molin was almost done explaining, Lin Ruoxi had also finished washing up and stepped out of the restroom. Seeing that Yang Chen was on the phone, she asked softly, "Is there anything urgent?"

Yang Chen was already done with the call, so he hung up and said smilingly, "The company needs you back quickly. The reporters have already blocked the entire entrance. Let's go."

A worried look flashed across Lin Ruoxi's face, and she just nodded her head.

On the way back to Yu Lei International, Yang Chen called An Xin back as well. She was just concerned if something had happened, so she didn't say much upon learning that everything was fine.

Lin Ruoxi sat on the front passenger seat and pondered for a while. Then, she turned to her to Yang Chen and asked, "Have they found out who the culprit is yet? Who's the one that stole the documents from Mingyu's office?"

With one hand on the steering wheel, Yang Chen shook his finger at Lin Ruoxi with his other hand. A malicious smile appeared on his face as he said, "This culprit is very cunning indeed. We've all been cheated by him even since the beginning."

"What do you mean?" Lin Ruoxi couldn't quite understand.

Yang Chen heaved out a sigh and said, "The thief didn't steal anything from Mingyu's office. He managed to collect all the information via other means."

Lin Ruoxi's eyes were filled with surprise. She clearly didn't understand what Yang Chen was talking about.

Yang Chen explained patiently, "Since the start, we have been focusing on the security safe in Mingyu's office. And that's because there were only two copies of the document. As the CEO, it's only natural that you wouldn't benefit from leaking the documents. That's why everyone assumed that Mingyu was the one who did it.

"With that, our line of thought was focused on things like what kind of person could find the opportunity to lay their hands on the documents kept by Mingyu, or what kind of person would have a way of decrypting the passcode. We even suspected if the thief installed a high-tech pinhole camera in Mingyu's office to monitor her when she opens the safe."

Lin Ruoxi asked, "Isn't that how it is? If it isn't from Mingyu's office, I can almost guarantee that it did not come from my office. Apart from Wu Yue, almost no one else can enter my office. Plus the area around the safe in my office is totally empty. There's no way of installing a pinhole camera there."

Yang Chen smiled and said, "Let me finish. Actually, even I fell into the culprit's trap. They came well prepared. He probably understands me very well even before he started the plan, or, we could say that he did many things to confuse us beforehand.

"The culprit has been visiting Mingyu's office very frequently and diligently in the past two to three months. And the visits often seem to be without any proper reason or motive. He made sure that not only people like me who visit Mingyu's office only occasionally noticed his behavior, but even the other employees noticed and became curious about the relationship between him and Mingyu.

"Don't tell me that you have no idea who the person is. You would have definitely suspected him to be the one to have stolen the documents. And that's why you let me investigate it, right?"

Lin Ruoxi did not deny. She nodded and said, "You're talking about Li Minghe. I am aware that he has been visiting Mingyu's office very frequently recently without any reason. It is not secret to the rest of the company too. I believe many other employees in the company share my suspicions. It's just that there was no evidence to prove that he was the one who stole the documents. And this is also why no one brought up his name during the meeting. Because no one had any evidence."

"Of course there's no evidence," Yang Chen shook his head with a smile and said, "I even went to check the surveillance footage, and calculated how likely he could open the safe, and how he managed to steal such a huge amount of documents without anyone noticing. Now that I think about it, it's such a joke. This line of deduction was totally baseless. He had never once planned to steal the documents from Mingyu's office. There is only one reason behind his actions—to attract our attention, and to make us think that he did it in Mingyu's office."

Lin Ruoxi was quick to catch up too, and she asked, "You mean to say that this was all a deliberate trick that he played to mislead us? Then how did he manage to steal it?"

Chapter 696 - Treating Her Well

Treating Her Well

Yang Chen said helplessly, "I've been overthinking everything as well. Actually, it wasn't a human that betrayed the company. It was the photocopy machine used to print documents in Wu Yue's office."

"Photocopy machine?" Lin Ruoxi frowned. "Did Wu Yue make extra copies? That's impossible. I've already told you that I was there to personally monitor the process."

Yang Chen explained, "I don't fault you for not knowing this information. Most of the photocopy machines in the market nowadays have an internal hard disk. After every photocopy, there will be a large amount of data stored as a backup in the hard disk. For computer savvy people, all they have to do is to connect the hard disk to their computer, and then it only takes only about ten minutes to extract all the information.

"Situations where confidential data is leaked via the photocopy machine often appear in corporate espionage. That's why many important departments place heavy emphasis on destroying and replacing the hard disk of their photocopy machines. Understand?"

A look of shock hung on Lin Ruoxi's face. After all, she studied business, and so she was completely clueless about such technical knowledge.

After sorting out her thoughts, Lin Ruoxi said, "Even if he can extract all the information from the hard disk, the machine is in Wu Yue's office. Wu Yue knocks off very late from work just like me. Plus no one has easy access to her office as well as mine. The office door is usually locked so..."

"Despite so many beauties in the company, Li Minghe didn't pursue any of them when he came in. Instead, he went after Wu Yue relentlessly as though he was foolishly in love with her. It's because he knew very well that he had to gain Wu Yue's trust in order to not arouse her suspicion when doing things in her office. Perhaps he even made Wu Yue pass him her keys at times, lying to her that he needed to look up some information," Yang Chen said with mixed feelings, "I can't help but admire that fellow's patience and calculations. Ever since he entered the company, everything he did was in preparation for this. Every step he has taken was calculated and planned to not leave a single shred of evidence tracing it back to him."

Sadness flashed across Lin Ruoxi's eyes. "Wu Yue, she... she's genuinely in love with Li Minghe."

Yang Chen glanced at Ruoxi silently. He recalled the scene when Lin Ruoxi asked him to keep the secret that Wu Yue was romantically involved with Li Minghe. Lin Ruoxi had never shown much concern in her words towards this sole female assistant that she had, and who was also her junior in school. But in her subconscious, perhaps she had hoped that Li Minghe was innocent and was truly in love with Wu Yue.

Yang Chen said flatly, "It can't be helped. Do you know this? There was this one time I came to your office looking for you and happened to bump into Wu Yue bringing Li Minghe to your office to look for some documents. They even told me that you had gone out to Yucong Building to shop."

Lin Ruoxi nodded. "I remember. You came to look for me that day."

"I've only realized it now. Li Minghe went to your office to confirm which machine was used to photocopy. After confirming that there was no photocopy machine in your office, he was finally sure that all the information that he wanted was in the photocopy machine in Wu Yue's office. Ever since the start, he had been executing his plans with sheer perfection."

Lin Ruoxi shut her eyes, seeming a little sad about this outcome. After a while, she asked, "Then was Li Minghe also the one who poisoned me?"

"The coffee that you drink contains some chronic toxin. I won't go through the details. If I'm not wrong, Li Minghe probably asked Wu Yue about your daily dosage of coffee and then mixed the poison into your coffee. He then replaced the coffee powder in Wu Yue's office with the one he had mixed. He had specially calculated the dosage so that the poison would take effect only when he needed it to," Yang Chen said gravely. "If I'm not wrong, he wanted to let you fall dead sick when Yu Lei is in its most critical period so that you won't have any chance of retaliating."

Lin Ruoxi bit her lip and asked with a gleam of hope, "That means, Wu Yue didn't know about it, did she?"

Yang Chen nodded. "It seems so for now. However, regardless of whether she knew about it, I won't allow her to stay by your side anymore. You must replace your assistant with someone we can trust. You must listen to me on this. There's no room for discussion."

"How can you do this? Even if I can't use Wu Yue anymore, why should I listen to you on the candidate of my assistant?" Lin Ruoxi was unhappy and she was blaming him a little.

"No matter what you say, your assistant must be someone that I approve of. If it isn't, I'll throw them out the window of your office floor," Yang Chen said with a solemn look, "Although we can break down the process behind this incident now, Li Minghe's skills are superb in that even if we know how he did it, we don't have any conclusive evidence. We can't possibly pin him to the data being stolen from the hard disk. That's why, after sending you back to the company later, I plan to get a lawyer to bail Mingyu out first. After all, now that we know of another more plausible method of committing the crime, it can clear most of Mingyu's innocence."

Lin Ruoxi pouted. "Understood. I'll handle the matters in the company; you go ahead and save your Mingyu." As she finished her words, she turned her head to look at the view outside and ignored Yang Chen.

Yang Chen rolled his eyes. It seems like this woman had indeed recovered greatly now that she could be so sarcastic again.

At the same time, in the vice president's office of Yu Lei International, a secretary opened the door with a look of surprise as she said aloud, "Great news, Vice President Li."

Li Minghe who was flipping through some forms frowned unhappily and said, "What are you being so agitated about? Don't you know that the more chaotic the company is, the more we should remain calm?"

The secretary grinned brightly and said, "Yes, yes... It's just that we received news that Boss Lin has already recovered. She will be back to attend the press conference. Everyone is very excited about it and so I came to tell you about it."

A dark, puzzled look flashed across Li Minghe's eyes, but he put on a cheerful grin on his face and said, "That is really good. Continue doing a great job. I'm going out for a while to meet a few important

figures. We'll need their assistance. If there's anything urgent just report it to Manager Wang and the others."

The secretary obeyed immediately and ran back to work happily.

Li Minghe clenched his teeth in anger. He reached for his jacket and put it on, grabbed a few of his belongings, and left his office, taking the lift down.

When he reached the parking lot, Li Minghe's phone started ringing. He pulled it out to see the number and was irritated. But he still picked up the call and said as calmly as possible, "This better be urgent."

"Pretending that you don't know?" The person on the phone said with contempt, "Look at what a stupid job you've done. Didn't you say that Lin Ruoxi will be sick for at least ten days to half a month and that she would develop cancer after that? Why is it that she's already returning to the company after only a few hours' time?"

"Please calm down. I have no idea why this happened too. But she had indeed fallen sick before this. Perhaps she got lucky this time. I—I've really tried my best," Li Minghe said desperately.

"Hmph, on the account that the other plans are proceeding smoothly, I'll forget about this matter. Even if Lin Ruoxi returns to Yu Lei International now, there's nothing she can do to salvage the situation anyway. Yu Lei's plans for the next half of the year are already completely exposed. Even if Lin Ruoxi is wealthy enough, all she can do is secure a few of their fixed assets. It won't be easy for them to recover from this incident."

"Yes, yes. You have a divine strategy. That's why it was only a matter of time for you to ruin Lin Ruoxi," Li Minghe hurriedly flattered the person on the phone.

The person sneered and said, "You don't have to be like this either. You will get what is rightfully yours. Your cover might have already been blown now. Don't go anywhere other than the place that I have arranged for you."

Upon hearing these words, Li Minghe replied gratefully, "Thank you for your kindness. I'll set off right now."

He hung up the phone. An expression of excitement and viciousness appeared on his face simultaneously as he quickly walked towards his car.

Right at that moment, a pale, skinny figure in a black suit appeared at a short distance in front of Li Minghe and blocked his path.

Li Minghe braked in his steps, his eyes revealing a hint of complicated feelings. And then he said smilingly, "I see it's Yue'er. Boss Lin is coming back soon. What are you doing here?"

Wu Yue's eyes were red. Tears glimmered in her eyes as she looked at Li Minghe painfully. She forced a smile and mumbled, "Tell me... that it wasn't you. It wasn't you who did all these, was it?"

Li Minghe's smile slowly faded away. He pondered briefly and let out a contemptuous smile. "Since you already know the answer, do you still need me to say it? Why? Are you going to stop me? Even if that Yang Chen manages to find out anything in the end, he has no evidence to prove it either. And what can you do to me?"

Wu Yue took a deep breath. She raised her head to stop her tears from rolling down. With trembling shoulders, she said, "I should have thought about it. Why would you fall in love with a woman like me? But I was delusional, thinking that you weren't the kind of man who judged a person by their appearances. I figured that if I treated you well, you would definitely treat me sincerely too. That's why no matter what you said to me, I chose to believe that you were innocent, that you had no ulterior motives."

The corner of Li Minghe's brows twitched a little. But he remained expressionless.

"Li Minghe..." Wu Yue's eyes were completely red, and her thin neck was strained tightly. She said miserably, "Whether you were manipulated by some competitor of ours, or you did it out of your own will, I could've regarded everything that you've done to Yu Lei as a business competition. I could've found it in my heart to forgive you. Bu—but how can you make use of me to harm Boss Lin whom I respect the most?"

Li Minghe's facial muscles twitched a little and he sneered, "Say whatever you want to say. Let me tell you, if it weren't for greater plans in the future, I would have grabbed a knife and stabbed Lin Ruoxi to death. I'm already treating her very well by letting her die of a chronic toxin."

Chapter 697 - Not Bored Yet

Not Bored Yet

Wu Yue was stupefied. Never could she bring herself to comprehend how the man she loved would despise the person she respected and adore so much.

"Why... why would you do such a thing?"

"It's none of your business," Li Minghe said as he shoved the obstructing Wu Yue aside.

Wu Yue stumbled as she struggled to keep her balance.

Li Minghe arrived by his car, ready to enter before the same familiar silhouette appeared by his side.

After a moment of hesitation, with conflicted emotions, he turned towards her, looking at the woman he loved in distraught. He then proposed an ultimatum to her. "I'm offering you a chance to come with me right now. Or, stay here and burn with Yu Lei to the ground."

Wu Yue's frail figure was stunned, before she lifted her head. With tears still in her eyes, a slight glimpse of joy however was seen on her face.

"You... still care for me, don't you?" Wu Yue tearfully questioned.

Li Minghe, on the other hand, was not having it. "No matter how you spin it, I've still spent countless nights with you. Let's just say I haven't gotten bored of you yet. Stay here and die or come with me and you shall live, your choice."

Wu Yue heart-wrenchingly stared at him but ultimately shook her head in disagreement as she dried her tears before solemnly replied, "I will not go with you, Minghe. Now's the best time for you to turn yourself in. It's still not too late. You're no match for Boss Lin..."

“Bullshit,” Li Minghe ranted. “You really think this fatal poisoning is a joke? You’ve truly underestimated me. In a bit, the American stock market will open, and the sharp fall of Yu Lei’s stocks would shave thirty percent of the company’s assets. All that leaked information is already in the hands of Yu Lei’s main competitors. In two days, this will become so severe that no one can bring Yu Lei out from its pit. Even with Lin Ruoxi’s wealth, she could keep the corporation afloat for at best a few months before she has no choice but to declare bankruptcy. You really take her as a corporate prodigy, don’t you? The only reason she is so revered is that none of her opponents dares to take a shot against her!”

Wu Yue bit on her lips tight, as she firmly replied, “I believe in her. She will definitely find her way. Minghe, please don’t do this anymore. I know you still care about me, and I know you’re still the man I once knew.... You—”

“That’s enough!!!” Li Minghe looked as if he had gone insane. Walking right before Wu Yue, with a stone-cold gaze, he said, “Look, woman, I don’t know what she has told you to make you trust in her, but if you won’t sway then I’ll make sure you’re in the audience to witness the collapse of Yu Lei.”

Before Wu Yue could react, she felt a huge pound towards the back of her neck as her vision went blurry.

The perpetrator was none other than Li Minghe, who took it out on the poor woman the split second that she was unfocused.

Li Minghe scooped the now unconscious Wu Yue and cautiously scanned his surroundings, making sure that nobody was tailing him. He then carefully placed her on the passenger seat and secured her seatbelts.

Li Minghe quickly returned back to his solemn expressions as he drove the car out of the parking lot.

Just as Li Minghe was leaving the car park, a petite Caucasian girl in a pair of pink-framed sunglasses came out from behind a pillar by the corner. It was none other than Fanny of the Sea Eagles squad.

Fanny was chewing on gum as she made a loud pop before reaching for her cell phone and dialed up a number. “Adeline, the rat is out of the trap. It’s all up to you now.”

“Why did he leave so quickly? I’m still waiting for my sandwich to be prepared... Excuse me sir, no bell peppers please... Yeah... alright I’ll catch up real quick, why don’t you make the call to His Majesty Pluto first?”

Seconds later, Yang Chen right across the corner of Yu Lei International received a text message.

Yang Chen scanned through the text message in Italian, as he smiled towards Lin Ruoxi by his side. “That brat Li Minghe is on the run.”

Lin Ruoxi was puzzled. “How’d you know?”

“I got a few friends to monitor his movements, and they just told me that he left.”

Lin Ruoxi was not curious about the real identities of his ‘friends’. Instead, she quickly followed up, “Then why didn’t they stop him? Isn’t arresting him our top priority?”

Yang Chen shrugged. "Li Minghe can't fly on his own. We can always tail him wherever he decides to go, so we're going to let him take us to his mastermind. We're in no hurry."

Lin Ruoxi, however, was worried, as she slightly nervously asked, "What are you going to do to those people when you find them?"

Yang Chen replied in a dull manner, "What is right of course."

"You plan to kill them all, don't you?" Lin Ruoxi was genuinely concerned. "Yang Chen, I want you to promise me not to kill these people. I know that you used to do that all the time abroad, and there is a lot about your life that I have no understanding towards, but killing isn't the solution! Since there's no way they can possibly beat you, why not arrest them and put them to trial?"

Yang Chen relaxedly replied, "Don't worry about all this, I think it's better if you put your attention to saving the company from this enormous crisis. Even when we manage to get Li Minghe and his gang of culprits, there's still no way of preventing the company's losses in the upcoming months. The future of the company is at stake here. More money may not be the solution to all your problems here."

Lin Ruoxi shook her head as she sternly declared, "Work is work, and you're you. Don't put these two together. You have to promise me alright, that you can break them, paralyze them, but under no circumstances are they allowed to be killed, understand?"

"I'll do what I need to do."

"No, you got to promise me that you're not going to do it, or else I will latch myself to you. I wouldn't even mind not going to work unless you knock me out." Lin Ruoxi grit her teeth as she firmly fixed her gaze at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen took a deep breath before he frustratedly replied, "That filthy animal made you drink a slow-onset poison all this while, and even framed Mingyu into custody. How can you still expect me to keep him alive? Besides, I'll be fine. Killing people isn't something new to me."

"Whatever it is you shouldn't casually kill people!" Lin Ruoxi yelled at the top of her voice.

Yang Chen felt the tingling sensation in his eardrums as he dumbfoundedly stared at Lin Ruoxi. "I have no idea why you women are so emotional all the time."

Lin Ruoxi mumbled as tears seemed to be forming in her pupils, "Exactly because I've seen you do it, and every time I wished it would be your last. You do know that the fury in your eyes every time you kill terrifies me, don't you..."

Inside the vehicle was dead silence. Yang Chen held his breath, unsure of what he was supposed to say.

"Yang Chen, I don't believe anyone would find pleasure in murder. I also know that not everything can be solved through murder. You once told me that Cai Ning stopped you from killing Zeng Mao, and instead resorted to bearing the responsibility in your stead, right? Well, I guess we're both alike in the sense that we do not want you to soak your hands in blood." Lin Ruoxi sighed before she reached out for Yang Chen's right hand as she continued, "You don't need to kill Li Minghe to avenge me. All I want right now is to see him face justice as the consequence of his actions, that's all. I don't want to see you kill anymore. I can't recognize you when you kill."

Eventually, she cracked Yang Chen as he gave a frustrated smile. "Well, I guess you succeeded this time. If I knew it would end like this, I would've kept it from you and finished him up somewhere remote. I promise you if he's not doing anything over the line, I will ensure that he faces trial. But know that if he steps one toe out of the line again, I will not be responsible for what happens."

Lin Ruoxi seemed a little weary as she nodded. "Alright, if he really does threaten you then I guess there's no other way."

Yang Chen knew deep down that Li Minghe was prone to resistance. So it was only a matter of time before he ended his life. But to have Lin Ruoxi concern about his killing tendencies on his behalf was quite unsettling.

For someone of a standard civilized society, the thought of a dead person is truly a horrifying sight to behold. It prompted him to reconsider the thoughts of the people around him before he resorted to murder. Even the slightest move would be a gargantuan shock towards Lin Ruoxi.

As they were debating, their vehicle arrived at Yu Lei International, and at this very moment, Mo Qianni called. But this time, the call was for Lin Ruoxi.

Chapter 698 - Doing Everything Possible

Doing Everything Possible

As the night settled in Zhonghai, the street lights of the city were lit. But the natural work hours were extended due to the huge crisis faced by Yu Lei International as their employees were discouraged to leave on time. In the center of it, all was Mo Qianni. She was trying to put out all the fires as they started.

Lin Ruoxi picked up the phone, and before Mo Qianni could speak, she asked, "Nasdaq is open now, how's the situation?"

Mo Qianni through the phone sounded fatigued and distressed. "How should I put it? The situation is much worse than predicted."

"I'm here at the company. Will be there soon. For now, just roughly describe the situation," Lin Ruoxi replied.

"Just minutes after the stock market opened, our share price has plummeted for almost eight percent and it is still falling. Many are flooding the market with our share."

Lin Ruoxi frowned from the unexpectedly dire condition. "That fast huh..."

Mo Qianni sighed, "I wasn't aware of recent financial news earlier but apparently the American financial reports showed poor performances during the last few days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has fallen for nearly one percent, while the S&P 500 Index and the Nasdaq Composite were also at identical lows. Everyone is extremely wary right now of the stock market's situation. It didn't take long for the crowd to notice that something's off."

Lin Ruoxi clenched her phone as she replied, "Alright, try not to engage on any countermeasure at the moment. I'll be back to handle the remaining tasks. Qianni, I need you to reassure our employees that we're doing fine."

“Got it, please come back soon. I’m about to go mad. That Li Minghe left all his responsibilities to me at this crucial hour and he is nowhere to be seen.” Mo Qianni was wrought up.

Lin Ruoxi glanced over at Yang Chen before she gave her final order and ended the call.

As the car navigated into the parking lot, Lin Ruoxi unfastened her seatbelt and said, “I need you to go over to the police station to bring Mingyu back. I know how this may look but right now, I need her help back here if we want a shot at recovering from this mess.”

Yang Chen definitely was no professional in the field of finance and economics, but he understood the urgency of the situation which prompted him to nod in agreement. “You best be worried about this. If the company falls, you can still rely on me.”

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at his sweet talk. “You’re the one who should relax. No matter how much I lose, I will never ask you for living expenses.”

After she ended her sentence, she hopped off the car and jogged to the elevator.

“What a strong, independent woman,” Yang Chen happily mumbled to himself as he shook his head. After he saw Lin Ruoxi off, he lowered the car window and signaled someone by the dark corner.

At the shady corner of the parking lot was Fanny as she vaguely nodded to his command, naturally for her keep an eye out on Lin Ruoxi in his absence.

Yang Chen knew it would be unlikely for anyone to come over at this time and threaten Lin Ruoxi’s safety in broad daylight, but prevention is better than cure. Moreover, with Fanny acting as his eyes, no matter what tacky situation were to happen, he would be back in an instant.

Soon after, he drove towards the police station. Even though it was a small task that he could undoubtedly get someone to do in his stead, he wanted to be the one to personally escort Liu Mingyu out of the station.

Along the way, his phone started vibrating.

Yang Chen picked up the call, and it was Molin on the other side of the line.

“Found anything?” Yang Chen wanted to hear about Li Minghe’s detailed background.

Molin answered with a yes and with some degree of disbelief, he said, “Your Majesty, I got to admit I was a tad bit amazed by the results. Li Minghe’s actual background was far more complicated than expected, from his great-grandfather onwards. It would seem like he and you share some commonalities.”

“With me?” Yang Chen was puzzled.

“Exactly. To be more precise, his bloodline is very much intertwined with the Yang clan of Beijing. He also has close ties with Madam Persephone, though certain details are yet to be verified. Due to the sheer number of people and incidents involved, it might be a little... inappropriate to be discussed on the phone. I arranged an email for you, is that fine?” Molin elaborated.

Annoyed, Yang Chen said, “Then why are you wasting time going around the bush? Send it quickly!”

Molin agreed profusely and in a matter of seconds, an email was sent to Yang Chen's inbox.

Yang Chen hung up the phone immediately and went to the mail app on his phone, one hand on the wheels while the other scrolling through the crucial email.

Yang Chen's facial expression shifted through many emotions as he read the email. It went from the original anxiety to seriousness, then gradually to a face filled with astonishment and bewilderment.

After he went through all of it, Yang Chen forced his phone into his pocket, his other hand furiously hitting the steering wheel as he cursed. It took some time before he could gather his thoughts to calm down.

Meanwhile, at Yu Lei's headquarters, Lin Ruoxi who had made her way back into the office sat right at the commanding seat at the far end of the meeting table. She took a look around the table at the people seated around it. Her employees, mainly from the finance and accounting departments, were firefighting through ever-growing problems resulted from the catastrophic event.

Mo Qianni and her team of executive employees were frustratedly seated along the table as multiple projectors showed countless constantly updated data and news. It was safe to say that the atmosphere was a heavy one

The staff members were aware that the company's share price was falling uncontrollably, as multiple collaborators and significant business partners kept Yu Lei's phone lines active. All in all, things were massively out of hand.

The previous excitement from the safe return of their leader Lin Ruoxi quickly dissipated as everyone fell back into this battle of company survival.

Under such circumstances, Li Minghe and Wu Yue's absence had been the least of their concerns.

"Ruoxi, if this goes on, within less than half an hour our stocks would plummet through the twenty-percent baseline!" Mo Qianni dispiritedly notified.

Lin Ruoxi kept her silence as her pupils were locked onto the data displayed. Her elegant face was devoid of any emotion as one of her hands was held towards her supple lips, seemingly in deep thought about something.

Several of the executive board were disheartened at their current situation. Even when the company had been through two monumental crises, they ultimately managed to cruise through with Lin Ruoxi's brilliance. But this time, it was clear that the situation was vastly different from the previous two in a bad way.

The previous two crises were mainly due to financial shortcomings, which at most had only led to decreased revenues, losing some competitive advantage.

However, this time, the corporation under the preexisting circumstances of decreased competitive advantage and uncertain future had to deal with ongoing destructive setbacks.

Just when the others could only hope for divine intervention, Lin Ruoxi lightly sighed before she gave her order. "Department Head Wei, pass a message to the financial management department. When our

share price falls to fifteen percent, purchase two to five thousand units using separate accounts. Repeat the purchase every ten to fifteen minutes. Alternate these purchases via at least a hundred accounts.”

“Huh?” Department Head Wei was stunned.

Lin Ruoxi frowned. “What, you want me to repeat?”

“Erm, no no no...” Department Head Wei smiled stiffly. “Boss Lin, the problem is if we do that, it wouldn’t do any good for our current situation. There are tons of investors getting rid of our shares in the hundreds of thousands. We would hardly be doing anything to help the downward trend.”

“All you need is execute my instruction. I did not ask for your explanation,” Lin Ruoxi stoically replied.

Department Head Wei gulped as he ran out to give orders to his department.

Mo Qianni warily added, “Ruoxi, I understand that you’re anxious. But Department Head Wei is right. There’s really no reason to do that.”

Lin Ruoxi gave out a long sigh. “I’m aware of that, but I’m doing everything possible to deal with this while we wait for what the heavens want us to experience... Qianni, I need you to schedule appointments with the CEOs of the biggest banks. We need to make sure our funds are sufficient and fluid.”

Mo Qianni puzzlingly nodded. “Understood. Oh yeah, should we transfer a portion of our funds to the Athena team? Maybe they could help.”

Lin Ruoxi shook her head. “There’s no use relying on traders in this situation. Look, even the investors who have bought our stocks at sky-high prices are now willingly selling them at a price so low. That’s because they’re all aware that they would only lose more should they hold the stocks instead. Not even the Athena team can change the perspective of the general public towards us. Now what we could do is to push our operations back on track. I will discuss with the others to modify the issues of acquisition and allocation. We can do this.”

Mo Qianni struggled to align herself with Lin Ruoxi’s plan, but deep down she knew it was the only viable way, so she turned around and left the conference room.

The world’s economy all had their attention focused on the east tonight while Yu Lei International’s branches across the globe received the impactful blow, causing the immense pressure to build up!

Their close competitors were clearly rejoicing with the seemingly dire situation over at Yu Lei International. The corporation which had dominated through various sectors were on the verge of collapse, while others sympathized with the inherent bad luck bestowed upon the company.

There were even certain spectators predicting that among all assets owned by Yu Lei International, only the entertainment branch company would survive the catastrophe. That was because solely based on Lin Hui’s phenomenal influence, the company could rake in huge amounts of revenue over the foreseeable years.

In this silent yet chaotic night, by the ocean of Zhonghai lay multiple sanatorium-like villas built by the Chinese government. While the disaster took place, inside one of those villas was an entirely different story...

Chapter 699 - A Righteous Father

A Righteous Father

There were armed militants who patrolled the area, marching to the sounds of a whistle. However, upon closer inspection, this wasn't a military base. Or any military training camp for that matter. It was just a retirement facility for militants, with several identical venues scattered all over the country. Needless to say, places like these were usually left vacant and under-maintained.

And by its side facing the coast, a mansion stood visibly well-lit on the first floor.

A huge Mediterranean-made rug covered much of the plywood floor. The light brown leather cushions were coupled with several extravagant redwood pieces of furniture. The corners of the room held masterpieces of renowned sculptors and vintage million-dollar paintings.

In the center of it all was a huge mounted television where the financial news of foreign satellite broadcasts was showing. There were two smaller monitors with constantly updating stock market data flanking its sides.

Right across the room was a man with the top of his shirt unbuttoned, as he lazed on the couch with a glass of blood-red wine on his hand. He was visibly satisfied with what was shown on the screens.

Not too far from the man was a pale, skinny woman equally concentrated at the news. But her facial expressions were quite different, ranging from anxiety to worry.

They were none other than Li Minghe on a temporary retreat from the storm he created, and Wu Yue who was knocked unconscious and forcefully brought along.

At this moment, the latest updates from the news were in regards to a small amount of Yu Lei shares being purchased on Nasdaq.

Li Minghe saw the headlines and broke into laughter. "Wow, I guess Lin Ruoxi is truly desperate to fake some individual buyers to repurchase her stocks. What good does she really think it is going to do?? What a delusional idiot. Yue'er, come over and take a look at your charismatic, perfect Boss Lin. Turns out she was just an ordinary person like everybody else."

Wu Yue pitifully turned towards him and questioned, "Minghe, why are you doing this? How would Yu Lei's bankruptcy benefit you?"

Li Minghe unwaveringly replied, "I never said I wanted Yu Lei to crumble. I just want to witness the fall of Lin Ruoxi. Once the plan has achieved its expected outcome, Lin Ruoxi would no longer be worthy for the role of Yu Lei's CEO. That's when I will return to play the role of hero."

Wu Yue was horrified at his words. "Why would you want to do that?"

Li Minghe sneered, "Yu Lei International is nothing but a corporation too small for my appetite. But then again, I don't expect you to understand my ambitions. Besides, I'm just taking back what was rightfully mine."

“You’re crazy... Why are you...” Wu Yue was overwhelmed by the things she had uncovered. She panickingly stood up and declared, “Minghe, I’m going to go back to support Boss Lin! Even if this is a lost cause, I’d still give my all to make sure... make sure you never get what you want.”

Wu Yue upon finishing dashed towards the exit of the mansion.

Li Minghe instantly tossed his wine glass aside as the red wine spilled all over the redwood tiles, while he simultaneously latched onto Wu Yue and embraced her from the back.

Wu Yue struggled to break free but to no avail. She tried to bite his shoulder but he was persistent in keeping her there.

She ultimately broke into tears and lifted her head. “Minghe, let me go. Please stop this madness right now.”

Li Minghe eyes were filled with fury as he taunted, “Why, do you not love me anymore? Does it really pain you to see me get better? Is Lin Ruoxi that much more important to you than I am?”

Wu Yue blankly stared at the man she once loved before she shook her head. “You’re not comparing apples to apples. Boss Lin is my senior. You’re the man I love. I cannot allow you to continue falling into this trench. I don’t want to sit by and watch you go mad.”

Li Minghe sternly replied, “You need to know, in my plans, you’re nothing but a chess piece. A pawn that only has so much use before I discard it...”

Wu Yue was stunned, feeling a heart-wrenching pain.

“But,” Li Minghe let out a long breath, “I have ultimately decided to take you here with me.”

Wu Yue’s body trembled as her breathing sped up.

Li Minghe had a bitter smile as he replied, “Yue’er, do you not know how I feel about you? I know I used you. But right now, I really want you by my side. Once I become the CEO of Yu Lei or achieve even greater things, you’ll be Mrs Li! It definitely sounds a lot better than the puny assistant position you’re getting right now.”

Wu Yue held her head low as teardrops trickled down on the carpet. She stayed in that position for a while before finally lifting up her head up as she said, “Thank you... for clarifying. I’m glad to hear that from you. No matter what you do, or what you’ve become, I will still love you.”

Li Minghe happily replied, “You mean—”

“Sorry!” Wu Yue continued before he could finish, “Despite how much I really want us to last, I still need to return to Yu Lei, to assist Boss Lin. I am a naive little idiot with an insignificant position. But it would still be wrong to sit here idly while Yu Lei sinks.”

“Why would you throw my heart away for a woman I hate to my guts?” Li Minghe went unhinged as he furiously shook Wu Yue’s body.

Wu Yue meanwhile sympathetically stared at the man as he descended into lunacy. Smiling, she answered, "That's because, more than anything, I wish that the child inside me will have a righteous father..."

The entire living room went dead silent—the only noise was that of the broadcasted cable news.

Li Minghe froze upon hearing those words, his eyes filled with nothing but confusion and bewilderment.

Under the same night sky in Zhonghai, Yang Chen adjusted his emotions before getting off the car and walking into the police station. He was frustrated with the abnormally high frequency of visits he had made to the police stations recently. One might think that he was trying to forge a relationship with the police.

Just as he was considering the potential interactions he could have with the police, while also contemplating on how to comfort Liu Mingyu after that incident, a familiar silhouette of elegance and charm strolled out from the police station.

In her full office attire was Liu Mingyu. She looked identical to when she was escorted away that noon. The only difference was the added fatigue in her pupils.

Staring at the man standing right at the end of descending steps, Liu Mingyu was bewildered for moments before she eventually sped up on her footsteps as she dashed towards him. "Yang Chen, why are you here?"

"Stop running, you're wearing heels." Yang Chen held his woman on the waist as he scanned her from top to bottom. When he realized there was nothing wrong, he curiously asked, "I found evidence to prove that you were not at fault. I rushed my way here to pick you up. But why did they let you out early?"

Liu Mingyu was electrified as she questioned, "Who? What evidence?"

Yang Chen briefly summarised how Li Mingyu manipulated the hard disk from a photostat machine to get access to the classified documents. As for Lin Ruoxi's poisoning, he felt that it would be best discussed at a later time.

Liu Mingyu happily continued, "I knew something was off when he kept coming over to my office. But never would I have guessed that it was a decoy. Actually when I arrived at the police station, Boss Lin had already sent lawyers to defend my rights as a civilian under custody, so there wasn't anything done against me. Just a few simple questions about the details of the incident."

"Ruoxi did that?" Yang Chen was stunned. "Why didn't she tell me about it?"

Liu Mingyu rolled her eyes. "You idiot, you made a huge fuss this noon at the meeting. How could you stand against her in front of so many people? Any wife would be pissed if their husband did that. But she was just calm as a cucumber the whole time. If it was me, I would've stamped on you with my heels!"

Yang Chen giggled embarrassingly. "I just wanted to make sure you were fine as everyone was picking on you."

"Yeah, but that's because the situation was centered around me," Liu Mingyu replied, "Even if I was being falsely accused, I can still keep myself under control. After all, it was for the greater good that I

was sent to the police station. In a way, it was a form of protection for me as well as a chance for me to prove my innocence. Do you really think your wife is a nincompoop? If someone as mediocre as you could notice the problem, what makes you think she hasn't? Under such a circumstance, she could only send me over first, then deploy Attorney Zhang to deal with the legalities. This would prevent the attacks on me from escalating, killing two birds with one stone."

Yang Chen was rather annoyed. He understood that he was little brash, notably those that involving his women. Despite how rapid the growth of his cultivation is, his maturity was still rather synonymous with his age.

Liu Mingyu continued, "That's why don't blame Boss Lin for keeping it from you. You were the one that was trying to pick a fight with her."

Yang Chen pouted as he went straight towards her butt cheeks and gave a prolonged pinch, prompting her to coyly moan before worryingly looking around to make sure no one saw it.

"Alright, you can stop now. You have to leave me with some pride intact. I'm not a saint, so making mistakes is normal." Yang Chen smiled awkwardly. "Ruoxi clearly had some embedded intentions when she told me to come pick you up. But let's just keep it short for now. Now that you're fine, I should take you back to the company. The situation there is worse than ever."

Liu Mingyu understood that the severity of the incident was no joking matter. She hopped into his car and the both of them headed back to Yu Lei's headquarters.

But as he was on his way back, Yang Chen once again received a text message. It was Adeline who was stalking Li Minghe all this while...

Chapter 700 - A Respectable Lifestyle

A Respectable Lifestyle

Yang Chen took a look at it, let out a long sigh, and continued driving.

Liu Mingyu saw part of the message. It was filled to the brim with Italian words. Puzzled, she asked, "Is that a foreign friend of yours?"

Yang Chen smiled vaguely. "I guess you could say that."

"There seems to be something bugging you," Liu Mingyu asked in a concerned tone.

Yang Chen thought for a bit before he said what he had in mind, "Babe, do you think Ruoxi is a brutal and heartless person?"

Liu Mingyu was caught off-guard before she hit Yang Chen incessantly, not knowing how she was supposed to feel. Frustrated, she said, "Why would you ask such a question? And it's even about your wife! I know I'm the third wheel here but don't expect me to talk behind her back!"

Yang Chen forced a smile gloomily. "You misunderstood. I was just casually asking about what you feel about Ruoxi. Not gossip behind her back."

Liu Mingyu gave him the look of despise. She then genuinely thought about her answer before she replied, "If I really have to answer, I feel that... it's true half of the time."

"Hmm?"

Liu Mingyu continued, "Boss Lin is definitely not a weak-minded person, to say the least. Just like the previous crisis over with Goodman in Europe, Boss Lin unhesitatingly drained the swamp. Her actions were surely not for the faint of heart.

"Not to mention the time when she was just promoted to the CEO, I had just joined the company for a little over a year. She unapologetically flushed out highly ranked senior employees that were in opposition through direct and indirect ways. She drove them out from the company despite all the work they had done in the past for the benefit of the company.

"If that wasn't the case, Boss Lin wouldn't have owned more than ninety percent of the company's shares in the past. A large majority of that came from the hands of our former major shareholders, some of whom even had to declare bankruptcy because of her..."

Yang Chen was a little surprised as he smiled bitterly. "No wonder she had such a huge slice of the company all to herself. Turns out she robbed the other investors of their shares. Tsk tsk, it's no wonder that she's made so many enemies along the way."

Liu Mingyu rolled her eyes. "Well, she earned it herself, didn't she? In the business world, a loss is a loss. While many hate her for her merciless personality, they all genuinely revere her competence."

Yang Chen nodded. "Then what about the other half?"

"The other half would be..." Ling Mingyu smiled before she continued, "That any employee who could dedicate their heart and soul for the company will be acknowledged and highly rewarded. Oh yeah, not to mention the charitable contributions made by Yu Lei International have ranked top 3 within the country year after year. Boss Lin didn't want publicize them either, so the media rarely report on it. But we, being in the management, are all aware."

Yang Chen too was aware of this side of hers. After all, Lin Ruoxi would periodically visit orphanages to meet the children. As time went by, it was evident that she did it with full sincerity.

"All in all, I personally feel that with business rivalry and competition aside, Boss Lin truly has a side of her that's genuinely loving and kind. Here's the most obvious of all examples, while Qianni and I have ties with her husband, she has never lost her trust towards either of us. I don't believe that a person like that could mistreat their loved ones, which is why I said she's not always cold and stern." Liu Mingyu chuckled before she mumbled, "Oh please don't tell her about anything I said here. I wouldn't want to risk being fired."

Yang Chen forcefully cracked a smile, but at that moment he felt guilty nonetheless. Liu Mingyu was right. Even for a walking scum like Lin Kun, Lin Ruoxi couldn't bear to watch him die, in certain ways she truly had a heart of gold.

"What if, I want to protect her but in the process hurt someone whom she cares a lot about. What do you think she'd do?" Yang Chen asked casually.

“What do you plan to do?” Liu Mingyu immediately caught the deeper meaning in his question.

“Nothing, it was a hypothetical question.” Yang Chen quickly brushed it off.

Liu Mingyu hesitated for a moment before she continued, “If there really is something, I’d suggest you not to do it. Boss Lin has a headstrong personality. Even if she doesn’t end up hating you, she might need some time before she can move on from it.”

Yang Chen slowly exhaled, unwilling to speak no more.

As sending Liu Mingyu to the office, Yang Chen looked for a secluded corner and made a call to Adeline.

Adeline who had been tailing Li Minghe instantly reported everything she observed, “Your Majesty Pluto, I genuinely apologize but I’m temporarily unable to approach the mansion. Instead of the usual common infantry presence, it would seem like they have a team of special ops personnel guarding the mansion. I would definitely be discovered if I move any closer. But if you need me to disarm these men I would gladly do so. I just need a little bit of time.”

“That’s not necessary, they’re not the enemy. You just need to keep an eye for any movement in and out the mansion. You may call Molin for reinforcements. Make sure any contact between Li Minghe and the outside world be closely monitored,” Yang Chen ordered.

“Noted!”

After he ended the call, Yang Chen was contemplating over his next move. If he were to show up at where Li Minghe was hiding right now, there actually wasn’t much that could be done. After all, the biggest issues were at Yu Lei.

Even though it was possible to pump tens of billions into the investment funds to potentially save the situation, it clearly wasn’t very practical.

The problem was not money, but the image of the company and Lin Ruoxi herself, a move her pride wouldn’t allow her to do.

As long as Li Minghe’s mastermind had yet to appear, Yang Chen was not in a hurry to swoop the net. Even if Yu Lei couldn’t escape this crisis, he had to make sure the perpetrator would pay the price.

Meanwhile in Beijing, compared to the other dominant clans, the Ning clan had the closest ties to the government. Excluding their vacant ancestral home, their residing estates were located by the edge of the government offices. The modern design blended into its office surroundings.

Immediately after getting home from the premier’s office, Ning Guangyao rushed straight to his study room without taking any time to rest.

After hanging his coat, he flipped his laptop open to browse the latest news. At the top of the page was none other than the chaos at Yu Lei International.

Ning Guangyao frowned deeply before he abruptly grabbed his phone by his side and dialed up a number.

The call got connected within a few seconds. The noise of women's scream and loud music could be heard.

As the surroundings were noisy, the man yelled over the phone, "Premier Ning, what brought you to dial me up at this hour I wonder?"

Ning Guangyao was disgusted and distraught as he grunted, "Minister Jin, as a core member of the central government, I strongly recommend you to uphold a respectable lifestyle."

The minister laughed hysterically as he replied, "Oh my mistake, Premier Ning. I just happened to reunite with an old schoolmate. Nevertheless, I'll take your advice in mind!"

Ning Guangyao was visibly in a hurry to pass the message through as he continued, "I just found out this afternoon that something happened in Zhonghai, am I right? Being in the management of the Banking Regulatory Commission, has Minister Jin taken any counter-measures in regards to that, I wonder?"

Minister Kim gave a delayed reply, presumably in the influence of alcohol. "The one you sir are talking about is the crisis over at Yu Lei International right? Oh, that is a huge problem no doubt, but all in all, to maintain healthy competition between businesses, we can only make sure the banks remain neutral."

"Yu Lei is the kingpin among all Zhonghai enterprises. Its survival is undoubtedly intertwined with the economy of Beijing as well! We mustn't let it collapse just like this! Minister Kim, make sure all major banks offer effective support towards the company. I expect you to be active on this matter," Ning Guangyao lectured.

Minister Kim, however, was rather dumbfounded at his decision but nonetheless could sense his urgency on the matter. Thus, he obediently agreed, "Al—alright... Premier Ning has a valid point. I will order my subordinates to arrange financial support for Yu Lei accordingly."

Ning Guangyao aggressively snorted before he resolutely hung up.

As he calmed himself down, Ning Guangyao worryingly trotted in circles around his room before he ultimately stopped.

He silently retrieved his suitcase, and searched through the contents for a yellowed photo, in it was the face of a mesmerizing girl.

Right at this moment, the voice of a woman could be heard from outside the room. "Guangyao, are you in there? I'm coming in now..."