

## Chapter 771 - For the Next Month

### **For the Next Month**

Yang Chen hung his head at the turn of events.

*Goddamnit they really went with the police. How far has society fallen that even thugs are able to summon the police!?* Yang Chen thought.

*But come to think of it, poor and innocent as they were, being held behind bars means a place to stay and food to eat. It would have been a mercy for them!*

The middle-aged police officer sternly demanded, "If the both of you have nothing to add, then please come downstairs with me and we shall proceed to the police station. The informants are there waiting for you at the moment."

Yang Chen abruptly had something in mind as she chuckled when he said, "Lads, are you by any chance Officer Cai's men?"

The two policemen stared at each other before the older one replied, "There are plenty of Officer Cai's in the force. If everyone knew Officer Cai, what's the point of working then?"

Yang Chen was caught off-guard. *Well I can't tell them that I'm Cai Yan's lover, can I? Not with Ruoxi and her soul-piercing gaze here!?* he thought.

Seeing how the incident unfolded, Lin Ruoxi stoically mentioned, "Alright, enough with the ruckus. Let's go. I'm sure we can get it covered face-to-face."

Yang Chen tactlessly agreed with a bitter smile. "Yes ma'am."

As they boarded the police car to the police station, Lin Ruoxi made but one call to her personal lawyer and kept her silence for the rest.

Yang Chen took a look at Rouxi and was met with a soul-piercing gaze. He really messed up this time.

All this while Lin Ruoxi had avoided any interaction with the police because she was actively trying to avoid Cai Yan.

Back then when Jiang San called to 'greet' Lin Ruoxi, it left Ruoxi furious for some time. Meeting Cai Yan was an inevitability.

Now that they were on their way to the police station, it'd be a miracle if they did not meet.

Come to think of it, Yang Chen and Cai Yan hadn't actually met up recently. He might have missed her, but he would never expect to reunite with her in such circumstances!

As they entered the police station, Yang Chen felt like he went back to his ancestral home, only the fact that Lin Ruoxi was here this time which had left him in cold sweat.

As for the incident where Yang Chen murdered Officer Lu as part of his cause to defend Lu Min, many of the policemen were secretly transferred to other stations by the Institute of Defense. Most of the policemen here were unaware of the horrors that had happened in their precinct.

Within the main office room, the three thugs appeared all innocent and whiny. Upon noticing the arrival of Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi they were ecstatic.

“Sir, you have to fend for us unfortunate folks. We came all the way to Zhonghai just to make a living for ourselves. This well-off couple over here wouldn’t even let us off the hook for some spare change, even throwing us to the back of garbage trucks! Our lives meant nothing to them!”

Even Lin Rouxi was slightly moved by their words. Yang Chen by her side whispered into her ear. “Ruoxi, don’t worry, it’s my fault. I’ll admit to my own wrongdoings.”

Lin Ruoxi despisively glanced over at her husband. “What more can I say about you? I blame only myself for trusting that you were able to handle that situation with maturity. If I handled them by myself, then I wouldn’t need you to fend for me, and if you didn’t fend for me then we wouldn’t have to come here in the first place.”

The words she used might not have Yang Chen to blame, but it somehow was not too pleasant for him to hear either.

Right at that moment, a female officer came up to them. “Are you Ms Lin and Mr Yang? I’m aware that both of you might have leading positions in society, but in the face of the law, everyone is equal. I suggest you cooperate with us from here on out.”

Lin Ruoxi hardly spared them any breathing space as she declared, “My husband and I will not answer any questions at the moment. We are innocent civilians and that is all I will tell you. If you’re looking for more details, my lawyer is on the way. Until then, we will remain silent.”

The female officer was in her thirties. To have someone like Lin Ruoxi talk to her in that manner made her agitated. “Oh, look at you, acting all high and mighty. Fine, keep your silence, don’t come begging when you get caught.”

The three thugs on the other corner chose the occasion to add fuel to the fire. All of a sudden, it caught the attention of the entire station.

The fat man on the corner was by far the most dramatic as he held onto a policeman’s hand and pleaded, “Sir, that man stole my money. I can remember the exact amount, it’s 2425 yuan. If you think I’m making this up you can always go check. I remember because it’s mine...”

The female officer glared at Yang Chen before she proclaimed, “Mr Yang, when your lawyer stops by later, I must ask you to show me your wallet.”

Yang Chen ignored her demand as he went to Lin Ruoxi, with a meticulous tone he asked, “Honey, do you think I should show it to her?”

Everyone seemed to be weirded out by his actions, naturally wondering if a big man like him was this afraid of his wife.

“Do what you want. When have you ever asked for my opinion?” Lin Ruoxi instantly felt uneasy to have all eyes staring at her, as she rolled her eyes on him.

“Hehe.” Yang Chen teasingly smirked. “It doesn’t matter to me anyway, whatever makes you happy.”

Lin Ruoxi kept her emotions in. Her man clearly had no regards of the police force as he acted all tame and obedient.

Right at that moment, from a nearby office, the door opened, and out came a man and a woman.

The woman had her hair neatly tied and arranged. Her lips were radiant and pink. Her stature was impeccably elegant. It was none other than Cai Yan who was just back from a long weekend.

As for that man happily chatting with her, he was more than 185-centimeter tall, in a personalized bespoke suit. He was sharp and personable. In essence, he was nothing short of good looking.

Yang Chen was originally looking forward to the woman he had yet to see for nearly a month, but now that he saw Cai Yan this happy with an ‘inappropriate’ man, he was filled with jealousy.

Regardless of the situation, Yang Chen threw himself up and pointed at that man on the far corner as he taunted, “Bloody hell Cai Yan who is that man?!”

His voice rumbled through the entire police department as everyone stopped to look at Yang Chen and his impending fiasco.

Lin Ruoxi couldn’t help to hide her face at all costs. She closed her eyes and clenched her teeth. *God damnit Yang Chen! Marrying you is the worst thing I deserved. If I don’t give you the silent treatment for the next month I swear I’m not going to touch glutinous rice balls for the next month!* she thought.

Yang Chen eventually realized that Lin Ruoxi was by his side. He knew things were about to take a turn for the worst, but nonetheless was not as pressing a matter as the ‘demonic presence’ by Cai Yan’s side.

As for Cai Yan’s potential intimacy with other men behind his back, Yang Chen was not concerned. After all, Cai Yan was as stubborn as a tree frog. Once she found the man of her dream, no one else would compare. If she really did, there was no loyalty to be said of this world!

Cai Yan saw Yang Chen and was instantly smiling brightly. Since her return to Zhonghai, she had to deal with a string of problems from Yu Lei to many other important cases. This resulted in her not being able to meet Yang Chen. But now as she was hop-skipping towards him, she noticed that Yang Chen was accompanied by Lin Ruoxi by his side.

Her face instantly became red from embarrassment, but it didn’t take long before she rid herself of the uneasiness as she came towards Lin Ruoxi to greet her. “Ruoxi, didn’t think I’d see you here. Is everything alright?”

Lin Ruoxi despite all the reasons she would hate to start a conversation with a love rival, forced her eyes open and cracked a smile. “Well aren’t we all busy with our own things, today we’re here because we seem to be accused.”

“Yan’er, are these two of your friends?”

The towering hunk came behind Cai Yan's back, with both hands behind his back. His face was proud and smoldering as he glanced despisingly at Yang Chen, before his gaze fixated upon the stunning Lin Ruoxi.

Chapter 772 - Even for a Second

### **Even for a Second**

*Yan'er? It's fine if you don't respect me. I don't care. But how dare you act all lovey-dovey with her in front of me?!?* Yang Chen clenched his fists in anger.

Cai Yan immediately understood what was going on. Having noticed the displeased look on Yang Chen's face, she suppressed her urge to laugh as she lifted her hands towards the man.

"Let me introduce you to our special guest from the International Police Headquarters in Lyon, France. He was tasked with assisting us with major cases. Officer Wei Tinghao was also my senior in the police academy. He was the youngest Chinese recruit in the past decade or so."

*Interpol? So he really isn't here to flirt with my chick? I guess I can't fault him but damn is he hard to get along with!*

Wei Tinghao gave zero attention to Yang Chen, but instead continued with his question. "Yan'er, you haven't introduced this gorgeous lady to me yet. I don't recognize her. Is she from our academy?"

"Of course not," Cai Yan replied. "This is Lin Ruoxi. She's a good friend I met in preschool. This here is Yang Chen, Ruoxi's husband."

Wei Tinghao seemed surprised by the revelation. He took a good long look at Yang Chen. "Oh, so I presume you're both close friends of Yan'er. A pleasure to meet you both. I'm mostly based in France and other parts of the world so I don't really know many people from inside the country, do forgive me."

Stunning and remarkably pleasing to the eye, Wei Tinghao's mere presence had left the officers present to swoon over him, which presumably was what kept him in such a towering and confident posture.

Nevertheless, Lin Ruoxi showed no interest in Wei Tinghao. After greeting Cai Yan, she went back to sitting quietly in the corner.

Yang Chen understandably too was hardly welcoming of his presence, merely just glancing over at Cai Yan before he sat down, pouting.

Cai Yan noticed that Yang Chen was jealous, which made her rather proud. After all, it showed that he cared.

The atmosphere settled into one of awkwardness which prompted Cai Yan to turn to her senior and ask, "What's the situation here?"

The surrounding policemen were dumbfounded by the sudden turn of events. Now that they were aware that the people they arrested were personal friends of the chief, their attitudes shifted around.

The female officer regaled the entire story from start to finish without leaving out any details in the matter.

As for the three thugs who came in here to push their luck, they were now left sweating buckets in their seats.

Cai Yan upon grasping the situation from her subordinate's tale walked towards the three thugs. "Are the three of you aware of the cameras that have been placed to monitor the street? All I need to do is retrieve the tapes on the junction and the truth will be revealed. So, I'm going to make myself clear one more time, are you confident with proceeding with your accusations?"

The fat thug was as pale as a sheet of paper. *“If they were to check the tapes, they'll instantly find out. Doesn't that mean we're going to be in big trouble?”*

"Off—officer, I think... there's no need for an investigation." The fat thug smiled awkwardly as he surrendered.

"I'm sure you guys are aware that I'm acquainted with these people. But I don't want you to believe that I am biased. If you really do believe there was an intrusion to your privacy, please state so now. If my acquaintances here really are the ones at fault, I will not side with them publicly in a civil establishment."

"No no, it's really fine." The fat thug was now sweating profusely, avoiding her gaze. "It's just a little misunderstanding on our side."

At that moment, Lin Ruoxi subtly hinted Yang Chen before she mumbled under her breath. "Pay them back what you're not supposed to take."

Yang Chen was clearly reluctant but nonetheless took out four hundred yuan and went towards the fat man. "Hey, here's your money. Now we're clear."

The three men were still suffering from shock at the events that had just unfolded. Once they received the money, they immediately scurried off and left the police station.

The situation had been settled but the atmosphere was far from relieving.

Yang Chen noticed that Wei Tinghao's gaze was constantly hovering around Lin Ruoxi. While subtle, Yang Chen nonetheless was immensely uneasy.

*Should I just sneak up on him tonight and secretly mutilate him?!?* Sinister thoughts once again popped up in Yang Chen's head.

Lin Ruoxi saw that the case had come to a conclusion. Elegantly, she stood up and smiled at Cai Yan. "There was no CCTV placed in that stretch of the road. You said it just to pressure them didn't you?"

Cai Yan winked as she playfully smirked. "Boss Lin does have the eyes of an eagle. But a police chief such as myself needs a little wit on my end too, don't you think?"

The two women giggled in one another's gaze. It relieved a small amount of bad blood between them but the real situation was far from over.

But when Lin Ruoxi turned her gaze to Yang Chen, her temper was instantly reignited. "Are you satisfied now? Why would you even take their money in the first place? Look at how much time you have wasted. Zhenxiu's exams are nearly over!"

“Zhenxiu?” Cai Yan heard the mention of the name and instantly took notice. “Oh yeah, today’s the first day of the college entrance exams, isn’t it? Are you guys going to pick her up? I’ll tag along too. I haven’t met her in a long while. It’d be great if I could give her some support!”

At that moment, Wei Tinghao who had been on the sidelines declared with his low-octane voice, “Well it’s almost lunchtime now. It might be our first meeting, but I hope you guys wouldn’t mind if we go for lunch together.”

Upon hearing his interest towards their lunch event, Cai Yan hesitated for a bit but it was Yang Chen who ended up replying. “Hey, we’re not that close and I have no intentions of rectifying that. Why not bother some other people?”

Wei Tinghao regardless was calm and collected. “I never said I wanted to get to know you. I suggested the lunch because the one accommodating me here in Zhonghai is Junior Yan. Since we’re collaborating, everywhere she goes I’ll have to follow, not to mention I don’t actually know anyone from Zhonghai.”

Yang Chen tried his best to save Cai Yan’s face by not publicly embarrassing her with his outrageous antics. But there was no way he was going to let Wei Tinghao join in silently.

*Well handsome means nothing if his willy’s tiny!?* he thought.

Lin Ruoxi stoically requested on the spur of moment. “Yanyan, if we’re all going to meet Zhenxiu, then maybe you can take your senior’s car. I’ll go with my husband, and we’ll meet there. I’m not too used to being around people I’m not familiar with.”

Once she was done, she glared at Yang Chen. “Let’s go.”

Yang Chen was left tongue-tied, as he glanced towards Cai Yan and again at Lin Ruoxi. There was no way he would allow Cai Yan to stay with Wei Tinghao!

Lin Ruoxi followed up with an ominous declaration to Yang Chen. “Are you leaving with me or not? If you’re not up for it I’ll drive and you can stay with Yanyan.”

Yang Chen felt a spike in adrenaline. He realized quickly that he was playing with fire. Regardless of how insecure he was when a man of that standard approached Cai Yan, he should not have reacted so tactlessly in front of Lin Ruoxi, not to mention Wei Tinghao was clearly checking her out!

*Gotta get my priorities straight!*

Yang Chen recollected himself and with a cheeky smile went up to hold onto Lin Ruoxi’s petite hand. “Oh, why would I do that? I won’t let you go even for a second. Let’s go, we need to pick Zhenxiu up.”

Lin Ruoxi glared at him but was relieved at his obedience.

The officers by the sidelines saw Yang Chen’s instant change in his reaction. They started comparing him to a dog on a leash.

Yang Chen was on a tightrope. What others thought of him did not matter. *if only everyone was as compassionate as Rose...* he thought.

The company of his beauties might be a feast to behold, but the effort required to maintain it was something a bystander would never understand! If only he was a king from the middle ages, at least all of these problems would be dealt with by somebody else!

Yang Chen nonetheless was not the only one feeling bitter and sulky about how the situation turned out. Cai Yan observed the turn of events and could only keep her woes and envy deep inside as she went out with Wei Tinghao.

Wei Tinghao nevertheless was still in all smiles, but in his eyes were flashes of confusion and suspicion.

As the four of them went onto two different cars and set out to Zhenxiu's school, the first language test was just about over. The students gradually flocked out of the venue to meet up with their parents.

Fortunately for them, however, they agreed on a slightly distant location to wait on Zhenxiu, so it was she who emerged from the crowd to meet them.

Zhenxiu spotted Cai Yan in her full police uniform and was pleasantly surprised. "Officer Cai! Didn't expect to see you here."

Cai Yan rolled her eyes on her greeting as she rebuked, "Why are you calling me by Officer Cai? Did you mess up again?"

Zhenxiu pouted with her big eyes.

Cai Yan ultimately cracked as she caressed Zhenxiu's nose. "How's the test?"

Zhenxiu giggled as she replied, "Pretty good. My language has always been pretty decent."

"Look at you acting all smug now. Say that again when it's officially over."

Wei Tinghao, who was originally uninterested with the meetup, suddenly became interested when he noticed the youthful and bright Zhenxiu. Mesmerized by her features, he was instantly excited to meet her. "Yan'er, is this little girl a relative of yours?"

Cai Yan chuckled as she shook her head. "Nah, she's a little brat who was always making a ruckus here and there. She's ended up in my station a couple of times in the past but she's a good kid."

Zhenxiu took a quick glance at Wei Tinghao. He was no doubt stunning, but her ingrained perception towards strangers led her to ignore his presence. Instead, she reached out to hold Lin Ruoxi's hand as she giggled joyously. "Sister Ruoxi, let's go for lunch, I'm starving."

Lin Ruoxi was visibly happy as she added, "From that smile of yours, you did well I suppose. What do you have in mind? Today's your lucky day."

Zhenxiu did not shy away from the opportunity, knowing full well that this would make Lin Ruoxi uneasy. So, she replied with a smile, "I wanna have Korean barbeque, you both up for it?"

Despite most of Zhenxiu's upbringing here in China, she had never lost her palate for Korean delicacies.

Lin Ruoxi nodded with a smile, as she glanced towards Yang Chen. "You'll be driving us."

Yang Chen smiled awkwardly. "Sigh... Why does the kid get to decide what we eat?"

“Uncle, Sister Ruoxi might not care about your feelings, but we do!” A sweet, cheeky voice came from behind him not too far away.

Yang Chen was caught off-guard as he turned to the voice behind him. He saw a sweet teenager in a jade colored flower skirt in a pair of orange sandals. Next to her was a more mature woman, dressed to match the younger girl with the addition of sunglasses large enough to cover half her face. Who else could they be but Tang Wan and Tang Tang?

Chapter 773 - Disgraceful

### **Disgraceful**

It wasn't a surprise for Yang Chen to meet Tang Tang as she was too sitting for the exam.

The sudden appearance of the mother-daughter pair left Wei Tinghao rather astonished. He was unable to comprehend Yang Chen's luck with women.

Lin Ruoxi on her reunion with Tang Wan stayed calm and collected. It was Cai Yan who was perplexed about the situation. After all, she too was aware of the relationship between Tang Wan and Yang Chen.

“Since we're all here, why don't we all have lunch together?” Tang Wan went straight to the point.

Lin Ruoxi frowned ever so slightly. If it were Tang Wan alone, she would have rejected her proposal from the get-go. Lin Ruoxi felt that the age gap between Tang Wan and Yang Chen made her the least tolerable of the bunch.

However, Tang Tang was also present. That girl was eventually going to be married to Yuan Ye, which would make her Lin Ruoxi's in-law. It was important for her to avoid unnecessary conflicts. After careful consideration, she nodded in agreement.

Wei Tinghao was conflicted just from watching on the sidelines as he abruptly came upfront and declared, “It looks like a party in here, I suppose Yan'er and I will be joining in as well!” While speaking he was stealing glances at Tang Wan, hoping to get a closer look underneath those enormous shades.

Tang Wan, however, was quick to oppose the notion as she blurted out, “Who are you? This is a matter between close acquaintances.”

Wei Tinghao was stupefied at her instant denial. He would never expect a man of his standards and dashing good looks to lack any form of privilege in the eyes of women.

But he nonetheless replied with a humble smile, “Oh, I forgot to introduce myself. My name's Wei Tinghao and I work for the Interpol. I was Cai Yan's senior back at the police academy. I came back to Zhonghai from France to collaborate with my junior here on an international case. Sorry if I startled you.”

“Wei Tinghao?” Tang Wan was left contemplating. “You're from Beijing's Wei clan?”

Wei Tinghao was amazed at the mention of his clan as he stood proudly with his chin up. “Well, I'm surprised a lovely lady like you would know my background. I spend most of my time abroad and it's completely true that I am rarely acquainted with anyone in the country. You are right. My father is Wei Buqun.”



"I see. You're a son of Minister Wei from the Security Bureau. Pardon me for my ignorance." Tang Wan gave a faint smile as she apologized.

Wei Tinghao cheerily waved his hand. "Apology accepted. After all, I'm still quite a ways length from being my father."

Meanwhile, Yang Chen who was following along in their conversation suddenly mumbled, "Turns out your dad is a minister. That's why you act all high and mighty."

Wei Tinghao frowned. "Mr Yang, I don't know what you're insinuating here. I, Wei Tinghao, had relied on nothing but my own effort and perseverance to become one of the only three Chinese Interpol officers there are at the moment. My father did not play a part in it."

While he was explaining, Tang Wan with a grin brought her daughter close and started whispering into her ear, which prompted Tang Tang to giggle.

Wei Tinghao was left frustrated, unable to comprehend the turn of events.

Lin Ruoxi, on the other hand, was completely indifferent about the small talk as she held onto Yang Chen's shoulder. "Stop procrastinating, we need to take Zhenxiu for lunch as soon as possible. She needs time to rest before her next math paper."

"Oh yeah, got it, ma'am." Yang Chen wouldn't dare to delay any further as he dashed to the car and locked on to the closest decent Korean eatery.

Tang Tang snickered in response. "Sister Lin, you truly have your way in 'spouse taming'. Look how obedient he is!"

Lin Ruoxi smiled respectfully at her half compliment before she asked, "Are you both taking our car?"

"I'll drive her." Tang Wan took to reply in her daughter's stead. "Cai Yan, are you coming with us?"

Cai Yan naturally wanted to tag along but hesitated when she noticed an agitated look on Wei Tinghao's face. She decided to decline this round. "Next time then, I need to stay with my senior."

Tang Wan gave no attention to Wei Tinghao, but instead nodded at Cai Yan with a smile.

Meanwhile, Yang Chen managed to find a half-decent Korean restaurant and left first. Tang Wan in her black Land Rover, followed closely as both vehicles left into the horizon.

The ever-changing events went off like a mini-series.

Wei Tinghao had assumed that when Tang Wan identified who he truly was, the crowd would be speechless. Never would he have expected that his statement would not only go unnoticed, but also ridiculed.

Standing at his spot Wei Tinghao's facial expression was as murky as swamp water. "Yan'er, who is that bestie of yours? How can she be this disrespectful towards someone she just met?"

*You were the one bringing up your background just to prove a point in the first place. Plus it's your damn idea to tag along for a meal with people who hardly know you...?* Cai Yan rambled in her head but kept it all from materializing given his seniority.

So instead she blankly replied, "Senior, she is the current CEO of Yu Lei International. As for the other, her name is Tang Wan..."

"The CEO of Yu Lei International?" Wei Tinghao was visibly astonished but hastily repressed his emotions. "I guess in a capitalistic society the rich can just walk around flashing their wealth like a crown. Who cares about a businesswoman anyway. But Tang Wan, I feel like I have heard of her before."

Due to Wei Tinghao's prolonged residence abroad, that name did not seem to ring a bell.

Cai Yan was nonetheless slightly agitated on the inside. *Your stupid Interpol position can't even make her annual salary in a century!* she thought.

"Here's a hint, for someone to figure out your background in hardly any time and couldn't care less about it, does anything ring a bell? Another hint would be her surname 'Tang'."

"Oh... is she from the Tang clan?" Wei Tinghao was flustered the moment he figured out.

*Pfft, just a member of the four dominant clans left you this hysterical. If I told you that the despicable fellow was from the Yang clan, you'll probably die from shock!* The thought flashed through Cai Yan's head, but on the outside, she nodded calmly in agreement.

But Cai Yan ultimately decided against exposing Yang Chen. "Senior, work comes first. Let's grab a quick bite and start."

Wei Tinghao was left in cold sweat from the revelation but chose to forego all the problems with those women as he stiffly chuckled. "Alright, you're absolutely right. Let's go."

Meanwhile, about a quarter of an hour later, Yang Chen pulled up at a Korean eatery. They chose a table by the window and separated themselves into two rows.

Rain started drizzling on the outside, splashing onto the roof of the restaurant. All in all, it was a relaxing and jovial mood.

Zhenxiu and Tang Tang were the main guests of honor, which naturally left them with making the orders. Tang Tang was a foodie through and through, while Zhenxiu was a natural with Korean cuisine. It did not take long for their table to be decorated with an array of delectable delights.

Yang Chen was still concerned about the fact that Cai Yan and Wei Tinghao were eating together and it left him wanting to contact her immediately. But in the end, he had to suppress all urges in fear of upsetting the two women by his side. *I gotta call Cai Yan first thing I go back, just to make sure that bastard didn't do anything inappropriate!*

Wei Tinghao's reaction towards the series of events naturally became the center of the jokes between Tang Tang and Zhenxiu.

Tang Wan saw that Yang Chen was spacing out, she coyly asked a question. "Young Master Yang doesn't seem to be too pleased that a certain someone isn't here though."

Yang Chen nearly dropped the piece of grilled meat he had between his chopsticks. He could feel the chilling stare from the edge of Lin Ruoxi's gaze, as he instantly followed up with a believable excuse. "I was thinking about that Wei Tinghao. Is his background really all that impressive?"

Tang Wan burst into laughter. "What? Why would you get so stressed out over that? I was assuming that you were worried about Cai Yan."

Yang Chen discreetly hinted at Tang Wan with the slightest movements of his pupils. *Bloody hell are you trying to screw me up today? There's already a list of things I did today that'd prompt Ruoxi to start a cold war with me! Please stop it!* he thought.

Tang Wan pretended as if she was unaware of his subtle hints as she continued, "Well it's no big deal, the Wei clan in Beijing is just a second-tier clan. But Wei Buqun is the current Minister of Security. Plus they have two other direct relatives who are deputy general officers of the security bureau, so I guess his clan could be considered to wield genuine power. But trust me, it's nothing compared to yours."

Yang Chen faked a cough as he proclaimed, "Not that I care anyway. Let's eat."

Whilst talking Yang Chen excitedly snatched a piece of freshly grilled meat from the grasp of Tang Tang's chopsticks and served it over into Lin Ruoxi's plate. He then coyly said, "Honey, don't just watch after Zhenxiu. You need to eat too. A little more meat on you would be better to tou—um I mean look at."

Tang Tang was visibly unhappy as she pouted. "Uncle, how dare you steal my meat to win her heart? Disgraceful!"

"I'm the one paying so why are you complaining? Grill yourself a new one," Yang Chen threateningly teased.

Tang Tang clenched her teeth as she turned towards her mother and held her by the shoulder. "Mum, look at what Uncle is doing. He's only taking meat for Sister Lin, but not for you!"

Tang Wan's supple cheeks saw a tinge of reddening glow. "You little rascal, what are you even talking about? We're just outsiders in here."

"Pft. As if," Tang Tang mumbled rebelliously.

Yang Chen was left cold. On one hand, he felt apologetic to Tang Wan, but if he really did take the initiative to serve Tang Wan, he might as well forget about going home tonight.

Lin Ruoxi continued grilling meat, dropping a piece on Zhenxiu's plate every now and then. She had completely excluded herself from the bickering, but the piercing gaze from her eyes was slowly eating Yang Chen whole.

First, it was a trip to the police station. Then his rash reaction towards jealousy, followed by a fateful encounter with Tang Wan. It would be a perfectly ordinary day for Yang Chen, but the only problem was, Lin Ruoxi was there the whole time.

*Was this doomed to happen on my return to China??* At that moment, perfectly grilled meat became nothing but tasteless chunks to Yang Chen.

Fortunately for him, there were still the two teenagers around. Both were of similar age but more importantly equally as cheeky and devious. They might have known one another well before but it did not take long before they were giggling at each another's jokes.

Just when the meal was almost done, Lin Ruoxi noticed the vibration of her cell phone on the table. She picked up the call. "Mother, is everything okay?"

The caller was none other than Guo Xuehua.

Right across the table, Tang Wan sighed lightly, knowing for a fact that no matter how much she meant to Yang Chen, she could never greet Guo Xuehua as 'Mother' the way Lin Ruoxi did.

Regardless of age or position, she would have no chance to become anyone's daughter-in-law. It was one of her biggest regrets as a woman. Staring across at Lin Ruoxi making a phone call with Yang Chen's mother, envy came and never left.

Lin Ruoxi nodded to certain things mentioned through the phone before she stoically handed Yang Chen the phone. "Mother wants to speak to you."

Chapter 774 - Perks as a Third Wheel

### **Perks as a Third Wheel**

Yang Chen grabbed the phone. "Mom, what's so important that you need to tell me right now?"

Guo Xuehua through the phone sounded like she was suppressing her anger as she spoke, "Tell me honestly son, what did you do to Qianni?"

"Qianni? What about her?" Yang Chen frowned in confusion. *She was perfectly fine just this morning. She even left for work with her mother,* he thought.

"Why are you asking me?! If it wasn't because I had to leave the house to go get some groceries, I wouldn't have known that she has been standing in front of our gate drenched from the rain since this morning.

"I asked her what had prompted her to do so but all she said was she was awaiting your return. What exactly did you do to that poor child?!" Guo Xuehua was furious and restless.

Yang Chen's hand started trembling unconsciously. The initial confusion was instantly cooled off as he let out a depressing sigh. "Alright, I understand. I'm not completely sure, but I'll head back now."

Yang Chen hung up the phone and passed it back to Lin Ruoxi before he declared. "I'll be taking the car back home. When you guys are done, call for someone to pick you up or follow Tang Wan's car."

Staring right at Yang Chen preparing to leave, Lin Ruoxi stood up and clenched onto Yang Chen's shoulder. "What's going on?"

Yang Chen's entire mind was filled with the thought of Mo Qianni drenched in the downpour all by herself. It left him in an agitated state which prompted him to provide no further explanation. "I'm going back to meet Qianni, I'll explain after this."

Lin Ruoxi was instantaneously enraged. Coldly, she asked, "Just because Qianni wants to see you, you'll leave me and Zhenxiu here?"

Her heightened pitch naturally gathered the attention of all present, leaving Zhenxiu particularly distressed.

Yang Chen's fury likewise was fueled as he flung her arm away before taunting, "Feel free to think whatever you want. I don't have time to explain!"

The abrupt burst of rage left not just Lin Ruoxi but also Tang Wan astonished.

Lin Ruoxi blankly watched as Yang Chen marched off. The determination in his gaze was as if he was ready to burn down the bridges he had been building all this while.

Lin Ruoxi nonetheless was unable to comprehend why her man would yell right at her face in front of everyone in the restaurant especially in front of Tang Wan.

Staring at Lin Ruoxi as her eyes started to get watery, Zhenxiu and Tang Tang were incredibly anxious but nonetheless remained tactless on ways to comfort her.

Tang Wan sighed ever so slightly as she reassured. "Boss Lin, I'm sure he has an emergency to deal with. You know there's no way he'll treat you like that otherwise."

"The only reason he'll get this agitated is for another woman," Lin Ruoxi stoically replied while standing stiffly before turning towards Tang Wan. "Madam Tang, I believe I'll need your help to take Zhenxiu back to the examination hall. I'm really sorry to bother you."

"Sister Ruoxi..." Zhenxiu seemed to have something in mind but was halted by Lin Ruoxi.

Lin Ruoxi smiled bitterly as her fingers glossed through Zhenxiu's silky hair. "All the best later okay? I'm fine. I'll come over to pick you up later."

Upon finishing her sentence, Lin Ruoxi took her bag and subsequently briskly walked out of the restaurant.

Watching Lin Ruoxi's expressions as she left the venue, Tang Wan sighed from grief. "I guess being the third wheel has its perks too. At least I don't have to deal with these problems."

Right by the entrance was a white BMW making its way out of its parking spot. Just when Yang Chen was about to accelerate onto the road, a mesmerizing figure outright stood in front of his car.

Amidst the dull overcast sky, tiny drops of rain drizzled down, and in all of that was a stone cold heart of a dejected woman.

Yang Chen clenched his teeth, took a deep breath as he stared right into Lin Ruoxi's gaze before leaning over to the side passenger seat to open the door.

"Get in."

Lin Ruoxi was dead silent but still managed to keep her elegance while boarding the car.

Yang Chen was hardly interested to start a conversation but nonetheless wouldn't decline if Lin Ruoxi insisted on tagging along. All he had in his mind right now was the heartbreaking image of Mo Qianni in the rain.

The car sprinted through puddles of water as it splashed to all directions, but with only one destination in mind.

More than ten minutes had passed before they reached their destination.

By the mansion, lush green scrubs extended beyond the metal barriers onto the pedestrian walkway. From the continuous rainfall, the sound of water droplets between the leaves left a vibe of serenity.

Because it was raining, it was extraordinarily peaceful. The lack of cars and people helped the atmosphere as well.

By the entrance located in the center of the garden was Mo Qianni in the same black two-piece uniform that she had worn this morning. She was standing in the exact same spot like a statue.

From the flash downpours throughout the morning, her hair was drenched and hung all over her body. Paired with her messy hair, her makeup revealed a disorganized and sorrowful woman.

Her clothes were drenched in water, latching onto her body. Mo Qianni was indifferent from the entire experience, with no sign of emotion.

Right by Mo Qianni stood Guo Xuehua with an enormous umbrella. Tears trickled down her cheek with sympathy for the girl.

Once she found out that Mo Qianni was drenched under the rain waiting for Yang Chen, she tried everything she could to bring her inside. But her efforts were in vain as the girl refused to move from the spot.

Her persistence was impossible for Guo Xuehua to overcome, which left her with the only option to run inside the house to contact Yang Chen. But Yang Chen did not pick up the calls, so she was left with no choice but to call Lin Ruoxi instead.

After furiously taunting Yang Chen to make an immediate return, she instantly ran back out to shield Mo Qianni from the rain.

Even though Mo Qianni was drenched to her core, it might have made things slightly better for her.

Watching the gentle, down-to-earth girl distraught and beaten down, Guo Xuehua was at a loss at how to feel.

She wondered if it was her karma that had led all these problems to behold upon her own son.

If it was not for the fact that Yang Chen was already married, Guo Xuehua would have had Mo Qianni and Yang Chen register as a couple. Mo Qianni's commoner background or her modest lifestyle never bothered Guo Xuehua. It was, however, her mediocrity that exhibited her gentle and warm personality towards being a decent wife.

But Guo Xuehua was also clear that it was not something she could manipulate.

Right at that moment, the rain stopped pouring. But it did nothing to alleviate the situation as the resounding silence was deafening

In a nearby garden, Ma Guifang came out of the porch and stared afar at her daughter standing by Yang Chen's house. Her eyes were filled with endless pits of sorrow but she decided against going out. No words. No action. Only anticipation.

Before long, from the junction not too far away came a white BMW dashing towards the gate of the estate. Upon its arrival, the car skidded to a halt.

The driver's side door was flung open as Yang Chen leaped off the car and took huge strides towards the woman drenched in rain.

Lin Ruoxi, who had managed to tag along on the ride back home, noticed the situation by her doorstep.

Mo Qianni's eyes were filled with nothing but a void, her gaze fixated onto the bluestone grounds, seemingly unaware of Yang Chen's return.

Yang Chen glanced onto the woman's expression from the side, leaving him gut-wrenching in guilt. "Qianni, I'm here, what—"

He choked at his words. Yang Chen just couldn't get his thoughts sorted out into words of comfort.

Mo Qianni reactively lifted her head as she elegantly turned towards Yang Chen. Her pupils were hollow and showed bottomless pits of despair.

"Whack!"

A deafening slap broke the tranquility.

Mo Qianni's chilly hand was trembling from the aftermath. And on Yang Chen left cheek was a reddening patch of a handprint.

Chapter 775 - Puppy or Kitten

### **Puppy or Kitten**

Yang Chen could have effortlessly avoided her slap but decided against it.

When he noticed that she was about to give him a tight slap, his focus was at the immense anxiety she had suppressed within her eyes.

*Am I the reason to her sorrow??* Yang Chen was at a loss but he was sure that he had a role in this. All he wished was for Qianni to feel better after slapping him.

Both Guo Xuehua and Ma Guifang watching from a distance were stunned. Guo Xuehua who had witnessed her son get assaulted was close to just dropping everything to diffuse the tension.

But at times like these, it was best if the seniors kept their distance.

From Lin Ruoxi's perspective, however, it was a situation which brought about a round of complex emotions.

Yang Chen took a deep breath. “Do you feel better now, do you want to—”

WHACK!

Before he could finish, a subsequent slap went straight to him on the other side!

Yang Chen could feel the burning sensation from the subsequent smack by the woman he loved. He tried to minimize his defense mechanism just so he wouldn't hurt her in return. After all, she was only doing this to vent her fury.

That was why Yang Chen actually felt the pain. But even then, Yang Chen's body resistance was far beyond any need for defense, which left Mo Qianni's hand red and numb.

Yang Chen frowned as he glanced towards her trembling hands, which prompted him to mumble, “That must have hurt, didn't it?”

“Hurt? The heart-aching pain I've been feeling has ripped my soul into half. It feels like my guts are scooped out and my bones are broken. Why would it still hurt?” Mo Qianni asked coldly.

Yang Chen asked, “Qianni, why did stand in the rain waiting for me? What do you want to say that you couldn't just tell me when I return?”

Mo Qianni bit on her lip as she held onto her tears. Her voice cracked through the sobbing. “I have... I've been looking for you, trying to contact you. Do you even know how hard I tried?!”

“Wha—what do you mean?” Yang Chen was confused.

“Hmph, stop pretending!” Mo Qianni let out a bitter smile. “Fine, I'll explain. My mother told you that we would never make it and that's why you want to stay away from me, is that right? That's why you've been avoiding me!”

“Avoid you? When did I ever say I'll avoid you?” Yang Chen was at a loss of words.

Mo Qianni glared right at him. “There's nothing left for you to say. You remember that night when I called you and you yelled out my full name? It was brutal. It felt like I was talking to a complete stranger. Do you know how bad I felt?!”

“I couldn't even get a word in edgewise. I spent the entire night worrying about what might have happened. Hours after hours I had been trying to call you but you refused to pick up!”

“It's...” Yang Chen, riddled with misery, tried to explain himself. “It was because...”

“I get it.” Mo Qianni cut his explanation short. “You went to the US, right? Alone in America, I no longer mattered anymore, because I'm just that annoying to you. Because I mean absolutely nothing to you, isn't that right?”

Whilst listening to Mo Qianni's words, Guo Xuehua turned to the back and glanced right at Ma Guifang at a far corner.

Yang Chen, on the other hand, forced a smile. “Qianni, you are mistaken...”



“Mistaken?” Mo Qianni’s vision was once again blurred from her tears. “I wish I was. This morning, you could have stopped to explain, but you chose to drive away instead. What part of that is a misunderstanding? If I didn’t stand right by your gate under the pouring rain, would you even have looked for me?”

“You... Look, let me explain, I... Ugh!”

Yang Chen’s head was aching because he wasn’t sure as to where to start, as he gripped onto a clump of his hair. He never imagined that the misunderstandings between them had become this wide.

That night it was because he was feeling sour about recent incidents, he had hastened the conversation between Mo Qianni and himself. But later on due to the Pacific incident, he was left with no option but to put that aside until now.

What he had never expected was that momentary negligence on his side would lead to such irreparable damage and torment towards Mo Qianni.

Not to mention the faked car accident this morning with Lin Ruoxi and Zhenxiu, which made him unable to stop to chat with her.

And that unknowingly became the breaking point of the entire conflict.

What Yang Chen failed to realize was that, in between his relationship with Mo Qianni, the insecurities she felt were clearly far ahead of his own.

Mo Qianni saw Yang Chen’s frustration while attempting to make excuses, which fueled her misery and sorrow.

“Does that mean our relationship was never meant to be my decision to make? Just because my mom insisted it, you did not even bother to consider what I thought?! That you wouldn’t even spare a chance for me to speak my thoughts?”

“I know that I’m not your wife and I never will be. I’m just an insignificant lover on the sidelines, but did you really think I was born to this earth just so I can wish to become somebody else’s lover?”

“I know, I’m not like Ruoxi. I’m not as pretty, rich, nor generous with leadership. I’m just an employee working under her vast collection of assets. I know that my family is poor and lowly...”

“But, just because I’m inferior to your wife, does that mean it’s wrong for me to choose the man I love?”

As she ranted and sulked, Yang Chen was still standing in the same position he came in, unable to phrase his words correctly. His entire body felt like it was burning him alive.

Lin Ruoxi, who was quite a bit away, lowered her head in deep thought of the situation.

Mo Qianni dried the edges of her eyes as she let out a huge sigh. “Everyone’s right. I’ve fallen for a man I shouldn’t have.”

“From the day I chose to confess my love to you, I had already set my mind to it. For I know, there is nothing I could gain from this but love, which was why I never cared what everyone else thought about me. It was a decision that I never questioned nor regretted.

“You know what, that moment when you agreed to accept me, it was the most joy I felt in my entire life.

“I could sacrifice anything just to be by your side. Even if I could only occasionally talk to you, meet up with you, go out for meals together, or to go on a shopping date, I wouldn’t mind any of that.

“Even if I could never face Ruoxi like as the righteous person I used to be ever again, even if I was the satanic, lustful third wheel in between this marriage, not once have I regretted this.

“Because I thought, as long as I know that you like me too, that’s really all I ever needed.”

Up till this point, however, Mo Qianni smirked as she shook her head. “What I absolutely couldn’t comprehend was, back then when I thought of leaving you for Mom’s sake, you were so insistent to be with me.

“But why, just why did it all change after just a couple of days. And for the same exact reason, you’re abandoning me. Why must you give me false hope?!”

Yang Chen could not bear to listen to any more of that. Every word of hers felt like a knife cutting through his heart. His eyes went dark as his heart seemed to have stopped beating.

“Qianni, it’s not what it seems...”

“Let me finish.” Mo Qianni insisted with a scorching gaze. “Yang Chen, the moment I chose to walk with you, I had chosen to lose my pride and self-worth. I abandoned my wish to have a family. However, if you really think of me as a burden and choose to leave me behind, well fine. It’s probably better for both of us anyway. I guess I’ll have to accept that.

“But instead, you... chose to avoid me and did not even sit me down like a man and tell me to my face! Even if someone were to abandon a puppy or kitten, they’d do it with their own hands.”

Chapter 776 - Self-Deceiving

### **Self-Deceiving**

Yang Chen took a long sigh, staring at the woman who was already emotionally defeated. He couldn’t help but grin at how the situation had panned out.

“Are you done?”

“What more can I say?”

“Alright, then come with me.” Yang Chen went ahead and reached for his pocket, searched for a bit before retrieving an item.

The object, placed before Mo Qianni’s eyes, left her in a daze.

“This is...”

Even under the faint light, the visual sensation brought about by the jewelry in his hand was jaw-dropping to say the least.

The huge pink diamond ring was mesmerizing from every angle it shone in. Every perfectly cut vertex and glossed-up edge was brilliantly displayed in the light.

Encrusted within the exterior of the refined platinum ring body were several closely arranged petite diamonds scattered across the ring. In Yang Chen's hands, it seemed like a piece stolen from a fairytale.

That naturally was the five-carat rose pink diamond ring from the auction he attended in America. The one that Xue Zijing went to great lengths to obtain only to no avail, which naturally kept it in Yang Chen's possession.

Women have an inbuilt instinct towards shiny objects, unfathomable by the male species. Mo Qianni was no exception.

So did Lin Ruoxi from a distance. Even though she had seen all kinds of jewelry, it did not diminish her hunger towards it. It even managed to attract the attention of the two elders Guo Xuehua and Ma Guifang.

With her gaze fixated upon the extravagant pink diamond ring, Mo Qianni's tears had finally subsided. And replacing it was a hungry and longing look.

It was not because the woman was a gold digger, but her passion for the finer things in life had replaced the sadness that was there before.

"This is the main reason I hung up on you the other day and left to America," Yang Chen proclaimed with a smile.

Yang Chen thought it through. He would have to gloss over the part where he fought Poseidon over the Pacific and got hit by Tai Qing Heavenly Lightning. It wasn't the fact that it was a secret but he wasn't sure if explaining everything now was a good idea.

Moreover, it might seem too dramatic for her to be convinced. A white lie with some alterations in the story would be best for the time being.

Mo Qianni pulled her gaze from the spellbinding diamond ring as she turned to him. "What are you trying to say?"

Yang Chen stoically responded, "That night when I picked up your call, I was genuinely discouraged by Auntie's words. But my dear Qianqian, while I was not in a good mood that night, I definitely did not give up on us. Why would I?"

"Really?" Mo Qianni saw a glimmer of hope.

"I guarantee it." Yang Chen grinned. "And right at that moment, Christen over in the US informed me of an emergency, which was why I had to leave so abruptly. She explained that there would be an auction over at Beverly Hills in Los Angeles. She was wondering if I was interested in their prized possession. I was intrigued upon seeing the ring from a photo sent by Christen, so I instantly took the next flight off to place the winning bid.

"Because of the rush, I had left my phone at home and carelessly missed your calls. It was Christen who had made the call back home to contact Ruoxi and the others at home.

"I didn't know you'd think that I was intentionally avoiding you. This is a grave misunderstanding that I've overlooked all this while. I assure you I always wanted to explain to you."

Mo Qianni was doubtful of his narration, but she took a good look at the glistening diamond ring in Yang Chen's hand and decided that he was innocent. "Are you really... telling the truth? Not because you hate me, but because you left for America to bid for the ring?"

Yang Chen responded with slight agitation. "Are you not convinced? Fine, I'm going to continue with this morning's incident. This morning, I didn't stop to talk to you and it was unintentional in every meaning of the word. It was because I was genuinely anxious, Ruoxi had to take Zhenxiu to the exam hall as today is the day of the College Entrance Examination.

"But things turned for the worse as three troublemakers decided to fake a car accident. How could I not chase them away? Besides, you're in your office attire, aren't you? I never thought you actually had anything to say to me!

"All the while my phone has been charging in my room. I didn't have access to it the whole time. If you still don't believe me, you can ask Ruoxi or visit the police station."

Mo Qianni at this point ultimately gave in to laughter, as joy beamed over her face. "Alright, alright I was too sensitive. I know I shouldn't have doubted you so easily, my bad..."

Yang Chen reached out his left hand as he caressed the woman's face. "I was conflicted for a while there, but now I believe that when adversity comes our way, we should not retreat and give up so easily."

Mo Qianni started crying tears of joy as she nodded.

Yang Chen smirked as he winked. "You know me. I don't have aspirations. The only things that interest me are beautiful women. Why would I ever abandon one of the most beautiful women on the planet?"

Mo Qianni affectionately rolled her eyes on his remark, before her focus once again fixated upon the ring in Yang Chen's palm.

"Aren't you curious as to who the ring belongs to?" Yang Chen took to ask.

Mo Qianni pouted coyly as she glanced towards Lin Ruoxi who was watching from a distance. Simultaneously, Lin Ruoxi's soul-piercing gaze met with hers.

The two women shared a glance but nonetheless with no hatred for one another.

Mo Qianni turned back and nodded with a smile. "The ring is hers..."

Before she could finish Yang Chen held up her hand and placed the rose pink diamond ring in the palm of her hand.

Mo Qianni watched in awe as Yang Chen did all that, uncertain on how she should respond.

Yang Chen sighed but continued in a calm, soothing voice. "I might not be allowed to personally put it on your wedding finger, but never doubt me for this ring is for you, Mo Qianni."

Mo Qianni had to reassure herself that it was not a dream, but instead, a reality that was hard to believe.

Lin Ruoxi who was still standing by the car witnessed the entire scene unfold. Even when she was prepared for the situation to resolve in a similar way, she was still pale and frail from the shock before her eyes.

Even though a ring worth tens of millions was nothing much for her, she was paling at the fact that her husband had given a ring to one of his lovers in front of her!

Yang Chen made sure to leave some respect for his legal wife by not putting the ring onto Mo Qianni's finger, but it was nothing more than a self-deceiving act.

Watching the turn of events, Guo Xuehua froze. She was relieved that Mo Qianni was comforted and reassured, but was anxious towards Yang Chen's actions. How could he hand out a ring of that value to just anyone?

As her daughter-in-law gradually became more pale and dejected, Guo Xuehua was in a state of hysteria.

Ma Guifang too was stupefied as she witnessed Yang Chen handing her daughter a shimmering ring before Lin Ruoxi's eyes. But to see her daughter so happy left her thinking about recent events.

Mo Qianni was so happy that she was oblivious to everything around her.

Even though she felt extremely apologetic towards Lin Ruoxi, nothing in the world would mean anything more to her.

Yang Chen chose to give her a rose pink diamond ring worth millions in front of his mother and his legal wife. The true intentions and genuine affection he had towards her was priceless.

"You like it?" Yang Chen watched as his woman conflictingly stared at the ring, as he couldn't help but asked.

Mo Qianni nodded. "A lot..."

"Guess how much I paid to bid for it."

"H—how would I know? It must be really expensive..." Mo Qianni was anxious at his answer.

Yang Chen brought himself close to Mo Qianni's ear and whispered, "13.14 million dollars. Is the price sincere enough for you?"

Mo Qianni's hands shook from the staggering amount, nearly dropping her prized possession. Even her breathing instantly sped up. She nearly choked at the price. "You... are you trying to freak me out? How could you just hand me something like that?!"

Yang Chen shrugged as he replied, "Compared to you, Little Qianqian, it's not worth nearly as much to me."

At that moment, she knew full well that it was his trademark sweet talk, but it still managed to crack her up. It was slightly weighty to bear, but she had no reason to reject.

Watching the scene unfolded in close range, Lin Ruoxi had enough.

She glared soullessly at Yang Chen before she turned around and hopped onto the driver's seat of the BMW behind her and darted off into the horizon.

Guo Xuehua by the sidelines was quick to advise her stubborn son. "My child, even if you have to be upfront with Qianni to calm her woes, could you not have done it in front of Ruoxi?"

Mo Qianni who was woken from her stupor lowered her head in embarrassment.

Yang Chen dried the cold sweat on his forehead as he smiled bitterly. "Mom, you don't have to remind me. But there are some things that have to be brought up sooner or later. It needs to be said that I will not give up on Qianni. What Ruoxi witnessed today was necessary."

"Just because you chose to hold on, that everything would turn out fine?"

A cold, stern voice resonated from the gate of a neighboring house. It was Ma Guifang who had spoken while strolling up to Yang Chen.

Chapter 777 - Not Realistic

### **Not Realistic**

Mo Qianni was nervous when she saw Ma Guifang cross her arms at them. She bit her lip in fear but her eyes showed resilience.

Yang Chen smiled proudly and turned to say, "Auntie, I know our future will not be a smooth-sailing one. However, I hope you'll trust me. Trust that I will be able to keep Qianni happy for the rest of her life."

"For the rest of her life? Heh, Boss Lin was so upset she left. Is that your idea of settling it?" Ma Guifang smiled coldly. "Do you not think I want you to be happy together? I'm an outsider here. I of all people know the hardships of life. The closer you get, the more trouble you will attract! Not just for you, but for the people around you. Just think about the future!"

"Mom!" wailed Mo Qianni suddenly. She looked at her mother with her eyes full of tears. "If I let go now, I know I will never have a future!"

Time seemed to have stopped.

Ma Guifang's eyes flashed in panic. She stood in stunned silence.

Yang Chen was shaken too but soon felt like something was wrong with Mo Qianni. He'd only just turned to see her eyelids slowly close, as her body collapsed on his!

"Qianni!"

He shouted while Guo Xuehua and Ma Guifang froze in shock!

Mo Qianni was so weak she couldn't reply. It seemed like her time in the rain was catching up to her. When her eyes closed, she fainted right onto Yang Chen's body!

"Qianni!" When Ma Guifang saw this, she immediately grabbed her hand and forgot what had happened before.

Guo Xuehua stood by the side with a million things running through her head. She sighed pitifully. “Sigh, Guifang, be gentle! Qianni must be really weak right now. After half a day in the rain, she must’ve caught a cold! Bring her in and warm her up!”

This snapped Ma Guifang awake. She nodded vigorously.

Yang Chen was filled with guilt but felt a stirring in his emotions.

He carried the unconscious woman and strode right into the house.

At this point, Ma Guifang couldn’t care about anything else. She let Yang Chen bring her in.

Looking at Yang Chen’s expression, Ma Guifang felt her heart shudder.

The young man was a fiery beast who was suppressing his rage. Although he wasn’t speaking, she could feel his emotions pour into the atmosphere!

For the first time, Ma Guifang bore witness to Yang Chen’s terrifying aura.

When they entered, Yang Chen carried Mo Qianni upstairs to her room. Since Rose had left early that morning, the house was relatively silent.

When she saw him carry her daughter into the room, Ma Guifang added hurriedly, “Not the room yet. Go to the toilet. I’ll take off her wet clothes, and put on something dry.”

He didn’t listen to her. He carried Mo Qianni straight to her room with only one intention in mind.

Ma Guifang frowned. “Yang Chen, I know you’re upset but this is not the time to throw a tantrum. If she sleeps in wet clothes, it’ll only make her fever worse!”

Yang Chen still kept silent. After entering the room, he suddenly loosened his hands!

“Aah!”

Ma Guifang shrieked, thinking Yang Chen just threw her daughter!

However, the next scene caused her jaw drop!

Mo Qianni didn’t fall after Yang Chen let go, but rather softly hung mid-air as if there was an invisible force holding her!

It looked akin to the magic tricks that were performed on television!

Ma Guifang lived most of her life in a mountain village so she didn’t have much contact with the outside world. Her simple-minded thinking was hindering her from believing that something like this was even possible.

He ignored her shocked expression, only waving one arm above Mo Qianni’s body. His eyes were filled with love and care.

Ma Guifang, to her surprise, could see the water evaporate from Mo Qianni’s wet clothes! In the blink of an eye, she was all dried up as if the episode this morning had never happened!

It was only when all the water had evaporated that Yang Chen reached out to take off the woman's heels before laying her on the soft bed. He then used her fleece blanket to tuck her into bed.

"Yo—yo—you're..." Ma Guifang stuttered. If she didn't personally know Yang Chen, she would've run from fear!

In her eyes, what he did was nothing short of fiction!

Soon his darkened expression turned into one of care. "I'll explain later. First, I need to regulate her body conditions."

As soon as he finished, Yang Chen sat on the edge of the bed and grabbed one of Mo Qianni's wrists. He was stabilizing the energy in her body while eliminating any unwanted residue within.

Of course, this was something Ma Guifang couldn't understand. She watched as her daughter's face start to color back up within seconds of him touching her. Even her deeply furrowed brows relaxed, as if resting blissfully.

When he finished, he put her hand down. Reaching over to caress her face, his mouth curled into a faint smile. Yang Chen turned to Ma Guifang. "Auntie, I know that what I did might have scared you, but please relax. I have nothing but the best intentions for you and your daughter.

Ma Guifang gulped, trying her best to calm herself. "Yang Chen... What... are you?"

"I am..." He smiled warmly. "It would take a long time to explain my identity. If I have the chance in the future, I'll let Qianni know so she can sit down and regale it slowly."

She fell silent. She didn't know how to respond to this young man for regular logic couldn't be used to explain what he did.

He shot up, then bowed solemnly. "Auntie, I know that to you, I might not be a good man. I'll admit I'm greedy, selfish, lazy, and arrogant. When I like a pretty girl, I'll claim her as mine!

"I will never allow any man to disrespect the women I like. I will kill in broad daylight to protect the ones I love!

"I won't divorce my wife for Qianni, nor would I abandon my family and marriage for other women. That is why I cannot give Qianni a complete marriage, not even a status.

"You can say that I'm stubborn. That's true. I don't listen to the rules made by society. I abide by my own rules!

"Ever since I was just a boy, I knew that if I was strong enough, I could have everything I wanted!"

Ma Guifang stood frozen. Upon listening to his immoral, impractical ideas, she became angry. However, Yang Chen radiated so much anger it felt as if the skies were pressing in, so she dared not fight back!

She was already lucky she hadn't collapsed!

At this point, Yang Chen took a deep breath and smiled. The power he radiated decreased in strength.

"But... Auntie, I want to say that... what I feel towards Qianni is real!



"I don't know what I can do for you to believe me. It doesn't matter what background, position, or powers I have, but I can promise you this. I want you to be clear that one, I will never give up on Qianni because we love each other..."

"Two, I cannot guarantee Qianni wouldn't be harmed for the rest of her life. That wouldn't be realistic. But I'll always be there for her. I'll be there for the rest of her life to care for her, love her, and make her happy. I'll never leave her alone till the day I die."

Chapter 778 - Pretty as a Flower

### **Pretty as a Flower**

Ma Guifang's eyes flashed. His honesty caught her by surprise. But it was his touching sincerity that kept her from rejecting him immediately.

She turned to look at her daughter on the bed.

Although Mo Qianni was still unconscious, her hand was still clutching the bed tightly.

*Silly girl. She looks so worried about the ring given by her man though unconscious...?* Ma Guifang thought.

A bitter smile crept up Ma Guifang's face. She turned back to face Yang Chen, wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes, and smiled. "Yang Chen, do you know what being a mother feels like?"

Yang Chen looked puzzled. He shook his head.

She laughed softly, then mumbled, "I only have one child. From the moment she was born, I've sworn to myself that if this world could only offer us tears and laughter in halves, I will bear her half of the tears. All the laughter should go to my child.

"This has been my only goal as a mother. Don't you think it hurts me too, seeing Qianni so sad? I'd be willing to even die for her. So how could I watch this pitiful child cry alone in this world?"

"She lost her father when she was very young. Then, she finally arrived in this big city and met some good people who boosted her to the position she holds today. How could I bring myself to allow my child, who has suffered for more than twenty years, spend the most beautiful years of her life on being someone's... someone else's..."

Ma Guifang couldn't continue. She was already sobbing so hard she couldn't speak, covering her face and sinking into deep grief.

Yang Chen stood his ground, in shock. However, his eyes narrowed with determination. He declared, "Auntie, rather than giving up on Qianni, I'll put in everything I have to make it work. I promise you that during your lifetime, you'll see how your daughter will be able to walk in broad daylight by my side!"

She lifted her tearful gaze, locking eyes with the young man's face of determination for a long time. A deep breath was taken, then a smile of surprise. "I understand now. As a parent, I'll finally have to let my child win this time."

When Yang Chen heard this, he felt a sudden rush of happiness. “Then, Au—oh no! Mom, so you agree?!”

She smiled, looking kindly. This child looked so happy all of a sudden. Then again, it’s only from an honest reaction like this she saw his feelings to her was true.

“You stubborn child... I’ve given up.”

Yang Chen scratched his head with a goofy, toothy grin. The boulder on his heart had finally lightened. Although he was an experienced cultivator, matters between him and women were enough to drive him mad!

“Look at you... Sigh... It’s late, I should cook dinner. If you want, you can stay to keep her company.”

When she finished, she studied him from head to toe with a peculiar expression again, making him uncomfortable.

“Mom, what are you looking at?” he asked uncomfortably.

She answered, embarrassed, “Yang Chen, the trick you did just now—was it magic?”

Yang Chen’s face froze, stunned. “Not magic, but... It’s useful. Definitely real though!”

Ma Guifang nodded as if she understood. Still deep in thought, she walked out of the room and even closed the door.

Yang Chen felt that she wanted to say something, but was stopping herself. It was weird, but he was too lazy to think about it.

He then turned to the woman, still sound asleep on the bed. His gaze softened as he sat quietly, then falling on her coloured cheeks, the red lips, her pretty face.

Her room was filled with the same floral scent she wore. In the past, whenever he caught a whiff of this seductive scent, he’d pounced on her without a thought. Now, he could only keep her company, looking at her pitifully without moving a muscle.

In the quiet room, Yang Chen forgot time, forgot everything that happened outside. Perhaps it was unfair to his wife who’d just driven off in anger, but Yang Chen selfishly wanted to keep this sliver of time for the silly girl lying on the bed.

Time slipped by silently. Soon, the sky gradually darkened. It was a rainy day, the skies darkened quicker.

He was almost afraid to breath loudly in the room, terrified of waking the girl. However, the storm grew louder outside and it still woke Mo Qianni up, her body only just barely recovered.

Her eyes fluttered open lazily, like two clean springs creating ripples in the dark.

“You’re up? Feeling better?” he asked gently.

Mo Qianni stared at the man sitting next to her bed, as if suspicious. She lifted her arm to rub her eyes, then finally believed that she was indeed looking at her love.

“Why are you in my room?” she asked, in a daze.

He sighed, "Because someone caught a cold in the rain."

Mo Qianni tried to recall, then understood. She smiled and supported herself up.

As she shifted weight onto her arm, she suddenly felt something hard in her right palm. It jolted her, and then she opened her fist...

The pink diamond ring was still bright as ever. In this simple room, it looked like starlight.

She stared at the huge diamond for a long time, stuck her tongue out mischievously. Unable to hold back her excitement, she said, "Don't laugh at me, but when I was a child I dreamed of a man giving me a huge diamond ring... That's why I'm so happy."

He smiled and asked, "So would that mean whoever gives you the ring will get to sleep with you?"

Her face reddened, looking down without a word.

He reached to pinch her chin. "There's nothing to be embarrassed about. It's just the both of us here, we're husband and wife now."

"We're not that..." She rolled her eyes, then as if recalling something, she lifted her head to say, "Right, my mother..."

"Mom agreed," came his direct reply.

"What?"

"I said she decided to let me take care of her naughty kitten!" he said, delighted.

*Kitten??* She finally understood what he meant, then bit her lip shyly. However, she was overwhelmed with so much joy, her eyes reddened again.

He huffed, smiling. "I put it so simply because I was afraid you'd cry. Look at you. It took so much effort to regulate your body, to heal your swollen eyes. They're going to swell again."

Frustrated, she wanted to throw something at Yang Chen but suddenly realised it was her diamond ring in her hands. She carefully placed it on the nightstand, then hurled a pillow at him!

"You think me crying is funny? Do you know how worried I was?!"

He looked relieved, then smiled. Yang Chen held his arms open, pulling her soft figure into an embrace.

She relaxed, getting as close as she could to her lover, enjoying their time together.

They had conquered obstacles for this moment... Emotions surged in both their hearts...

"Little Qianqian," he whispered in her ear.

"Mm." Mo Qianni grunted lazily.

He played with her hair, his warm breath on her. "Why... Why do you like me so much? I'd been so stupid, hurt you so many times but you still waited for me in the rain... Am I, the person who made you sad, that good?"

“Mm.” It was gentle, but firm.

Yang Chen fell silent. “Which part?”

A smile crept up her face, which was leaning on his shoulder. “You... You’re as pretty as a flower.”

He furrowed his brows, “Don’t tell me something everyone in China knows. I want to hear something from your heart, I want you to be honest.”

She pouted, her beautiful eyes gleaming with mischief. “What should I say? This kitten is dumb... Why don’t you teach me?”

“Sigh... Alright, I’ll teach you.”

“Mm, I’m listening.”

“I love you.”

Silence filled the room at this moment.

“I... love you too.”

Outside, rain grew heavier again, so heavy it was as if a curtain of water dripped from the rooftops. Raindrops fell on the peonies outside, exploding into crystals...

Chapter 779 - Wen Tao

### **Wen Tao**

Seated in the study area of the Ning residence, Ning Guangyao was reading several documents and signing them as he went.

There was a knock on the door.

“Come in.” Ning Guangyao placed his pen and stationery aside before taking a sip from his cup of tea.

A man in a suit opened the door. He bowed, then signaled to someone behind him. A thin silhouette entered.

He was wearing a set of clean, simple clothes. The young man’s hair was clipped, and his face was cleaned up. He limped into the study.

“Ning... Premier Ning...”

Cripple’s voice shook. He lowered his head carefully, not bold enough to look up at the highest-ranked man in all of China’s government.

Ning Guangyao put down his teacup. “Wen Tao... That is your name, correct?”

Cripple stood stunned for a moment, then whispered, “Yes.”

“I’d sent someone to investigate your background. You didn’t make it into university because you missed it by a point. Not long after, your father died in an accident which coincidentally left you crippled

and your mother killed herself by drinking pesticide. With nowhere else to turn to, you resorted to begging on the streets," he said slowly.

Wen Tao's eyes reddened. He gulped and said, "You're right, but... I've actually gotten into university."

"Oh, really? How?"

Cripple looked up for the first time, his face betraying his dark emotions. "I heard it from my teacher. She told me in secret that a slot coincidentally had to be reserved for the son of one of the leaders of the education ministry. That's why they had my grade lowered. They had to deliberately look for a mark that wasn't supposed to be deducted. But who was I to compete? I didn't have money nor power but I wanted to report them... And that corrupt bastard! That corrupt minister sent someone to arrange for my dad's accident!

"Our family had always been poor. My mom and dad were laborers. Their lives were spent making sure I had the opportunity they didn't. I'd initially made it into Peking University to make life better for my parents. But because I was only a regular student, I was dispensable in the eyes of the powerful."

He stood there and spat his grudges that were bottled up for so long. Even the suited man next to the door felt a chill run down his spine.

Ning Guangyao furrowed his brows. "You're calling one of the government's men a corrupt bastard, right in front of me. Aren't you afraid I'd do something?"

Wen Tao clenched his teeth. "Premier Ning, you won't do anything to me. You would have killed me the other day if you wanted to!"

"Mm? I know you have a huge secret, that's why I kept you alive," answered Ning Guangyao.

Wen Tao grinned. "Premier Ning, I'm not very smart. I'll never understand things the way you do. However, I am smart enough to know that you are interested in the secret I keep. If you really want to know, I'm quite sure that you have ways to force it out of me. The only reason why you wouldn't do that is that you still care about the years you had with the first lady."

Ning Guangyao's eyes narrowed, glaring coldly.

"Also..." Wen Tao gulped, then continued speaking nervously, "I'm just an insignificant bug to you. Killing me wouldn't accomplish much. I'm much more useful to you alive."

Ning Guangyao knocked his desk gently with his hand. "The college entrance examinations have begun. You're too late for that. However, it's not impossible for you to enter Peking University. You may enter on the condition that you do not embarrass us."

Wen Tao's eyes brightened with mad joy. He dropped to the ground, kneeling. "Thank you, Premier! Thank you, Premier! I'll never let you down!"

"I'll send someone to make arrangements for administration. You will enter as my wife's distant relative. Before she passed away, she wanted me to take care of you. As for the rest, I'm sure you're smart enough to think of something," said Ning Guangyao mildly.

Wen Tao nodded vigorously. "I know what I must do. I'll never let this secret out."

Ning Guangyao frowned. "There was no secret to let out in the first place!"

"Yes..."

"When you've made a little reputation for yourself at Peking University, I'll give you a few tasks. As for the secret you're holding on to with your life, you may tell me once you trust me enough not to kill you." As he spoke, his lips slid into an icy sneer. "Of course, patience... is not my forte."

Wen Tao froze, nodding silently.

"You may leave." Ning Guangyao gestured for him to exit.

Wen Tao got up and backed out, feeling like he was on cloud nine.

When the door closed, the suited man guarding the door stepped forward. Confused, he asked, "Master, why don't you let us beat the cripple up? I hardly believe that he is strong enough to resist us."

Ning Guangyao picked up his teacup, then sipped another mouthful of tea. "He won't tell, even if he were to die."

The man stopped for a moment, then asked uncomfortably, "Master, why would you say that? He's just some beggar."

"Hmph." Ning Guangyao narrowed his eyes at the man. "What do you know? Think about it, how did this beggar who was new to the streets, make a name for himself within the circle of gangsters and beggars in Zhonghai? Why did he continue to take care of that woman, even when no one else wanted to care for her?"

The suited man had a hint of panic. "That would mean..."

"You're right," he huffed coldly. "He must have known of her identity. He only pretended not to know. Since the beginning, he'd been gambling with his chances. It was his one chance to enter the higher tiers of society. He's a slippery one. Death means nothing to a person who has nothing. In just a few days, he'd made that scheming woman trust him, so much so she told him a secret to save his life. A secret she didn't even want to tell me at her deathbed. It's obvious this brat isn't a simple man."

"He may look like a sickly dog to you—a timid, fragile man. But that fool had been observing us. It was all a show. He thought everything was in his control. But how could he trick me, Ning Guangyao? Then again, it looks like he's scheming abilities have improved after practicing on you idiots."

"You could give someone all the training and support in the world but yet, they would not become significant people in society. Then there are some people who look weak, insignificant but given the chance, rise up to become influential people. Even if they were shooting for the moon, they'd land among the stars."

The suited man was dripping in cold sweat now. He no longer dared to look down upon the beggar. Even the way he looked at Ning Guangyao became more courteous. "Then... Master, if he's such a dangerous man, why are we keeping him alive? He might get a chance, and we'd be raising a tiger in our home."

"Hmph." Ning Guangyao looked at him haughtily. "I've been unable to accomplish anything significant because my subordinates are filled with fools like you."

“The greatest of kings do not have inexperienced subordinates by his side. I want honed geniuses, like how Liu Bei was bold enough to use Zhu Geliang as his secret weapon. All of you are the bricks that hold the Ning clan up. You don’t need to worry.

[TL note: Liu Bei and Zhe Geliang are from the?.]

“Fighting a person like him, who is willing to lose everything, would only harm both sides. That is why instead of beating him up to force the secret out of him, we could use his intelligence and scheming abilities to do our bidding. As for the secret he keeps, all will be revealed in good time.”

The suited man nodded, agreeing to what he said. He still looked worried about the future prospects of the clan, however.

Ning Guangyao let out a long sigh. “You... Just do what you’re supposed to do. Leave the thinking to me. You really think the Ning clan could lead among the four dominant clans only because I, Ning Guangyao, am the premier?”

The man stopped, looking at him in confusion. However, Ning Guangyao’s lips curled into a deep sneer and his body grew cold.

... ..

Mo Qianni lay in Yang Chen’s arms sleeping blissfully in her room.

Yang Chen didn’t know if he should’ve cried or laughed at the woman in his arms. He smoothed her messy hair and stood up.

When he saw the storm still raging outside, he sighed. He should start making preparations for the future.

Turning, Yang Chen spoke gently to the smiling face at the door. “Why are you standing at the door?”

Unknowingly, the door had been opened. A lady in a purple chiffon blouse and a black sequin short skirt was leaning against it. Her pale, long legs looked more sensual in this angle. The corners of her sexy lips curled up. The delicate sheet of long hair making her look like a very attractive elf in the dim light.

Chapter 780 - Never Grow Old

### **Never Grow Old**

“Why interrupt such a beautiful scene with my presence?” said Rose gently.

Yang Chen’s heart warmed. She was as kind as always.

He approached her silently and grabbed her cold hand.

Rose stood there in stunned silence. When she saw that Yang Chen was about to bring her to her room, she hit a sudden realization. Her pretty face reddened. “Don’t you think about anything else? We haven’t met in a while and now we get in bed the moment we see each other?”

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. Turning back, he said, “My darling Rose, you’re overthinking. I have other matters to discuss.”

Realizing her mistake, she pouted as her face burned up.

When they entered her room, Yang Chen guided her to the bed. He scanned her body. "You smell like blood. Did you kill someone?"

Rose's smile faded into awkwardness. "I thought you wouldn't find out if I showered first."

"I'm an expert in matters like these," said Yang Chen. He pinched her nose. "You don't have to explain yourself either. As long as you're alright, I don't care whom you've killed in the underworld."

Her eyes surged with warmth. She leaned gently on the man's shoulder. "It was actually two leaders of the association. They were selling crystal meth with a few snakes from the Middle East behind my back. I gave them a chance but they refused to take heed."

"You were out early, and you're back late. You must've killed more than a few," he said with a smile.

"Uh..." Her eyes flashed coldly. "Since we were taking action, we had to wipe them out from the roots. Their core members, subordinates, including families, we didn't leave even a single person alive."

Yang Chen gently stroked the woman's hair. His fingers touched her face and lingered for a moment. "Why did you have to do it yourself? Couldn't you get Chen Rong to go?"

"Her?" She laughed coldly. "She thinks I'm unaware of their deals. Without Chen Rong's approval in secret, they wouldn't have been so willing to do it."

"Chen Rong... She's still disobedient as always," he said airily.

"Mm."

With his gentle, loving strokes, Rose closed her eyes blissfully as if she was about to fall asleep. "She still listens most of the time though. If I get someone to replace her, they might not do their job as well as her. Anyone would be tempted with wealth beyond their wildest dreams."

As she spoke, Rose lifted her head to look at Yang Chen in loving admiration. "I know she's afraid of you. No matter how greedy she is, she wouldn't dare to cross you."

Yang Chen laughed. "Let them do whatever they want. I don't take their petty fights to heart anyway. I want to talk to you about something."

She nodded curiously. "I'm listening. It's not every day you have something to talk to me about. I must listen carefully."

"You naughty little..." Yang Chen kissed her face, then said solemnly, "Rose, have you ever wondered... When we have fun, why don't you ever get pregnant even though we don't use protection?"

Rose was startled. She didn't expect him to start with something like that. She blushed, but also asked expectantly, "Wh—why?"

"Have you ever thought that I might be doing something to prevent it?" He smiled.

She nodded, embarrassed. "I guess..."

"You all have mistaken. It's not that I don't want to, it's that I can't." Yang Chen smiled bitterly.



“Ah?” Rose paled as if she was hit by the news, “Ho—how? But you’re... strong...”

“I didn’t mean it like that!” Yang Chen scratched his head. “What I mean is that with our current situation, I cannot let any of you bear my child.”

Rose was very confused. She blinked, speechless.

He sighed softly before explaining himself to her.

As she heard peculiar phrases like ‘Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture’, ‘Xiantian’, ‘Soul Forming’, and ‘Tribulation Passing’ stages in addition to his journey of cultivation, Rose’s initial shock turned into disbelief, then finally into concern with a hint of fear.

“Then... Then what should we do? You’re only getting more and more powerful.” Rose’s eyes were filled with sadness.

Exasperated, he said, “The child won’t be the most pressing problem. The most important thing is... our aging problem...”

“Aging?”

“That’s right.” Yang Chen nodded. “Although I can’t guarantee how long I would live, it would be easy for me to live up to a few hundred years with my current cultivation. Also, my body won’t age with time. Perhaps after a while, if I could improve my cultivation, my lifespan could get longer and longer.”

When she heard this, blood drained from her face. She shook her head in panic. “No... I don’t want that! If that’s true, after several decades you’d still be as young as ever and I’d be old. What should I do?”

He grabbed the woman’s shoulders, shaking his head. “Don’t panic. I’ve already told you the problem. Doesn’t that mean I also have the solution? And, as for our feelings for each other, you really think I wouldn’t love you if you grew old? If that’s the case, then what’s the difference between you and the other women I’ve been with? I don’t love you only because of your looks. You must’ve known since the beginning. I’m not like that.”

She nodded emotionally, touching Yang Chen’s cheek tearfully. “But... Hubby, I’m scared. I knew you were powerful before but not to this extent. What should I do so I won’t have to leave you... I don’t want you to see me grow old, I’d rather leave you.”

This helpless girl was no longer the ruthless assassin of the underworld, but rather a girl praying to the heavens for comfort.

Yang Chen held her shaking hands. “That’s why I had to talk to you. If I want the lot of you to never leave me while staying young, the only way is to get everyone to start cultivating too!”

“Cultivation... Like... Like what you do?” Rose was quite hesitant. “Would I be able to do it?”

“Of course,” Yang Chen said confidently. “To be honest, although I’ve been feeling my way through it alone, because of this, I have a thorough understanding of many things.”

“Then... what should I do?”

Yang Chen smiled, "My darling Rose, after thinking about it, you're the most suitable candidate. Your body is familiar with the foundations of martial arts and your muscles are flexible and strong. And right now you have the most time too. Matters at the Red Thorns Society are also petty anyways. To be honest, to me, it would only take a moment to unify the entire underworld of Zhonghai.

"As long as you have the time, you'll be able to focus on trying out this cultivation. I'll think of a way to prepare what I think would be the most suitable beginner's routine. Then, I'll think of a way to speed up your cultivation. If you can achieve the Xiantian stage, then your lifespan would increase greatly. That would be the first success. If you can accomplish that, then I can let Qianni train with you without having to worry.

"You still have a lot of time, so you don't have to panic. I'm also self-taught, I don't know much about the system. I'm afraid of giving you the wrong advice so I won't let you do something unless I'm sure that it is absolutely right."

Rose's eyes finally brightened with hope. She nodded solemnly. "I'll listen to you. I'll let Chen Rong deal with the society. As long as I have you, I can let everything else go."

He smiled faintly, then embraced the girl. "If only you'd ask more of me. You're so willing to give up everything for me, I'll feel guilty for it. Don't worry. To keep my darling Rose pretty for the rest of her life, I'd even give all my cultivation abilities to you with no regrets."

Confused, she asked, "Your cultivation... can be given to another person?"

He laughed awkwardly. "About that... Maybe? Heh, I'm not sure..."

She pouted. "You're just sweet-talking me. Hmmp, just watch me! I'll be young forever! I didn't know before, but now that I know of a way to stop aging, I don't care about anything else. Of course, I'd want to stay young! But it still feels like a dream!"

Slap!

Yang Chen suddenly slapped her buttocks. It was fleshy and full.

"Ouch! You hit me!"

"To show you that this is not a dream. You're about to be a seductive demon who never ages."

She chuckled, burrowing her head deeper into Yang Chen. "I feel so much better. Honey, are you eating at my house tonight?"

Yang Chen hesitated, then shook his head. "It's fine. I think Qianni should be alright now. I've done everything I need to. You don't know what's going on in my home. Ruoxi must hate me so much. I attract too many problems, and you know it. I'm not the head of my household, I'd die if I don't make it home for dinner."

She smiled. "Alright then, I won't keep you here. Although I don't know what happened today, it looks serious. If Boss Lin kicks you out of the house, you could come here."

"What will I get here?" he flirted.

She sneered, "Someone's in so much trouble but still wouldn't stop flirting."

He laughed, then stood up. "My darling Rose, let me show you a trick. I hope this would make you more certain about everything."

When he finished, Yang Chen vanished into thin air!

Rose covered her mouth, her eyes filled with shock. After a long time, she clenched her teeth with determination!