

Chapter 701 - Xi Shi

### Xi Shi

Ning Guangyao quickly stuffed the photo back into the drawer as he replied, "Cuishan, I'm inside."

Luo Cuishan gently pushed the door open with a teacup in hand, before she lovingly smiled at Ning Guangyao and said, "Why are you shutting yourself inside right after work? I bet the past few days must've been hectic for you. Here, I got you some American ginseng tea."

Ning Guangyao was a little touched by her attentiveness, as he received the tea from her. He replied, "You must be pretty well worn yourself. Remember to take care of yourself as well."

Luo Cuishan smiled as she shook her head. Her line of sight however coincidentally peeked on the monitor display. What she saw stunned her.

Ning Guangyao sipped from the cup before he noticed that Luo Cuishan was engrossed on his computer display. He awkwardly shifted the topic as he said, "Oh yeah, is Guodong still unwilling to come back?"

"Yeah." Luo Cuishan turned back to look at him, smiling helplessly. "That kid is in it for the long run. And you too, why do you have to push him that far? Regardless of what he has done, he is still our one and only son. You should give him a chance."

"Huh, a tiny setback and he's this defeated? How then can I expect him to take over the clan? When I was young I had nothing. Everything I have now was the result of my blood, sweat, and tears. The kid managed to get himself an executive position at such a young age. What more does he want? I believe it was my mistake for pampering him this much. He thinks everyone should be awed at his presence. He has to understand that it was his own misjudgment towards the Yang clan that has led to his pitfall," Ning Guangyao said unwaveringly.

Luo Cuishan nodded. "Well, that's undeniable. Since Grandfather's death, while we're still the center of attraction, our power is still all in all very debatable. We can't go head on with the two elders of the Yang and Li clans."

Ning Guangyao sighed as he emphasized, "Taking everything into consideration, you should advise him sparingly to admit to his mistakes. Otherwise, I would have no other choice than to send him to the bottom of the hierarchy to teach him a lesson."

Luo Cuishan was terrified at his proclamation as she probed, "Are you sending him outstation? Others only do that for their résumé. Is—is that even necessary given the status of our clan? Where better to hone his skills than Beijing? Guangyao, you have to think this through. Our son might be naive and brash, but he has never disappointed us when it comes to work!"

Ning Guangyao humphed. He had no intention of arguing with his wife.

Luo Cuishan, filled with uncertainty, mumbled, "You... are concerned about Xue Zijing's daughter, aren't you?"

Ning Guangyao's hand shivered as he barely held onto his teacup, staring at Luo Cuishan in a daze. "Why... are you..."

Lu Cuishan looked disappointed as she replied, “I know you have a history with Xue Zijing back in the days. No surprise there. She later went on to marry into the Lin family and give birth to Lin Ruoxi, and we had our child. From that day forth we had been stable and joyful, which is why I never brought that up.”

Ning Guangyao secretly let out a breath of relief as he diffidently smiled. “Nevertheless, she is the daughter of an old acquaintance. Now that neither of her parents is around, I feel responsible for what happens to her. Not to mention Yu Lei International is the key adhesion to the financial prowess within Beijing. I genuinely wish for them to prevail through.”

A glimpse of discontent flashed through Luo Cuishan’s eyes before she lifted her head. “Seeing how busy you are these days, just put this matter aside. Since I’m coincidentally heading to Zhonghai tomorrow for site inspection, why don’t you let me take this over and mediate connection over there in your stead? I believe it would be better for them if I could assist them physically.”

“Are... you serious?” Ning Guangyao was in slight disbelief.

Luo Cuishan rolled her eyes as she emphasized, “Do you really think I’d hate her daughter just because you had a past with Xue Zijing? The child is innocent. Besides, I am doing this for the wellbeing of our country’s economy.”

Feeling touched, Ning Guangyao stood up and held his wife by the hand. “All these years going through thick and thin, I am so grateful for your presence. But now I finally got to see how compassionate you truly are and it makes me guilty that I’ve never treated you better. To be honest with you, I was expecting you to be infuriated for my care towards the child. But for you to take the initiative to step up and help her is really something else.”

Luo Cuishan shook her head as she gave a sincere smile, “All I have in mind is to support you on the things you do.”

Ning Guangyao lovingly stared at his wife, his pupils gradually becoming watery before he ultimately embraced her with all his might.

Meanwhile, the headquarters of Yu Lei International were well lit. It was deep into midnight, but no one had left the company.

Several off-duty employees took the initiative to return to the office, as they switched positions with the ones at work, providing them with a much-needed break.

In accordance to Lin Ruoxi’s proposed strategy, every 10 minutes, accountants within the company would separately purchase small amounts of the company stocks, while the other departments would play the role in convincing investors to retain trust towards the company.

In the main conference hall, Liu Mingyu and a few other executive officers were discussing other possible methods to remedy the situation. Lin Ruoxi sat right at her commanding seat, attentively observing the constantly updating financial data on display.

Right at that moment, the conference room door was opened. It didn’t take long until everyone noticed the aroma of spices, causing all eyes to be focused on the door.

“Haha, you all have a great sense of smell, don’t you?” Yang Chen held multiple bags of different sizes as he jovially proceeded to leave them on the conference table, directly above some documents.

If it was before the incident, many would have been displeased by Yang Chen’s erratic interruption, but now that he was known as the CEO’s husband, no one would risk picking a bone with him.

“Director Yang, what are these?” A high-ranked executive broke the ice.

Lin Ruoxi, indifferent, shifted her focus over to Yang Chen.

“What else could it be? It’s supper,” Yang Chen replied as he retrieved the food inside the plastic bags. It didn’t take long before the table was placed with mala skewers, fried rice cakes, deep-fried loin and an array of assorted night market snacks.

The employees hadn’t had a proper meal since lunch, and now that it was late at night, the common delicacies that were usually disregarded were now a sight for sore eyes.

But they held back their urges and stared at Lin Ruoxi with intense gazes, waiting for her permission.

“Well don’t look at me, eat.” Lin Ruoxi nodded as she gave permission.

The employees happily went towards the snacks as they each grabbed something before gobbling away.

Yang Chen handed Liu Mingyu a bowl of beef noodles before he grabbed a few sticks of mutton skewers and brought it over to Lin Ruoxi. “Here, open your mouth!”

Lin Ruoxi frowned as she whispered, “Why does Mingyu get to have the beef noodles but I can only have mutton skewers?”

Despite whispering, Liu Mingyu on the near corner heard everything she said as she scanned around the room and noticed that she was undoubtedly the only one with noodles, but she ultimately phased out as she lowered her head, pretending not to notice the anomaly.

Yang Chen chuckled as he brought himself close to Lin Ruoxi’s ears before he said, “Mingyu has her dad to watch after her. It’s not the end of the world if she loses her job at Yu Lei. Her dad can still take good care of her. As for you, when you’re not CEO anymore you will have to come to sell mutton skewers with me. So now would be the best time for you to get used to the flavor. I managed to borrow a stall’s equipment for a bit to grill these myself!”

Lin Ruoxi was embarrassed as she agitatedly stared at him. “Is it very funny? I don’t need time to get used to it!”

Yang Chen shrugged as he taunted, “Well if you’re not eating then I’ll just pass these to Mingyu as well. What a pity, I spent a long time to roast these...”

Lin Ruoxi immediately replied, “Wait! I—I haven’t eaten dinner yet as well.”

“I thought you just said you didn’t need to get used to it? Wifey, how could you change your mind so quickly?” Yang Chen asked innocently.

“Well, that’s what women do. I can fill my stomach with these, can’t I?” Lin Ruoxi did not hesitate as she took them off Yang Chen’s hands and started nibbling away.

The executives binged on the snacks while blabbering with one another. Despite the chaos of the company, they found it refreshing to watch their CEO eat mutton skewers.

Yang Chen meanwhile placed the rest of the mutton skewers in front of Lin Ruoxi. There were at least twenty of them. Turning around, he said to the others, "Nobody's allowed to take any of my wife's mutton skewers! If I catch you, I'll kick you off the building!"

"Huh? Understood!"

The executives present were stupefied by his remark, but they ultimately agreed in unison. After all, it wasn't as if anyone would fight with their CEO for food.

Lin Ruoxi lifted her leg and lightly kicked Yang Chen on the calf. Her face was as red as a tomato, visibly embarrassed by Yang Chen's actions.

Yang Chen was proudly giggling, with no sign of embarrassment as he went ahead and tidied up the plastic bags, ready to leave the room.

Lin Ruoxi asked, "Are you going over to Qianni's?"

Yang Chen halted his footsteps and replied with a smirk on his face, "My wife is indeed smart."

"Hmph." Lin Ruoxi was not having it. "How considerate of you."

Yang Chen sighed, "Well it cannot be helped, I'm a busy man, after Qianni I still have to deliver to An Xin too."

"An Xin?" This time even Liu Mingyu was in all ears, as she wiped on her lips dripped with beef noodle broth. "An Xin is still here?"

"Of course," Yang Chen continued with a smug. "If not for her, I couldn't have gone out to buy supper. This is what I call teamwork."

"Well, it sounds to me that you're just finding an excuse to laze about." Lin Ruoxi agitatedly bit the meat off the stick, disgusted to even look at this thick-skinned brat any longer.

Right at this moment, Yang Chen shifted his course and dashed towards Lin Ruoxi, before bending down and giving her a tight smooch on the face.

That sound instantly caught everybody's attention in the room.

Lin Ruoxi was stupefied as she caressed the side of her face which got damp as a result. She nearly suffocated from the sudden public affection.

Yang Chen winked as he declared, "Whatever it is, just relax. No matter the outcome, I will be there to bear it."

Lin Ruoxi dreamily gawked at her husband, before she finally caught on to her senses and nodded.

"Fret not! In the legends, there's Xi Shi the femme fatale, whose beauty brought the nation to prosperity. You can always be the Xi Shi to my mutton skewer stand!" Yang Chen proudly announced while beating his chest.

Just a while ago she was touched by his words, but now she felt nothing but annoyance. "Get out!"

Yang Chen instantly darted out of the conference room, while at the same time boastfully waving goodbye to the executives present, which prompted them to all roll their eyes.

Lin Mingyu tried her best not to break into laughter as she continued slurping on the noodles. She then remembered something. "Boss Lin, if I remember correctly, there will be three major land auctions tomorrow over at Zhangzhou. We were previously keen on bidding. But now that our cards are on the table, should we proceed as planned?"

Lin Ruoxi, upon hearing information regarding business, instantly transformed back to her stern and stoical self. "Of course we'll continue. But this time I'll delegate someone else in your stead, I need you around to lead the public relations department."

"But Boss Lin, I don't think that's appropriate." Another executive interrupted their discussion. "Our share price has dropped for thirty percent already! If we proceed with the auction of such astronomical amounts, especially when our opponents are all on offense, aren't we basically committing suicide?"

"Yeah, Boss Lin, it'll only lead us to a point of no return!"

Lin Ruoxi was visibly unhappy as she replied, "I'm deeply aware of the consequences, but if we turn it down we'd basically be declaring to the world that we're defeated. Our employees would completely lose their confidence too."

Hearing her reasoning, they found it rather reasonable. It is most terrifying should one lose their spirit to battle.

At this moment, a temporary assistant came running into the conference room as he hurriedly said, "Boss Lin, devastating news. A few of our major shareholders are threatening to change the CEO, or they'll sell their shares at filthy-low prices!"

Chapter 702 - Eat Something

### **Eat Something**

Everyone present in the room was taken aback by the sudden revelation of this news.

"At such a critical moment, why would anyone want to change the CEO?"

"Sigh... they've bought our shares for hundreds of millions. Now that the value has fallen for thirty plus percent, they've easily lost tens of millions! It's normal that they're getting anxious."

Lin Ruoxi stoically replied to that assistant, "Notify them that they can sell their shares if they want. There's nothing they can do to make me succumb to their whims and fancies."

The assistant was terrified as he put up a face of dejection. "Boss Lin, are we really going against them head on?"

"Yeah, unless you want me to resign instead?"

One of the executives decided to voice his opinion. "Boss Lin, why don't you let me negotiate with them? If they toss out all thirty percent of our company's stocks that they possess, we would be virtually destroyed."

Lin Ruoxi sneered, "Let them do what they will. Just do as I say. They bought the stocks at double the current price. What makes you think that they would just throw them all away?"

The executives eyed one another as they could only sigh in disappointment, hoping that the CEO's decision was right. Above all, the CEO herself was the largest shareholder of the company.

The one that was most at risk was the CEO herself. What more could they say?

The night slipped through the hectic schedules and a restless rollercoaster of events.

The sun eventually took its place high in the sky, warm and uplifting in contrast to the atmosphere in Yu Lei.

In the mansion by the coast on the second floor, the curtains were gradually opened as rays of sunlight sipped in. The warmth that followed was paired with a gentle fragrance in the air.

On the king-sized bed, under the fluffy white blankets was the fatigue-ridden Wu Yue as she forced her eyes open.

As she gazed around her surroundings, she mended her puffy hair before lifting her body into a seated position.

After the ruckus from last night, she eventually succumbed to fatigue as she dozed off, only to find herself awake on the bed.

At this moment, the bedroom door was pushed open. Li Minghe came in with both hands holding onto a tray. On it was little plates of diced vegetables and a bowl of white porridge as the aroma engulfed the room.

As he came towards Wu Yue's side of the bed. Li Minghe gently assented with a smile, "Oh did I wake you? I'm not exactly a good cook but I made you something to eat. You haven't eaten since last night so I thought this porridge would do the trick. Have some."

Wu Yue stared at the well-prepared breakfast, and the warm smile on Li Minghe's face as she mumbled, "If you don't let me go, I'd rather starve."

Li Minghe's smile instantly became forced as he held on to his rage, trying his best to mediate the situation in the most composed way possible. "Yue'er, you know I can't do that. The safest place for you to be is right here. I'm very sure they would have figured out that I was the culprit behind the leak. If you return, you'll be arrested as an accomplice. I won't let that happen to you. I'll promise you, once the tides die down you can go anywhere you want."

Wu Yue forced her head away from him. "Get out, I'm not eating."

"You have to." Li Minghe raised his voice with his teeth clenched. "Think about the child in your belly. Even if you don't want to, you can't let our child starve, can you?"

Wu Yue trembled as tears gathered around her pupils, visibly emotional.

Li Minghe gave a long sigh. "No matter what happens between us, the child is innocent."

Wu Yue turned back towards him with conflicted emotions...

Li Minghe saw that Wu Yue was not resisting. He grabbed the ladle and scooped some porridge, filling it into a bowl. Blowing it a little, he delivered the porridge to Wu Yue's mouth. "I'll feed you. Just take it as a plea of mine. Please eat something, will you?"

Wu Yue placed her quivering hand on her belly as she took a deep, long breath before ultimately opening her mouth to eat.

Amidst the closing of the stock market, the employees of Yu Lei International finally got their well-deserved break. Many went back to rest while some had other commitments to uphold.

As for Lin Ruoxi, she was forcefully brought home by Yang Chen.

After all, she had gone a full day without any proper rest, in spite of the stressful nature of her position. Other employees might have others to cover for them, but she was all on her own.

Hence, despite her defiance towards Yang Chen taking her home, she almost immediately dozed off upon getting into the car.

They eventually reached home. Yang Chen held her hand and led the drowsy Lin Ruoxi into the house.

Wang Ma and Guo Xuehua who were worried all night were awaiting their return in the living room. Zhenxiu, on the other hand, was out in preparation for her finals.

"Oh my, why do you look so pale?" Guo Xuehua went up to Lin Ruoxi and held her hand tight as she distressingly questioned. "Go and catch up on your sleep. Oh my, no matter the situation over at the company, you still have to prioritize your health!"

Wang Ma meanwhile was teary-eyed, unable to speak.

Lin Ruoxi forced a smile. "Mother, Wang Ma, I'm fine. I'll go up now."

Guo Xuehua nodded and instantaneously ordered Yang Chen, "Send her up. She can't even walk straight now. Don't let her fall!"

"I might as well help her shower too." Yang Chen cracked a joke shamelessly.

"Little punk! It's not the time to joke around now." Guo Xuehua pinched her son on the arm before she anxiously pushed him to quickly accompany Lin Ruoxi upstairs.

Yang Chen might be joking, but the chilling gaze from the fatigue-ridden Lin Ruoxi still managed to terrify him.

As they went hand in hand to her room, Yang Chen noticed the jasmine fragrance in the air, causing him to lick his lips.

If he didn't cherish this opportunity, who knows when the next would arise.

As he assisted her onto the bed, Yang Chen stayed back as he sat right next to Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi remained alert as she half-whispered, "What... do you want?"

Yang Chen smiled faintly. "Don't overthink it. I won't do anything to you when you're this drained out. I always keep the woman's cooperation during the process in mind."

Lin Ruoxi was already dozing off, which prompted a reply that paled in comparison to her usual rebukes. "Well then go out, I need to sleep."

Yang Chen remained silent as he held onto Lin Ruoxi's supple palm before channeling a stream of True Yuan into her body...

Lin Ruoxi felt rather confused when the warmth entered her body when an invigorating flow of vitality engulfed every corner of her body.

Gradually, she felt her vision sharpen and her fatigue leave her body.

Lin Ruoxi instantly noticed the peculiarity with the scenario. He had this trick in his sleeve the whole time, which was exactly what she felt when he cured her poisoning.

"You... If you could let me recover so quickly, why didn't you do so just now in the office?!" Lin Ruoxi asked, displeased.

Yang Chen let go of her hand before he sneered, "If I did that at the company you wouldn't have come home, would you?"

"Do you know how many things were put on hold at the company? Do you think it's the right time to come home?!" Lin Ruoxi furiously frowned.

Yang Chen unwaveringly replied, "Even so you still need to come back. Look at how worried Wang Ma and Mom were about you. The media have been filled with news concerning Yu Lei's crisis. Do you know how distressed they must've been?"

Lin Ruoxi zoned out for a moment before she proclaimed, "Now that I'm refreshed and rejuvenated, and both of them have seen me, can I go back now?"

Yang Chen smiled mysteriously and asked, "Do you really want to go back?"

Lin Ruoxi was skeptical but nonetheless nodded. "Yes. I'll just drive myself if you're not free. You're not going to be doing much at the company anyway."

"No that is not going to happen." Yang Chen stood up and said, "I'll drive you drive. And we'll stop to get some food while we're at it."

Lin Ruoxi noticed the weird expression in his eyes but couldn't quite decipher what he was having in mind, which prompted her to ultimately nod in agreement. At a time of crisis, it was in her instincts to have someone that she could lean on for support.

Although Wang Ma and Guo Xuehua were surprised that Lin Ruoxi came downstairs energetically, they didn't ask much nor did they stop her from leaving. All they did was inform Yang Chen to look after her.



In the car on the front passenger seat, Lin Ruoxi found it weirder the more she thought about it, so she tested the waters. “You’re just taking me out for a ride, aren’t you? You hadn’t intended to let me rest since the start. Otherwise, there was no reason for you to rejuvenate me so soon right after reaching home.”

Yang Chen sinisterly grinned. “That’s not important. This trip I am taking you on is to prove my theory that certain people in the company have ulterior motives.”

Lin Ruoxi was dumbfounded before Yang Chen abruptly took a turn and went off the highway onto an unpaved road.

“Why are you taking this route? If you want food, you could’ve gone to the town...”

Before Lin Ruoxi finished speaking, a huge cargo truck that had been tailing them all this while instantly accelerated as the sounds of its bulky parts were clearly heard by them both!

Like a beast of steel, the truck went exuded a terrifying aura as it sped forward. In the blink of an eye, it was inches away from crushing the Bentley in front!

Lin Ruoxi was unable to react—she was stupefied!

Meanwhile, the bright-red Bentley under Yang Chen’s control instantly picked up in speed as well!

Before the truck managed to accelerate earlier, Yang Chen had ingeniously switched the gears to manual conduct, which he then lowered, in anticipation for this sudden acceleration!

The cargo truck was within millimeters of contact but that ultimately was as close as it got.

Yang Chen snorted disdainfully as he drove out the highway and instantaneously took a sharp, 180-degree turn before coming to a stop by the side of the road!

Chapter 703 - Backup Plans

### **Backup Plans**

The overwhelming inertia of the cargo truck made it unable to stop on time, which resulted in it tumbling several feet before flipping over the rail.

Thum! Thum! Thum!

After a series of loud thuds, the truck was firmly planted into the mud by the road. The yellow dust that was stirred up had left the drivers passing by in a daze.

Lin Ruoxi was still trembling from the incident. She witnessed the close encounter with the cargo truck before its eventual demise but was however not too excited about the turn of events. She quickly calmed herself down and turned towards Yang Chen who exhibited his satisfaction with the outcome with a grin. “You knew somebody was going after me, didn’t you?”

Yang Chen pouted and replied, “That wasn’t just to harm you. It was also partially aimed at me. Their original plan was to finish you off by poison. But you were immediately discharged which undoubtedly thwarted their plans. They couldn’t find a decent opportunity for execution, which was why we were unscathed on the trip from the hospital back to the company.

“Now that our enemies have reorganized their game plan, they knew it would leave traces behind if they conducted the plans over at the headquarters, which was why it seemed like a golden opportunity when we diverted our route to a more remote location.”

“You mean the both of us?” Lin Ruoxi was connecting the dots. “Killing me was something that I foresaw. After all, Li Minghe’s grand plan was to see my demise. But my concern is how you have been roped into this with me. What did you do to gain his hatred?”

Yang Chen had a change in emotion before he cracked a smile. “Who knows. Maybe it was to prevent remandments once and for all.”

Lin Ruoxi was however unconvinced but decided to stop asking questions. She coyly pouted and said, “So that’s why you insisted on fetching me to the headquarters. You knew it since the start but you didn’t even bother to tell me. I know you wouldn’t find it perplexing just from an amateur scheme like this one. But would it kill you to give me a heads up?”

Yang Chen kept his silence as he started the engine and went on the road, before he solemnly asked, “Ruoxi, do you hate Li Minghe now?”

Lin Ruoxi was dumbfounded as she stared at Yang Chen, curious about his sudden change in tone.

“Not to that level, but definitely not one I’d favor. After all, I’m not even sure why he went through so much trouble to see me fail. And to see me lose my life...”

Yang Chen frowned as he continued, “He has already come so close to murdering you on multiple occasions but you still don’t hate him? In my opinion, he deserves to die.”

Lin Ruoxi sighed. “I know you are worried about me. But I somehow still believe in the rule of law. If we slaughter him in cold blood for his attempted murders, wouldn’t that make us just like him?”

“How are you still talking about justice and the rule of law when that imbecile had continuously plotted to see you dead?!” Yang Chen was not having any of it.

Lin Ruoxi bit on her lip and replied, “I’m not like you. I can watch my rivals in business lose over and over again, or even watch them go bankrupt in the process. But taking lives is something that I cannot do, regardless of how indirect my involvement is. I’m just a businesswoman. I can’t soak my hands in blood. I know I sound all sappy right now, and you can be impatient with me, but I just can’t do it.”

Yang Chen gave a bitter smile as he shook his head. “Both are women. But if this were to happen to Rose, she would’ve sent a legion of men to make sure his head was on a silver platter, with or without me. Hehe...”

Lin Ruoxi glared at him. “Don’t you dare to use Rose to trigger me. I will not deal with this the way she would. If you’re that great, why isn’t Li Minghe behind bars yet?”

Yang Chen sighed and answered, “If he is still alive, placing him anywhere doesn’t really matter all that much. You must understand that it would be a better plan to set the trap and lure in the big fish. Look, don’t worry about this. Your safety is my responsibility.”

The couple once again fell back into silence as both were left with nothing to say.

As they approached an alleyway lined with eateries, Yang Chen went down from the car and bought Lin Ruoxi a box of glutinous rice balls.

As she stared at the box of her favorite snack in her hands, she shifted her gaze to the grumpy man by her side. She mumbled, “Yang Chen... do you think I’m a useless person? Always bossy... always a burden to you?”

Yang Chen smiled casually. “Stop overthinking this. If you can bear with a thick-skinned playboy as your husband then I surely can appreciate the fact that my wife is overtly gracious towards certain matters. After all isn’t that what marriage is all about? Respect and acceptance of one another, am I right?”

A faint yet bright smile cracked on Lin Ruoxi’s mesmerizing face before she nodded...

It was afternoon. In a fitting pantsuit, filled with elegance and grace was Luo Cuishan. Accompanied by several personal assistance, she entered the conference room of a certain building in Zhonghai’s central business district.

The executives of several major banks who had been waiting for a while instantly stood up and gave their salutations. They were all honored by the presence of the premier’s wife, not to mention her role as a highly ranked minister as well.

Luo Cuishan casually shook their hands, and each took a seat before she went straight to the point. “How are things going regarding the incident at Yu Lei International?”

A grizzled old executive replied with a smile, “Thanks for asking, Madam Luo. Yu Lei International’s share price has fallen below the threshold of thirty-five percent. Their situation is not a favorable one, for the leaked information was a nail to the coffin for the corporation.”

Luo Cuishan solemnly proclaimed, “To all executives present, with your ample experience in the field of finance, I would like to inquire, in regards to Yu Lei International’s current crisis, what is the likelihood of them staying afloat?”

“Sigh...” An executive said, “No offense, but anyone with slight knowledge about the sector would be aware that at their current pace. Yu Lei’s share price will very likely fall more than fifty percent. At that point, only the heavens would be able to save them. Under my calculations, unless they possess 40 billion in reserves and are willing to invest it all into the stock market, there is nearly zero chance of a turnaround. But nevertheless, if they really had that amount they would have already taken the shot, which says a lot about their current condition.”

The other executives all agreed in unison. Even if they agreed to provide financial support, it was only a matter of time that Yu Lei International went bankrupt.

Luo Cuishan appeared conflicted as she declared, “If that is the case, I would suggest everyone present to refrain from needlessly conducting the so-called investments.”

Everyone present was stupefied by her remark. They exchanged glances with each other, unknowing what to expect.

Skeptical, the elderly executive asked, “Chief Luo, you’ve come today to talk to us about helping Yu Lei International, haven’t you? But why...”

Luo Cuishan solemnly explained, "The premier himself is mostly in Beijing, thus his lack of familiarity this region. He's just concerned about large businesses in this country. In spite of that, from all of your professional advice, I believe it is very much unwise should we provide financial aid to a failing corporation. Since it was I who have given the order, the consequences will fall into my hands instead of yours. But to maintain the reputation of my husband, I would like to plead for everyone here to keep it a secret from him. You will all lend a hand, won't you?"

The executives within the room felt the uneasiness resonated throughout the venue.

"Well, since Chief Luo has made the decision, I believe it is only right for us to obey. By avoiding unnecessary investments, we will henceforth void all financial support towards Yu Lei International..."

All the other executives unanimously agreed.

Luo Cuishan gave a smile of relief as she announced, "Well, once again thank you all for coming. The duration of my visit here is limited so I will have to skip the lunch event. But I'll ensure you all that my next visit will be with the premier and the drinks will be on us!"

The ones present instantaneously stood up and bowed as Luo Cuishan left the office with no sign of obstruction.

After leaving the conference room and entering the elevator, Luo Cuishan instantly kept her fake smile. She ordered one of the assistants by her tail, "About the thing I told you to prepare, is it ready?"

The assistant instantly replied, "Yes ma'am, it is ready and the information is all neat and organized. It shall be delivered to the hands of Lin Ruoxi upon your request."

Luo Cuishan praised her and asked, "Is that idiot still loyal?"

The personal assistant gave a sinister grin. "Yes, ma'am. He is still at the mansion with the woman he previously manipulated."

"This is the final leg. Make sure all arrangements including the ones abroad are in place. Just to be safe, the backup plans must not go wrong as well," Luo Cuishan ordered.

"Yes!"

Right at that moment, the elevator bell rang as they arrived at the ground floor.

A calm and polite smile once again graced the face of Luo Cuishan before she proudly came out of the elevator.

Chapter 704 - Best Attribute

### **Best Attribute**

Meanwhile at a beachside mansion on a sunny afternoon, Li Minghe was seated on the couch closely following the news about Yu Lei's condition while gloomily listening to a phone call.

"The set-up was perfect, yet you dared to tell me that you weren't able to get your hands on them. Are they gods? How then are they able to predict your every move?!" Li Minghe gritted his teeth in fury while demanding for an answer.

"I deeply apologize Mr Li. Our team have never met someone like Mr Yang in our whole lives. He seems to control a team of men by his side to nullify anything disadvantageous towards him. However, he has never once initiated a counterattack against our forces. This seems slightly odd given his capabilities." The man across the line was discontented.

Li Minghe winced his eyes as he continued, "If that's the case, don't conduct anything brash at the moment. Backup is on the way."

"Thank you, Mr Li, for your generosity!"

"Hmph," he said before ending the call.

He then stood up and looked out the mansion gate. "Yue'er, where do you think you're going?"

Standing by the gate was Wu Yue, who was close in sneaking out the mansion.

Panicked, Wu Yue stared back at him as she bit her lip. She quickly flung the door open and made a mad dash for the gate.

But before she managed to get to the gate, two heavily armed men immediately sprung up from nowhere to escort her back to the house.

Wu Yue retreated back into the house as she slammed the door shut. Still trembling from the incident, she asked, "Li Minghe, are you trying to imprison me against my will?"

Li Minghe went towards Wu Yue and gently caressed her face. "You are now the mother of my future child. I will make sure to treat you well. Right now the situation outside of where we are is a little unstable. I need you to be by my side, so I can protect you."

Wu Yue aggressively rebuked, "I'm sick of you giving me appalling excuses. You called for the assassination of Boss Lin and her husband, didn't you? I won't let you do that, I'm telling her!"

Li Minghe shook his head as he smiled. "Yue'er, you must really be so naive to think that the two of them had no idea it was me who sent people to murder them. They knew it was me all along, but so what? It doesn't matter if they die or not. Once the company goes bankrupt, Lin Ruoxi will have to abandon her position as CEO. By hook or by crook, Yu Lei International will fall into my hands."

"Why would it be you? You're just an outsider. Even if she resigns, the position is not going to you!"

"Outsider? Haha, it's about time I revealed my true identity." Li Minghe pinched Wu Yue by the chin. "Lin Ruoxi is nothing but a child born out of wedlock. She has had her fair share of the limelight, which is already generous given her accidental existence. I will make you see what kind of person she really is. The CEO you respect and love."

Before Wu Yue could continue, Li Minghe muffled her mouth with his hand.

"Stop it. Anger is bad for the baby." Li Minghe held her in his arm as he escorted her inside. "Come, I'll take you upstairs. You should get some rest. I got someone to prepare some food for you. I will do my best in making a healthy meal for this pregnant woman in my arms. All I need you to do is to not worry about things you shouldn't even be worrying about."

Wu Yue was distressed but she ultimately couldn't resist. She eventually did exactly as her man made her do.

After he sent Wu Yue back into her room, Li Minghe went downstairs and heard the main door open.

His soul froze at the instance as he cautiously stared at the uninvited guest, before feeling an inconceivable sense of relief. With a hint of false laughter, he welcomed the guest in.

"May I ask the purpose of your visit, ma'am?" Li Minghe greeted as he walked forward.

In an elegant and graceful attire, Li Minghe was visited by none other than Luo Cuishan.

Luo Cuishan glanced around the interior setting of the mansion. "By staying here I believe you are free from the troubles this has caused you."

Li Minghe hurriedly followed up. "Thank you for your care, and all the protection that you offered."

"If you really want to repay my goodwill then make sure there aren't any loose ends hanging around. I hope that the time I spent nurturing you will not go to waste." Luo Cuishan side-eyed that man as she strolled around the living room. "I put faith in you because I know you are a more enlightened man than your father was, if you know what I mean."

Li Minghe saw a change in expression. "I have never once doubted you, ma'am. I've always hated Lin Ruoxi. That has been my sole motive since day one. I will not disappoint you."

Luo Cuishan turned around as she ridiculed, "You know what I respect most about you?"

Li Minghe shook his head.

"Your hypocrisy." Luo Cuishan sneered, "You really think I'd believe that you don't hate me? I'm aware if given the opportunity you wouldn't hesitate to put me six feet under. But do you know what your best attribute is? You have a strong perspective towards superficial achievements, and you would risk everything to obtain those. Your morality means nothing in front of money and power, isn't that right?"

Li Minghe's facial expression went stiff as he forced an atrociously ingenuine smile. "You are absolutely right."

"Haha," Luo Cuishan sinisterly chuckled. "So how's the situation over at Yu Lei at the moment?"

Li Minghe quickly organized his emotions as he solemnly answered, "Lin Ruoxi appears to be confident in Yu Lei's abilities to pull through. There were a few land auctions that were held over at Zhangzhou, and Yu Lei participated as usual. With their plans exposed to the world, even the media know that they are only digging a bigger hole for themselves. Not only will they lose the biddings on all the land bids, but it would also be the final straw of confidence among the shareholders. When the stock market opens tonight it will conclusively be the collapse of Yu Lei International."

"And how did the planned assassination go?"

Li Minghe unwillingly replied, "Yang Chen was a much more complicated opponent than expected. All attempts have failed so far."

Luo Cuishan was visibly displeased. "Even though we couldn't conclude on Yang Chen's detailed background, based on what we know, that fellow is extremely well off. Otherwise, the old crack over at the Yang clan would never have to treasure him the way he does right now. It was however rather unfortunate that we never managed to encrypt information from the Li clan. I am genuinely intrigued as to where this rascal popped up from."

"If we continue this streak we..." Li Minghe was seemingly worried as he stared at Luo Cuishan.

Luo Cuishan unwaveringly taunted, "What is the matter? Once Yu Lei falls, her faithful associates would abandon her in a heartbeat. You, with my support and the government's participation, would ensure her continuous demise. With your qualifications, you are more than capable of taking her place. With some slight adjustments to the company's structure, Yu Lei would return to its former glory in no more than two years."

Li Minghe excitedly replied, "I will give my all."

"Just a little treat got you this excited. What a pathetic excuse of a human being." Luo Cuishan disdainfully glanced at him before turning away. "Stripping her off her prized possession Yu Lei is just the first step. Xue Zijing's daughter... there's still more to come."

Li Minghe sneakily lifted his head to Luo Cuishan's back, terrified by her ominous words.

That evening, as the New York Stock Exchange opened, Yu Lei's share price unsurprisingly experienced an uncompromising drop.

Over at Yu Lei's headquarters in Zhonghai, the employees witnessed the huge amounts of company stocks thrown out at despicable prices on the monitors. This made them even more terrified than they already were.

In the conference room, other than Yang Chen who was seemingly invisible as he napped on a row of chairs, Mo Qianni, Liu Mingyu, and the other executives were on edge as they were worried for the future of the company given the recent price drops.

If that were to go on, even if the financial reserves within the company could sustain the corporation for a short duration, any collaborating company would evade Yu Lei at all costs. They will be detached from all stages of manufacturing, from materials to development, in which point the company would be disconnected from all sectors of production.

"Boss Lin, our major shareholders are making their moves now. Our current stock value has plummeted to only forty percent of its original price," the executive of the accounting department dispiritedly proclaimed.

"It was all because of those bastard executives from the major banks who made a vow to provide financial aid canceled at the eleventh hour. They cited moronic reasons like a shortage of money. They were clearly just adding fuel to the fire!"

Lin Ruoxi that was at her commanding seat had yet to utter a single word since, as she ignored the heated discussions and went straight to her mobile phone on the table to dial a certain number.

"Start now..."

Lin Ruoxi stoically dropped those words like none of that mattered.

The executives in the conference room glanced at one another, trying to figure out the exact meaning of her words.

The young leader that had headed the company all this while was like the snow caps, cold, heartless, stoic. Whether it was the personal space she held dearly or her quiet and reserved personality, it prompted most to even avoid staring her directly in the eye.

But at desperate times involving the fate of the company, the executives were unable to withhold their emotions.

“Boss Lin, you cannot hesitate any longer. No matter the outcome, we have to fight until the end. Only then can we declare bankruptcy. If we remain still we might be able to sustain our stocks but we will stand no chance against the joint bombardment of our competitors!”

“Now it’s obvious that nobody is buying our stocks, there’s no way we can save the situation!”

“Or we can abandon some of our less-profitable assets and focus on pushing our main sectors to catch up on lost time. Only then can we start looking at other viable options at sustaining the business.”

Right at that moment, Mo Qianni who was silent all this while pointed at the monitor screen, “All of you stop. Look at this.”

The restless executives stared towards the stock market display board, only to witness an event of extraordinary circumstances.

Chapter 705 - Speckless

### **Speckless**

“What happened? Weren’t the stocks just dumped at low prices moments ago?”

“It appears that we have an anonymous buyer.”

On the display was the rapid purchase of Yu Lei’s stocks. Stocks were bought in bulk and separately, instantly after they were dumped.

This rapid fire of acquisition caught everyone present off-guard. Who in the right mind would splurge on a failing business?

Liu Mingyu meanwhile seemed to have noticed something as she turned to Lin Ruoxi before asking, “Is this the result of your phone call?”

The board was intrigued as everyone turned towards her, awaiting an explanation. Even if it was her who had ordered the purchase, what good would that do for the company?

Lin Ruoxi went straight to the point. “I made the Athena team acquire all the stocks on the market as fast as possible”



“But Boss Lin, even if you are willing to spend billions to purchase all the available stocks, it’s not going to make any difference given the rapid depreciation of their value,” a high-ranked employee distraughtly explained. The others were still in silent contemplation of a possible explanation for her actions.

Yang Chen who was still lying on a row of chairs, opened one eye to check up on the situation before resuming his nap.

Lin Ruoxi, however, did not explicitly explain the reasoning behind her actions. Instead, she reached towards an envelope by her side and withdrew a thin document copy. She then tossed it towards the center of the conference table.

Liu Mingyu noticed something peculiar about the document. “Is that a notice for successful bidding?”

“A successful bid? For which segment?” A few executives gathered around the document as they flipped through its contents, which prompted faces of astonishment among them.

One of them stared the notice, unwilling to believe his eyes. “Boss Lin, did we win the bids for the three plots of land over at Zhangzhou today?!”

“Are you illiterate? Read it!” another executive yelled, unable to hold back his excitement.

“Am I seeing it right? Is this real? Is that actually the notice from today?”

“Can’t you differentiate legitimate documents from a fake? You’ve got to be joking.”

“But the brutal truth was that our bidding strategies were already out there. There’s no way our competitors would’ve given up on such an opportunity.”

The executives were more confused than ever by the revelation.

Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu stared towards the stone-cold Lin Ruoxi, equally in doubt as they shared a gaze before seemingly understanding the reason nearly in unison.

Yang Chen opened his eyelids as he silently gazed at the cool and calm woman by the opposite side of the room. The expression in his eyes was unreadable.

Lin Ruoxi eventually broke her silence as she gave an order to Liu Mingyu. “Mingyu, I need you to publicize the news of our successful bid on every network. After doing so, retrieve all the documents from my safe. The code is exactly the same as yours. Go now.”

Liu Mingyu remained silent as she instantly stood up and went straight to fulfill the orders.

... ..

Ten minutes later, Li Minghe allowed Wu Yue to come downstairs only after Luo Cuishan left. Currently, Wu Yue was filled with rage and hatred but she ultimately sat down with him as they focused upon the breaking news.

Li Minghe held onto his wine glass as he taunted, “Look at Lin Ruoxi. She’s desperately trying to salvage the situation by purchasing back her stocks. Tsk, how pathetic.”

Wu Yue was anxious the whole time this was going on. She wanted to believe in Lin Ruoxi and her capabilities to rebound. But it would seem like all hope was lost this time around.

Right at that moment, the financial news host was seen receiving breaking news. Yu Lei International won the biddings of three mega locations at Zhangzhou.

Attached on the display were the details of the notice regarding the winning bid. With confirmation from the auction organizer, it appeared that Yu Lei International had indeed won the final biddings for all three plots.

The news left Li Minghe in shock. He was aware of the significance of the auction to Yu Lei's plans. But the real puzzle for him was figuring out how Yu Lei had managed to win the auction despite their plans being out in the open.

A glimpse of hope appeared on Wu Yue's face. It was the first good news Yu Lei International had had in two days!

Before the tides were settled, another wave of breaking news quickly followed through. Yu Lei International would hold an emergency press conference with the aim of clarifying that the leak was, in fact, fake news!

After the news was released, it came as a shock to Zhonghai and the rest of the world watching.

Fake news? That evidently genuine information that was leaked all this while turned out to be fake? How was that possible?

The wine glass slipped from Li Minghe's hands as it fell straight on the carpet. His facial expressions went stiff as he failed to utter a single word.

The phone rang right at that instant. The dumbfounded man went ahead to pick it up, only to be greeted with rants and curses from Luo Cuishan.

"What's happening, you bloody idiot?!"

Li Minghe clenched on his chest as his breathing became irregularly hasty. "Please calm down Ma'am. I am convinced that Lin Ruoxi is just putting on a show for the public. All the documents were accumulated month after month. It is not possible for everything to have been faked."

"You better be right. I'm still here in Zhonghai, you better make sure I'm in a decent mood before I return to Beijing."

Luo Cuishan furiously hung up on Li Minghe. His hands trembled uncontrollably before letting the phone slip through the cracks of his fingers.

Minutes before that, Liu Mingyu, accompanied by a few assistants, came back to the conference room with a heap of documents and brought them to the conference table.

Liu Mingyu's face was covered with excitement as she nodded at Lin Ruoxi. "Boss Lin, everything you requested for is here."

“Good.” Lin Ruoxi took her time as she stood up and declared to everyone present, “Here are all the original documents of the allegedly stolen information. Please, take a look.”

The executives glanced at one another, unsure if they misheard her words. *“The original documents? Does that mean... the stolen ones were all fake?”*

Some of them brought themselves towards the files and started having a look. It did not take long before they were all left stupefied.

“These are the real blueprints of the material purchases. When was this signed?”

“Over here are the same documents, but these are the budget estimation for the next month. It is slightly different than the ones leaked...”

“The European and American regional headquarters too. They contrast with the one that we discussed the last meeting.”

As they filtered through the files one by one, it was certain that the documents exhibited were the actual blueprints and strategies for the second half of the year. Even though certain parts of the document were actually leaked, most of the private and confidential ones were still wholly intact. Any immediate improvisation might be less secure, but nonetheless could be mended and utilized with minimal repercussions.

Lin Ruoxi, however, contrasted starkly with the rest in the room as she stoically gave a set of instructions to Mo Qianni. “Qianni, go inform the mass media that we will hold a press conference later today to clarify that our core confidential business information for the second half of the year is still largely intact.”

Mo Qianni eventually recovered from the astonishment she felt. She was certain that this time they were up for an ultimate rebound despite her feelings for the past two days.

“I’m not too convinced with my ability to handle the media so I need you to go in my place. As the company’s representative and vice president, you are more than worthy to stand in my place.” Lin Ruoxi gave her clear orders.

“Understood.” Mo Qianni instantly hopped on her feet and rushed out of the room.

Lin Ruoxi subsequently faced Liu Mingyu and the remaining executives. “I know all of you must be burning with questions in regards to how I pulled it off. It will all be explained in due time. I will need all of you to return to your departments and update your employees on our current situation. When proceeding with your operations, refer to the proposals here and act accordingly. Mingyu, take note. Pay extra attention to our international branches, major business partners, and significant collaborators. Make sure that we explain to them well. If required, give them some benefits to calm them down.”

The masses were wholeheartedly impressed with the woman on the reins as she solemnly distributed their individual roles. Even those in the business for decades were left amazed by her leadership prowess.

They might not have connected the dots on when and how Lin Ruoxi had formulated these strategies, but under current circumstances, it was a conversation best saved for later.

As the executives gradually left the conference room with their departmental documents, the noise progressively faded away.

At that moment, Yang Chen who had largely been ignored finally got up from the chairs and leisurely made his way towards Lin Ruoxi. He then climbed onto the conference table and sat right on it before he asked, "When did it start?"

Lin Ruoxi avoided his gaze as she kept her silence for a while. She then cleared her throat. "That's not important. What's crucial is that we've made it through safe and sound."

"Of course it is, I ought to know. You tricked everyone, even me."

Lin Ruoxi lifted her head with a tinge of frustration. "Do not talk to me with that tone. I never planned to fool anyone. I've only been doing my job."

"Oopsy. I am truly amazed at your acting Ms Lin. You should've been nominated for the Oscars. Anyway, when was this speckless setup put into position? I just want to fulfill my curiosity, that's all. Is that fine, my magnificent wife?" Yang Chen drawled.

Chapter 706 - Unfamiliarity

### **Unfamiliarity**

Lin Ruoxi bit her lip gently as she glanced over at Yang Chen. She then said, "I've made preparations ever since Li Minghe started to pursue Wu Yue."

Yang Chen was stunned. He knew Lin Ruoxi liked to have contingency plans. But he never expected for her preparations to be so thorough. How much planning must've been undertaken to be able to devise such an ingenious plan?!

"Why?" Yang Chen frowned as he said, "Li Minghe was handpicked by Li Muhua into Yu Lei International. What about him has set you off?"

"I went through Li Minghe's background prior to this job. He was born and raised in America before moving over to Hong Kong to join Muyun Corporation. However, just a few short years after that, they sent him over to handle such a significant collaboration between both our corporations. Turns out Li Muhua didn't agree to that move, but it was a clear majority of shareholders that sanctioned the act. This prompted Li Muhua to accept him against his personal will in the thought of keeping the major shareholders pleased. That's why I kept my guard up the whole time.

"Furthermore, despite his position in the company, he has had no interest in any other woman except Wu Yue. It is noteworthy to say that he has eventually developed genuine feelings for her, but generally speaking, a man born and raised in the States would not have been that romantically inclined towards the frail and skinny Wu Yue."

Yang Chen smirked upon her statement and interrupted, "Wow, the way you describe your assistant is depressing to say the least. But then again it doesn't correlate with you predicting that he would be stealing confidential information."

Lin Ruoxi smirked ever so slightly. "I never actually guessed that theft would be a problem for us."

“Then why would you have alternate strategy proposals?” Yang Chen was even more perplexed at her rationale.

Lin Ruoxi teasingly answered, “Why do you think I’m paying tens of millions yearly to keep the Athena team? They don’t just assist me on financial matters, do they?”

Yang Chen was dumbfounded. “Wait, what you’re trying to say is that you have already involved the Athena team in all your strategy planning since the beginning? And you made them make two versions?”

“Two is an understatement.” Lin Ruoxi’s pupils brightened as she continued, “To be honest with you, every single time I let Wu Yue make a copy of confidential information, I would modify certain vital sections of the documents. I carry out the same practice with everyone else, which means every copy Mingyu or any other departmental executives have would be modified or generally wrong. Unless anyone decides to check the document word for word, no one would be aware of its legitimacy but me.

“Everyone in the company is required to bring their copy over to my office for evaluation and review before submission or implementation. It has been a mandatory regulation since my inauguration. Every time a copy is to be submitted to me, I will redirect it back to the original version. If anyone were to refer to the documents, they would be looking at false information.”

Yang Chen was deeply confounded. *No wonder she seems to have a never-ending workload on her hands. Does she even rest?*

In other words, that would mean all major decisions made within the company, besides Lin Ruoxi herself at the helm, no other person would know the true direction of the company!

Lin Ruoxi seemed to have found joy from Yang Chen’s response. She continued, “You should understand by now, that the information Li Minghe stole from us had all been modified by me. This means that even in the absence of the Athena team, the leak would not have done much damage to the company anyway. After all, what good would fake news be to my competitors?

“The only reason I had exposed the Athena team’s proposals, was to ensure that everyone in the company was convinced that I have been honest to them.”

After her speech, Yang Chen stared blankly at that gorgeous, mesmerizing smile, while his mind flickered between blank and overloaded.

He recalled the incidents that had recently occurred in sequence when Lin Ruoxi ordered the accounting department to sparingly purchase the company stocks, to her reaction towards the threats of the major shareholders. Followed by the intentional exclusion of the auction bidding from Mo Qianni and the other executives. And her desperate decisions of remaining in command from the headquarters. All that just to fabricate a scenario of weakness and defeat, and ultimately directed the plot towards her goal.

A feeling of distance and unfamiliarity subconsciously rose in Yang Chen’s mind. The woman before him was closer to a stranger than family.

Approximately an hour after the revelation, Yu Lei International’s press conference was held with enthusiastic responses from the media.

Mo Qianni announced according to the orders of Lin Ruoxi, as she briefly went through the summary of the company's direction for the second half of the year, before giving the most relevant example of their circumstances.

The media and the critics were left in a commotion. None of them had predicted that the leaked documents were in fact fake.

And in accordance with the Athena team's strategy planning, every department resumed back on course. As the roles and responsibilities were allocated, the suspicion from external perspectives instantly dissipated.

The series of shocking revelations left the entire Zhonghai in a daze.

Far away in the United States, with the reputation of Yu Lei International cleared from rumors and invalidation, the market stocks experienced an unprecedented soar in prices.

Furthermore, what devastated their direct competitors was that they overwhelmingly believed the leaked strategies to be true, and based their plans on that, which eventually led to substantial losses in their part.

As a result, the gap between them and Yu Lei International had been cracked wide open. The companies who decided to play it underhanded suffered the most while the ones who refrained weren't significantly affected.

As for many of the major shareholders of Yu Lei International, they could not resist smashing their heads through the walls after severe losses from their brash actions of dumping the stocks at substantially lower prices. All they could do was watch helplessly as the stocks returned into the hands of Lin Ruoxi.

Meanwhile, the stocks were flipped multiple times the original value, moments away from exceeding its previous record. It was predicted that their share price would reach new heights.

Consequently, Lin Ruoxi raked in thirty-five percent of the total market share at low prices, while at the same time rocketing herself to an additional thirty percent in net worth. She was now holding ninety percent of the company's ownership.

The media, reporters, economists, entrepreneurs, and all other professions within the sector across the globe were in full acknowledgment of this event. It was an impeccable act of counter-infiltration that triumphs even the likes of blockbuster movies.

The young female entrepreneur who had led her company to cruise through two seemingly inevitable demises only to achieve new heights had now once again displayed the unthinkable.

Even the likes of Times magazine had nominated Lin Ruoxi as a potential Top 3 among the 'People of the Year'.

But like every good story, there is a loser for every winner.

Over at the beachside mansion, with all channels on the television in all praise for the brilliant mind of Lin Ruoxi, was Li Minghe pale and devastated.

"That's impossible. It's not possible..."

Li Minghe wobbled as he stood, ultimately losing his footing as he kneeled on the ground.

Crawling towards the television, his eyes were wide open as if he had suffered from extreme shock.

Wu Yue who was filled with hatred softened at the sight of her man. She embraced him as if he was dead. She was still in tears as she comforted him by saying, "Minghe, don't do this. It's going to be fine. You're frightening me..."

Li Minghe stiffly turned to his back and abruptly grabbed her by the arms before violently shaking her as he ranted, "It's not! And you know it! Were you even watching the whole situation unfold? That bitch has been using me since the beginning! She used me as a tool to rake in more money for herself and left me with literally nothing!"

Wu Yue wept as she shook her head but ultimately remained silent.

"Stop crying! All you ever do is to cry! You must be the reason she found out my motive, you stupid woman!"

As he yelled, his mind was succumbed by rage, causing him to slap her hard on the cheek!

Wu Yue was flung to a corner as she held on tightly to her consciousness. Her face was swollen red as she wailed even louder than before.

After that violent slap, he seemed to have gotten a grip on his actions. He suddenly remembered that the woman he mistreated was bearing his child, which prompted him to panic.

Li Minghe ran towards her and held her in his arms, his voice trembled as he realized his misconduct. "Yue'er... I'm so sorry. I—I didn't mean to hurt you. I..."

Li Minghe couldn't seem to phrase his words correctly as his mind went blank.

Bang!

The door was slammed open by a dominating force.

Luo Cuishan, with a handbag hung by her shoulder, came crashing in as her heels clicked into the house. She was visibly enraged.

After she barged in, all she saw was the couple cuddled together on the couch, which further infuriated her. "Bloody idiot, I would compare you to a swine but I would just be praising you that way. At such a time like this one, you're here weeping with that woman. Take a look at what've you become, you pathetic idiot!"

Li Minghe sluggishly stared up with his soulless eyes, before he broke into haunting laughter. "Haha... you're absolutely right. I am an idiot, there's no denying that."

Luo Cuishan's lips twitched as killing intent surfaced in her eyes. "Well, look at you. I guess the world could do with one less idiot running around."

As she spoke, she drew out a silver pistol and aimed right at Li Minghe's brains.

Li Minghe was finally aware of the situation he was in. His pupils enlarged at the sight of the endless gun chamber.

A little more than ten minutes ago, in Lin Ruoxi's office, Yang Chen accompanied her to the couch as they watched the live broadcast of the ongoing press conference.

The reporters' bombardment of questions, paired with the absence of Lin Ruoxi on site kept the majority of reporters planted at their seats.

On Lin Ruoxi's lap was the box of glutinous rice balls that Yang Chen had bought that noon. It was left unopened until now. Only when the incident pretty much settled itself could she eat in peace.

Yang Chen meanwhile was slightly frustrated as he kept his silence. The ambiance in the office was rather awkward.

Right then, Yang Chen's phone started ringing. When he picked up the call, it was Adeline on the opposite end of the line.

"Your Majesty Pluto, Madam Luo has stopped by the mansion twice. It would seem like the condition is pretty much clear now. Should we take action?"

Yang Chen sneaked a peek on Lin Ruoxi by his side, before he replied in Italian, "Stay put for now. I think it is about time I intervene."

"Okay."

As he hung up, he informed Lin Ruoxi what he was about to do. "I need to go out for a bit. Don't wait for my return."

Lin Ruoxi stopped chewing as she put the glutinous balls aside, with unclear enunciation she mumbled, "I know you're going to meet Li Minghe. Leave him to the police if possible. If Wu Yue is there, please don't mistreat her. She has no affiliations to the plot whatsoever."

Yang Chen replied, "You sure you have no intention of tagging along?"

Lin Ruoxi shook her head and answered, "I trust you. You've promised me that you wouldn't kill at will. As for the others, I don't really mind."

Yang Chen relaxedly smiled before pinching one of the glutinous balls from her takeaway box, stuffing it into his own mouth, and going towards the exit.

Lin Ruoxi frustratedly watched her husband go. She then looked back into her box before pouting dejectedly.

About a minute later, someone knocked on the door of her office. "Boss Lin, there's a parcel for you."

Shocked, Lin Ruoxi hurriedly hid the box of rice balls under a pillow before she straightened her posture and responded, "Bring it in."

An anxious temporary assistant came in and brought the folder right in front of her, before instantly making her way out the room.



## Chapter 707 - Clutching at Straws

### Clutching at Straws

After the assistant shut the door of her office, Lin Ruoxi made sure there was no one else outside before she carefully took her takeaway box of glutinous rice balls out. She started to munch on one as she tore open the envelope.

Receiving an envelope like this one was nothing new for her at this point. Being the head of a huge corporation, there were many people trying to get their voices heard.

Lin Ruoxi opened it as a pastime before withdrawing a thick stack of information from within.

She frowned while scanning through the cover page. It was a personal information booklet, one that had recorded an individual's noteworthy moments of their lives since young.

As Lin Ruoxi flipped to the first page, an old photo caught her attention and made her facial expressions flicker back and forth. Right in the center of the picture were a man and a woman.

She was caught in a spectrum of thoughts and was only brought back to the present when the rice ball she had in her mouth hit the carpet.

Lin Ruoxi had an array of conflicting emotions as she held her hand over her rapidly beating heart. Her lips turned pale as her previous moment of serenity had instantly dissipated.

With her trembling right hand, she managed to bring herself onto the next page.

In the spacious office, the woman sat alone on the fluffy couch as she felt into a series of haunting flashbacks.

Meanwhile, in the living room of the beachside mansion, the environment was tense.

"Ahh!"

Wu Yue who was still in Li Minghe's embrace quickly reacted towards the gun pointed at the both of them. Due to her feeble physical capabilities and the mental stress she had experienced for the past few days, she immediately passed out after her scream.

That deafening scream, however, acted as a wakeup call for the dejected Li Minghe. His pupils were fixated upon the gun by his forehead as his heartbeat galloped.

"Please don't kill me, I beg you..."

Li Minghe curled his head in a defeated position, with no priority given to the woman fainted in his embrace, staring at Luo Cuishan in shock and hysteria.

He had not given up just yet, but he was fully aware that he stood no chance against her. So he instinctively surrendered in self-preservation.

Luo Cuishan pulled out the safety pin of the pistol as she sneered, "You're just a worthless pile of shit. You were destined to crash and burn. I gave you the opportunity of a lifetime to succeed, but you

instead became Lin Ruoxi's stepping stone. Since you must wish you were dead, I wouldn't mind assisting you one last time. After all, what is the world really going to lose?"

She played with the trigger while taunting him with her words. The only reason she had yet to shoot was that she enjoyed the desperation in his eyes.

However, Li Minghe seemed to have thought of something as he yelled, "Wait, I have something to say!"

Li Minghe whilst yelling let go of Wu Yue as he kneeled in front of Luo Cuishan. He could not have degraded himself any lower than this.

Disgusted, Luo Cuishan taunted, "Are you trying to buy time? Do you think anyone would save you?"

"No." Li Minghe lifted his head as he anxiously replied, "I know a secret, one that can leave the Yang clan in ruins. It will tear them down with no mercy. I'm offering it to you in return for my life!"

Luo Cuishan seemed to be interested in the cards he was about the play. "Oh, is that so? Now how would you expect to convince me to accept it? I know the Yang clan's capabilities far better than the likes of you. Don't challenge my patience."

"Don't you worry, you know too ma'am, that my great-grandfather was once a trusty general under the Yang clan's predecessor Yang Ye. I once peeked into his memoirs and discovered a staggering revelation about the Yang clan. It was so significant that my great-grandfather made sure I carried it to my grave. He even went to the extent of burning his memoir, once again proving how significant this secret is."

Luo Cuishan seemed to be in consideration. She then said, "Alright if there really is something of worth, spit it out now. In exchange, I promise to keep you alive. But the condition is that you have to tell me right here right now. Or else, I'll take it as your final play to waste my time and end you right here."

Li Minghe was deeply conflicted until he saw that stern gaze from Luo Cuishan before he gulped and gave in. "Alright, I'll tell you. But only because I believe a noble person like you would keep your promise."

Upon finishing his sentence, Li Minghe stood up and brought himself by her ear as he rambled.

Even when they were the only ones in the villa, excluding Wu Yue who was still passed out, Li Minghe nonetheless acted cautiously, in hopes that Luo Cuishan would value himself more.

After she heard all he had to say, a glimpse of excitement flashed through her stoic face.

"You swear that it is the truth?" Luo Cuishan squinted her eyes.

Li Minghe rigorously nodded. "Given your means, it shouldn't be too difficult to prove the validity of that statement. All you need is to track down the old maids of the Yang clan, or the soldiers led by Marshal Yang Ye during his time. I'm sure some of them are still alive. You can even pay his previous opponents a visit. You'll certainly find clues!

"Besides, now that the technology is so advanced, looking for Marshal Yang Ye's remains and making some tests shouldn't be too difficult..."

Luo Cuishan glanced at Li Minghe before she let out a charming smile. "Li Minghe... oops my bad, it's Xue Minghe from now on. You really are a cunning one, aren't you? When the day comes that the Yang clan loses its place among the four dominant clans, I will surely reward you nicely."

Excited, Xue Minghe replied, "No no, all I want is for you to leave me with a backup route. That's all I need, I can live like a pet to you ma'am!"

"Oh no, that's not fair for someone who has just exposed a phenomenal revelation, isn't it?" Luo Cuishan took two steps back before she turned and offered, "Say, what would you like as a reward?"

Xue Minghe hesitated a little and looked at Wu Yue who was still unconscious. Softly, he demanded, "Can you send the both of us off to America? She now bears my child. I just wish for us to settle down in the States. For now, all I need is to disappear..."

"Oh, this woman has your child?" Luo Cuishan strangely glanced over at Wu Yue. "Have you given up on taking everything off your cousin sister? The things you always thought you deserved?"

Xue Minghe clenched his teeth and replied, "She's not my cousin. She's just a daughter of that wrench born out of wedlock. I am who I am today because those bitches made me this way. Right now I want to hide from the storm. Once the child is born, I will return to claim what is rightfully mine."

"Hahaha..."

Luo Cuishan screeched as she laughed, "Xue Minghe, you truly are the carbon copy of your father, a loser. At least your father realized how useless he was, which prompted him to make his way out. But you, always so boastful, with your ability you are absolutely no match to that little wrench and Yang Chen!"

Upon finishing, Luo Cuishan once again lifted her gun and pointed it right at Xue Minghe.

Xue Minghe collapsed as he wept. "You... you promised didn't you? You told me you would let me go."

Luo Cuishan sneered, "Your naivety alone has already put you inferior to your cousin. Even a child would know that the sheep are worthless in the eyes of a wolf."

Xue Minghe could only stare as Luo Cuishan pulled the trigger.

Bang!

The sound of a deafening blast came from the doors of the mansion being shattered open!

Amidst the darkness of the night, a silhouette with both hands in his pocket leisurely strolled into the mansion.

The 'guest of honor' was none other than the man teleported from Yu Lei International just a moment ago. It was Yang Chen!

Since the villa was located within urban grounds, Yang Chen could track it down in a blink of an eye. But since most of the villas in the area were roughly similar in their layout and looks, it was down to Yang Chen to make an individual search.

As soon as he found Luo Cuishan and Xue Minghe, Yang Chen instantly came down towards the entrance of the beachside mansion, maimed the guards patrolling around it, and slammed down the door down with a kick.

“Just in time.” Yang Chen side-glanced Wu Yue on the ground, before looking over at the grumpy Luo Cuishan, and eventually over the stupefied Xue Minghe. He then let out a small chuckle. “Oh the premier’s wife, you seem to be really busy these days. I just met you in Beijing recently and now you’re here babbling in Zhonghai. Why are you always doing things that piss me off? Is it because you think that I won’t kill you?”

Chapter 708 - Stubbornness

### **Stubbornness**

Luo Cuishan watched as Yang Chen broke in the mansion. She, however, was not too surprised as she seemed to have anticipated his arrival. “Oh look who’s already here. You’ve found this place much earlier than I expected.”

Xue Minghe was instantly relieved now that Luo Cuishan wasn’t threatening his life. He quickly scrambled to a corner to observe the turn of events.

Yang Chen brought himself to the center of the living room, as he stoically stared at Xue Minghe. “What makes you think hiding in a corner will absolve you from all liability? Stand up. I promised Ruoxi that I wouldn’t take your life for now, but I want you to go to the police station and turn yourself in.”

Xue Minghe despised the idea that Lin Ruoxi was forgiving him as he grunted, “Hmph! I don’t need that woman’s sympathy! She is just as wicked as her mother! Kill me if you must. I will not live by the so-called grace of my enemy!”

“I thought you were begging and pleading like a pet towards this woman just a moment ago.” Yang Chen frowned. “You’d rather die than to accept her sympathy. How deep exactly is your hatred towards her?”

Xue Minghe sneered loudly before he turned towards the far corner with an unyielding display of resolution.

Luo Cuishan had been listening to their conversation. At this point, she laughed sinisterly. “It seems that you aren’t too sure about what had happened back then. Are you really unaware of what your mother-in-law Xue Zijing did?”

“What do you mean?” Yang Chen was stone-faced. His lack of knowledge about the incident years ago was the reason he hadn’t taken action there yet.

Sea Eagles, despite having an international intelligence network, had to spend quite some effort to uncover the fact that Li Minghe was actually from the Xue family who had moved from Beijing to America back then. However, much of Xue Minghe’s background, including his work and the official amendment of his name, were all overseen by a mysterious party. It was kept so securely that no mere person would be able to access the information. All Yang Chen knew was that Xue Minghe and Lin Ruoxi were actually cousins, and that the Xue family were supported by the Yang clan’s former clan master Yang Ye.

Luo Cuishan played around with the handle of the pistol, exhibiting the fact she was an adept shooter despite being an elegant woman involved in politics.

“Since the situation has gotten to this extent, I don’t mind filling in the gaps in your knowledge. Do what you will with this information.” Luo Cuishan leisurely sat on the couch and crossed her legs. “Are you aware of the true founder of Yu Lei International?”

Yang Chen was not expecting an opening of this manner. “Are you saying that it wasn’t Ruoxi’s grandmother who had founded the corporation after she returned from her studies abroad?”

Luo Cuishan shook her finger as she replied, “Nope.”

All of a sudden, Xue Minghe who was still shriveled up in the corner yelled with agony, “Yu Lei International belongs to us from the Xue family!!!”

Yang Chen was caught off-guard for a slight moment, but he soon recalled that it was Wang Ma who had explained the background of Yu Lei International to him. According to Wang Ma, in an attempt to gain influence and protect Lin Kun, the Old CEO took advantage of Lin Zhiguo’s power to grow the company. But if that was the case, wouldn’t it mean that Wang Ma lied?

Luo Cuishan smirked as she continued, “No one would publicly announce their tainted past, especially when it’s something that the public wouldn’t be informed of...”

Gradually, Luo Cuishan went into narrative mode as she cracked open a series of events that was kept from the world since the previous generation...

Decades ago, the Xue family was just like every other family. Nothing stood out about them amongst the others in Beijing. But their eldest son became a close affiliate to Marshal Yang Ye of the Yang clan. And for his stellar performances in defending against the Japanese and American armies, he was highly valued among his ranks. As a result, he gained unyielding support by the Yang clan and had gradually improved in reputation and fame over time.

Nonetheless, the Xue family ultimately chose to halt any progress within the military sector, which aligned with Marshal Yang Ye’s belief that saturation of his close allies would attract unwanted attention and scrutiny towards the Yang clan.

Henceforth, the Xue family began developing businesses in regions outside Beijing while keeping a low profile. Yu Lei International, which was based in Zhonghai, was without a doubt their biggest success.

And Lin Ruoxi’s grandmother, with her intellectual prowess from studying abroad and the business relationship between her clan and Yu Lei International, soon started working for the company.

With her impressive business mentality, she quickly rose up the ranks and soon became the CEO’s right hand. There she became close with the previous CEO, Xue Zijing’s mother.

The outreach and development of the Xue family initially progressed smoothly as planned, until the untimely death of Marshal Yang Ye did everything go south. His successor as the clan master was Yang Gongming, and as a result of his strive for political power, many families and clans dependent on the Yang clan lived a tough life.

It was around this time, however, that Xue Zijing of the Xue family and the playboy-esque Ning Guangyao from the Ning clan fell madly in love and decided to elope once and for all.

However, since the Xue family held no influence, along with their exclusion from military politics, it did not take long before the Ning clan discovered this scandal.

The Ning clan wanted Ning Guangyao to marry a noble, and if anything less of members from the four dominant clans, only the ones from the upper class. They were namely the Lin's, Luo's, Zeng's, and Yan's. These were the only clans who were worthy of a bond to their clan. Thus, Luo Cuishan of the Luo clan, who was Ning Guangyao's schoolmate became the perfect candidate.

Luo Cuishan was raised with elegance and grace, along with her sensibility in the realm of politics. This would rapidly improve Ning Guangyao's progress through the ranks. The Ning clan was not willing to let go of such an opportunity.

And fortunately for them, Luo Cuishan was willing to marry Ning Guangyao for all he was worth. Luo Cuishan was young and confident, and in her eyes, she believed that any relationship would water down through the tides of time.

Despite his resistance, the trials and pressure put on Ning Guangyao's already-heavy back soon made him succumb to the decision.

A choice between an ordinary woman and the candidacy of being among the leaders of China, being affiliated with the noblest of families, being surrounded by fame and fortune aplenty. It was such a clear decision it would be damned if Ning Guangyao would choose the prior, in which his relationship unsurprisingly stood in the way.

And when the day came for the wedding arrangement to be announced to the masses, the Xue family's presence in Beijing naturally stood out like a sore thumb.

There was no doubt that every clan in Beijing was aware that Ning Guangyao's true love was for the Xue family's daughter. If the scandal continued to circulate, it would devastate his bright future.

Furthermore, the Luo clan were wary that their daughter would have to deal with the aftermath of her husband's ill-fated relationship, knowing that if Ning Guangyao was to meet Xue Zijing in secret, they were unable to do anything to him.

So it was obvious that only when the Xue family left Beijing, or even from China would it be most appropriate!

The Xue family had only one allegiance to back them up, which was the failing Yang clan. But finding themselves in a dire situation, it went without saying that they had received no support. Under such strenuous circumstances, they were unwillingly forced out of Beijing almost immediately. To add salt to the wound, the Luo clan's elders made sure all of the Xue family's resources were detained within the country in a faithful attempt to diminish them once and for all.

But despite all that, Xue Zijing was headstrong about her decision to stay in the country. She would rather have died than left the country and her love.

And under such unjustifiable circumstances, Lin Zhiguo, with an attempt to push his lover to higher ranks, discussed several inequitable terms with the Xue family which resulted in them leaving the last of their wealth, Yu Lei International, into the hands of Lin Ruoxi's grandmother.

Lin Ruoxi's grandmother already had close ties with the Xue family, so much so that external sources presumed that they were of the same extended family. In addition her outstanding capabilities, the company managed to progress smoothly for many years to come.

However, one of the crucial conditions for Xue family to hand over the rights of Yu Lei was to ensure that their only daughter would live in China safe and sound, one that was insisted upon by the former head of the Xue family.

Despite the fact that they were one extended family, the huge majority of the Xue family despised Xue Zijing for her stubborn and selfish antics. It resulted in them shunning her from all family relations. Despite all that, however, the former master of the family insisted on defending his own daughter.

This was why Lin Ruoxi's grandmother and Lin Zhiguo decided to send Xue Zijing off to marry the bastard son of Lin Zhiguo, Lin Kun. This act would remove her from all the drama in Beijing and ensure her safety, providing her a chance for a decent living in Zhonghai for a while longer.

... ..

Upon the shocking revelation, Yang Chen felt the tremor that had led to a ripple effect within him.

From Luo Cuishan's tone, Yang Chen could feel the immense hatred she had towards the woman Ning Guangyao loved, Xue Zijing.

Nonetheless, it unraveled the dubiety that had been loitering in Yang Chen's mind all this while.

Back then when Xue Zijing had been staying in Beijing, why would she suddenly up and marry Lin Kun in Zhonghai? That was certainly not something foreseeable, not to mention the Old CEO's senseless decision. There was no reason for her to go all the way to Beijing in search of the lone Xue Zijing to become her daughter-in-law!

Furthermore, the outstanding growth of Yu Lei International much exceeded the reputation of the Old CEO's family. It would not have made sense for her to have such an enormous budget to start with. It all made sense if the Xue clan were the ones who had laid the foundation.

It was understandable that Lin Ruoxi and her mother Xue Zijing had no ties with the Xue clan who had moved abroad entirely. It was clear how that would not have sat well with most within the clan.

Nevertheless, it truly amused Yang Chen the personality of his mother-in-law Xue Zijing, one that would sacrifice the world for a man that would eventually leave her. The stubbornness, for better or for worse, was evident in her daughter Lin Ruoxi too.

Chapter 709 - I Beg You

### **I Beg You**

Back then when Wang Ma narrated the story, there were a few key parts to the story that even she was unsure about—things like how the Old CEO had discovered Xue Zijing.

Those were dark times for members of any major clans. And so, it was kept a secret deep underground by both the Ning and Luo clans.

Yang Chen took a deep breath as he smiled bitterly. Slowly but surely, decades upon decades of events started to reveal themselves, leaving him in a constant dumbfounded state.

Xue Minghe was filled with fury and hatred as he clenched his teeth. "I guess you finally found out that Yu Lei International belongs to us! It belongs to the Xue clan! It was that betraying woman that cost us our clan, Yu Lei, and everything else! Your clan chose not to step up when we needed you the most. Not to mention that the Lin clan was adding fuel to the fire with that daylight robbery. I will bring this strife to my grave! Lin Ruoxi is a bitch like her mother. Even hell would be too merciful for them!"

Yang Chen raised his eyebrows, as he stoically replied, "There is still one thing, however, that confuses me. You're aware that it was the Ning and Luo clans that forced your clan to a dead-end along with all the misery that came along with it, and yet you're here loyal to this woman to plot against your own cousin."

Xue Minghe was instantly left speechless as he turned away from Yang Chen, only replying with a snort.

Luo Cuishan meanwhile chuckled and replied, "Well I can safely say that I was not involved in the desperate plottings and schemes but it was instead the elders within our clans. Blame me if you wish. Besides, if it wasn't for me, this idiot would have already been dead in a prison cell over at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania a long time ago."

Yang Chen quickly took a glance at Xue Minghe, which at the mention reminded him of the documents he had read through. It did mention about Xue Minghe's felony past, but it was shrouded with plot holes. Ever since his release, Xue Minghe's life took a complete U-turn, from his name change to Li Minghe and his transfer into Muyun Group in Hong Kong.

Xue Minghe upon hearing the mention of the prison instantly went pale as he was sweltering in cold sweat, seemingly recalling dark times in distant memory.

Luo Cuishan saw that Yang Chen appeared slightly disjointed as she boastfully taunted, "Well it looks like I did a pretty great job keeping these events secret all these years. Speaking of which, aren't you curious about what happened that year?"

Before Yang Chen could speak, Luo Cuishan put her finger by her lips as she taunted, "Shh... let me explain."

... ..

Upon their expulsion from the country, due to insufficient funds within the Xue clan, in addition to the series of unfortunate events, the clan was led to its inevitable fragmentation.

Distant relatives parted ways to chart their own path. Ultimately, only a few loyal members stayed by the clan leader's side.

In a foreign land with extremely limited funds, they decided to settle down on the suburbs of Philadelphia's Chinatown. With the little savings they had, they started small businesses, modest eateries, and in hard labor.



A clan once amassing wealth and assets aplenty, had to settle for scraps to survive amongst the trenches of society!

Xue Minghe was still young and immature when they went from riches to rags, which caused him to build and fester on the hatred that he had carried on all these years.

A few years went by before they finally found their place in society, but it was nowhere near where they once were.

Many within the Xue clan soon lost contact with one another, and their settlement in America solidified their presence in one's mind only as a forgotten past.

Xue Minghe was brought up in that environment as his urge for revenge grew.

During his high school years, he was surrounded by people who were mostly uninterested in studies, spending most of their time loitering, drug dealing, and involving in robbery and prostitution.

However, Xue Minghe knew that for him to make his way back to the upper class, education was an important stepping stone to take back everything that was rightfully his.

However, during his time in high school, he was accused as a drug dealer by a lot of his schoolmates at once!

That had ruined Xue Minghe's entire life! He was subsequently arrested, and due to the modest financial condition of his family, they could only watch as he was innocently sent to a juvenile rehabilitation center.

Those months in prison were constant torture to Xue Minghe's mind, body, and soul!

His earnest and nerdy appearance did not help him against the violent criminals who resided with him.

In a prison without a female presence, a young and fresh adolescent was easily the target of choice as their preferred pastime.

Xue Minghe's life was flipped upside down as he lived in what could be referred to as 'hell on earth'.

And after months of physical and mental abuse, someone was willing to pay his ransom in full. That person was none other than Luo Cuishan!

Luo Cuishan was thorough and always a few steps ahead. All these years she followed the Xue clan closely, in part to make sure they could never bounce back, while at the same time carefully monitoring as they stumbled in the trenches of society.

When she was assured that the Xue clan's chapter in her life was put to an end, she discovered that her husband Ning Guangyao had been assisting Lin Ruoxi in all her drawbacks right under her nose!

That unexpected discovery added to her unfathomable hatred towards Xue Zijing's daughter!

It was then that Luo Cuishan recalled Xue Minghe was in a cell, which prompted her to wonder, what if she decided to pick a youth from the dirt and offer him a chance to fulfill his vengeance. How far would he go for revenge?

As he was also blood-related to Lin Ruoxi as cousins, if they were to be in deep confrontation, Lin Ruoxi would suffer mentally regardless if she won or lost!

As a result, Xue Minghe was subsequently freed, and under the assistance and funding of Luo Cuishan, cleared his accusations, enrolled in an elite school and was officially lifted back into the fringes of nobility. He adopted a new last name as he made his return to China by his recruitment into Muyun Group in Hong Kong.

What Luo Cuishan initially had in mind was for Xue Minghe to progress through the ranks within Muyun Group before competing with Lin Ruoxi as business competitors. Never would she have thought that a golden opportunity would fall right into her hands—Muyun Group had put in a request to send an employee to Yu Lei International!

With her role as the clanswoman of the Ning clan and a member the Luo clan, she played her cards under the table to allow for Xue Minghe's transfer to Yu Lei. Li Muhua, Muyun Group's chairman, was not too concerned about that. After all, it was not a transfer of significant importance.

As Luo Cuishan blissfully narrated Xue Minghe's backstory, Yang Chen was focused, keeping his silence.

Luo Cuishan might have hidden most of her true intentions from the narration, but Yang Chen figured out that she was on a certain degree acting in retaliation to her husband's actions, the target, however, unfortunately, was Xue Zijing and her clan.

Xue Minghe was still engulfed by the harrowing flashbacks induced by Luo Cuishan's narration, notably his time served in prison, as he was visibly pale and petrified.

For a decent man, that was undoubtedly a suicidal experience that would traumatize one for a lifetime. If not for the burning hatred fueling his fire, Xue Minghe would not have lasted until this day.

He knew clear and well that Luo Cuishan was using him as a tool for her master plan. He was also aware that her family spearheaded the downfall of his family. But now that he was gifted with a quick exit from that living hell, he could only obey as she wished, and to first retrieve Yu Lei International.

The schemes ultimately went sideways when Lin Ruoxi used him as a jump board from the events that he initiated.

"What a pity, I was expecting a family feud with the result of them ending each other off." Luo Cuishan sighed as she stood up. "Alright, I told you everything I need to say. It was my fault to have even the slightest expectations for this dimwit. Now that the cat is out of the bag, I'm going to take my leave. As for that idiot, you can do whatever you want with him. He has served his only purpose in life."

Luo Cuishan ended with a smirk and headed towards the door.

Yang Chen that was quiet all this while, stretched out his leg and tapped ever so slightly on the plywood right in front of Luo Cuishan.

Crick! Crack!

A chain of loud shattering sounds were heard as the pinewood tiles appeared to be blown from within, a crack of a meter wide emerged out of thin air!

Luo Cuishan abruptly halted her footsteps as her expressions changed ever so slightly. “What? You aren’t actually thinking of killing me, are you? Need I remind you, I am the clanswoman of the Ning clan and the first lady of the country? Our clan alone is leagues ahead of the Zeng clan that you decimated. If you so much as touch me, I will make sure the entire China would be on for your head!”

Yang Chen stoically emphasized, “What I am contemplating right now is not if whether you’ll die, but how you die. As for the consequences, well I do believe you will have a hard time communicating it from six feet under.”

Luo Cuishan felt a crippling chill as she was aware then, that Yang Chen was in no way joking!

And right that moment, she instantly drew out her handgun and aimed right at Yang Chen’s brains. Despite being just inches away from him, her hands were trembling in terror!

“Do you think I’m afraid of you? Do you really think I have not thought this through? I warn you, you’d best be double checking with that little bitch Lin Ruoxi.” Luo Cuishan gave a sinister laugh.

Yang Chen felt an unsettling premonition. “What did you do to her?”

Before he could finish, his phone started vibrating.

Yang Chen ignored the gun pointed at his face as he checked his phone, only to see that it was indeed Lin Ruoxi!

Luo Cuishan’s smirk grew broader as she knew she had the upper hand.

“Is everything alright?” Yang Chen picked up the call.

On the opposite side of the line was Lin Ruoxi in a faint and stuttering tone, with hints indicating that she had been crying. “Yang Chen... please... don’t hurt her.”

Yang Chen was confused as he lowered his voice. “I’ve got no idea what you’re talking about, I know exactly how to handle this.”

“No!” Lin Ruoxi was at the verge of breaking down as she pleaded, “I know who you’re facing right now, she’s sent me all of it. All of the documents... just... I beg you, please don’t hurt her...”

Chapter 710 - To Tell You The Truth

### **To Tell You The Truth**

Beg?!

Yang Chen’s mind went into overdrive. The distress in Lin Ruoxi’s voice was clear despite the static call. It made his stomach knot up and uneasy.

To this day, he could count on one hand the number of times Lin Ruoxi was submissive. Yet here she was, breaking down over Luo Cuishan and desperately begging Yang Chen not to take any action despite everything Luo Cuishan had done.

When Lin Ruoxi didn’t hear his answer, she said with added distress, “The family that she kidnapped in the States, the Xue clan, include my uncle and his family. If anything happens to her, they’ll die.” She

sobbed and continued, "My mom and I owe his family too much as of now. I can't sit here and watch idly as they die for me."

Yang Chen's heart was burning with turmoil, seeing the typically upbeat and cheerful Ruoxi's being reduced to such a pitiful state, and even his eyes were red-rimmed.

Despite Lin Ruoxi's pained voice sounding out through the call, he still felt an unknown force winding up all his rage into a tight ball in his chest, making it impossible for him to release his pent-up fury.

Luo Cuishan casually packed her things into her handbag and twirled some stray curls of her hair with her finger. "See, your darling wife requested so sweetly for you to spare my life. She's right, you know. It would be wise for you to think this through beforehand. If you want to be the head of the Yang clan, your actions must be based on rational thinking and not impulse. Understood?"

With that, she turned and moved past the cracked ground, sauntering back where she came from.

Yang Chen's face was unreadable but he made no attempt to stop her from leaving. Instead, he directed his next question towards Lin Ruoxi who was still on the line. "Do their lives really matter that much to you?"

Lin Ruoxi audibly choked back her tears, but forced out, "Being threatened is no excuse to sacrifice innocent lives."

"I understand," he muttered and ended the call abruptly.

At that same moment, Lin Ruoxi was still in her office. She listlessly slid down from the sofa to the ground to rest on the floor next to the coffee table and gazed at the yellowed photograph on her work desk.

The photograph was a portrait shot of a man and a woman with attractive features. The man looked to be slightly older, with rather unusual features and the woman in the photo was none other than her own mother, Xue Zijing.

Written finely on the bottom corner of the photo were the words 'Siblings Zifeng and Zijing of the Xue clan'.

Lin Ruoxi laughed self-mockingly and muttered out loud, "Mom, I'm so tired. If only you had left the country back then when you were supposed to..."

The room was empty and dark with the exception of the scenes flashing across the television screen that illuminated a small corner of the room.

At this point in time, Luo Cuishan was just about to leave the villa. However, before she could even take a single step outside, she felt an immense power pulling her body back to the living hall.

She let out a shout of surprise at being lifted up into the air then dropped right onto a coffee table. She was fuming at her treatment but in mild terror at the fact that Yang Chen had somehow managed to do all that without even lifting a finger. She got up and furiously demanded, "What are you doing? Are you trying to get your wife's family killed?!"

Yang Chen wordlessly approached her and reached out his arm to deliver a slap! The sheer force of his open palm against her cheek knocked her back down into the carpet.

Confused and still reeling from the sting of his slap, she couldn't wrap her mind around the situation. *Has he gone insane? Is he really going to let the Xue clan die out?*

He simply gave her a bland glance and turned his attention to Xue Minghe who was hiding in a corner and scared out of his wits. "Your family, where are they now? Are they still in Philadelphia?"

Xue Minghe gulped and even though he didn't understand why Yang Chen would ask such a question, he shook his head and answered, "N—not anymo—more..."

"Well, where are they now?"

"They moved to Baltimore, Maryland, in the States two years ago." Xue Minghe couldn't even make eye contact with Yang Chen as he spoke because his aura was too oppressive.

Yang Chen reached for his phone and dialed a number without acknowledging Xue Minghe and Luo Cuishan's confusion.

Once the call went through, Sauron's voice could be heard over the phone.

"Your Majesty Pluto, this is sudden. Do you have an order?" asked Sauron, his voice heavily laced with respect.

"Who's the closest agent to Baltimore, Maryland that can be dispatched?" Yang Chen asked in English.

Sauron paused to gather his thoughts and replied, "For that area, the tactical team on land is made up of retired American soldiers from the Delta Force and the Navy SEALs. Together, they form the elite 'DSEAL' mercenaries for hire. They are estimated to be around a hundred or so in numbers. Baltimore is also a port city so if needed, we can use the secret transport route spanning countries like Canada and Norway codenamed 'maple #039'. On such short notice, we can still deploy at least three destroyers and more than ten Apache attack helicopters."

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"Since last year. But you told us to not bother you with trivial things so I have never gotten the chance to tell you," Sauron replied.

Yang Chen didn't even remember what he told Sauron. "Well, whatever. Ask them to collect information on the Xue clan from Sea Eagles. The clan members are currently still in Baltimore and have either been kidnapped or covertly surrounded. I need you to resolve this as soon as possible, so as long as the clan's safety isn't compromised. The team can make as much of a racket as possible. You have half an hour. I will not tolerate any longer than that."

"Copy that." Sauron immediately carried out his orders without questioning.

Yang Chen ended the call and gazed directly at Luo Cuishan.

Luo Cuishan understood English well enough that even though she was clueless about certain unique terms that Yang Chen used, she could still figure out that he was sending out people to rescue the Xue clan.

“You know, you made two foolish assumptions.” Yang Chen smiled breezily and raised his index finger. “The first mistake was risking your own safety for the clan’s lives. That is to say, as long as any news of your demise doesn’t reach your men, they won’t take any immediate action.”

Luo Cuishan’s eyes widened, panicked. She realized what Yang Chen was up to!

Indeed, as long as she was within the villa, she couldn’t notify anyone outside. Even if she had people nearby, they wouldn’t be able to receive the orders in time.

Yang Chen lifted another finger and continued sagely, “The second mistake was the most foolish one of all. Of all the fights to pick, you chose to have your fight abroad. Here, you might still possess some measure of influence, but outside of this country, you’re worth less than trash.”

Luo Cuishan was mad to the point where her lips turned purple, but she couldn’t even open her mouth because of Yang Chen’s oppressive power.

Yang Chen laughed again and patted himself on the chest. “To tell you the truth, I can absolutely destroy the entire world even if it is the White House, with the exception of the very earth beneath my feet now!”

The aura was so oppressive that even a Xiantian cultivator could resist. So even though he only released a sliver of it, Luo Cuishan was struggling to remain conscious!

The dark and terrifying energy alone emanating from Yang Chen was enough to dissolve all of her pride and arrogance into nothing. Suddenly, her face twisted, tears rolling down her face as she let out a pained cry.

Xue Minghe who had been watching everything unfold from the corner of the room was astonished as well. On closer look, he noticed that on the carpet that Luo Cuishan was seated on, a small but noticeable water stain was slowly growing larger.

*Did the woman get so terrified that she wet her pants?!*

Ten minutes later, it was afternoon at Baltimore where the sun was blazing? hot.

At the side of a road leading into a residential neighborhood was a Chevrolet sedan. Seated inside and was a hulking Caucasian man talking into his phone, while two other gangly boys were typing rapidly on their computers, searching for something.

“D37, your targets’ numbers are 235 and 214 on the third floor. D48, your targets are number 387 and 552 on the fifth floor. Radio in once you have assumed your positions,” ordered the man on the front passenger seat in an authoritative voice.

“D37 in position.”

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“Roger. Landon, can you confirm any enemy activity?” asked the man.

One of the boys in the backseat paused in his typing to reply, “Captain, D55 and D21 apprehended an enemy on the street and D21 proceeded to disguise themselves as them. The plan is going without a hitch. There are five hostiles in total and the remaining four will be taken care of soon.”

The captain held up his communication device and ordered, “Strike team, get ready to lock in on the remaining hostiles. I want a clean take out. D55 and D21, you two are in charge of cleanup. Engage in twenty seconds.”

“Yes sir!” answered the team in unison before the burly man hung up the line. He reached for a can of Red Bull and chugged it down in one go then said to one of the boys in the backseat, “Plan an escape route now and make sure to cut all the lines to the police or any other authorities.”

“Roger that, Captain. This mission is way below our paygrade. The hostiles were not even able to take on a single one of our agents, what a piece of cake,” one of them said offhandedly.

“Shut up!” the captain urged. “We have to take all missions seriously. Besides, it’s our first time working under that young hotshot’s orders, so we better keep this clean and quick. If we don’t finish the mission in time, then we’re all dead men.”

The young agent quickly went back to his work without another word.

Just a few minutes later, two muffled sniper shots rang out and screams could be heard from the previously peaceful neighborhood.

Chapter 710 - To Tell You The Truth

### **To Tell You The Truth**

Beg?!

Yang Chen’s mind went into overdrive. The distress in Lin Ruoxi’s voice was clear despite the static call. It made his stomach knot up and uneasy.

To this day, he could count on one hand the number of times Lin Ruoxi was submissive. Yet here she was, breaking down over Luo Cuishan and desperately begging Yang Chen not to take any action despite everything Luo Cuishan had done.

When Lin Ruoxi didn’t hear his answer, she said with added distress, “The family that she kidnapped in the States, the Xue clan, include my uncle and his family. If anything happens to her, they’ll die.” She sobbed and continued, “My mom and I owe his family too much as of now. I can’t sit here and watch idly as they die for me.”

Yang Chen’s heart was burning with turmoil, seeing the typically upbeat and cheerful Ruoxi’s being reduced to such a pitiful state, and even his eyes were red-rimmed.

Despite Lin Ruoxi’s pained voice sounding out through the call, he still felt an unknown force winding up all his rage into a tight ball in his chest, making it impossible for him to release his pent-up fury.

Luo Cuishan casually packed her things into her handbag and twirled some stray curls of her hair with her finger. "See, your darling wife requested so sweetly for you to spare my life. She's right, you know. It would be wise for you to think this through beforehand. If you want to be the head of the Yang clan, your actions must be based on rational thinking and not impulse. Understood?"

With that, she turned and moved past the cracked ground, sauntering back where she came from.

Yang Chen's face was unreadable but he made no attempt to stop her from leaving. Instead, he directed his next question towards Lin Ruoxi who was still on the line. "Do their lives really matter that much to you?"

Lin Ruoxi audibly choked back her tears, but forced out, "Being threatened is no excuse to sacrifice innocent lives."

"I understand," he muttered and ended the call abruptly.

At that same moment, Lin Ruoxi was still in her office. She listlessly slid down from the sofa to the ground to rest on the floor next to the coffee table and gazed at the yellowed photograph on her work desk.

The photograph was a portrait shot of a man and a woman with attractive features. The man looked to be slightly older, with rather unusual features and the woman in the photo was none other than her own mother, Xue Zijing.

Written finely on the bottom corner of the photo were the words 'Siblings Zifeng and Zijing of the Xue clan'.

Lin Ruoxi laughed self-mockingly and muttered out loud, "Mom, I'm so tired. If only you had left the country back then when you were supposed to..."

The room was empty and dark with the exception of the scenes flashing across the television screen that illuminated a small corner of the room.

At this point in time, Luo Cuishan was just about to leave the villa. However, before she could even take a single step outside, she felt an immense power pulling her body back to the living hall.

She let out a shout of surprise at being lifted up into the air then dropped right onto a coffee table. She was fuming at her treatment but in mild terror at the fact that Yang Chen had somehow managed to do all that without even lifting a finger. She got up and furiously demanded, "What are you doing? Are you trying to get your wife's family killed?!"

Yang Chen wordlessly approached her and reached out his arm to deliver a slap! The sheer force of his open palm against her cheek knocked her back down into the carpet.

Confused and still reeling from the sting of his slap, she couldn't wrap her mind around the situation. *Has he gone insane? Is he really going to let the Xue clan die out?*

He simply gave her a bland glance and turned his attention to Xue Minghe who was hiding in a corner and scared out of his wits. "Your family, where are they now? Are they still in Philadelphia?"



Xue Minghe gulped and even though he didn't understand why Yang Chen would ask such a question, he shook his head and answered, "N—not anymo—more..."

"Well, where are they now?"

"They moved to Baltimore, Maryland, in the States two years ago." Xue Minghe couldn't even make eye contact with Yang Chen as he spoke because his aura was too oppressive.

Yang Chen reached for his phone and dialed a number without acknowledging Xue Minghe and Luo Cuishan's confusion.

Once the call went through, Sauron's voice could be heard over the phone.

"Your Majesty Pluto, this is sudden. Do you have an order?" asked Sauron, his voice heavily laced with respect.

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Chapter 712 - Are You Alright

### **Are You Alright**

Adeline was not happy with how things played out. She regretted not leaving earlier and was dreading her next task. However, as much as she wanted to leave, she was not bold enough to.

“Hurry up!” Yang Chen barked.

Panicked, Adeline dashed over immediately.

She kept reassuring herself that it was just urine, nothing else. The rest were probably jealous of her working in direct command of Yang Chen. But the task at hand was less than glamorous.

Adeline didn’t dare to touch much of it, so she ended up tugging at the fabrics in order to get her. Soon enough Luo Cuishan’s clothes were ripped to shreds.

Luo Cuishan’s plump torso was exposed under the lights.

Yang Chen gasped a little. Ning Guangyao was lucky to be both wealthy and in love with such a beautiful woman. Luo Cuishan may not be as beautiful as his mother-in-law Xue Zijing, but she was definitely not on the short end of the stick. Many women could only dream of having such supple and fair skin at her age.

This woman, unfortunately, had a wet patch between her thighs coupled with an odd smell.

Adeline furrowed her eyebrows.

Yang Chen laughed and waved at Adeline. “Come, let me tell you what to do.”

Adeline was confused. “Aren’t we getting a camera?”

“Look at you. What makes you think I will stoop so low?” Yang Chen was visibly upset, sighing as he looked away. He paced with his hands behind his back, then gleefully said, “Those who use pictures as blackmail are cowardly criminals! Where’s your sense of originality? We have to do things differently

around here. Has your time in the Sea Eagles taught you nothing? You are the best of the best. Which means you are expected to do things others cannot!”

“Are we peasants? No! What exceeds the actions of these peasants? Art! What is art? It’s a form of life, higher than life itself! If you thought I would use the premier’s wife for a simple video, you’re also wrong! What I want to shoot is something deep, something thoughtful... Like an art film!”

The Caucasian lady was startled. Although she didn’t understand much of what Yang Chen said, he sounded pretty impressive.

“Then... Your Majesty Pluto, what should we do?” Adeline asked, obediently running to Yang Chen.

Yang Chen came close to her ear. He sneered while whispering something to her.

After listening, Adeline had a strange look on her face. “Your Majesty... can’t we just kill her? I’m all for punishment but that just seems a little too cruel.”

“Not cruel! I’ve told you, this is an art film! What is an art film? It’s the fusion of art and literature. It must stir the heart of the audience!” Yang Chen raised his brows. “Cruel is also a feeling.”

Adeline shuddered and gulped. She obediently nodded anyway.

Unwillingly, Adeline wrapped the naked Luo Cuishan in a carpet before carrying her away. Although they were both female, she could run a day despite Luo Cuishan being on her back.

After excusing herself, Adeline brought Luo Cuishan out of the compound, found herself a car, and left with the woman.

After everyone had left, Yang Chen’s smile slowly faded. Under the bright lights of the villa, there was only a lonely silhouette in the middle of the living room,

Yang Chen looked up at the night sky with a deep breath. The next second, he disappeared.

... ..

In her backyard, Lin Ruoxi was sitting on a bamboo chair. Since she got home from the office, she had been sitting alone waiting for Yang Chen to return.

Guo Xuehua, Wang Ma, and Zhenxiu didn’t know the events that transpired earlier this evening. When they asked her to come indoors, in less than three minutes, she’d run to the yard again to wait for Yang Chen. In the end, they could only let her be.

It was a difficult night. Lin Ruoxi thought it would be over after she showed her cards, but she realized the most difficult problems she had to face only arrived after the company was put out of harm’s way!

Although the Xue’s were far away in America and had wanted nothing to do with her, it was still difficult for her to turn a blind eye towards them.

When she knew her mother was married to the Lin family as part of a business deal, and that Yu Lei was initially the Xue family’s assets, Lin Ruoxi felt like her world was crumbling. She felt like she was no longer in control over the pieces in her life.

Since the beginning, it was her mother who had burdened the Xue's. But when she passed away, it was as if the weight of the crimes were transferred to Lin Ruoxi herself.

Her luxurious upbringing was built on the pain of the Xue family.

When she was wallowing in self-pity, there was finally a knock on the door. A familiar silhouette opened the door, then slowly entered.

Lin Ruoxi shot up, dashing to Yang Chen. She tearfully looked into Yang Chen's eyes, a face full of questions.

Yang Chen warmly smiled. "Babe Ruoxi, you've been so good waiting up for me."

"How are they?!" Lin Ruoxi blurted.

Yang Chen's smile froze. "Depends on who you are referring to."

"Of course I'm talking about the lady who has kidnapped the Xue's, and Li—Xue Minghe! They're fine, right?!" Lin Ruoxi asked urgently.

Yang Chen pursed his lips, and said with a calm expression, "So you were only up because you were worried about them."

When Lin Ruoxi saw how Yang Chen didn't answer her question, she panicked more. "You... Did you... kill someone?"

Yang Chen fell silent while staring at her face. Looking at the infinite amount of worry that was present on her face, his heart felt like it was on fire!

"Why are you not saying anything, Yang Chen? You promised me not to kill! You... Say something!" Lin Ruoxi was enraged with his silence. If that man killed Luo Cuishan and Xue Minghe, wouldn't that mean he had basically wiped out the Xue clan?!

The corners of Yang Chen's lips curled and were visibly shaking. He was doing his best to keep his voice low, but his strong emotions caused his voice to be haggard and raspy.

"The Xue's are safe. I have sent both Xue Minghe and Wu Yue back to America. As for Luo Cuishan, I will punish her, but I won't let her threaten the people you love," Yang Chen explained.

Lin Ruoxi sighed in relief, her feet shakily taking a step back. "Thank you... That's all I need to hear."

Yang Chen smiled bitterly at himself. "Lin Ruoxi, do you not trust me..."

Lin Ruoxi slowly raised her head. She looked at the man, confused.

In the dark, in the quiet yard, Yang Chen's breathing was rugged.

"I don't know what you think of me. Ever since our wedding, I can only guess and speculate whenever you have problems because you never tell me. Someone told me that our chemistry wasn't good because I don't know you well enough. And that's why I went to your school to meet your teachers, hoping to get to know you a little better. However, I realized that you have changed quite a bit in the last few years making all knowledge of that time redundant.

"I remember when you wanted to marry me. I said I wanted both of us to know each other better as husband and wife through heartfelt, open talks. I wasn't joking, not then, definitely not now. As for me, I have never deliberately hidden anything from you. As long as you were willing, I was ready to open up about my past. You never bothered to ask. I also don't want you to know some stains, so I've done my best to let you see only the good parts, hoping for you to feel safe. All I have ever wanted from you was your trust. I sincerely hope that one day you will let me in."

Yang Chen gazed deep into the woman's eyes, struggling to find expression. Lin Ruoxi's initial emotions were confusion but it had evolved into something deeper.

"But, I have come to grow tired of it. It was as if there was always going to be an impenetrable wall between us. No matter how high I flew, and how much energy I spent, the wall would never seem to end. I cannot get to know the real you without you yourself letting me in.

"I'll admit, I'm shameless for saying all of this. I will also admit, since our wedding, I have hurt you, and I have done things to make you worry. But, I can proudly say that ever since we met, you have been my first priority. Everything I have ever done, I took you into consideration.

"Today I had to face a woman who hurt you, and a man who plotted to kill us both and take everything we have. I don't know what you were thinking, but did you once consider at the very moment when I was face to face with them, what your order had meant for me? Did you consider how I felt standing there with a gun pointed to my head...?"

"Perhaps you think a shameless person like me would be fine, when humiliated and jeered. As long as the people you care about are alright. If that is the case, I don't know what to say.

"I am willing to be humiliated for you, to be seen as a weakling. I am a man, but I am also your husband.

"Lin Ruoxi, can I ask you this. When will the time come where the moment I return, your first words will not be, 'how are they', but... 'are you alright'?"

The cool breeze of the night swept through the backyard. Yang Chen's voice was soft, but it drove itself to the core of Lin Ruoxi's heart.

Her eyes reddened. She opened her mouth, to say something but nothing came out. She suddenly realized that she'd already said words that broke her man's heart.

Yang Chen grinned. "Alright, just ignore that random rant. Don't take it too seriously. It's late and you've been busy these two days. Take a shower and rest. You haven't even changed."

With that, Yang Chen turned to leave.

Lin Ruoxi finally spoke to stop Yang Chen, "You... Where are you going?"

Yang Chen's footsteps stopped. "I don't feel like sleeping just yet. I'm going out to take a walk and maybe have a drink or two. Don't worry, nothing will happen to me."

Lin Ruoxi could only stare at the man. He hadn't stayed for long, but now he's leaving again. She didn't know why, but he wasn't walking past just a door. He was leaving behind a very deep cut between them.

When she heard the man's car leave, Lin Ruoxi collapsed. As soon as both her knees connected with the ground, she started to tear like there was no tomorrow...

Chapter 713 - The Unlucky Halo

### **The Unlucky Halo**

After leaving in his car, Yang Chen's mind was considerably emptier. After everything that had happened, all he wanted was some quiet time alone.

Yang Chen wasn't sure if he was uncomfortable because Lin Ruoxi once again successfully manipulated everyone, or just angry at her choices.

When recalling his trip to Beijing, Yang Chen remembered that he was particularly unhappy at Ning Guangyao who was not willing to admit his father-daughter relationship. Family? How many people would be willing to put family above money and power? He did not know how to feel. He didn't know if he was upset because he was tired of trying or the fact that this woman valued the lives of her relatives she hadn't met over his.

Unable to process everything, he resorted to drinking.

Yang Chen didn't plan to call up a friend because he did not feel like burdening someone else with his problems. He drove like a madman for a bit before stopping at a bar at the side of a street.

He'd been here a few days ago, but this time he wanted to drink for real.

When he arrived at the counter, Yang Chen chose not to make small talk. Time was precious after all. He asked the bartender, "Do you have hard liquor?"

The bartender was experienced. He could see a customer who was planning to drink away his problems from a mile away. "Sir, you have come to the right place. We are the only bar here that serves any form of hard liquor. Would you like a serving or two of authentic 52-percent Maotai liquor?"

"A serving?" Yang Chen pursed his lips.

The bartender laughed. "If you think that's too much, I could always provide fewer."

"One serving is too little. Give me 2 bottles. Also, how big are your bottles? I need at least 3 liters worth," Yang Chen explained calmly.

The bartender, who was wiping a glass, almost dropped the cup as his smile froze. "Sir, do you have any friends coming?"

Yang Chen snapped. "It's not like I'm not paying, just give me what I want!"

The bartender thought he'd met a raging alcoholic. He gave Yang Chen three bottles of Maotai liquor. It wasn't his stock anyway.

Many people turned to look at the commotion at the bar. They were all staring at one man in particular. The man who had ordered three bottles of Maotai was either a madman or had the tolerance of an ocean.

Maotai liquor was manufactured under strict conditions. It was so potent that its opening was made small to ensure people consumed it in small quantities. Very frustrated, Yang Chen broke a hole in the porcelain mouth with just a poke of his finger!

The audience's jaw dropped. How much force did he exert with just a finger to do that?

The bartender gulped, secretly relieved because he had chosen not to argue with the man. With that strength, there was no telling what that man could do to him.

Soon, the customers around Yang Chen kept their distance, leaving Yang Chen to his drinks alone. He was chugging it in huge gulps, making it look harmless.

Between chugs, Yang Chen would stare with empty eyes around the bar. The other people weren't sure what this man was doing. Was he trying to commit suicide through alcohol poisoning?

Many speculated that this seemingly average man would collapse after a few gulps, but they were shocked to see Yang Chen still sitting expressionless with two bottles of Maotai already in his belly.

Right when many of them thought he was going to continue, Yang Chen seemed to have regained his senses. He glanced towards the entrance of the bar.

Four big, tall men walked in. They were all dressed in white shirts and black slacks. They were all a little over six feet in height. With the muscle curves on their arms, the single ladies at the bar were starstruck.

The first man had a crew cut. He was looking around as if looking for someone.

At this point, a lady with thick makeup and a couple drinks down her throat approached him. She said with a slurred voice while grabbing his arm, "Hey cutie, my head isn't so well. Care to take me home?"

The lady casually brushed her huge breasts on his arm and gently rubbed him while his arm was in her cleavage.

A few men in the bar privately called her a slut but were jealous nonetheless.

Unfortunately, her actions only seemed to have triggered a strong repulsion from the man. With one disgusted shake, she fell!

"Ouch!" The lady shouted in pain. On the floor, she seemed to have woken up from her stupor. She shouted, "Do you want to die? Are you impotent or do you have STDs?! It's fine if you're not interested, but did you really have to fucking push me? I'm going right to the hospital, and you're paying!"

After the last word had left her mouth, the lady jumped on the man, grabbing his arm like a madwoman.

At this moment, the man with the crew cut didn't react but the other muscular man behind slapped her across her face so hard that blood sprayed from her mouth. She fell limp against the wall and fainted soon after!

The bar erupted. The ladies screamed while the men cursed. Many people were not used to aggressively flirtatious women, but even they thought the men were too violent. Four big men against a lady?!

But what they did next shut everybody up.



Four shiny Desert Eagles were revealed from their backs!

Many people gasped. They knew what they were looking at.

The man with the crew cut spun the heavy gun around his finger once, as if playing with his toy. He then said with a deep booming voice, "Everyone, please don't fret. We are not thieves. We are from the National Defence Ministry."

As he spoke, the man took out a black booklet from his front pocket, holding it up for everyone to see. The people who were standing close enough could see that it was an identity document of sorts with the national seal.

"We are here on an urgent assignment to capture a criminal. Although the situation at hand is quite pressing, we do not wish to intrude with the daily lives of the civilians. But we do hope everyone will put our country's matters first, and cooperate," the man with the crew cut continued.

The rest of the customers looked at each other, both shocked and frightened. This wasn't something people experienced on a normal day. The National Defence Ministry? What crime did the person commit? Treason?!

The bar's manager, a short and fat man carefully walked up. Lowering his head, he said, "Sir, how can we help?" He wasn't sure if the man was telling the truth, but better his life than whomever they came for.

The man said, "Turn all the lights on and seal all exits. Let the guests out slowly. Once we find our person, we'll leave."

The manager did not dare hesitate. He immediately announced for everyone to leave slowly.

Yang Chen yawned at the bar. It seemed that his last bottle would have to take a rain check. Did he have an unlucky halo or something? He just had to pick the same bar as the National Defence Ministry.

Yang Che wasn't interested in the commotion, but a crowd was pushing to leave and he didn't feel like queuing. He sat leisurely in his seat, waiting to leave after the crowd thinned.

When the bar was almost empty, the man standing behind the rest seemed to have noticed something. He whispered something in the man's ear.

The four men looked towards a dark corner, exchanged looks as if to confirm something, then approached.

Yang Chen understood that they'd found their person, but he wasn't interested in staying. The ambiance wasn't a pleasurable one anyway. So he sluggishly picked up his bottle and slowly made his way to the exit.

He turned his head to get a look at the criminal. He wanted only a glance, but he was so surprised he stopped!

The bar was dark and crowded before that he couldn't recognize faces in this dark corner.

But with bright lights and an empty room, he saw a lady supporting her chin with one hand and drinking alone in a corner.

The lady was wearing a white-patterned trench. He could see her white, slender wrist. She had on a pale pink chiffon skirt, with half of her messy hair covering up her face. She pouted her sexy lips, drunkenly muttering. She was so beautiful, people had to take a second look.

Next to the lady were two ladies dressed in black with their hair tied in a braid. They looked like her bodyguards.

They were on guard, with a hint of anxiety in their eyes.

Even an ethereal creature like this did not shake the four men who emotionlessly walked to the corner. The man with crew cut then said, "Ms An, you can't escape fate. It has been a long night for both of us. You know why we're here. Come with us back to the bureau."

Yang Chen could hear every word from afar. He was right. That lady was An Xin?!

The corner of An Xin's lips curved mischievously, with a soft snort. Her face was as red as a tomato with all the alcohol. "If you want to catch me, just tell me. Did you really need this many people for little old me? Hmph, the government is so extra. It's like they want to flaunt their wealth in people's faces."

The crew-cut man frowned, obviously upset.

"Miss, you're drunk," one of the female bodyguards said worriedly.

"I'm not drunk." An Xin's eyes had pain in them, but she smiled lazily. "The other person committed the crime, but you're here to get me. Just because we're related by blood? He committed a crime so I am implicated as well? Just get him, raid his house, whatever. I won't come with you no matter what."

The crew-cut man explained with a heavy tone, "Ms An, it looks like you don't know what the situation is with your father. He has already left the country with the help of some enemies, so we need to bring you back to help with the investigation.

Her drunken, bleary eyes flashed with panic for a second but left as soon as it came. She turned to address him directly, "You... Explain it to me one more time."

"At eight in the evening today, Mr An Zaihuan forced his way past the customs at the border using illegal means. We are still unable to track him down as of now. According to the length of time that has passed, he might be out in international waters now. We need you to help us with the investigation to track down his location. As for the businesses and assets owned by the An clan, we have frozen them," the crew-cut man said mechanically.

Chapter 714 - Rushing to Leave the Country

### **Rushing to Leave the Country**

An Xin shook her head in disbelief. "No... How could he do this?"

The crew-cut man squinted his eyes and gestured at his two subordinates. They immediately produced a pair of handcuffs to take her away.

The two female bodyguards beside An Xin were not wallflowers to this whole situation. They blocked the men and one of them proceeded to yell, "Even if you need Miss An to help with an investigation, you still need to treat her with respect. Handcuffs are for prisoners, something Miss An is not!"

"She's the daughter of a national traitor. At this point, she's lucky to be alive. And what makes you think we would be willing to beg her on our knees?" The man speaking was getting more and more agitated by the second.

She retaliated angrily, swooping to grab his arm.

An agent of the National Defence Ministry was obviously skilled to a certain degree. He looked at her with disgust before moving his arm with so much explosive energy that she bounced back onto the couch!

"We don't wish to waste any more time. Miss An, please follow us." The man ordered his subordinate to keep the handcuffs. It was as if they needed it anyway.

The bodyguard wanted to block him again, but An Xin stopped her.

An Xin slowly got up. Her lips were pale, and her beautiful eyes were brimming with tears. Although she knew it was inevitable, it wasn't how she planned the situation going down.

That man literally abandoned her. He abandoned her in favour of himself!

"I'll follow you. But at least let me inform my lover. That shouldn't be a problem, right?" An Xin gathered her emotions.

"Of course. We are government agents, not kidnappers," the man said in response.

An Xin thanked him, taking out her phone to dial a number.

When the line got through, Yang Chen's voice came through. A soft whisper came through the other end of the phone with a single word 'Hey'.

An Xin's smiled with a hint of heartache, "Honey, I guess you're at home resting already. I'm sorry for waking you up, I'm calling you because something came up."

"Yeah, what's up?" Yang Chen asked.

An Xin bit her lip, then laughed tearfully, "A friend from overseas suddenly invited me for her wedding. I'm sort of in a rush so I'm leaving immediately. I'm calling to tell you I might not be able to contact you for some time."

"Just make an international long-distance call. It's not like we can't afford it," Yang Chen said without emotion.

An Xin couldn't hold her tears any longer, but she covered her mouth so that Yang Chen couldn't hear her over the phone. She forced herself to smile. "I'm too lazy to deal with setting up the long-distance service. Just assume I'm on vacation. I gotta go now. Bye honey."

She hung up, exhaling a long breath and wiped her tears. As she was about to leave with the agents, she turned around to a scene of a man holding a phone to his ear standing diagonally behind them.

Yang Chen had been standing quietly not far away from them. “You’re so stupid. I haven’t even said goodbye yet but you ended the call. Don’t you know that I would be worried?” Yang Chen spoke into his phone.

An Xin’s jaw dropped, unable to form a single word.

Joy, shock, embarrassment, and fright—her emotions were a mess. Her heart was racing but she merely stood, as if frozen in time.

The agents gathered themselves from the surprise. They were suspicious of him as he managed to sneak up on them without their knowledge!

Nonetheless, Yang Chen’s romanticism with an arrested lover was obviously starting to get on their nerves.

“You’re Miss An’s lover? This is none of your business. Leave,” The man with the crew cut said while gesturing his hand in a dismissing motion.

When the man in the white shirt was about to take action, Yang Chen suddenly stood in front of An Xin. However, Yang Chen looked quite harmless with his stature just shy of a head shorter than all of them.

“There’s nothing to discuss. You take your leave.” Yang Chen’s expression darkened, his tone hard and suppressed.

“Cooperate or face the consequences. Although we are civil servants, we still have our limits.” The agents were starting to get restless with several tightening their fists in anticipation of a fight.

The agent in white eventually caved to his more violent nature. His cruel eyes flashed and his hand swiped like metal claws in an attempt to grab Yang Chen’s shoulder and push him away.

His hand never made it to Yang Chen.

Crack! Crack!

The sound of bones shattering brought a sense of dread into the quiet bar!

“Ahhh!”

The man in white didn’t know what hit him. In one swift motion, he heard himself scream before feeling the intense agony.

Yang Chen calmly looked at the man. “I broke one leg. Now, remember, a dog should have legs like a dog.”

An Xin finally recovered her senses. Although she didn’t know why Yang Chen had suddenly appeared in the bar, she knew she couldn’t hide or avoid the matter!

She could feel the anger rolling off his skin, so she did not dare to interrupt Yang Chen. An Xin could only sit pretty and watch her man from behind.

They had first met in a bar. He was also protecting her then.

“Damn it...” The crew-cut agent was now infuriated. He held up his handgun, aiming at Yang Chen’s head. “You little shit, you’ve got some skill there. Now I seriously suspect your involvement with An Zaihuan. You’re also arrested!”

If this were Beijing, it would never have happened for Yang Chen to have a civil servant’s gun pointed at his own head. Sky Dragon and Ye Zi would’ve eliminated any possible threats before they arrived before him.

Now, although this was serious, it didn’t matter to Yang Chen nearly as much as the agents thought. To have allies watching him might solve some problems earlier, but they might not be able to protect him when conflicts occur.

Like right now.

Yang Chen’s hand swiped out of nowhere. The handgun was snatched away quicker than the agent could react!

The crew-cut agent only felt an immeasurable force pulling the gun from his grasp!

When he looked at Yang Chen, even the screaming man on the floor was staring in shock.

Yang Chen held the handgun, but the barrel was pointed at his own temple!

Was he mad?! Suicide?!

“Hubby! Put that down!” An Xin had always known how good Yang Chen was, but she was a woman. Women worry for their men.

Yang Chen didn’t allow time for the audience to speculate though. He pulled the trigger, releasing the bullet!

Boom!

The handgun had a strong recoil, but Yang Chen’s arm barely moved a millimetre.

After a whiff of smoke, a small ball of silver-black metal fell to the ground. It quietly rolled in a circle before coming to a halt on the ground.

All four faces paled. That was a bullet fired from a handgun! How much force did it need to stop, let alone compress a bullet into a flat ball like that!

The heads turned towards Yang Chen again, who calmly put down the handgun. His head was left without scars or marks!

Yang Chen threw the handgun on the ground. “And you believed you could catch me. Pfft...”

The four men were speechless. They had met skilled people in their lives, but none powerful enough to stop a bullet from point-blank range!

“Alright, by the looks on your faces it would seem like it’s high time for you four to roll out with your tails tucked between your legs,” Yang Chen said.

The agents stepped back and hurriedly agreed. “Yes, yes... We’ll be leaving now...”

Wise men are the ones with intuition. Right now, the crew-cut agent's mind had switched to self-preservation. His job was not worth his life.

Yang Chen frowned. "I said you could roll out, not walk out."

"Ah?"

The three men who were still standing were taken aback. They had a reputation to protect! How could four agents of the National Defence Ministry be seen rolling out with everyone watching?!

Yang Chen sighed but he was too lazy to respond. He lifted his leg, making three consecutive kicks!

Thud! Thud! Thud!

With three muffled thuds, the agents were kicked in the chest, causing them to soar through the air!

The three men hit a wall about ten meters away, immediately shattering several bones in their bodies. Needless to say, they fainted with blood spilling from the corners of their mouths.

The man on the ground with the broken leg gulped. Then without much hesitation, he slowly rolled out with tears and snot flowing from within.

An Xin's two bodyguards were shocked at the sudden turn of events. They hadn't met Yang Chen before. He turned, then said in a low voice, "Care to explain yourself?"

An Xin dared not look into his fury-laced eyes. She muttered, "I—I didn't want to upset you."

Yang Chen swallowed his anger. "If it wasn't for my coincidental presence here, were you planning to lie to me and let that bunch of idiots capture you?!"

An Xin gritted her teeth together but ultimately chose to keep quiet.

"You think keeping quiet is the way to go? Alright, let's see how I can make you talk!"

Yang Chen suddenly grabbed An Xin's waist, bringing her to sit on a couch in the corner. Then, he laid her fragrant torso horizontally across his lap!

"You... What are you doing to our miss?!" The two bodyguards jumped up to stop him.

However, before they could come close, a blast of energy pushed them away! At this point in Yang Chen's mastery, he could manipulate True Yuan however he wished. He didn't injure them.

The two bodyguards had only been trained martial arts. It was no surprise for them to be shocked by this seemingly impossible move!

Due to the gunshots, the bar was now empty. People on the outside didn't dare to enter either, so the bar was occupied only by the four of them.

Yang Chen held An Xin tight to his body so that resistance was futile. He used the other hand to lift her pink skirt, showing a red little panties.

An Xin felt a cold draught on her backside. This terrible man, in this place, tugged her panties down to her knees!

With fear and anxiety coursing through her body, the beautiful mounds of flesh trembled. The pink, mesmerizing crack in her thighs was laced with tiny dewdrops...

If it were a regular day, a scene like this was enough for Yang Chen to devour her. It did not matter if this was a bar or not! This was just like art. It was enough to send him to paradise on earth.

However, he felt nothing at that moment. Instead, he held his hand up high, then brought it down heavily!

Slap!

“Ah!”

A red handprint formed against her skin as a result of the strike!

When An Xin felt the pain, everything she was holding back from before exploded. All the guilt, pain and tears. With the gasp, she cried!

The two bodyguards were as confused as they were embarrassed. Didn't this man come to save her? Why would he do this to her given their situation? Even if he were her lover, why did he have to hit her so hard?!

Chapter 715 - Cripple

### **Cripple**

Yang Chen showed no signs of letting up despite her painful wails, as he continued spanking her soft, supple rear!

An Xin ultimately burst into a stream of tears, as she ranted her suppressed hatred towards Yang Chen. “Yang Chen you terrible man! You brat! I hate you! I hate you so so much!”

Even though the normally mild-tempered woman exploded in his face, Yang Chen was hardly affected as he scooped her up right into his embrace.

With one hand, he held on An Xin's chin, which prompted her plump lips to pop open slightly. And before she could ask what was going on, he pressed his lips against hers with a great amount of force!

An Xin was dead set on ranting just a minute ago. But now that her lips were locked in this passionate kiss, her words of anger couldn't seem to form in her mouth.

It was clear that they were under the influence of alcohol. Her breath was laced with hints of alcohol. This fueled Yang Chen's passion even more as he stuck his tongue down her throat. An Xin was initially reluctant to have Yang Chen take advantage of her, especially after his merciless 'punishment'. But as soon as he embraced her, his touch tore right through her already fragile walls.

*I guess all he wanted was that I cry my heart out. The pain I felt on my body could be nothing compared to what he felt emotionally...*

Tears of gratitude rolled down her cheek and then onto his.

Yang Chen's tongue eventually slipped into An Xin's mouth... Usually in the office, An Xin would surrender her fragrant lips as long as her lover desired. After all, intimacy was not uncommon between them.

Relatively speaking, a kiss was usually just the appetizer. It wasn't something that Yang Chen paid much attention to. After all, the main part of absolute entanglement was more important. An Xin on the other hand was open to all his needs. She knew deep down that she was never the one he loved most amongst his harem. She did not have an official title in his group of women either. All she could do was offer herself up in return for the love that she craved so much.

Yang Chen had never really placed much effort into kissing her. Ultimately it was her supple, mesmerizing curves that he wanted to indulge in.

But now, Yang Chen's passionate kiss, soft and delicate, was unprecedented to her, one that made her reconsider that all her assumptions were ultimately distorted.

His lips explored every corner of her mouth, relishing in the sweetness that it provided. An Xin's gaze was slightly hazy, not because she was frail, but because she had never experienced a kiss this exquisite.

Unconsciously, her delicate tongue was ravished more passionately by the second, causing her to moan softly.

A connection of this variant was undoubtedly different from their usual intimate exercises. This one bled with emotions from the heart. It brought about a foreign sense of familiarity by the man she loved deeply.

Her huge bubbly eyes stared right at Yang Chen's face which was just millimeters away from hers. But not once did Yang Chen shy away from her gaze, as they continued their lip-locked battle.

The reason he engaged in this was to prove a point. He did not love her any less than he loved his other women.

An Xin wished that she could stay in this position forever, but it quite obviously, had to end.

Yang Chen nonetheless dragged her back into reality. As he gradually pulled his lips away from hers, a string of silver stretched in between. It was a sign of just how passionate the kiss was.

Yang Chen gently caressed An Xin on the back with one hand as he comforted her. He then said, "Let it all out. It'll feel better."

An Xin abruptly turned away as she held onto Yang Chen's palms. Pouting, she taunted, "A single slap was painful enough. You're so cruel to do that four times..."

"It's for your own good." Yang Chen smiled helplessly. "It pained me to do it after the first slap but I knew it had to be done."

An Xin's pupils grew wide along with her confusion. "Why?"

"Well, because I started to spank you on one side but soon realized that doing so would make it asymmetrical. So I thought to spank your other buttcheek. However, I spanked the second one way too hard. It became asymmetrical again. So to even it out, I spanked the first cheek, but again it was too



hard. The same thing kept repeating until I reached four spans. Babe An Xin, rest assured. Now they're definitely equally as bubbly," Yang Chen stoically described, while simultaneously reaching towards her buttocks, gently pinching them.

An Xin was furious and embarrassed at his explanation. The way he had the audacity to make something completely nonsensical sound so well justified. She rolled her eyes and said, "Alright, let go of my butt. I need to put on some pants now. You know they were watching us the whole time right?"

An Xin was naturally talking about the two female bodyguards who were completely stupefied. They couldn't comprehend the chain of events that led from spanking to such a passionate kiss.

Yang Chen giggled as he continued fondling her backside for a little while longer, before unwillingly letting go as he pulled her underwear up.

"Promise me that you'll never lie to me again. Or else I might actually spank you till you're swollen!" Yang Chen emphasized as he lightly patted her on the face.

An Xin was terrified as she grabbed onto his wrist and hurled his hand away. "Ugh gross! You used your hands to play around with my butt and now you are using it to touch my face?!"

"Isn't that just another part of your flesh, what's so gross about that?" Yang Chen casually replied.

An Xin almost fainted at his words. It would've been fine if they were alone, but now that the entire incident was witnessed by her bodyguards, she was way too embarrassed to even look them in the eyes!

Unsurprisingly, after the two bodyguards grasped onto the situation, they tried their best to hold in their laughter.

"Did anything happen?" Yang Chen instantly returned to his stoic, stern self as he questioned.

An Xin's face too quickly recovered from embarrassment as she exhibited a face of solemnity. She sighed, "Actually..."

Before An Xin could continue, the phone of the bodyguard started ringing.

The bodyguard apologetically glanced over at Yang Chen before she picked up the call to ask about the current situation.

Just moments after, the now-infuriated bodyguard announced to An Xin, "Miss, something happened over at the clan. They are having an internal feud about dividing up the clan's wealth!"

An Xin pupils rolled out of sight as she collapsed into Yang Chen's arms, as if electrocuted.

... ..

East of Zhonghai, on an arched bridge over a riverbank, the murky waters of the river steadily flowed past the construction site, reflecting anything that crossed its polluted waters.

The weather in May was no longer cool, as the population of pests flourished in this region where water was abundant.

Nonetheless, the vacant space under the bridge was famously known as a spot for homeless people to gather and spend the night. Pests were the least of their problems. Their priority was a roof over their heads and a shelter from flash storms.

Under the bridge were four beggars dressed in rags and shags. Their ungroomed appearances coupled with their non-existent hygiene made them quite a ghastly sight. With their diverse accents, they were happily chatting about topics that men were never bored off.

As far as they knew, society had failed and abandoned them. Their lives were worthless, with no meaning or future. Their only solace was to stay the night anywhere they see fit.

“Cripple, I heard you are literate. Why beg when there is literally a world out there for you?” the bearded scavenger asked.

The cripple was a comparatively modest young beggar. Nobody knew his name, but since his legs were crippled, he was called ‘Cripple’ ever since.

Cripple was lying on a flat rock as he gazed upon the night sky. He giggled and replied, “Believe it or not, I actually did the college entrance examination back then. My dream initially was to get into one of those prestige universities, but my damn luck left me one point away from qualifying. Now I’m worth nothing more than the dirt I sleep on!

“My dad was killed in an accident, and my mom? She found out I didn’t get a spot in university, so she gulped down an entire gallon of pesticide and went along with him! My pathetic leg was a by-product of the accident that killed my dad. What a garbage series of events. What other options did I have except beg?”

“Look, we have a scholar here!” a dark-skinned scavenger teased.

Cripple, however, was amused. “I’m telling you, the only reason I’m here is that I was born in the wrong place. If I was raised in Zhonghai or Beijing, with my results, people would be throwing scholarships to swoop me in!

“But instead, my hometown was nothing but a scanty little town, far away from the sights and sounds, with hardly any spots for qualification! What’s worse? Half of them were instantly snagged by those cunts with a political background! If I knew all those years of studying would lead me here, I would surely have saved up the school fees and hunted in the wild with my dad instead!”

“Screw that! You’re saying that only because you’re here. If they really gave you a chance to reincarnate, you’d still be going after your original goal, wouldn’t you?” another beggar unamusedly sneered.

The four scavengers had only just met today. Once the sun rose tomorrow, they would all part their own separate ways, living what could hardly be considered lives. Understandably, there was no reason for them to squabble, so they all stopped after that comment.

Around this time, the scruffy homeless person ranted, “Tsk, tsk. Darn it, it’s been two, three months since I last had my hands on women. Escorts are too expensive these days. I had to scrounge for three months to pleasure myself with one. Damn... thinking about it has made me even hornier.”

“Haha, Black Beard, now that you mention it, I would sleep with anything at the moment.” The skinny beggar agreed.

The four of them pervertedly grinned but knew that even the most modest of women were out of their reach.

Right at that moment, however, a long silhouette agilely leaped right upon their eyes from the bridge above. From the flickering street lights above, they were all stupefied as they gasped at the gorgeous blonde lady right before them.

The tall woman was suited in a skin-tight black jumpsuit. Her phenomenal curves left the four scavengers in total confusion apart from their complete enthrallment.

Could it be that today is the day the heavens finally bestow upon them their long-deserved gift?!

“Well, I guess you guys would do,” Adeline teasingly mumbled before she continued in Mandarin, “Do you want a lady for the night?”

The four of them were dumbfounded, before Cripple with the brightest mind stutteringly replied, “Missy, are you sure you want this?”

Adeline realized that they misinterpreted her words as she frowned. “Well, obviously not me. But, I’ve got something pretty good for the four of you.”

Upon finishing her sentence, she hurled herself up the bridge again, and seconds later back down where the scavengers stood, this time with a middle-aged woman wrapped in a carpet...

Chapter 716 - Unqualified

### **Unqualified**

The traffic on the highway leaving Zhonghai was sparse.

The two female bodyguards sat in the front seats of the bright-red Porsche Cayenne that An Xin usually drove.

Seated behind them were Yang Chen and An Xin. Hand in hand, An Xin rested her head on Yang Chen’s shoulder half asleep.

She seemed to be exhausted after all that had happened. She was done with talking for the night. All she wanted to do was lean on Yang Chen and rest.

As Yang Chen pondered some things, his face started to reveal expressions of disgust.

After An Xin had regaled the issues with the An clan, the first thought that appeared in Yang Chen’s mind was—*if I had known this, I would have fed that stupid fellow An Zaihuan to the sharks along with the Liu’s father and son.*

This wasn’t a minor issue by any means. However, it wasn’t exactly something Yang Chen ever bothered himself with.

It all started from a conflict that had gained international attention in the past two months. It was the dispute between China and the Philippines on the ownership of an island.

Regardless of how the matter was picked apart, it clearly revealed that the Philippines were out to cause trouble for China. They were confident enough to pull such an act due to their backing by the US army.

And despite being reproached by numerous citizens for being useless, the higher officials in China stood firm. They refused to open against the Philippines. But it wasn't as if the government had to obey every whim and fancy of its citizens.

That did not mean, however, that they were not actively trying to control the situation. They had sent marines to stand guard by the island in case of any sudden attacks.

As a matter of fact, Yang Chen understood why such a situation arose. The war was not between the Philippines and China like most people thought it was, but between the US who was lurking in the shadows of this conflict. The Philippines was just a pawn in their game.

Even though Blue Storm, the special organization from the US was not overwhelmingly powerful, the world belonged to the seven billion people living on it after all. Humans are social creatures, thus the real leader of the world was not determined by experts or organizations. It depended on the combined competitiveness in technology, economy, and culture of each country. These were the true fundamentals that had kept a society moving forward. Brute force could only kill, not create.

If China were to really get into a war with the Philippines, the number of losses in both funds and personnel would only make the US army stronger and happier.

It was a business deal that required zero capital for the US. They would benefit regardless of the outcome. There was no comprehensive reason for China to rush in head first into the matter.

Of course, the Chinese government was not too silly either. They banned various exports and imports between China and the Philippines. The sudden stop in the supply of various life necessities had led to woes from the citizens.

Currently, the army was still stuck on the waters in a confrontation against the Philippines army. Some of the soldiers might have many grievances, but orders were orders. So they could only stay put in their positions.

Yang Chen had witnessed numerous wars in his lifetime. He was aware of the damage a war could do. Thus, he just glimpsed through the provocative messages online, but in his heart, he hoped that they could make the opponent surrender without a war. After all, their soldiers were still humans made from flesh and blood. There wasn't a need to make them fight against metal guns and cannons.

But then again, to Yang Chen, it was none of his business. As long as those people didn't appear before him and disrupt his life, it was not in his place to interfere.

Yet, ever since the end of the previous month, An Zaihuan, the head of the An clan, had been quietly exporting banned production materials and chemicals to the Philippines. All because the An clan owned many of the ports and ferries in the southern provinces of China.

These materials made life easier in the Philippines. It was also used to make weapons for the impending war against China.

If the internal burdens in the Philippines were lessened, it also meant that the US could continue offering them long-term support.

Under normal circumstances, An Zaihan wouldn't have been capable of deceiving the customs and export the goods to the Philippines during such a crucial period. He was just a normal businessman. Yet, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation had secretly gotten in contact with him, feeding him all the necessary information.

Spies from the FBI were in charge of handling the details, helping An Zaihan escape the attention of the Chinese government while providing him with more than double the times of his usual profit.

Convinced, An Zaihan accepted the marvelous deal that was offered to him.

An Zaihan did so not because he had complete trust in the FBI, but because he knew that he still had the Rothschild clan as his backup. Besides, the reason he could obtain the customs exemption for his ferries was because of the Rothschild's clan badge. It was just one of the many benefits enjoyed by those sheltered with the badge.

What he did not know, however, was that the FBI had chosen him precisely because they had found out about this.

The Rothschild clan did not belong to any specific country. Any business that could yield them exorbitant profits and did not pose any harm to the clan itself was welcomed.

Therefore, even though they knew that An Zaihan was making use of the clan's privileges, the Rothschild clan wasn't opposed to it. They were happy as long as the profits from his endeavors kept rolling in. And if anything went wrong, as long as they pinned all the responsibility on An Zaihan, the Chinese government wouldn't dare to touch the Rothschild clan.

But no secrets could be kept forever. An Zaihan had been carrying out his business dealings for about half a month secretly behind his family before traces of his dealings were finally discovered by the National Defense Department and National Security Bureau.

The special units in the National Defense Department had their eyes on An Zaihan, and assets were frozen in response.

Realizing that the situation had been compromised, the Rothschild clan shirked their responsibility immediately and blamed everything on An Zaihan. They also secretly declared to the Chinese government that they would not plead for An Zaihan just because they were business partners.

Seeing that An Zaihan had hit a dead end and was about to be arrested, the US chose not to abandon him as the Rothschild clan did. They deployed special agents from the FBI to smuggle An Zaihan out of the country. In the end, he managed to escape and slip quietly away to the US.

Although it seemed like an arduous but fruitless effort, it was actually a fervent quest for talent. If the Americans wanted people to continue working with them in future wars, they had to make sure that their allies knew that they were willing to look out for them. If not, who in their right minds would work

for a betraying a country? Therefore, they were willing to rescue An Zaihuan despite him having exhausted his value.

Since it was only a war between normal human beings, organizations like the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade did not get involved. An Zaihuan would not have been able to escape if they did.

After An Xin had finished speaking her mind, she fell into a comfortable silence while resting on Yang Chen's shoulders with her eyes shut for quite a while. Finally, she continued saying, "Some time ago, he thought that he was going to be arrested. At that time, he asked me to plead for your help on the matter. But, how could I? If not for you, my father and I would have been swallowed whole by the Liu clan. Not only did he not reflect on his actions, he even committed such treacherous actions to betray the country."

"But you couldn't leave him alone. He is still family after all. That's why you felt torn. You drank incessantly at night and often came late for work in the day," Yang Chen said before he let out a long sigh. He realized that he was still too careless, having not paid enough attention to the woman beside him.

An Xin nodded her head with tears in her eyes. "Sorry... I know it's wrong of me to keep it from you. But it happened during Yu Lei's crisis. You don't belong to me alone, so I can't ask you to ignore Sister Lin and the others just to help me and that man. Back then, I've already felt sorry towards your mother and Boss Lin because of the matter about Lu Min. Now that this matter involves the National Defense Department and FBI, I... I really didn't dare to ask..."

Yang Chen caressed An Xin's hair. This woman was the most 'unqualified' third party. She seemed to always worry that he might abandon her. This resulted in her making things difficult for herself while trying to please him.

"It's nothing. I will help you through this slowly. All you have to do is stay by my side," Yang Chen said to console her. He pulled out his phone, pondered for a while, and dialed a number.

The call got through, and a man's laughter could be heard. "My dear friend, Your Majesty Pluto, what brings you to call me at this hour? Your wife has just put up a superb business performance that surprised everyone. Shouldn't you be celebrating it with her right now?"

"Edward, why didn't you tell me about the matter in the An clan?" Yang Chen went straight to the point. Even though he knew no one else from the Rothschild clan, this longtime friend of his did not even inform Yang Chen about it. It infuriated Yang Chen slightly since Edward was certainly aware of the situation.

Edward let out a bitter smile on the other end of the phone. "Right to brass tacks huh? I had originally wanted to just let it slide under the radar. Yang Chen, I hope you can understand that even though I am your friend, I'm still one of the upcoming successors of the clan. The future of my clan is still my number one consideration."

"Just because An Zaihuan's business is profitable?" Yang Chen frowned.

"That's right," Edward admitted up front. "In the eyes of our Rothschild clan, country, race, and territory are all meaningless. Our wealth was and still is, the reason we have survived this long. As long as we can

gain profit, we're willing to commit as many unforgivable sins as we can. Although An Zaihuan's actions will make things awkward for China, that is none of our concern. Our concern is profit. Whatever happens to him depends on his destiny. If I had told you about it beforehand, you definitely would have stopped it. I could not let your actions devastate the profitability of our clan...

"As a member of the Rothschild, I can't do that. And I hope that you can understand. At the same time, as your friend, I owe you an apology."

Chapter 717 - Let You Handle This

### **Let You Handle This**

After hearing what he had to say, Yang Chen sneered. "Edward, did you ever consider what would happen to your clan if they pissed me off? When that time comes, all the money in the world cannot save you. It will only end in your clan being six feet under."

Amused, Edward broke into laughter on the other end of the phone. "You wouldn't do that. If you really were to slaughter my clan over a simple matter like this, I wouldn't have befriended you all those years ago. I can't imagine your subordinates being too happy with your decision. An Zaihuan got himself into trouble. It was his own hand that forced his predicament. He overestimated his own abilities. You of all people should know better than anyone else about the law of the jungle."

"What makes you think you'll be safe if you sing my praises?"

"What is it you want? As your friend, I can try my best to make it up to you on the account of our relationship," Edward said resignedly.

Yang Chen didn't reply. Instead, he hung up the phone immediately.

Make it up to me? I don't need anything. What can you make up to me? Yang Chen thought.

But Yang Chen knew that Edward was right about this. If not for his own greed, An Zaihuan wouldn't have ended up in such a predicament.

"Even after I've let him take over the Liu clan, and helped him make the An clan the second largest clan in Zhonghai, his greed was still unsatiated." Yang Chen scorned with despise.

An Xin who was seated next to him had a miserable look on her face. "I was too late. By the time I caught wind of the incident, he had already exported no less than a hundred ships of banned goods to the Philippines. He even had the guts to say that it would be fine as long as you were around. But the moment things went south, he couldn't bring himself to face you. Instead, he asked me to approach you and ask for help on his behalf."

"Hmph, at least he was smart enough not to come. If he really did appear before me, I wouldn't even let him off just for you. I would've killed him where he stood." A fierce look flashed across Yang Chen's eyes.

An Xin didn't know what to say. She asked desperately, "So what do we do now?"

"Those relatives of yours. Aren't they anxious about dividing up the family wealth? Let's settle those matters first," Yang Chen said nonchalantly.

An Xin's gaze was filled with hesitation and anxiety. But she was not in a position to voice her opinions. She could only nod her head meekly.

After the An clan took over the Liu clan, their power had soared immensely. They had shifted to a luxurious mansion in the countryside that offered picturesque sceneries. The geographical location of the estate was specifically chosen by a master of feng shui. It was to ensure their continued success for years to come.

By the time their car stopped before the An residence, more than ten luxury cars were already parked in the vicinity. In comparison, An Xin's Porsche Cayenne had more in common with a layman's car than it did with those of her relatives.

"Your relatives are all pretty rich," Yang Chen mockingly said while scanning the cars.

An Xin's eyebrows locked together. "Our An clan isn't solely under my father's control. I have other uncles who hold a significant amount of shares in the clan as well. Due to that reason, we were unable to stay united to further improve our clan together. Now that my father has been removed from the picture, I can almost guarantee that they are going to divide up the shares amongst themselves."

"Aren't the assets supposedly frozen? Knowing that, they're still interested in fighting for it?" Yang Chen asked while walking into the mansion together with An Xin.

An Xin shook her head. "Although it's frozen now, it will have to be unfrozen sooner or later. After all, our clan has several major ties with significant businesses in the region. If the country plans to swallow it, it would be too audacious of them. Not to mention the strike on their image. Also, the Rothschild clan's investment into our clan is still valid. It wouldn't be difficult to revive it. Hence, they're taking the advantage to rob us of our assets. It's not without reason."

While Yang Chen and An Xin were still speaking, a few servants led them into the inner hall of the mansion.

Under the brightly lit chandelier stood dozens of arrogant-looking people in glamorous clothes. They were all drinking red wine or tea while seated on the sofas and chairs in the living room, waiting for An Xin's return.

Needless to say, they were slightly baffled when An Xin walked into the room with an unknown man by her side. But in the end, they chose to ignore the matter. Instead, they all stood up after exchanging glances with each other.

A middle-aged man who looked somewhat like An Zaihuan approached them. But he was younger and taller than An Zaihuan. He displayed a gentleman's smile under his mustache. Then he said to An Xin warmly, "An Xin, you've finally come back. I couldn't believe that your dad would abandon you just like that. I've been so worried about you as your second uncle that I rushed over immediately just to see you. I'm glad that you're alright."

An Xin forced a smile. "Second Uncle, you worry too much. I'm fine. I am my own person."

"Hey, child. There's no need to act strongly in front of family." A gorgeous woman walked forward. She had a look of pity in her eyes as she continued, "Oh, your dad. Out of all the things he could have done, why did he have to put himself against the country and leave his poor child behind? What a disgrace to



our An clan! But An Xin, don't be too sad. You still have us to support you. If you run into any difficulties in the future, feel free to contact me."

An Xin bit her lips and nodded her head. "Thank you, Aunt. I'm really fine. You all have arrived very late into the night. You must be tired. Why don't you rest? We have empty rooms here that you can stay in."

The few elders exchanged glances. A middle-aged man said with a chilly smile, "My niece An Xin, we're at such a critical period. There will always be time for rest later. Actually, the lot of us came with something in mind to discuss."

"Please go ahead, Sixth Uncle," An Xin said.

This sixth uncle appeared to be the spokesperson of the pack. "An Xin, you must be aware that all of our assets have been frozen. As business people ourselves, we find the matter quite unsettling for our future. Those businesses were passed down from our ancestors. How could we just sit by as it falls into ruins? That's why, I, as your second uncle, and your third aunt have spoken to a number of leaders. They've said that as long as we can agree to their conditions, they'll unfreeze our assets as soon as possible. This way, we will be able to resume our businesses as soon as possible."

A look of realization flashed across An Xin's eyes, but still, she asked, "What conditions?"

The sixth uncle said with mixed feelings, "The leaders said that if the An clan's main family, which is our eldest brother, can hand out his shares and give up his position as the chairman of the board, they will be so kind as to not associate the whole clan with the traitor."

Yang Chen who had been listening to their conversation by the side all this while laughed in his sleeve after hearing his words. Even the An clan are scheming amongst each other. It seems like everything was premeditated. It was not the FBI's fault that An Zaihan's actions were discovered by the National Defense Department, but someone from within the An clan must've tipped them off, Yang Chen thought.

An Xin, of course, had the same speculations. If not, how were these people able to procure a solution this quickly when An Zaihan had only just been smuggled out of the country?

"My niece," the second uncle said painstakingly, "Although we're unwilling to do it, what other choices do we have? Big Brother is already so gravely steeped in crime now that we're in no position to argue even if he were deprived of his political power and all his assets. We should be extremely grateful that the government has been merciful, leaving his assets to our An clan instead of confiscating them. And that's why..."

An Xin let out a burst of soft laughter, scanning at everyone in the room. "That's why as the first person in line to inherit his assets, all of you hope for me to relinquish my part of the shares so that An clan can gain the government's trust, am I right?"

"An Xin, you've been smart since young. You always have the uncanny ability to pick up on things," the second uncle complimented.

An Xin's smile faded away. "What if I don't agree to it?"

All of their expressions stiffened at the sudden change in her attitude.

There was an air of dead silence before the gorgeous woman chuckled and said, “Dear niece An Xin, although Aunt dotes on you very much, I can’t simply turn a blind eye to a matter like this. This is for the sake of our An clan. Whether you agree to it or not, you’ll have to give up the shares.”

As she said so, the woman clapped her hands, and a man in a suit came walking into the room with a briefcase in his hand. He placed a set of documents on the table and said to An Xin, “Miss An, I’m the legal consultant of the An clan. Here is a share transfer agreement. All you need to do is sign your name on it, and your portions of the shares received will be rationed out accordingly.”

“I’ve already said that I will not transfer my shares,” An Xin said coldly. “If everyone else came to discuss this issue, you may leave. Even if I become penniless one day, I will never give up my shares.”

With these words, everyone in the room turned silent.

“Hmph,” the woman sneered snobbishly. “You really think that you’re something huh. Your elders are being nice about this, yet you refuse to listen. Do you really think that we can’t do anything about you, little lass? Bring someone who will force her to it.”

Immediately, a few bodyguards walked towards An Xin, about to surround her. The two female bodyguards of hers were being held at the back, unable to move an inch.

An Xin consciously moved towards Yang Chen who was standing behind her. She dived into his arms and hugged him tightly. She leaned on his chest and raised her head, looking at him with innocent eyes. “Hubby, I’m very obedient this time. I’ll let you handle this.”

Yang Chen was amused. This little vixen is truly good at acting. But I like this plot, he thought.

The bodyguards surrounded them. Yang Chen was too lazy to move. He released a powerful ring of air from within his body, and immediately swept the burly bodyguards off their feet. The more advanced his cultivation, the less interest Yang Chen had in having any sort of bodily contact.

Despite knowing that Yang Chen was powerful, An Xin did not anticipate that her lover could get rid of them without moving an inch. She was so shocked and surprised that she planted a passionate kiss on his face. Then she chuckled and said, “Hubby, you’re amazing.”

She deliberately said it aloud so that all her uncles in the room could hear it. Clearly, she said it with an intention to spite them.

The simple attack was enough to strike fear into the hearts of the people in the room. They subconsciously took a few steps back. The second uncle, now looking ghastly pale, said in a hoarse voice, “Wh—who are you? Why are you interfering in our clan’s matters?”

“Is there something wrong with your brains? Or is there something wrong with your ears as well?” Yang Chen mocked. “Didn’t you hear my babe An Xin calling me ‘hubby’? Why do you think I’m interfering?”

Everyone was stunned. They had never met Yang Chen before, and they didn’t know that An Xin had such a formidable partner. Although they wanted the money, they were more interested in keeping their lives.

Although they were reluctant to let the situation go, they were forced to retreat. They signaled to each other with glances and nodded to each other.

“Hmph, what a good daughter of the An clan. You got an outsider to deal against us,” the woman said sarcastically. “You’ve got some nerve, but we’ll see. The An clan’s assets will continue to be frozen. Let’s see how long you can hold out for.”

As she finished her words, the few of them turned around and were about to leave.

Yang Chen shot a glance at An Xin, asking her whether she wanted them to stay or if she even wanted them alive. Their lives were insignificant to him. But An Xin shook her head. Although they were despicable human beings, they were still her relatives after all. Unless she had no other choice, she wouldn’t bring them any harm. They hadn’t even tried to kill her yet.

But just as the door of the mansion opened, a servant came running in from outside, panting badly while yelling, “This is bad, this is bad! Missy, there’s... there’s a unit from the Jiangnan military here to arrest people.”

Chapter 718 - You’re Mistaken

### **You’re Mistaken**

The faces of the people in the room turned pale upon hearing the news. Some of them even went limp and fell to the ground.

“Even the military is here?! We’re doomed! The leaders must have run out of patience and they’ve come to finish the job!” One of them reacted immediately and yelled.

“This damned old man! Running off all on his own, leaving us to suffer the consequences?!”

These people were obviously unaware that An Xin had almost been taken away by people from the National Defense Ministry right before coming back for this meeting. They were delusional in their thoughts that everything would be fine so long as An Xin was willing to give up her part of the shares.

Fear surged like wildfire in the room as they started to speculate what was to become of them. As they chattered about, the outer gates of the building were opened. Two lines of sturdy-looking soldiers barged in, fully equipped with weapons and arms. They stood by two sides of the room. It looked like a military officer was about to walk in.

The enormous courtyard was suddenly filled by the cold aura of metal guns and weapons. Even the servants shunned away from the scene, afraid of being accidentally caught up in the mess.

The looks on Yang Chen’s face were changing back and forth. The Jiangnan military? he thought. He could roughly guess who might have come. Although he did not voice it out, he was still pretty frustrated at the way things had played out.

An Xin had spoken to Guo Xuehua before, and she also knew Yang Chen’s background pretty well. Thus, when she saw that Yang Chen was suddenly acting rather unnaturally, she immediately realized what was going on. She stood worriedly next to Yang Chen. At the same time, she was in a dilemma. If that person were to really walk in right now, how would she react to the situation in a way that both are polite and acceptable to Yang Chen?

Within a few seconds, a tall man in green military uniform walked firmly up to the entrance with two people beside him.

Yang Pojun wore a straight face, perfectly hiding all his emotions. It was as if a gloomy cloud was hanging over his face, hiding his feelings from outsiders.

Yang Chen was also standing by the entrance when this happened. When Yang Pojun lifted his head slightly, their glances met. Neither one of them spoke, yet the depths of their glances revealed a black bottomless pit of hatred.

The army was here to arrest people from the An clan. But there was actually no need for someone from the ranks of an army commander like Yang Pojun to appear in person. After all, the An clan was only filled with businessmen. The only thing that set them apart from commoners was their money!

However, the National Defense Ministry was enraged by the fact that the people they had sent to arrest An Xin were beaten to a pulp by a man who had appeared out of nowhere!

After learning of the incident, the National Defense Ministry took immediate action to identify the perpetrator through surveillance recordings and investigations of the scene.

With additional information provided by the National Security Bureau, the superiors in the National Defense Ministry finally realized the identity of the perpetrator. He was the long-lost grandson from the Yang clan! On top of that, the National Security Bureau had also provided them with some background information about Yang Chen. They had specially reminded the National Defense Ministry not to use force, but instead find a way to negotiate. Those who had attempted to use brute force had all failed miserably in the past.

With such instructions, not a single soul from the National Defense Ministry dared to undertake this mission of arrest. After all, they might fail and even end up offending the Yang clan!

In the end, the higher-ups made an emergency decision to enlist the help of the army commander who happened to be in Zhonghai — Yang Pojun. Since they were both from the Yang clan, not to mention the fact that Yang Chen was his son, Yang Pojun had no choice but accept the task.

Naturally, the nature of the relationship between Yang Pojun and Yang Chen was of no concern to the higher-ups at all!

Actually, arresting An Xin and An Zaihan had no meaningful impact to improving the strained bilateral relations between the two countries. After all, this was a matter that was kept well hidden under the books.

However, if the government were to give up on a mission to arrest a traitor of the country just because of Yang Chen, it would be a sign of weakness from the Chinese military to outsiders. Losing their pride over a man was something that they could not accept!

Yang Pojun had been appointed the mission for those reasons specifically. Thus, without voicing out any objections, he rushed to the scene.

“Arrest and detain every single person in this room without exceptions!” Yang Pojun shouted firmly.

All the soldiers mobilized at once. They dashed into different directions and swiftly surrounded everyone from the An clan, including the servants and housekeepers.

The members of the An clan became more terrified of the situation than they originally were. All of them started shrieking or crying and begging for mercy when they saw the soldiers come dashing towards them. Their arrogance from before had practically vanished into thin air.

Two of the soldiers approached Yang Chen and An Xin. But before they could get within a meter of the two, they were already hurled aside by a surge of powerful wave!

The two soldiers flew and plunged straight onto the ground not too far from where Yang Pojun was standing. Yang Pojun's brows furrowed immediately as he said, "I am here today to execute my mission. All I want to do is arrest the An clan for aiding and abetting a criminal. I'm not here to settle any personal disputes with you. Don't make this more difficult than it has to be!"

Yang Chen wrapped his arm around An Xin's waist to calm her down. He then said, "I have no personal disputes to settle with you either. All I want to say is that, An Zaihuan is the one who has committed the wrongdoing, not the others. I have no objections to you arresting members of the An clan. However, An Xin is my woman. I will not let you come within an inch of her."

Yang Pojun snorted. "A married man hugging another woman in the middle of the night while saying such shameless nonsense. What a joke!"

"You can say anything you want. I'm not some celebrity who has to maintain my image. I am shameless and prideless, so what? I will protect all my women from any harm that is to befall them. And anyone can comment on my family matter but you. At least my wife is still willing to stay under the same roof as me. That is far more successful than some people whose wife isn't even willing to meet him," Yang Chen said mockingly and disdainfully.

While the rest were confused by this conversation, An Xin could understand most of it.

Isn't that being a little too harsh? An Xin thought. She gazed at Yang Chen worriedly, and then she looked at Yang Pojun. She felt touched by Yang Chen's protection, but also guilty for causing such a situation.

Yang Pojun's expressions grew grimmer. "Don't challenge my patience. I'm carrying out orders from the government. If you insist on continuing this little spite of yours, don't come crying once you end up in the gutter!"

"Let's see who the one who'll really suffer is." Yang Chen smiled as he dug out his phone and dialed a number.

Yang Pojun frowned. He didn't know what Yang Chen was trying to do. But Yang Chen's arrogant attitude pissed him off terribly, not unlike every time they met each other.

Yet, Yang Pojun was also well aware that guns and bombs were useless against this young man. Besides, his father Yang Gongming obviously favored Yang Chen. Although Yang Pojun was unhappy about it, he was not in the position to challenge his father's authority. Thus, he chose to stay in the Jiangnan military most of the time, rarely going home.

As a matter of fact, he had no idea how to resolve the issues between him and Yang Chen. At times, Yang Pojun would hope that his younger son Yang Lie was as capable as Yang Chen.

Why did it have to be this eldest son, who never should've been here! His appearance has not only destroyed my dream of entering the political bureau, but he might even take over the position as clan master, skipping my generation entirely!

Yang Pojun was indignant. He had been toiling away for dozens of years, and the power and position he had yearned for would have soon been his. But now, it was all taken away by a child—his child, no less—who never should have been alive in the first place!

What irritated him even more was the lack of understanding from his wife and his father! The grandson is family. But aren't I—the son—family too?! Why is it that Xuehua would leave me for him! he thought.

The anger and hatred that he bore made it impossible for Yang Pojun to admit the fact that this formidable young man before his eyes was his own son!

Yang Pojun could not do anything to him. And at that moment, Yang Chen's call got through.

"Molin, connect me to the Chinese government's National Defense Ministry. I need to talk to them." Yang Chen had called Molin from Sea Eagles.

Molin was clearly surprised. But he did not dare to ask anything. It wasn't as if it was a difficult task. After all, it wasn't about infiltrating their defense system. All he had to do was make a phone call. Anyone with connections could do that.

"Sure, Your Majesty. Please wait a moment."

He hung up the phone.

And within a minute, Yang Chen's phone started vibrating. Clearly, the National Defense Ministry had received the news from Molin.

Yang Pojun was surprised to see that Yang Chen was contacting the National Defense Ministry. He was unable to process what Yang Chen was about to do. Suddenly, the entire courtyard was in complete silence.

"I am the chief of the National Defense Ministry. You can call me General Lu. Was it you who sent someone to contact us?" A deep male voice resonated from the other end of the phone.

Yang Chen went straight to the point. "I want to strike a deal with you."

"A deal?" General Lu was puzzled.

"That's right. You're anxious about finding out An Zaihuan's location through his family members. Besides, with hostages on hand, you want to force An Zaihuan into appearing on his own will. But let me tell you this—you will fail. Since An Zaihuan has already escaped on his own, what makes you think he will bother about what he left behind? The members of An clan do not know about An Zaihuan's dealings with the other country, nor do they know about his whereabouts," Yang Chen said analytically.

General Lu paused to think, and he said, "Continue."

"I think you are doing this to put on a show, so that you can let the Americans know that the Chinese National Defense Ministry is not ignorant. But if you keep this up, it will only waste both your time and

energy. Instead of all this waste, why not let me help you arrest An Zaihuan and bring him back? After that, you'll stop blaming these innocent people of the An clan. What do you think?" Yang Chen asked.

General Lu had read about Yang Chen's background. Therefore, he knew that Yang Chen was not just making an empty promise when he said so. Although it was quite hard to believe, he still said, "I'm glad that you can contribute to the country. You're Marshal Yang Ye's descendant indeed. If that traitor An Zaihuan can be arrested and brought back to the country, then of course the An clan can be cleared of their suspicion!"

"I think you're mistaken. I don't have such noble patriotism." Yang Chen let out a contemptful smile. "I've been living in all sorts of territories and countries since young. So politics doesn't really matter to me. I'm only doing this because his actions have put me—the person who had given him everything that he has—to shame. The second reason, and also the most important one, is that his daughter is my woman. He has made my darling very unhappy. That alone is enough for me to do this."

Who knows what General Lu's expression on the other end of the phone was? There was a brief silence before he said, "No matter what, I'll place my trust in you for now since you're willing to do it. But you need to give us an estimated time of completion. This mission's status is volatile as it is."

"Before sunrise," Yang Chen replied decisively.

General Lu, thinking that he had heard it wrongly, asked, "Come... come again?"

"I said, I will send that An Zaihuan to Zhonghai, to the army before sunrise. If you have no other questions, I'm hanging up now," Yang Chen said impatiently.

General Lu was clearly stunned. He was deliberating over Yang Chen's words, Could this lad be lying to me? Before sunrise? Doesn't that leave him with only three hours?! An Zaihuan has already been out on the sea for more than ten hours now. If he took a plane, he could already be in Australia by now! But then again, this fellow has no reason to lie to me...

Since it was only a few hours' wait, General Lu clenched his teeth and said, "Alright, I promise. Commander Yang will be in charge of supervision. Once you arrest An Zaihuan, hand him over to Commander Yang. If An Zaihuan is brought back to the country, everything else will be open to negotiation!"

Chapter 719 - Why Would This Be Tedious

### **Why Would This Be Tedious**

After he hung up, Yang Chen took a deep breath. It was not a challenging task by any means. If anything, it was just a little tedious to have to do this himself.

Yang Pojun, An Xin, and the rest overheard the gist of Yang Chen's conversation and could piece together what his next move was.

Yang Chen caressed An Xin's cheeks as he proclaimed, "I'm about to arrest your biological father, then hand him over to someone. If you want me to stop or return him unharmed, now is the time to speak."

An Xin was teary but she managed to force a smile. "If I were to say I'm not at all concerned about him I would be lying. But he himself doesn't care about me anymore. How, then, can I trouble my lover for

him? I'll support you however far you decide to take this. But do be careful, don't let anything happen to you."

"Tsk tsk." Yang Chen stared warmly at his lover. "Vixen An, aren't you just adorable. You make my heart flutter, and boy does it feel good. The nicer you are the more I would hate to see you tear up."

Yang Chen sighed for a bit before he pulled her over for a quick embrace, then turned around to Yang Pojun at the bottom end of the stairs. "I will bring An Zaihuan here in about three hours. If you can't wait you're always free to leave, but you cannot touch those people."

Yang Pojun sneered, "Well, I can't wait to see how you can accomplish all of that in such little time. My men and I swore an oath to this country and we will be patrolling here until further notice. Since the National Defence have agreed to give you this opportunity, we will comply."

Upon finishing his sentence, Yang Pojun ordered his men to free everyone from the An clan back into their houses and place them under tight surveillance.

An Xin and her relatives were without demands at this point. All they knew was that their lives were spared by Yang Chen. And with that, all the hatred and dissatisfaction they had towards him instantly vanished, being replaced with gratitude and regret instead.

Yang Chen took that as his cue to leave, which prompted him to leisurely walk towards the main exit.

After Yang Chen vanished from her sight, An Xin finally shifted her focus towards Yang Pojun who was still standing in his spot. She was still a little shaken from the encounter but nonetheless, she stuttered as she engaged him, "Co—Commander Yang, come in and have a seat. I'll get you some hot tea."

Yang Chen might not have cared less about his biological father, but An Xin had to treat the man with a level of respect.

Yang Pojun, however, did not take her invitation lightly as he examined her. A young woman with an extraordinary body loved Yang Chen this passionately. A simple action that prompted him to ask, "With your qualities you could've gone for anyone else, but you'd rather be the third wheel for this brat. Is that really worth it?"

An Xin confusingly lifted her head, before she giggled with her hands by her mouth. "Occasionally it does get to me, and I do feel a little bad. But every time he does something like this for me, nothing else matters."

Yang Pojun stoically sighed and shook his head. Without any intention to continue with the conversation, he headed into the house.

An Xin didn't seem to understand his motive behind the question but chose not to prod further. So she too turned towards the main entrance and followed him in.

Meanwhile, under a bridge in an unnamed location in Zhonghai, things were different from the incredibly tense atmosphere in the An clan's mansion.

Several dull and unexciting silhouettes were having the adrenaline of a lifetime.



The bearded scavenger gripped tight onto a pair of fair, long legs. He took one in each hand, not looking at all deterred from them despite the legs being covered in dirt and hickey.

The bearded scavenger clamped her legs around his lower waist, as he forced his meat baton deep into her bush. He was not the fastest, but every penetration ran deep inside her.

The seductress meanwhile was completely overwhelmed, as the only sound she could make was moan from in between the constant penetrations.

While every inch of her pubic area was intruded by the bearded hobo, she was simultaneously deep-throated by the sickly beggar seated above her well-maintained, youthful face.

The sickly beggar grabbed onto her messy hair, as he half squatted over her face while repeatedly grinding over her. He then exclaimed in excitement, "How is it, I'm not bad huh. Aren't you just really good at ranting, now I hope you like what you have in your mouth, 'cause you don't have a choice!"

While at the other end of the seductress was the bearded hobo. His face was covered with sweat while his body reeked of the stale and pungent body odor that one would expect from the homeless. "Man is this the best day of my life. I've only seen a few women of this quality in my life. To indulge on one was something I never thought I'd get to do! I have lived enough tonight that I would not be sad if I died tomorrow!"

"Hey, cut the crap you two, make it quick! Cripple and I are still waiting you know," the other beggar by the corner taunted.

Cripple might have permanently lost a leg, but as a young man filled with immense sexual desire, he hurled himself towards her. Just moments after however, he was drained as he leaned by the pillar of the bridge. He shook his hand in fatigue as he proclaimed, "Back to you guys. This chick might be satisfying, but boy is that trench deep and unpredictable. I think my little willy is done for the day."

"Hahaha, scholar, you might be good with words but you aren't that good at thrusting aren't you?!"

"Who knows how old this bitch is? She might be in her forties but my God is her skin as smooth as the ones you'd expect from a young one. I guess it pays to be rich."

"Whether she's rich or not has nothing to do with me. What I do care about is this gift that the heavens have given me. If I don't savor every moment of it, I will surely regret it for the rest of my life. Who knows where this bitch is from, and judging from her appearance I bet sooner or later someone will come looking for her. Once we are done, all we have to do is leave sneakily into the night."

The homeless folk continued with their filthy, disgusting language while they carried on with their invigorating 'exercise' till the break of dawn.

With such a golden opportunity, none of them wanted to waste any moment they had upon them.

Luo Cuishan on the other hand that had been the target of their vigor. Both her eyes were red and swollen with no tears left to cry. Her body was covered with dirt and dust and her face was filled with tears and mucus.

As the middle-aged woman slowly woke from her slumber, she felt a sharp pain from her lower body, and whatever she experienced next would be worse than a trip to hell. The worst part, there were four filthy, disgusting scavengers grinding upon her naked body.

Only then did she realize that she, in her birthday suit, was clamped down by a huge and scruffy man. She had tried to voice her concerns but was cut off by a foul rod being shoved down her throat.

Everything that Luo Cuishan experienced at this point, was something that would haunt her for the rest of her life.

Encircling her mouth were viscous white fluids, even for her own husband Ning Guangyao would she never expect something as extreme as this to have experimented upon herself.

She ultimately realized that it was Yang Chen's henchmen that had left her in a hellhole like this. All of this was the punishment of her sins.

At that moment, she couldn't muster her hate upon Yang Chen. The only thing she wished for was death.

Regardless of how she resisted and confronted, the scavengers were unfazed by any of that. After all, a person with nothing to lose could hardly be bothered by the wife of the premier. Threats against their being were nothing to them.

Right at this moment on the northern corner of the bridge, a jeep arrived close to the scene. Adeline of the Sea Eagles, along with Fanny pulled up at the bridge, speaking to each other enthusiastically.

"His Majesty Pluto is just a professional in the art of torture. Look at those four homeless men down there. I'm pretty sure they're not going to stop until either they are completely dry or she loses her appeal."

Adeline played around with the micro-camera she had in her hands as she scrolled through the recorded videos and photos. "Hah, it was actually my first time doing anything of this kind, but I have to say, my photography skills are on point. Fanny, take a look from this angle. The noblewoman actually looks like she's enjoying herself."

Fanny giggled in response before she continued with a question. "Since we got the footage, we have more than enough leverage in hand at the moment. Why have we come back to monitor the situation?"

Adeline replied, "His Majesty Pluto said that this is for the first scene. After this, we will do a candid twist on the story, to follow up on her progress. As His Majesty Pluto emphasized, we're doing artistic cinematography, which means other than the excitement of the lewdity, we need to exhibit the details that the audiences can reflect upon."

Excited, Fanny proclaimed, "What realistic scenarios would come from that? I'm quite sure that she will commit suicide by tomorrow. Anyone in her position would."

"Well, that's one of the many ways this could end. But what's important now is that we record this footage and pass it back to His Majesty Pluto." Adeline stretched out as a reflex from boredom. "Okay, let's take a quick break. But stay with me though, it's going to be a long and tedious ride."

Fanny rolled her eyes on her statement. "Oh my, why would a task like this be tedious..."

Luo Cuishan's twist of fate was something Yang Chen, tens of thousands of feet above the endless ocean would hardly care about.

High up in the sky above the jade-blue waters, Yang Chen was flying through the air unaffected by the cold air that surrounded him.

Since his departure from the An residence, Yang Chen had been on the search. He teleported right above the vast ocean in a blink of an eye before making a call to Makedon, asking for the whereabouts of An Zaihuan.

The only places An Zaihuan could vanish undetected were the Filipino and American military bases, which were the only locations on Earth that the Chinese spies could not infiltrate.

As for Mossad of the Israeli special agents, an organization on par with the FBI, they were dispersed across every corner of the world. No American military base was without the surveillance of the Mossad organization.

And on top of that hierarchy was Makedon, a pirate and a top gun amongst pirates and spies. Not only did he take command of the Israeli special agents, but he was also the chiefs of several other top-notch spy organizations. In regards to the infiltration of internal information of the military, Makedon had the edge over Sauron.

And unsurprisingly after less than five minutes, the bald, overweight Makedon called. With a proud tone, he explained, "Your Majesty Pluto, the man you were looking for, An Zaihuan, was recently given access to the American Naval Base 3 located in South Asia approximately three hours ago. I can instantly provide you with the exact location. I can also deploy an army for you to commandeer while at the base. Otherwise, would you rather I send someone to escort that brat in your stead?"

Yang Chen replied, "I just need the coordinates, you can stay out of the rest. I can get there quicker on my own."

Makedon had no intention of opposing him as he obeyed his orders. Immediately after ending the call, he sent the exact geographical coordinates to Yang Chen. As for Yang Chen, with his impeccable knowledge about world geography, searching for the military base was nothing short of a breeze.

Chapter 720 - In a Snap

### **In a Snap**

Over at the Lin residence in Zhonghai, the lights were all still on despite it being late into the night.

On the soft couch right in the center of the living room was Lin Ruoxi in a velvet sleeping gown, curled up in a corner. She was hugging her legs as she blankly stared at the wall clock, still as a statue.

Her fair arms were exposed in the cool midnight air. The side view of her mesmerizing face was shrouded behind a messy array of hair as black as ink.

What was not covered by her nightgown were her fair little pair of feet. Although her toenails were not decorated in polish like most women opted for, they were every bit as delicate and beautiful.

"You're still awake I see."

A soothing voice resonated from behind through the dead of the night.

“Mother... why are you down here at this hour?” Lin Ruoxi asked, slightly startled.

Guo Xuehua was in her cotton pajamas. With the absence of her makeup, she appeared especially compassionate and benevolent though her wrinkles were present, indicating old age.

With a wise little chuckle, she came by Lin Ruoxi as she sat on the couch before she broke the silence. “How could I sleep with you so anxious? Even Wang Ma was awake all night, but she didn’t want to interrupt.”

Lin Ruoxi held her head low. “I’m sorry I made you worry, Mom.”

“You will truly understand what I mean when you become a parent yourself.” Guo Xuehua reached out and gave her a slight squeeze on her shoulder. “I saw you crying a while ago, but Yang Chen did not come in with you. I’m guessing that you’re waiting for him to come back?”

Lin Ruoxi bit on her lips ever so slightly. “Yeah...”

“Ugh... this son of mine is truly a mess. What’s so important that he couldn’t wait? What’s so important that he had to keep his wife waiting?” Guo Xuehua proclaimed, frowning.

Lin Ruoxi shook her head. “It’s my fault this time, don’t blame him.”

“What happened between the two of you? Aren’t you both back in good terms? Did something happen since then?” Guo Xuehua sympathetically said, “If something is going on in your lives, please don’t hesitate to tell me.”

Lin Ruoxi hesitated as it was her original intention to keep it away from her family, but all the misunderstanding and anxiety piled within her was eating her alive. In the end, she started to spill all the details of the events that had happened several days prior.

Just the summary of all that had happened had left Guo Xuehua in a complete daze.

When she found out that it was the elders of the Ning and Luo clans who had orchestrated the exile of the Xue family, even to the extent of having Luo Cuishan to blackmail Lin Ruoxi and Yang Chen, Guo Xuehua was instantly filled with hatred and disgust.

“Who would have thought that she, as the first lady, would commit such despicable acts unto you. I met her in Beijing a few times. It was in good terms back then when I viewed her as the wife of Premier Ning!” Guo Xuehua sighed as she continued, “But the Ning clan with all their influence and authority is not something we can interfere with. Trust that Yang Chen will take care of it.”

Lin Ruoxi agreeably nodded, albeit with a certain dejection. “Even I am aware that with all the fame and fortune I possess, I can’t even hold a candlelight to their positions.”

Guo Xuehua compassionately stroked onto her daughter-in-law’s silky-smooth hair, caressing her supple face as she reassured, “After everything you said, my two cents on the situation is that the last person you should’ve kept that from is Yang Chen. He was seriously worried sick for you. In the end, all he wants is for you to be happy with your life. Now that he faced Luo Cuisan head on, there’s bound to be repercussions that would leech on him for a while.”

Lin Ruoxi's pupils started getting watery as she started choking up. "I know I made a mistake, I know it was a terrible thing to say. And when I realized that, it was too late to take anything back. I hate myself for the fact that I just don't really know how to talk to him. I've got no idea how to make him feel better, to make him love me more. I really don't know what to do."

Guo Xuehua felt apologetic as she embraced Lin Ruoxi's trembling body. "My child, think about it. Think about all the things that have kept you from him. All the times you one-up him, times you wait for him to read your mind. This has been going on for one and a half years. Love is a two-way street. You can't just always leave it all for Yang Chen to play the offense. You must start putting some thought into his needs too, only then will the both of you truly connect with one another."

Lin Ruoxi lifted her head, in her watery eyes were confusion and bewilderment.

Guo Xuehua with a warm smile replied, "I have to admit, you're prettier than your mother was when she was in her peak. From the perspective of a selfish mother, I am truly happy that Yang Chen married you. Who wouldn't want their grandchildren to be this gorgeous to look at."

Lin Ruoxi instantly turned slightly embarrassed. "Mom... what's with this sudden change in topic?"

"Well it's something I need to get out of my chest don't you think? Ruoxi, I was also young once. But time flies and it flies fast. Regardless of how remarkably pretty you are right now, one day you'd look yourself in the mirror and discover that you have gotten old. There's no hiding that fact, and when that day comes you wouldn't have the advantage against those young and attractive girls out there anymore. You might think that you have Yang Chen in the palm of your hand right now, but how certain are you about the future?"

"Men gather experience over the years, and women find mature men particularly attractive. Let's not forget that my son has no resistance to the temptations of lust. When that day comes for your turn to grow old, and your relationship with Yang Chen is still at a stage of a rocking boat, what do you think will happen?"

Lin Ruoxi went instantly pale. A flash of panic immediately ran over her face. Prior to this, she had not put too much thought into her future. But now that Guo Xuehua reminded her of it, her heart started to get heavy with all the realization piling on it.

Regardless of how their relationship was, Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi both knew that their marriage was far from the initial contract stage.

A divorce would be hard to take in for a traditionalist like Lin Ruoxi, not to mention the existing feelings she held towards him.

The conversation they had in the cafe that one fateful day, along with Yang Chen's singing performance behind Yu Lei International's building reassured her that he was destined to be her man.

"Think about it, even now when you're still young and vibrant, there are already several other women by his side, all of whom he's unwilling to give up. But right now, you won't have to worry about them because you're married to him while they're not, and you're ahead in terms of appearance. It is said that the youth of a woman goes away in a snap, so would you be as confident that in the future when you're no longer the gorgeous figure that you are now? How confident are you that he will stay with you? Yes,

it might take years, even decades before we see anything arise. But are you willing to bet that your future is safe with him?" Guo Xuehua explained.

Lin Ruoxi hung her head low. She immediately realized that her quick-acting brain was not as reliable as she thought it would be. It was unparalleled in the business world, but when it came to a situation like this, it was no longer of any use.

*When I get old, am I still ready to burn life's brief candle in the business world? Is that really what I want??*she thought.

Guo Xuehua stroked her hair and said, "Ruoxi, why don't you take my advice? Don't waste your entire youth on your business. Try taking some time off to bond with Yang Chen, buying clothes and making dinner is good and all but you're his wife, not his housemaid. You have to build upon the foundations of your marriage. Only with a strong foundation and solid structure, will you solidify your future with him."

Lin Ruoxi nodded ever so slightly before she lifted her head and stared right at Guo Xuehua. Filled with guilt, she asked, "But... Mom, if you really cared about me, why would you visit Aunt Ma for Yang Chen's sake then?"

Caught off-guard and embarrassed, Guo Xuehua forced a smile. "Oh my... why did you have to bring that up all of a sudden? I wasn't given an option. I would want both of you to be lovingly together, but I too want Yang Chen to be happy."

Guo Xuehua was aware that it was not her call to be there anymore, so she abruptly stood up and walked towards her room upstairs.

The living room went back to its original serenity as Lin Ruoxi was back to being in her own company. As she sat silently on the couch watching the clock as seconds and minutes went by, she wondered what her next move would be...

Meanwhile, over at the skies above an island on the Pacific Ocean, a silhouette revealed itself amidst the darkness of the night as it silently oversaw the entire landscape.

On the island was a huge military base which consisted of the most advanced fighter jets, along with several military helicopters and trucks.

By the edge of the island were multiple massive warships with their missile launchers facing the horizon. Further out in the waters was a Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. It looked like any slight movement posing a threat to the base would trigger the overwhelming firepower to be unleashed.

As the two nations were in a maritime conflict, the American forces, being the third party, unsurprisingly sent a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to hold the ground, even if it was yet to be used. A weapon of this magnitude would put any nation to halt.

Yang Chen, however, had no interest in any of that destructive weaponry. He scanned the military base for something else. Upon discovering a towering reinforced steel structure where the light was most concentrated, he instantly flung himself towards it.

After his breakthrough into Xiantian Full Cycle, a rapid transmission was nothing more than a mere trick. He didn't even have to use his divine powers.

On the ground level, a squad of American troops armed with M4 assault rifles could be seen patrolling the outer rim of the military base control tower. It was almost impossible for anyone uninvited to be able to make it this deep into the base without being spotted. But they were not hired based on possibilities.

Right at that moment, by the main entrance of the control tower was a haunting silhouette of a black-haired youth relaxedly proceeding towards the gate.

Tens of American soldiers were petrified when they realized someone was on the deck. Upon returning to their senses, they lifted their weapons and started blindly shooting at the intruder without the slightest hesitation!