

## Chapter 81:

### Battle of Wits 2 (Utterly Discredited)

Ning Qing stood up straight after she got pushed back. At that time, cameras kept flashing as the shutters clicked non stop, and the media bombarded them with questions, one after another.

“Miss Ning, Miss Li, and Ning Yao are pitiful enough. Why are you so unsympathetic? Your mother had given to others out of guilt, and you have been the Ning family’s eldest daughter for many years. You and your mother should try to be considerate of others.”

“Miss Ning, it was your mother’s rebellion that ruined her happiness by causing her to push her mother-in-law down the stairs. Now the three people in the Ning family are together after going through dangers and obstacles. Let’s bless them together, OK?”

“Miss Ning, now the truth had been made clear. Madam Li has sacrificed herself for justice and endured humiliation for years, which is really admirable.”

Those journalists were excited and pumped up. If it weren’t for the bodyguards, Ning Qing would’ve probably been surrounded by them.

Now the situation has changed dramatically, and she had been universally condemned. She had lost the battle.

She had actually lost.

“Do not bully my daughter, do not bully Qingqing...” Yue Wanqing wanted to go forward to explain upon seeing that Ning Qing was being questioned, but she suddenly felt an ache in her heart.

“What’s wrong, Auntie?” Xiao Zhou asked nervously.

Ning Qing looked back quickly upon hearing that. She saw her mother had put one hand on her chest and rubbed it painfully. “Mom, are you okay? Xiao Zhou, go back to the hospital.”

They wanted to turn around and leave, but a group of reporters had rushed towards them outside the door, blocking their way.

The place became more and more chaotic. Although Ning Qing had a group of bodyguards protecting her, they could easily be trampled if the stalemate persisted.

Ning Qing began to anxiously sweat. She was in a sea of people now but was unable to do anything.

At this time, “Everybody be quiet.” A clear and gentle voice rang through the room.

The place went quiet. A group of well-trained black-clothed people came in and quickly parted a path in the middle of the crowd. Ning Qing looked back and realized that it was Zhu Rui.

Ning Qing's eyes shone brightly as her restless heart calmed instantaneously.

Zhu Rui went beside Ning Qing and looked slowly at the mother-daughter pair who were still sitting on the ground. He said, "Ms. Li, 20 years ago, were you really raped on Yan Nan Road? Did anyone save you?"

The entire crowd was stunned, and Ning Qing was no exception.

What did Zhu Rui want to express?

There was a flash in her mind, but it was too fast for her to catch it.

Li Meiling and Ning Yao stood up slowly. Li Meiling still had a sad expression and tears on her face. "Who are you?" Are you from Qingqing's side? I beg you not to ask any more questions. It's all my fault. Please leave me some dignity."

The reporters at the scene started to stir again because of this remark.

Zhu Rui held out his left hand and a bodyguard handed a document to him. "Ms. Li, it's because I wanted to leave you with some dignity, so I'm giving you a chance to confess. I've sent someone to investigate it. 20 years ago, someone in the residential building near Yan Nan Road witnessed the entire process of the evening. I heard that a private car had parked there for a full hour, and something had happened in the car. Someone had even taken some pictures."

Ning Qing realized everything in that instant.

What a scheming woman, a bitch!

Shameless and filthy to the extreme.

Li Meiling's face changed drastically. Her eyes were fixed on the document in Zhu Rui's hand. "I don't understand what you're talking about." She wouldn't admit it.

It had been 20 years; she doesn't believe there would be any evidence.

Ning Qing took the document in Zhu Rui's hand. She turned a page and her pupils constricted violently. Closing the documents, she went forward and slapped Li Meiling hard.

This crisp and loud slap shocked the audience. Everyone did not know what had happened. When someone wanted to ask, Ning Qing pointed at the tip of Li Meiling's nose and scolded her.

"What a great opera singer, Ms. Li, we were almost deceived by you! It suddenly occurred to me that my mother, a noble lady, would never go out at night. Why had she gone to a remote area like Yan Nan Road that night and happened to meet a group of gangsters? Even if you guys had bumped into a group of gangsters, after 20 years of renown from your theatre endeavors, those gangsters would definitely want to rape you first. Why did they seize my mother, yet give you a chance to sacrifice yourself for her?"

“Qingqing.” Zhu Rui had brought a doctor when he came. After the doctor had injected the medicine into Yue Wanqing, she felt much better. She stretched out her trembling hand and asked anxiously, “What does it mean? Mom doesn’t understand.”

This matter had always been a psychological shadow for Yue Wanqing for the past 20 years. She could not understand Ning Qing’s words. She was very nervous.

“Mom, don’t you understand? That night, Ms. Li was the one who had deliberately brought you to Yan Nan Road. The gangsters were arranged by her beforehand. The most important thing was what happened in the end, after father had saved her. They had broken through the last barrier and couldn’t help but have sex in the car for an hour.”

“Wha... What?” Yue Wanqing stared and shook her head in denial.

The upheaval caused everyone at the scene to gasp.

“It’s not like that. Don’t slander me!” Li Meiling looked a little flustered, but she was still cunning.

“Oh, slander?” Ning Qing raised the document in her hand to her chest and faced it towards the direction where the media spotlight was most focused. She smiled at Li Meiling calmly. “I had wanted to save some face for you, for my father, even for Ning Yao and the Xu family. But since you’ll only give up at the sight of the gallows, I’ll expose the car sex photos now. I’ll show the people all over the country that their Madam Li was this slutty 20 years ago, that she would do something this shameless and underhanded! Ning Qing threatened and opened the document.

“No!” Li Meiling rushed forward, tightly gripping the document in Ning Qing’s hand.

She absolutely could not let the car sex photos be exposed. If they were to be exposed, not only would Ning Zhenguo lose face, but the Xu family would not want Yao Yao anymore; all her hard work would be in vain.

“I admit that it was Zhenguo who saved me. Ning Yao is Zhenguo’s biological daughter, but I didn’t arrange for the gangsters to be there.”

“Wow.” All the media reporters gasped out as the cameras clicked ceaselessly.

Xiao Zhou shouted angrily, “Miss Li, you’ve told enough lies tonight. Do you think anyone would believe you anymore? Since those gangsters had not been arranged by you, please answer Ning Qing’s previous questions.”

“I...” At last, Li Meiling was out of words.

The journalists rushed towards her then.

“Miss Li, you’ve deceived so shamelessly. Why do you scheme so much?”

“Madam Li, you put on a show with the gangsters to manipulate Auntie Ning, to seduce Ning Zhenguo, to give birth to Ning Yao, and even going so far as to think of using this 20 years later as the reason to completely subvert your shameless status as a third party. We have seen a lot of rich family fights, but it’s the first time we’ve seen someone like you, someone killing four birds with one stone!”

“No, my mother is not such a person, Ning Qing, don’t spout nonsense.” Ning Yao didn’t know how the situation had turned out to be like this. They had been so close to victory.

Where had this man come from? Why did he help Ning Qing?

Why?

Ning Qing was waiting for Ning Yao to open her mouth. As soon as Ning Yao opened her mouth, the sparkling tears in her eyes plopped down. “Yaoyao, I hadn’t expected you and your mother to be like this. I have been treating you as my dear sister all these years. Do you remember how good our relationship used to be when we were young?” Ning Qing asked as she gave Xiao Zhou a look.

Xiao Zhou quickly walked up to the stage. After a few moments, many photos appeared on the big screen of the stage.

They were the photos of Ning Qing and Ning Yao over the 18 years that they’d grown up together.

“Yaoyao, this picture was taken when we were 4 years old. When you first came to my house. Look at the clothes you were wearing. They were dirty, torn and had holes. After that, I had dug up every beautiful skirt and pair of shoes I owned to share with you.

“Yao Yao, this picture was taken at my 10th birthday party. At that time, you said you liked my princess dress and crown. I gave it all to you without hesitation. It was obviously my party, but you were the one dressed like a princess.

“Yao Yao, my classmates, and friends couldn’t accept you, but I brought you with me all day. Once, a good friend of mine scolded you a little. You immediately picked up a stone and smashed it on that friend’s head. In the end, I was the one who went to apologize.” Ning Qing exposed all this history with tears rolling down her cheeks, causing Ning Yao to receive the scorn and ridicule of the whole audience.

“Look at Ning Yao, eating others’ food, wearing others’ clothes, leeching off others. The biggest thing is that it shows she’s always had a black heart. How old was she when she smashed that person’s head until it bled?”

“Yes, I think the story of Ning Qing and Ning Yao are similar to their mothers’. It looks like a repeat of the farmer and snake.”

Ning Yao’s face went pale with fury.

Ning Qing saw that the effect she wanted had been achieved and slowly drew back her tears. “You guys, my mother and I have suffered so much because we didn’t know how to see through these people all these years. We deserve it. I just beg you all; you can write about Auntie Li as you wish, but don’t involve my mother anymore. She’s not in good health, and she’s recently had an operation.”

“Miss Ning, don’t worry, we have seen and understood Li Meiling’s character today. The media will give you justice, and we will also give Auntie Ning a peaceful life,” a reporter shouted.

Ning Qing nodded thankfully, went behind Yue Wanqing and pushed her wheelchair. “Mom, let’s go.”

Ning Qing took a step forward. “Wait a minute,” Li Meiling came over. “It’s all over. Please give me the pictures back.”

“Okay, since you want it, I’ll give it to you.” Ning Qing agreed very cheerfully, without hesitation. She handed the folder to Li Meiling.

Li Meiling received it and opened the folder.

Time seemed to stop. Li Meiling looked at the blank piece of paper as her head exploded with a bang.

She had fallen for their trick!

“Hah, I don’t actually have any evidence. What were you feeling guilty about just now?” Ning Qing laughed lightly and swaggered away with a group of people.

“Li Meiling, what else do you have to say?” As soon as Ning Qing and the others had left, the reporters quickly surrounded Li Meiling, and everyone addressed her differently now.

“Mom!” Ning Yao screamed. Li Meiling was so angry that she fainted on the spot.

...

In the luxury business car, Ning Qing, who was in the back seat, looked at Zhu Rui in the front passenger’s and asked, “Secretary Zhu, why are you here?”

“It was the president who had called me. Although the president was in a meeting, he had been following the conference. When Li Meiling spoke about Yan Nan Road, the president had guessed almost everything and told me to investigate it. Sadly, it’s not easy to look up something that had happened 20 years ago in such a short time. We could only learn from an eyewitness that a private car was parked on the roadside that night.”

Ning Qing nodded. At the conference, Li Meiling suddenly mentioned something that had happened 20 years ago, causing her to be flustered. No one expected had that Li Meiling would have such a big trump card.

She had almost lost.

Considering that it had only taken Zhu Rui 20 minutes to arrive at the place, the person who had the ability to discover that there was a private car in 20 minutes would probably be Lu Shaoming.

Wasn’t he busy with his meetings?

And he was still concerned about her matters even though he was busy!

“The president told me to bring a blank document here, saying that Madam would understand. Madam, you did a very good job.” Zhu Rui praised.

They had no evidence in their hands but Ning Qing was very intelligent and fought a psychological battle with Li Meiling. Since she was going to expose the documents to the media, it was a fight to win or die. It required amazing courage. Ning Qing did a very good job.

Ning Qing felt a little embarrassed after being praised by the secretary. “I almost lost. Luckily, Secretary Zhu came to the rescue. Secretary Zhu, thank you.”

Zhu Rui laughed modestly. "I can't accept Madam's gratitude. If you want to say thank you, you had better go and say it to the president."

Ning Qing's face was a little red.

Yue Wanqing took her daughter's small hand and said with relief and regret, "Qingqing, it's all Mom's fault. If it weren't for Shaoming, Mom would have dragged you down."

After this, Yue Wanqing would always praise her son in law.

"Mom, I'm your daughter. There's no dragging me down. I'm just sad. Why didn't you tell me about the incident from 20 years ago, and about Grandma?" Ning Qing asked.

Yue Wanqing's expression was full of pain. "Qingqing, it's not that Mom didn't want to say it, but that Mom didn't dare. That period used to be the most cowardly and selfish time in my life. I dare not face that version of me, let alone tell you about it. But Qingqing, Mom really did not push your grandmother down the stairs. At the age of 8, your grandmother brought me back from the orphanage to be a child bride for the Ning family. Your Grandmother and I are like mother and daughter. Even under threat of death, I would not do such a blasphemous thing."

"Yes, Mom, I believe you," Ning Qing said with relief, holding her mother's trembling shoulders. "Don't worry. I'll look into this. I'll definitely find the real perpetrator who pushed Grandma down the stairs, and reclaim your innocence."

Yue Wanqing took the tissues handed by Xiao Zhou and wiped away her tears. She looked up and asked hesitantly, "Qingqing, do you think your father knows about Li Meiling hiring those gangsters 20 years ago? Did your dad know that he was tricked?"

Ning Qing stiffened and looked slowly into her mother's gentle eyes. "Mom, the questions you are asking now are meaningless. Even if Dad had been manipulated by Li Meiling that night, nobody forced him to have sex with Li Meiling..."

## **Chapter 82: Lu Shaoming, What Are You Looking At**

Ning Qing stiffened and looked at her mom's gentle eyes, "Mom, the question that you were asking is meaningless. Even if Dad was tricked by Li Meiling that night, who forced him to have a sexual relationship with Li Meiling? Why did he do it the second time? Why did he hide the truth about Ning Yao? Why did he divorce you?"

Yue Wanqing lowered her gaze and tears flowed down her once beautiful cheeks.

"Mom, forget about Dad. Don't have any hope for him. He already married Li Meiling and we started new lives, okay?"

"Mm." Yue Wanqing nodded. "Qingqing, Mom entered the Ning family at eight years old. I have too much affection and memories with your dad, but your dad was too cruel to us. No longer will I hope that things can be made right again. I only hope that you will always live well. The rest is not important."

Ning Qing's eyes welled up with tears. Her mom was a classic old-fashioned woman. She supported her husband and educated her children for the past thirty-five years. She contributed her entire youth and life to the Ning family without regret.

My mom didn't seek much in her life. She simply played her part as a wife while treating Ning Zhenguo as the sky. Then, her sky collapsed and for the rest of her life, she could only rely on her daughter.

However, just how many years could she live after the liver transplant?

Fate was always unfair to the woman. Her mom was in both agony and sorrow.

...

Yue Wanqing slept after having dinner. Ning Qing returned to the small room to take a shower.

She changed into a new set of clothes after a shower then she took out her phone to make a call.

Ring-ring. After a few rings, she heard a familiar male voice on the other end. "Hello."

"Hello." Ning Qing was suddenly embarrassed. She prepared to thank him, but when she heard his deep voice, she was at a sudden loss for words.

The conversation had yet to start and there was an awkward silence. In the end, it was Lu Shaoming who spoke first. "Ning Qing, let's do a video call?"

"Huh? Video call?"

Suddenly, knock knock. There was a knock at the door.

Ning Qing went to answer the door. There was a female nurse and she was holding a very thin notebook in her hand. "Madam, it is President..."

That was fast.

Ning Qing hung up the phone and took the laptop. She then closed the door behind her.

The room didn't have a desk so she put it on the coffee table. She knelt before the soft carpet and turned it on.

On the HD screen, she noticed a black desk, a real leather chair, and a bookshelf made of rose sandalwood. There was a sea of books printed in various languages arranged neatly on the shelf.

There was a European classic table light on the desk, luxurious yet simple. Ning Qing could tell right away that this place was elegantly minimalist.

A man was sat on the genuine leather chair. He wore a white shirt and black slacks. The first two buttons on his shirt were opened and it revealed the man's healthy sun-kissed skin and sexy collarbones. His

sideburns were deep and his jawline prominent. His elegance blended in well with the background. The image was like an old portrait of an English noble.

He was leaning on the real leather chair lazily. There was a stack of documents on the table with a pen right beside it. It looked like he was just working.

Ning Qing never thought that she would see him directly when she turned on the notebook. She was lazily supporting her head with her hand on the coffee table like a sleepy cat.

She suddenly sat properly and straightened her back.

The man took a few glances at her and frowned. "Why do you look so messy? Did you just shower?"

Ning Qing filled with embarrassment. She fanned her butterfly wings-like eyelashes. She wanted to say something to ease the awkwardness but she realized that the water on her wet hair was dripping onto the notebook.

Sigh!

He could look dapper at any meeting with but a minute's notice, while she looked like a girl from a village.

"Hehe," Ning Qing laughed drily as she took a soft towel to wipe off the water beads on the notebook. Then, pretending to wipe her hair, "Mm, just showered. Shaoming, thank you for today."

Lu Shaoming watched the petite girl's actions. He didn't expose her but there was tender love in his bright black eyes. "It's a good lesson that you learned today. You'll be sure of success when you know your enemy and yourself."

"Mm." Ning Qing accepted his advice humbly. Her beautiful eyes were looking towards her man as she flashed a sweet smile. "But, how could you be so sure that I'd know?"

If she didn't know what Zhu Rui meant at the press release, the show couldn't go on.

Lu Shaoming smirked and said delightedly, "Of course I'd believe in the wife the I chose. My wife has always been smart and I knew that you'd do great."

Was he complimenting her?

Her heart was filled with joy.

Suddenly, knock knock. Someone opened a door and a female doctor came in.

The female doctor thought Ning Qing was playing with her notebook and she didn't pay much attention to it. She put the pink lingerie on Ning Qing's bed, "Little Ning, my friend brought a few pairs of bra back from overseas. I think it's quite nice so I took one that'd be your size. You're 32C?"

Ning Qing blushed in embarrassment. How could they discuss such a sinful topic before him?

"Sis Mei, don't need. I..."



“Why do you say you don’t need it? I already brought it for you.” Sis Mei was from Northeast of the country, which they were known for their straightforward. She measured Ning Qing up and down then said, “32C, it’s definitely a proper fit. You’re not even twenty-one yet and you’ve already filled out.”

“Sis Mei...” Ning Qing wanted to cut her off.

“Little Ning, why are you so shy? When you get married and have a husband, your bust size would grow, let alone after you give birth to a baby and breastfeed...”

“Sis Mei!” Ning Qing was at the verge of losing control.

There happened to be someone calling for a doctor outside the door, “Little Ning, I’ll catch you later. I have work to do.” Sis Mei then left in a hurry.

Ning Qing let out a breath of relief. If Sis Mei continued to stay, who knows to what sort of fetched place that conversation might have gone. That was too embarrassing.

Ning Qing looked up at Lu Shaoming and she wanted to redirect the topic. However, the man on the other side was looking at the two lumps on her chest.

Ning Qing got a shock and she quickly crossed her arms in front of her chest. She then reprimanded, “Hey, Lu Shaoming, what are you looking at?”

Lu Shaoming’s long slender eyes were deep and dark. His voice sounded a little hoarse and his reply was short: “Boobs!”

“You!” Ning Qing never once imagined that Lu Shaoming, who was always a gentleman, would say such a word. She blushed and stuttered, “You, you... Shameless!”

“Heh,” Lu Shaoming leaned his back against the leather sofa as he took out a cigarette, crossed his legs, and lit it. He looked at ease. “I took a look at your chest and I’m shameless? My dear wife, where’s your marriage certificate?”

Ning Qing was at loss for words.

It seemed like, really, actually he was the reasonable one.

She was his wife. Her heart and her body belonged to him!

But...

She was shy. Her arms blocked her chest. She couldn’t take them away nor should she continue to cross her arms. In short, she couldn’t just show him so openly.

Then, she heard a female’s voice from the other side of the screen. “President Lu, do you want to shower now? Shall I fill the tub with warm water for you?”

Ning Qing found the voice very familiar. Then, she recalled that it was the same female voice that reminded him to go to a meeting in the afternoon.

Why would the female voice follow him from the meeting room to his private lodging? She was even preparing water for him to shower?!!

Ning Qing lifted her gaze. The man who was smoking didn't say much about the female's voice nor did he look up. He waved his left hand and beckoned for the person to leave. Then, it became quiet again.

Ning Qing became anxious. She smiled and asked leisurely, "Shaoming, who's that woman?"

Lu Shaoming held the cigarette to his lip and took a breath. He raised his eyebrows and his slender black eyes gave out a distinct blossoming look. He glanced at her and haughtily said, "A friend gave her to me, a blue-eyed blonde beauty."

What? Blonde beauty?

"Shaoming, why did they give you a beautiful woman for?" Ning Qing asked naively and innocently.

Lu Shaoming sat up and extended his right arm to ash his cigarette in the ashtray on the table. The girl knew how to pretend. Her beautiful eyes were filled with innocence and she looked like a student who was paying full attention in class.

He couldn't reach her. Otherwise, he would have taken off her pants and given her a tight slap. She was the first one to try to act in front of him.

"What else? Wife, didn't you see it across my face? Unfulfilled desire."

Ning Qing's scalp grew numb. His haughty look showed a man's unrestrained primal nature. As he spoke, he looked at her brazenly.

"..." Ning Qing pretended to not understand.

"Ning Qing, I heard that there was an accident at the studio today. Were you hurt?" Lu Shaoming looked at the girl with rosy cheeks and asked.

"Nope but I realized that there's a patch of redness on my shoulder. I reckon it was from the bullet." Ning Qing touched her left shoulder.

The man's voice was deep. "Is it serious? Let me see."

"Mm." Ning Qing was wearing a black singlet after she showered. She had a white shirt over it. So, she pushed aside her shirt and pulled down a single strap. She leaned sideways and moved her smooth shoulder towards the screen. She pointed and said, "It's here. I'm okay but it's just a little painful. I just put on some medicine."

"Where? I can't see," the man from the other side said.

How could he not see? Ning Qing moved even closer to the screen, "It's here."

She looked sideways to look at him but she was stunned at the sight.

He was staring at her.

She studied his gaze. She didn't notice when she pulled down her strap earlier. More than half of her chest was exposed.

She had a habit of not wearing many layers after a shower. Hence, there was nothing the singlet.

Ning Qing was dumbfounded and her blood started to boil. She'd never shown anyone her body even as an adult. She can't show that to a man.

He made her think that he wanted to see her wound, but he only wanted to take petty advantage of her. She got conned.

Lu Shaoming saw that the girl's beautiful eyes were like rippling water in the autumn, covered with a bright mist. She was like an injured deer looking at him embarrassedly and helplessly.

"Why, why are you upset?" Lu Shaoming realized that his voice was hoarse and his lips were dry. He licked his lips and frowned.

How could this twenty-one year old girl be so innocent? She would blush when they did anything intimate. Then, he only took a look at her and it was as though he'd done something evil.

Ning Qing didn't want to talk to him. She bit her lips with her white teeth until she started to bleed.

"Ning Qing, stop that. Don't you know you're hurting yourself?" Lu Shaoming spoke angrily. His Adam's apple rolled vigorously as the girl didn't know just how charming her innocent look was.

It would have been better if he'd kept quiet. The moment he spoke, the tears welled up in Ning Qing eyes and flowed down her cheeks. Bastard, he looked at her and had the guts to scold her!

To people who bullied her, she could attack them wisely and calmly. But she was a young lady and had never been in such a situation. She was dealing with him and it was so embarrassing.

She didn't know if she should pull up her clothes. Her chest was exposed and she could only cover it with her hand.

Her tears flowed down quietly.

Lu Shaoming saw that she was really crying and there was a flash of anxiety on his face. He spoke gently as he didn't know how to comfort a girl. His voice sounded strained as he said, "Wife, sorry. I didn't see much. I'll forget it, okay?"

Ning Qing sniffed and pouted. Her tender voice retorted, "Liar, you already saw."

Lu Shaoming saw her hand and his body grew very uncomfortable.

There was an image in his head. Her collarbone was very beautiful. It was soft and gentle and there was a little pit. The strap glided down from her shoulder and her smooth milky skin was exposed before him. She had a young maiden's beauty.

She was really stunning.

So beautiful that it was suffocating.

He who was skilled in debate was suddenly at loss for words. He saw that the girl slowly put her clothes back on and stopped crying. "I've shown you what you want to see. So, you can't look at the blonde beauty." She sounded very unhappy.

Lu Shaoming paused for a while and suddenly started to laugh hysterically. His young wife was like a book that could never be finished. She was constantly giving him surprises.

“Yes, wife.” Lu Shaoming quickly changed the topic so that she wouldn’t feel awkward. “Who do think was the person who left the gun there? Who wanted to hurt you? What do you plan to do?”

“Mm, I’m certain that it was Li Meiling. Between the attempt on my life and the press release later on, she would have been able to remove us both in one fell swoop. It was a pity that the filming studio was so crowded. We filed a police report but they have yet to find any clues. Street Walker is ending soon and we’re all busy. Hence, we could only set the matter aside for now.”

“At the press release today, Li Meiling was utterly discredited. She wouldn’t be able to cause any trouble now. Until I finish Street Walker, I will take care of Ning Yao. The pair of mother and daughter have wronged me; they’ll see justice, one by one.”

“Mm.” Lu Shaoming nodded. “Wait for me to return. I’ll back you up.”

### **Chapter 83: Do You Dare to Attend as Mrs. Lu?**

His “support” made Ning Qing feel warm and fluffy inside. Actually, when he wasn’t bullying her, he was really good to her.

“Shaoming, it was all thanks to Luo Xi who saved me in the theatre today. I heard that you and Luo Xi have a good relationship. He’s very skilled at martial arts. Where did he learn it?”

Lu Shaoming pinched the cigarette butt out in the ashtray and answered, “Luo Xi is the illegitimate son of the Ou family. His mother gave birth to him and died of a massive hemorrhage. At that time, his midwife placed him in the river and allowed him to drift along in a small barrel. Finally, he was rescued by an eminent monk in the temple and grew up in the temple.”

“But when he was eight years old, the temple was massacred by a group of robbers. He watched as the monk who was his teacher, who treated him like a father, die in a pool of blood. From then on, he never spoke again. He was taken by traffickers, and eventually ran out and hid deep in the mountains. He lived with a wolf for 10 whole years between the ages of eight to 18 and only joined the Ou family at the age of 19.

Ning Qing was shocked that this kind of plot that would only appear on TV would actually appear on a person, Ou Luo Xi...

“At the age of 19, Luo Xi only learned about a human’s lifestyle and culture after joining the Ou family. On the surface, it seems that he is very difficult to get along with. But in fact, it’s just that he does not know how to get along with others and dares not get along with others. He is purer, simpler, and kinder than all the people in the world. If you treat him sincerely, he will treat you well.”

Ning Qing was speechless this whole time. She couldn’t imagine how Ou Luo Xi had survived through all those years. His life was too miserable and strange. He was doomed to be an outcast, and unlikely to be accepted by the world.

Ou family’s illegitimate son?

Ning Qing suddenly thought of Ou Ze. Ou Ze was Ou Luo Xi's elder brother and the young master of the Ou family; he was probably a direct descendant.

It was said that Ou Luo Xi had entered the entertainment industry at the age of 19, but he had just joined the Ou family at the age of 19. So he had been sent out as soon as he entered the Ou family. Ning Qing could just imagine the open and secret fights between the rich families.

Poor Ou Luo Xi!

"Ning Qing," Lu Shaoming glanced at his watch. "I have to go out later so let's not discuss this anymore. You can go to bed before me."

"Oh." Ning Qing was brought back to the present. She looked at the man whose face was so handsome that it was as if some genius sculptor had sculpted him. She couldn't bear to let him leave. "Shaoming, when will you come back?"

"Why, do you miss me?" Lu Shaoming smiled lightly.

Ning Qing's long eyelashes fluttered a couple of times as she nodded forcefully and said, "Yep!"

Warm and tender light instantly flowed out from Lu Shaoming's black eyes. He reached out his right hand and hooked his finger at her. "Come over and kiss me."

How could she kiss him like that?

But Ning Qing still put her face in front of the screen, and he had also moved closer as well. Separated by a very thin screen, Ning Qing could even hear his gentle and powerful breathing.

She could imagine the healthy and charming manly scent on him.

She closed her eyes slightly and dared not stare at his perfectly angular face. She heard the man laughing on the other end, "In three days, Guang Qing will hold a dinner party. I'll come back then. Do you dare to attend as Mrs. Lu, Guang Qing's President's wife then?"

His voice was soft and gentle, knocking on Ning Qing's heart and making her tremble. She shook her head intuitively, "No! I still need more time."

She needed time to accept his unattainable status.

"Mmm," the man grunted lazily and sexily. "Alright, I'll wait for you, but Qingqing, your husband is already 30 years old, and some things cannot wait. Don't move forward like a snail crawling and make him wait for too long. He likes you, longs to have intimate contact with you, and longs to make you his."

Ning Qing's small face was burning. He always had reasons and could always say something like "taking" so seriously and solemnly that she couldn't refuse it.

She remembered his tightly knitted brows that day in the dressing room, his pained expression from trying to suppress himself. Finally, he leaned against her and kissed her gently. It was clear that he was happy, but her body melted into water in his rough palms. When he trembled, she would tremble with him.

“Alright.” Ning Qing nodded. Her cherry red lips puckered a millimeter away from the screen, aiming at his beautiful thin lips with a resounding “Mua”. “Shaoming, I’ll wait for you to come back.”

...

Ning Qing ended the video call and returned the notebook to Zhu Rui. On her way back to her room, she passed by a ward. It happened that the door of the ward was ajar and she saw Li Meiling.

Li Meiling had fainted at the press conference and was taken to this hospital. She lay on the bed, her face pale. Ning Yao stood beside her and Ning Zhenguo asked in a low voice, “Tell me what’s going on here. Did you plot everything at the Yan Nan Road 20 years ago?”

Ning Zhenguo was asking about something that had happened more than 20 years ago, back to the time when he had been married Yue Wanqing for only two or three years. Yue Wanqing was beautiful and had a great personality. She was gentle and considerate to him. The most notable part of it all was that Yue Wanqing had entered the Ning family at the age of eight; she was his sister as well as the dream lover of his youth. After their marriage, they were full of affection and love for each other.

Yue Wanqing liked to watch opera shows and later brought Li Meiling home with her. To tell the truth, he didn’t notice Li Meiling at that time. In terms of appearance or behavior, Li Meiling could not be compared to Yue Wanqing.

Later, Li Meiling became popular. Men in the business world liked to talk about popular actresses. His friends had said that Li Meiling never accepted men’s flowers or invitations to dinner. She was an aloof goddess.

After hearing those remarks often, they made their impression. He remembered that Yue Wanqing often asked him to take Li Meiling home. Li Meiling was as gentle as a sheep in front of him. She also looked at him with a pair of beautiful and tender eyes, enticing and seducing him.

He knew that Li Meiling liked him. And his self-esteem was greatly satisfied. The goddess who was unattainable to other men loved him!

Haha.

But he never made a move. First off, after all those years, he had feelings for Yue Wanqing. Second, his mother was the decision maker in the Ning family. His mother treated Yue Wanqing like her own daughter, and he was extremely filial.

But then something had happened on Yan Nan Road.

Yan Nan Road was a shortcut that he would drive through when driving home every day. He had also drunk a little wine that night. When he drove there, he saw five or six men raping a woman.

He heard the voice of Li Meiling crying for help and got out of the car to stop it. The men ran away as soon as they saw him. Li Meiling went into his arms and cried bitterly.

They got into the car. Li Meiling held him in the dimly lit car. He was thrilled by the friction of her body against his. Her clothes had been badly torn. Her fair skin was a fatal point of attraction for him. They rolled together and broke through the last barrier of decency between them.

He saw her blood after their coupling; she had given him her first time. He felt guilty, but he would not divorce. He could only give her money as compensation.

But she had refused, and she cried as she confessed to him that she had loved him at first sight and that she would not destroy his family, as long as he was willing to be with her.

All men liked cheating and conquering, but she was also the goddess of their generation. Although Yue Wanqing was all kinds of good, she was too shy in bed. That was a great grievance of his, and Li Meiling satisfied his unquenched thirst. No one knew how slutty this aloof goddess was in bed; she could serve him comfortably from beginning to end.

Just like this, he had sunk into her gentleness and indulged in it for 20 years.

“Zhenguo, I did plot that night, but I didn’t hurt anyone. I just liked you. When I first saw your handsome and magnificent figure, I fell deeply in love with you. I couldn’t extricate myself. I just wanted to get you. Have you forgotten how many men were pursuing me at that time, but I just wanted to be your woman,” Li Meiling sobbed.

Ning Qing stood by the door. She saw Ning Zhenguo’s expression calm down quickly. She sneered. Li Meiling really understood Ning Zhenguo. Every sentence greatly satisfied his ego.

Ning Zhenguo probably took it as his greatest pride that the goddess of a generation had worked so hard to sleep with him.

“But Meiling, you can’t deceive me. I’ve watched the videos from today’s conference. For the past twenty years, you’ve said that you wouldn’t destroy my family, that you would just stay with me silently. Did you trick me and Wanqing from the very beginning?”

Li Meiling’s expression turned into one of shock. She shook her head in denial and cried out, “Zhenguo, others can say that about me but how can you misunderstand me? Can’t you feel the love I have for you after all these years?”

“For all my time with you, when did I ever covet a title? No matter how much Yao Yao had wanted to call you father, I would not allow her to do so. I accompanied you to entertain clients and helped you with the company and shared your worries. I gave you the best years that a woman has to offer. If sister had not pushed Grandma down the stairs three years ago, you would not have divorced her or married me. How could it be my fault now?”

Ning Zhenguo could not refute.

Ning Qing understood now; if Grandma hadn’t rolled down the stairs three years ago, her “father” probably still would have wanted to possess both family and beauty. He wanted to win the Grand Slam of life.

Unfortunately, when men enjoyed the pleasures of cheating, no beauty would be willing to hide in the dark corner forever. They would eventually want to usurp the wife.

At this time Ning Yao noticed Ning Qing standing by the door. She called out, "Sister..."

Ning Qing did not hide after she had been discovered. She opened the door generously and appeared in front of the three people.

When Li Meiling saw Ning Qing, she quickly said, "Zhenguo, I know it was my fault 20 years ago, but Qingqing was too ruthless at the press conference today. She made you lose so much face."

Ning Zhenguo's gaze on Ning Qing was instantly unfriendly.

Ning Qing leaned lazily against the door. Her entire body was bathed in the light of the corridor and appeared a little cold. "Oh, face? Where is your face?"

"Ning Qing!" Ning Zhenguo was furious that his daughter was mocking him.

A small smile formed at the corners of Ning Qing's lips as she crossed her two slender arms in front of her chest. She shrugged her shoulders indifferently.

She was not always in the mood to play with others. Since Ning Zhenguo had pushed her to that pervert a month ago, he was nothing in her eyes.

"Zhenguo, look at her attitude..." Li Meiling took this opportunity to add fuel to the fire.

"Enough! Everyone stop talking!" Ning Zhenguo interrupted Li Meiling.

Li Meiling shut up.

Ning Zhenguo looked at Ning Qing again and asked in an unfriendly tone, "Why are you here?"

"Oh, you forgot, my mother had a kidney replacement operation here. My mother was hospitalized. I'm here to accompany her."

Ning Zhenguo was very dissatisfied with Ning Qing's "you forgot", but when he heard "kidney replacement operation", an echo of guilt and tenderness flashed across his face, but that vanished after a split second. "Your mother's operation is a lesson from God. Your grandmother treated her like her own daughter. How could she push her down the stairs so viciously?"

After three years, Ning Zhenguo would still clench his fists when he talked about this topic.

Ning Qing did not react. As she began to move, she laughed as she said, "My mother had tried to borrow money from you for her operation, but you didn't give her anything. Despite this, the operation went smoothly. Is this not a sign from heaven that my mother didn't push grandmother down the stairs?"

"You!" Ning Zhenguo was silent. His expression changed and asked, "Why did the man I introduced to you last month disappear? This man is a business partner of mine. Although he had been married two times, he's rich and has a good personality. You would be a young madam if you had married him. Why didn't you try to get along with him?"

Ning Qing really wanted to laugh, so she did. "Hah, don't you know? After you answered the phone and left that day, your business partner tried to rape me. He's in prison now."



“What?” Ning Zhenguo was shocked. He hadn’t known anything about it. He turned around and looked at Li Meiling. “Tell me what happened. Didn’t you vouch for that man’s character?”

Li Meiling didn’t expect Ning Qing to exposed everything. That man was useless too. He couldn’t even rape a 21-year-old girl, that useless waste!

“Zhenguo, why are you blaming me again? You met him yourself and approved of him as well.” Li Meiling acted innocent.

Ning Zhenguo pursed his lips together. That night, Li Meiling had tried her best to serve him. He was drunk and dizzy, so he couldn’t really judge the man. That said, he had been negligent.

Then Ning Zhenguo’s secretary came over and said, “Boss, Guang Qing just sent you an invitation letter welcoming you to attend Guang Qing’s dinner party in three days.”

“Guang Qing?” Both Ning Zhenguo and Li Meiling eyes shone.

“Zhenguo, is it that Guang Qing? The Guang Qing listed in the United States by Lu Shaoming, the ninth generation direct grandson of the Lu family, when he was 16-years-old? God, why would he send you an invitation? I’ll have to go with you.”

“Mom, Dad, are you talking about the Lu Corporation, the largest imperial group in the world? And the most valuable golden Bachelor in the world, Lu Shaoming? I’ve heard that he’s a magnificent man, rich as a country. I’m going too.”

Ning Qing looked at the family that was drunk on greed. If they knew that she had married Lu Shaoming, what would they think?

“Auntie Li, do you still dare to show up outside? I suggest you take a look at the news and Weibo; the internet is calling for you to get out of the entertainment industry and leave this earth. I am worried that they’ll throw stones and rotten eggs at you the moment they see you. If I were you, I would wear a shroud on my face and never take it off.”

## **Chapter 84: Save Your First Dance Tonight For Me**

Ning Qing said and the three faces in the ward instantly grew grave.

Ning Zhenguo looked at Li Meiling. For all these years, he had been utterly infatuated with her. It wasn’t only because she served him well, but also because she was smooth and slick when she accompanied him to see his clients.

Ning Yao was stamping her foot in anger as she had always been proud of her. She then realized that her mom had fallen and she no longer had this reliable cornerstone in her life.

Li Meiling noticed the gaze from her husband and daughter; her heart dropped to the bottom of her chest.

She dedicated half her life to the two of them but they’ve so easily forsaken her.

Ning Qing saw and she tucked her hair behind her ears. She looked at Ning Zhenguo and smiled. "If you don't want to be accosted by the public and affect your personal image and your company's reputation, you'd better keep Aunt Li at home for the rest of her life. No longer will she be able to attend social gatherings by your side. Hurry up and have your PR team choose another beauty to replace her. That one could go on business trips with you and share your burden."

Ning Qing intentionally sounded unsympathetic.

Ning Qing squinted her eyes and glanced coldly at her. She then elegantly turned around and left.

"Dad, look at what sister just said..." Ning Yao quickly complained of unfairness on behalf of Li Meiling.

"Shut up!" Ning Zhenguo was agitated and he roared at Ning Yao, "You as well. You'd better stay quiet for now. Don't even imagine trying anything with Young Master Lu. He's not someone that you can associate with. Don't cause me any more trouble. I haven't seen Xu Junxi for so long. You can't even take care of one man! So useless."

Before leaving the ward, Ning Zhenguo said, "Mom is at home and she needs someone to take care of her. I'm going home."

Ning Zhenguo left.

...

Ning Qing walked towards her room. She ran into a man who had just exited the elevator, Xu Junxi.

Xu Junxi came in a hurry. She could tell that he was there to visit Li Meiling and Ning Yao.

Their gazes met, "CEO Xu..." Ning Qing greeted him with a sarcastic smile.

Xu Junxi saw her ingenuine smile and his face grew dim. He'd never imagined that she could be this hateful.

"Humph!" He left.

Ning Qing couldn't be bothered with him. The press release that day would be able to keep the four of them busy for quite some time. She could just wait and watch all the jokes and gossip unfold.

Ning Zhenguo left heartlessly. By that point, Li Meiling was really shedding tears out of anger. Ning Yao was upset too because Ning Zhenguo's last sentence poked her wound.

Recently, Xu Junxi's mom deliberately made it difficult for her. His mom prohibited Xu Junxi to go on dates with her, she didn't allow Xu Junxi to bring her to any social events, and she blatantly spoke to her in an unkind manner.

Xu Junxi was filial. He was in a difficult position, stuck between his mom and Ning Yao. He subconsciously distanced himself from her. She had to deal with his mom's emotions while she simultaneously bearing his cold treatment.

As the pair of mother and daughter sat there in distress, the door was pushed open. "Aunt, Yaoyao."

Ning Yao saw Xu Junxi enter and she immediately livened up. She ran towards Xu Junxi and stumbled into his embrace. She cried gently, "Junxi, you're finally here. I thought you'd be like everyone else. Making fun of me, giving me the cold shoulder. I thought you didn't want me anymore."

Xu Junxi rubbed Ning Yao's hair gently and said, "Silly girl. You're my fiancée. Why would I abandon you?"

A happy smile suddenly appeared on Ning Yao's face.

"Junxi, I'm okay. Thank you for coming. All of the bad things said at the press release were because of the mistakes I made when I was young. I was so rash because I love Zhenguo too much. However, all these things had nothing to do with Yaoyao. She's innocent. Her affection towards you could be verified by God. You have to protect her."

"Mm," Xu Junxi nodded solemnly and promised, "Aunt, don't worry. I won't let what happened today affect Yaoyao. I will bring Yaoyao to some charity events over the next few days to foster a positive image of her."

Li Meiling heard and felt at ease. She gave Ning Yao a look. "Yaoyao, weren't you talking about Junxi earlier? He's here now, go ahead and spend some time together."

Ning Yao blushed. Then, she held Xu Junxi's hand and walked out.

...

The two of them walked along the corridor. Xu Junxi hugged Ning Qing's shoulder while Ning Yao snuggled up to him, "Junxi, is your mom still angry at me? If your mom were to still be angry, you'd better not come and see me, although I'll miss you a lot."

"And, I know that your mom doesn't like my background, but I couldn't choose the circumstances of my birth. Even though my mom had done wrong, she loves me; she's a good mother. I will love you more and more, and I will take action to win your mom's acceptance and approval."

Xu Junxi kissed Ning Yao's face. He felt guilt and heartache. "Yaoyao, you're such an understanding girl. My mom didn't know the good in you. As long as I persist, she will like you."

Ning Yao smiled. Exactly, no matter how much his mom dislikes her, she could get by as long as she held tightly onto the man.

"Junxi, I heard my dad say that President Lu from Guangqing sent an invitation. They are having a dinner in three days. It's a pity that I couldn't go. My dad doesn't let my mother and I leave the house."

Xu Junxi heard the name "President Lu" and his body stiffened. In his head, there was an image of Lu Shaoming and Ning Qing getting intimate that night, and also Ning Qing's lips were torn. There was darkness and jealousy in his eyes.

“Who says you’re not going? You’ll be my date.”

“Really?” Ning Yao stopped and cupped Xu Junxi face. She then kissed him.

Ever since Ning Yao came by, he’d touched almost no other women. On top of that, he hadn’t done anything intimate with Ning Yao for many days. Hence, the moment she kissed him, his body quickly reacted.

He closed his eyes and held the back of Ning Yao’s head as he deepened the kiss.

Ning Yao embraced it as her heart raced and she blushed. Suddenly, there was someone walking through the corridor. She pushed his chest and said bashfully, “Junxi, there are people around.”

Xu Junxi naturally understood what she meant. She wanted to find somewhere more private.

He suddenly remembered that when he came across Ning Qing earlier, he saw Ning Qing entering one a certain room. His breathing became faster. He held Ning Yao’s hand and brought her into the room next to Ning Qing’s.

The room wasn’t locked.

...

Ning Qing was sleeping soundly as she suddenly heard loud movement next door. She could hear the bed rocking alongside a woman’s moan.

“Junxi, softer...”

Ning Qing heard the voice. Seriously, it’s Ning Yao.

It was a matter of fate that she kept running into them. Even when they got busy, it happened to be next to her room.

They went on and on next door and they had no civility. Helplessly, Ning Qing sat up and knocked on the wall, “Ning Yao, make more noise and I’ll record it to post online. I’ll make you the ‘lady’ whom every man would think about.”

Ning Yao seemed to be threatened and she stopped making noise, but Ning Qing could still hear the bed rock.

Ning Qing couldn’t stand it anymore and she reprimanded, “Xu Junxi, you’re a pervert!”

The man suddenly humphed and the silence finally resumed.

Ning Qing realized something. Xu Junxi provoked her so that he could hear her speak. The way she called his name must have made him excited. Then, he reached his climax.

Pfft!

Ning Qing was dying to spit on him. The man may very well be sick in his head.

...

Three days later, Guang Qing’s dinner

Ning Qing sent a message to Lu Shaoming before she entered the banquet hall: [What time will you be here?]

[Just got off the plane. About half an hour.] Lu Shaoming replied.

Ning Qing lifted the corners of her lip: [I'll wait for you.]

It was quiet for three seconds: [Save your first dance for me.]

Ning Qing blushed. Ever since they have first come to know each other, they had never danced together. In her head, she imagined his handsome figure on the stage in his shirt and slacks. Mm, an elegant person like him must be so charming when he dances.

[Mm!] Ning Qing agreed.

Ning Qing kept her phone and got out of the car. She then walked into the banquet hall.

Ning Qing was wearing a white evening gown, a simple yet elegant design. There was a deep V lace at the back of her evening gown. Her beautiful fair back was exposed indistinctly.

Her dress was a mermaid gown. The long tail of her dress was embellished with handmade white flowers and inlaid with brilliant platinum. It was simple yet exquisite.

Ning Qing appeared leisurely and she took the attention of the entire banquet hall.

"Miss Ning, Miss Ning is here..." The media quickly took photos of her.

In the past three days, Street Walker had entered the last stage of its completion. Director Wang brought Ning Qing all over the country to promote the film. Her elegant demeanor and conversation style at the press releases won everyone's praise. She earned her reputation as the no.1 socialite in T City again, and shed the "fallen" descriptor.

At the same time, Street Walker's trailers had been uploaded and her outstanding acting ability won everyone's favor. On top of that, her winning battle at Li Meiling's press release led her to the front line of the entertainment circle; people applauded her tough attitude and inspiring story.

Her Weibo fan count and Baidu searches continued to increase. She was leading the board far ahead of the four most famous female celebrities and became the latest and hottest female celebrity.

Ning Qing posed generously and let the media take photos of her.

"Ning Qing." Xia Xiaofu ran over.

Xia Xiaofu wore in a purple long dress. Her long wavy hair which reached her waist was tied with a ribbon. She bore no other decorations, but had a spotlessly clear fairy aura.

She wasn't outshined when standing next to Ning Qing.

"Xiaofu!" Ning Qing held Xia Xiaofu's hand happily.

"Miss Xia, Miss Ning, it's rare to see the two goddesses together. Please stand together and let us take a few more photos," a reporter requested.

“Sure,” the two of them posed generously. Their actions couldn’t hide their sisterhood.

Then: “CEO Xu, Miss Ning...”

Xu Junxi brought Ning Yao along.

Though Li Meiling was notorious for her actions, her charity work for the past twenty years had been exposed. She’d donated a total of six million to build over a hundred primary schools. The news stirred a commotion in the entertainment circle.

Li Meiling expressed to the media that she made a mistake because of romance. She did wrong and she didn’t ask for forgiveness. However, she wished everything could end as she retired. She didn’t want more people to get hurt nor did she want the scandal to drag down Ning Yao. Ning Yao was innocent.

Li Meiling successfully stopped it from getting any worse. At the same time, Xu Junxi joined forces with many online marketing companies to wash Ning Yao’s name.

Ning Yao wasn’t affected much from the incident. On the contrary, Xu Junxi’s chivalric defense of Ning Yao in public received praise and flattery.

When the two of them appeared, many reporters went forward to take photos. The incident showed Xu Junxi that a friend in need is a friend indeed. The two of them were in the limelight as well.

“Sister...” Ning Yao saw Ning Qing and she quickly walked over to greet her.

Xu Junxi looked towards Ning Qing as well. He appeared shocked. He knew her for twenty years and it was his first time seeing her in such a beautiful dress. Her exquisite face was covered in light makeup and her beautiful smooth hair was combed to one side. She looked extremely charming.

His eyes quickly grew dim. It was Guang Qing’s banquet that night. Who was she trying to seduce, dressing herself up so nicely?

Ning Qing couldn’t help but feel that Ning Yao was simply shameless. Three days ago at the press release, she’d broken off their relationship. How dare she continue to put on a show?

Ning Yao wanted to hold her hand. Just as Ning Qing prepared to silently dodge this gesture, the purple figure turned slightly and blocked her.

“Miss Ning, who are you calling your sister?” Xia Xiaofu asked calmly.

Ning Yao has wanted to get to know the National Goddess for a long time. She was jealous that the Goddess was close to Ning Qing but then Xia Xiaofu took the initiative and spoke to her. She stuttered, “Sister Xia, is it really you? I...”

“Miss Ning, I don’t deserve to be called sister by you,” Xia Xiaofu cut Ning Yao off without hesitation. “And, please stay away from Ning Qing if you have a sense of honor. You already descended from a beautiful swan to an ugly duckling. Who are you trying to shame? Please stop your scheming. It is not appealing to those of refined tastes!”

“Ning Qing, let’s go,” Xia Xiaofu said and she dragged Ning Qing along with her.

Ning Yao’s face was burning. Xia Xiaofu insulted her in front of so many members of the media.

Xu Junxi walked forward and held Ning Yao's shoulder. Ning Yao immediately looked at him with her welled-up eyes and said pitifully, "Junxi, Sister Xia, she..."

Xu Junxi's face grew grave. Xia Xiaofu didn't give any face to Ning Yao, which meant that he hadn't gained any face either.

Then, a reporter said, "CEO Xu, Miss Ning, our Goddess Xia has always been cold and elegant. She says what she thinks without much deliberation."

Cold and elegant?

She's cold and elegant yet she protected Ning Qing.

Ning Yao watched Xia Xiaofu as she brought Ning Qing to a group of beautiful female celebrities. They were chatting delightedly. Ning Yao could recognize them. They of them were the four top national female celebrities.

Ning Yao didn't feel good.

Xu Junxi looked at Ning Qing unhappily. The friends that she had were all elegant beauties like Xia Xiaofu. She seemed to be very popular amongst the famous women.

He saw one of her interviews. The way she could carry a conversation was quite effective. She gave the media what they wanted, yet by her calm elegance, she didn't disgrace herself either.

#### **Chapter 85: She Had Given Her First Dance To Ou Luo Xi**

Xu Junxi had to admit that she was an extremely intelligent woman.

Wasn't elegant and well read?

Xia Xiaofu's words echoed in Xu Junxi's ear.

In fact, this phrase finally gave him a way to describe that feeling. He had long felt the difference between the two sisters, but he could not tell the difference.

Xia Xiaofu was right. Ning Qing was like an elegant and romantic violet, with its own light source, loved by others and respected at the same time.

Ning Yao was different. She was petty. He had given her so much help and protection. But when he watched the flattering laughter of the reporter then, he knew what she had gotten from others.

Ning Yao could never be as good as Ning Qing.

...

Ning Qing chatted with four other popular actresses under the recommendation of Xia Xiaofu. One popular actress joked as she asked Xia Xiaofu. "Xiaofu, why hasn't your President Ou arrived yet? The dance is about to start."

“What does dancing have to do with him? Can’t I dance with men other than Ou Ze?” A witty smile appeared on Xia Xiaofu’s tender oval-shaped face.

“Come on, who doesn’t know that your President Ou is a jealous man? Do you dare to pluck a hair from the tiger’s head?”

Xia Xiaofu did not speak anymore. She looked out into the banquet hall. A slender, handsome figure walked in.

From what she could tell, the man always liked to wear clothes like black windbreakers and denim jeans. This was the first time she had seen him wear a white shirt and a black suit. He wore this suit differently from others. His fair skin was very pure and clean, and he was elegant and graceful.

Ou Luo Xi.

Xia Xiaofu blushed without reason.

“Ning Qing, let’s guess. Let’s guess who the first dance of President Lu of Guang Qing would be with tonight. All the people gathered here tonight are the dignitaries of T City. Look. They’ve all brought their daughters. It’s like the emperor choosing a concubine. Let’s guess which one President Lu will pick!” a popular actress laughed and said.

Only after their reminder did Ning Qing notice how many noble ladies had come to this hall. They were all in their prime of lives and acted reserved behind their mothers.

Have they all come for Lu Shaoming?

Ning Qing pressed her lips together unconsciously. She was not too happy that so many women had eyes on her man.

Emperor choosing concubines?

He would have some nerve to do such a thing!

However, she was vaguely nervous. She had no idea that Lu Shaoming’s first dance would cause such a big stir. She had already agreed with him that she would save her first dance for him.

But dancing with him was like telling the world about their relationship, and she didn’t know his stance on the matter.

As her mood began to complicate, there was a stir at the door. Lu Shaoming had arrived.

When his handsome and cold figure appeared at the door, the hall went silent, and the crowd automatically parted, leaving a road paved with red carpet for him.

As he passed through the door, he casually handed Zhu Rui his woolen overcoat. He wore his usual white shirt and black suit. He didn’t wear a tie. He wore a bow at the neck of his shirt. He also had a white square handkerchief in his suit pocket, which was perfect and delicate.



His long, powerful legs stepped across the red carpet, each step emanating an impactful and authoritative aura. His gaze was flat as he swept his eyes across the room. His calm demeanor was deep and reserved.

Not many people caught his gaze. The leaders of T City's business world nodded their heads one after another to show respect for him.

At this time, the brilliant lights in the hall hit him. His jawline was as sharp as a sculpture. The elegant and charming aura that emanated from his suit made the women gasp and men envy him.

This was the charm of a mature man.

Low-key and luxurious.

Ning Qing could not move her eyes away from him. She looked at him from the sea of thousands of people. Suddenly, she felt his gaze floating over. It seemed unintentional, but the gaze he shot her was slow and heavy.

Like a pair of thick broad palms caressing her waist.

Ning Qing's heart started pounding like a drum.

But his gaze only lingered for a couple seconds. The chairperson on the rostrum asked him to speak. She watched him step up and put one hand on the rostrum. His sexy, red lips calmly enunciated the words "thank you for coming."

He spoke very little, but a flood of applause followed. Ning Qing glanced at the noble ladies, all of whom looked upon him with admiration in their eyes.

...

After Lu Shaoming finished speaking, he went into the hall and talked with a group of people. Zhu Rui followed and poured red wine behind him. He stuffed one of his hands in his pants pocket. Looking at his tall and handsome body, she noticed a little fatigue and laziness from his business trip. He tilted his head and downed a glass of red wine after looking down and laughing lightly. It was a social interaction between men.

Ning Qing glanced over, and then the music started to play and the dance was about to begin.

She saw from a distance that Xu Junxi had extended his hand gentlemanly to Ning Yao. Ning Yao smiled like a princess and placed her hand in his. They went to the dance floor to dance.

Lu Shaoming had just begun to talk, and it was estimated that he would not be able to come over quickly. Ning Qing decided to go for a rest and wait for him.

"Xiaofu, President Ou hasn't arrived yet? Let's go and sit down while we wait." Ning Qing suggested.

Xia Xiaofu glanced down and did not reply.

Ning Qing was somewhat surprised, just then, she saw Ou Luo Xi walk towards them after successfully rejecting a group of girls' invitation to dance.

Who would Ou Luo Xi like to dance with?

Xia Xiaofu's fair hands gripped her skirt tightly, and her snow-white teeth bit her cherry mouth that was like a lotus flower. She was a little nervous.

Just now, when the music sounded, a lot of girls had surrounded him excitedly. She saw him glance over immediately. Their eyes had met unexpectedly in this sea of people.

He was closing in; Xia Xiaofu and Ning Qing were the only ones there. Who would Ou Luo Xi choose?

The black hand-made leather shoes stopped and Ou Luo Xi slowly extended his hand. "Ning Qing, shall we dance?"

Xia Xiaofu's heart that had jumped to her throat sank instantly. He had clearly seen her just now. She was the only one in his clean and beautiful eyes!

But he had chosen Ning Qing.

Ning Qing was also surprised. She hadn't expected Ou Luo Xi to invite her to dance. She laughed apologetically and said, "Luo Xi, I already have a date, so why not." Ning Qing looked at Xia Xiaofu. "Your elder brother hasn't come yet. You should dance with Xiaofu first."

Xia Xiaofu raised her eyes that were like mountain streams and looked bravely at the teenager. An enticing grin formed on her face. "Ning Qing already has a date, you can dance with me, I dance very well."

Ou Luo Xi glanced at her as he slowly retracted his hand and stuffed it into his trousers pocket.

He had refused!

Ning Qing stiffened, and a glittering fog quickly covered Xia Xiaofu's beautiful eyes. She looked at the young man who was a head taller than her with dagger eyes.

But Ou Luo Xi turned his head and looked away with a cold and indifferent look.

"Hmph!" Xia Xiaofu turned around and left with a flick of her sleeves.

"Xiaofu..." Ning Qing went after her.

Xia Xiaofu had turned around too quickly, and she ran directly into a man behind her. The red wine in the man's hand spilled onto him.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry..." Xia Xiaofu quickly apologized.

"Will an apology be of use? My clothes are already dirty." The man's voice was wild and his attitude was barbaric, but as soon as he looked up, he saw Xia Xiaofu's oval-shaped face that was as pretty as a flower in moonlight. He quickly laughed and said, "Oh, it's Goddess Xia. It's all right, as long as Goddess Xia wipes my body clean with a paper towel."

The man pressed himself against Xia Xiaofu in an ambiguous manner.

Xia Xiaofu hadn't expected to bump into a hooligan. She was already in a bad mood, so she grabbed the red wine at the table and threw it all on the man's face.

“You!” The man quickly raised his hand and tried to slap Xia Xiaofu.

Ning Qing was close to the man. She had wanted to kick him in the crotch, but a dark shadow appeared in her sight. Ou Luo Xi was already standing beside Xia Xiaofu.

Ning Qing breathed a sigh of relief. She was relieved to have Ou Luo Xi protect Xia Xiaofu.

He had ignored Xiaofu’s dignity and refused her invitations, causing her to tear up in anger previously. But now, he had become the hero and saved her when she was in danger. Ning Qing couldn’t understand how Ou Luo Xi thinks.

“Stop it!” Ou Luo Xi didn’t make a move, because the man’s raised hand had been intercepted from behind, Ou Ze had arrived.

Ou Ze intercepted the man’s hand and twisted it lightly, accompanied by the crack of a bone, Ou Ze’s face was gloomy as he spoke. “You dare to touch my woman; you’re looking for death!”

The man let out a howl that sounded like dying pig’s, and the people in the hall looked over one after another.

Ning Qing subconsciously looked towards Lu Shaoming. In his sight, the crowd automatically parted for him. She saw him standing upright and straight, with narrowed eyes. There was little change in expression. With a glass of red wine in one hand, he said in a rich and lazy tone, “What is a random person doing here? Drag him out.”

“Yes sir.” Zhu Rui nodded, called for security, covered the man’s mouth and pulled him out neatly.

Lu Shaoming raised his red wine glass and looked at Ou Ze. “President Ou...”

Ou Ze called out, “President Lu”, and they nodded their heads in greeting.

Ning Qing felt a deep gaze fall on her. She tucked her beautiful hair on her cheek behind her ear with her fair little hands, and her little face turned red.

She was standing sideways, and the lacy V opening behind her was deep enough to reach the lower part of her slender waist. He must have seen it.

...

“Xiaofu, are you all right?” Ou Ze went forward, stretched his arm over Xia Xiaofu’s shoulder, and took her into his arms.

Xia Xiaofu shook her head. “I’m all right.” She reached out and pushed him aside, putting some distance between them. Her delicate oval-shaped face was a little pale. “Ze, I want to go.”

Ou Ze laughed. “Why do you want to go? I’ve just arrived. Let’s go, let’s go dancing,” he said as he took Xia Xiaofu’s little hand and led her to the dance floor.

As he walked, he thought of something. He stopped and looked at Ou Luo Xi. His voice was a little loud. “Luo Xi, why aren’t you dancing? Oh, you probably don’t know how to dance yet. You can find a girl to teach you.”

Ou Ze words were heard by people around him. Some people looked at Ou Luo Xi with a strange look and whispered, "Ou Luo Xi can't dance, really?"

"Maybe that's right. Ou Luo Xi is the illegitimate son of the Ou family. I heard that he only joined the Ou family at the age of 19. Old mister Ou had gotten him a teacher, a primary school teacher."

"Primary school teacher? Goodness!"...

This was Xia Xiaofu's first time hearing this. She suddenly raised her head. Her gaze was confused, helpless, and resentful as she looked at Ou Luo Xi.

Ning Qing was furious. What does this Ou Ze want? Shaming Ou Luo Xi in public?

"Luo Xi." Ning Qing hooked her arm around Ou Luo Xi and laughed as she said, "Didn't you invite me to dance just now? Let's go."

...

Ning Qing and Ou Luo Xi danced together. They chose a corner with dimmer lights. Ning Qing taught him patiently, "Follow my pace. Yes, that's very good."

Ou Luo Xi really couldn't dance, but he was a fast learner and soon learned how to dance. Although he had stepped on her feet a couple of times, he danced well after a little practice.

Ning Qing took Ou Luo Xi to the center of the dance floor. She whispered, "Luo Xi, you learn from the person next to you. Push your hand, and then I'll turn around."

"Ok." Ou Luo Xi took the hand that was placed on her shoulder down, and the other hand that was holding her pushed outwards. Ning Qing twirled on the ground with her high-heeled shoes.

The bottom of her white evening dress was like mermaid's tail. When she twirled around, the platinum-inlaid dress swung in a circle of radians, making her look like a mermaid, which shocked the audience.

"Wow." A group of people gasped as they admired her.

Ning Qing winked playfully at Ou Ze and Xia Xiaofu. They were just beside Ou Ze and Xia Xiaofu. Her gaze said -- See, I've avenged you.

Ou Luo Xi folded his arms and took her into his arms. His mouth slowly curved, his eye curved, and the smile he flashed at her was more pure and charming than a baby's.

Ning Qing was stunned, this was the first time that she had seen him smile at her.

Ou Ze's eyes shone with a hazy light, and his fiancée, Xia Xiaofu, was looking at Ou Luo Xi. Her face was pale and melancholic.

With a turn, Ou Ze blocked the figure of Ou Luo Xi, put his arm on her slender waist and pulled the fairy directly into his arms.

"What are you doing?" His movements were a little sudden. Xia Xiaofu stopped and placed her hands on his chest, trying to push him away.

“Xiaofu, we have been engaged for two years. You haven’t allowed me to touch you. Even the number of times I’ve held your hand could be counted with my fingers. How can you bear to do this to me?” he said as lowered his voice and leaned in her ear.

Xia Xiaofu couldn’t accept his intimate behavior. She knitted her eyebrows together tightly and said unhappily, “Ou Ze, you’re hurting me, let me go.”

Her “hurting me” evoked all of Ou Ze’s suppressed desires. He grabbed the back of her head with one hand and leaned over to kiss Xia Xiaofu’s lips.

Xia Xiaofu was frightened. She stomped on Ou Ze’s foot immediately.

Ou Ze released her in pain. Xia Xiaofu covered her mouth and ran like the wind.

Ou Ze wanted to chase after her, but just then “Ou Ze...” Several business associates came to him. Ou Ze looked as the beautiful figure disappeared behind the door, forced himself to step back and greeted the few people.

“Luo Xi, Xiaofu seems to have run away. What’s wrong with her? Let’s stop dancing. I’m going to find her.” Ning Qing said worriedly.

“Ok.” Ou Luo Xi looked in the direction where Xia Xiaofu had vanished and stopped.

...

Ning Qing had wanted to go out to find Xia Xiaofu, but then she heard several ladies whispering excitedly, “Quick, President Lu is going to dance, let’s go quickly.”

Ning Qing went stiff, Oh no!

She had given her first dance to Ou Luo Xi.

### **Chapter 86: Young Master Lu, Can I Have This Dance With You?**

Ning Qing stunned. S-H-I-T!

She had given her first dance to Ou Luo Xi.

Ning Qing turned around and looked. There were many people standing around Lu Shaoming. Most of them were fathers who were talking to Lu Shaoming. Then, they pointed at their daughters behind them who were bashful and reserved.

Lu Shaoming took a glance at them and they lifted their gaze as their faces flashed a sweet gentle smile.

It looked like the scene where the emperor chose his concubines.

As Ning Qing watched, she got a sudden look from Zhu Rui, who was behind Lu Shaoming. Zhu Rui frowned and beckoned for her to come over quickly.

Ning Qing understood; Lu Shaoming was angry.

The man was waiting for her to coax him. Otherwise, he might really pick someone.

Ning Qing was stomping her foot in distress. How could she be so pathetic? She wanted to tell Ou Luo Xi to look for Xia Xiaofu for her but she couldn't find where Ou Luo Xi was.

Ning Qing had no choice but to ask another female celebrity to look for Xia Xiaofu as she took a huge stride towards Lu Shaoming.

When she reached him, Ning Qing found it weird. Most of those women were brought over by their fathers and introduced themselves to Lu Shaoming bashfully. However, she was all alone.

She couldn't be bothered. If she didn't go over and he wasn't willing to come over. Did she really want him to go for those women?

But he's her husband!

Ning Qing closed her eyes and walked all the way to the front of the crowd. It was a little crowded at the front. Her fragile body seemed rather funny as she went through the crowd. "Excuse me, excuse me, let me pass through..." She panted as she squeezed to the front.

Finally, she saw a pair of black shiny leather shoes and a pair of sleek slacks before her...

She lifted her eyes and the man's solemn sculpted face appeared in her sight. He really looked angry. She couldn't see through his slender eyes and they were just unfathomable.

"Miss, what is it that you have to talk to Young Master Lu about?" The bunch of people behind her urged her to hurry. They were all there to marry their daughters to him. What was she trying to do? She was so annoying.

In the heat of the moment, Ning Qing didn't know what to say. She'd already come forward, how could a gentleman like him not invite her to dance?

Ning Qing blinked her beautiful clear eyes and continued to shoot looks at Lu Shaoming.

"Miss, if there's nothing, I shall make a move first." Lu Shaoming stood handsomely but he was going to turn around to leave as the man spoke.

"Miss??"

Ning Qing was going to spit blood. Wasn't he making a big deal of this?

"Hey, wait a minute," Ning Qing quickly extended both her arms and blocked his way. She couldn't be bothered with this, and everyone surrounding them gasped. "Then, Young Master Lu, can I have this dance with you?"

"Wow!" It immediately stirred a commotion among the crowd. Where's the girl from? She's so outspoken and straightforward.

Lu Shaoming looked at the girl. She puffed up her delicate cheeks and she looked embarrassed. She was staring at him but she was afraid that he might really leave if she continued to stare. Hence, there was a tinge of fragile yet spoiled brilliance in her beautiful rippling eyes as she fixed her gaze on him.

Lu Shaoming looked past her head casually and shifted his glance to the crowd, who were all whispering behind her. The crowd noticed his sharp yet quiet glance and they quickly shut their mouths.

His imposing gaze terrified everyone.

“Miss, why would I want to dance with you? Where is your sincerity when you invite someone else to dance?” Lu Shaoming smirked as his deep bright eyes shimmered.

Sincerity... When she invites someone to dance?

No! No!

To have a girl to invite him to dance... Only he would do such a thing. Did he think that everyone was as weird as he was?

Ning Qing warned herself to tolerate it. A successful person shouldn't be bothered by little details. He wanted sincerity, right? Fine, he'll get it.

Ning Qing bent down. Ning Qing, at 168 cm tall, was already short enough in front of him, who was 185cm. When she bowed, the crowd behind couldn't even see her when they tiptoed. She mimicked how a gentleman would bow and extended her right hand. “Mister, may I have this dance?”

Three seconds later, her extended hand was grasped by a warm broad hand. The man exerted strength and pulled her towards the dance hall.

His steps were huge and Ning Qing almost had to jog to keep up with him. Many people stared at her along the way. There were looks of envy and admiration. The look on the faces of all the famous women said: “Wow, it works like this?”

Ning Qing saw Xu Junxi and Ning Yao too. Xu Junxi looked extremely gloomy and his face was completely paralyzed, while Ning Yao looked at her in disdain.

Ning Yao extended her hand to receive a man like a princess while Ning Qing extended her hand to invite a man to dance with her. Ning Yao had the means to laugh at her.

It was all the man's fault!

Ning Qing was really really angry. So, when he stopped, she kicked his legs without much deliberation. “Humph, bad guy!”

It was dead quiet in the hall. Hence, what she said reverberated in every corner of the hall clearly.

Then, everyone looked at her like she was an alien.

Lu Shaoming extended his arm to hold the girl's soft waist. He looked down with a gentle yet firm gaze, “Why? Don't you know how to appreciate me after you got me?”

Got him?

Everyone's facial expression changed when they heard that.

Ning Qing immediately regretted that little tantrum. She usually had proper self-awareness. He was the man in the center of it all, in the midst of his company's gather, and she'd kicked him...

She lifted her gaze to look at him. It was an apologetic yet anxious gaze. "I'm sorry, I shouldn't have kicked you. But you shouldn't have made a fool out of me."

There was melodious music playing in the hall. Lu Shaoming put a hand on her shoulder while the other clasped her hand as they danced.

"How dare you? What about the first dance we talked about? Just how happy were you when you danced with Luo Xi? Just how fascinated were you when Luo Xi smiled at you? Huh?"

Ning Qing heard and she quickly pouted to show her ignorance. "Luo Xi is your younger brother so he's also my younger brother. I was protecting him just now. It was you who was petty."

The girl's scattered fringe covered her forehead, and that set off her rounded forehead. Lu Shaoming got closer to her and he rubbed his cheeks against her forehead. Right as their skin touched, sparks were in the air. She smelled great and she was warm.

"Let it go then. But what are you wearing today? Three days ago, you cried so badly just because I saw your chest. Today, you are revealing your entire back. Who are you trying to show off to?"

It wasn't as though she didn't know how those perverted men would look at her. They would treat her as though she were naked. She looked so beautiful and she was flaunting it. Where did she get this bad habit?

Ning Qing didn't know that the man was so narrow minded and long winded. She refused to admit defeat and said, "How about you? You dressed up to attract the bees and butterflies. Everyone is trying to present you their with daughters, aren't you proud?"

The moment she finished, she could feel the hand on her shoulder exert some strength. The man looked at her like he wanted her to stop talking back. "Do you believe that I'd kiss you right now?"

He never once looked at her with such a solemn expression before. Ning Qing was afraid and aggrieved.

No one knew that they'd fight after not seeing each other for a few days.

She looked down and her nose was red. "It's your company's banquet tonight. I knew that there would be many beautiful ladies. I don't want you to look at them. I want to be the most beautiful one and then stand next to you... Don't talk angrily at me. I don't like so many women gawking at you. I admit that I'm jealous, I'm upset, I'm out of control... Mm..."

Her lips entwined with another's.

Lu Shaoming spun and lowered her so she'd be a bit less visible then kissed her slightly.

They were in public. He couldn't deepen the kiss nor had he intended to really kiss her. But he couldn't hold himself back after listening what she said.

Silly girl.



Ning Qing was dumbfounded. His lips left hers but he left a refreshing aroma of wine. It lingered on her lips.

"I, I did not talk back." Ning Qing was feeling light headed.

"I know. It's just that I feel like kissing you. Wife, I'm normally not so... narrow-minded. Earlier, I was a little jealous, a little upset and kinda lost control. So, I'm sorry. Don't cry, okay?"

He saw her every movement in the dance hall clearly. The person was Luo Xi. He knew for a fact that there was nothing to worry about, but he couldn't help but feel jealous when he saw how she looked when she smiled at Luo Xi.

He thought about it and found himself funny. He's been in the business circle since he was sixteen, yet he had no sexual desire for the past fourteen years. Everything was within his control. He was steady and self controlled.

However, he never thought he would meet such a girl in his life. He couldn't leave her side nor could he spoil her. He lost his mind and became as impulsive as a monkey. He also developed a little jealousy

Yes, he admitted that the sourness he felt on his chest earlier was jealousy.

There was sweetness that instantly soared up from Ning Qing's heart. She wondered if everyone else's wives were like her. Because of his one sentence, she felt like crying then she felt like laughing.

Her emotions changed so quickly. So childish.

"Wife, I want to hug your waist so you can be close to me," Lu Shaoming slid his hand down from her shoulder. He then slowly held her waist gently.

Ning Qing blushed. Before everyone's eyes, he didn't hold back. But she took a step forward as well. She took a step closer to the handsome and manly chest.

He danced really well. He was taught traditionally. Every single footstep he took was graceful; elegance that through his blood and was in his bones. As the two of them danced, the corner of his suit moved against her evening gown. That made her body grow weak.

He satisfied a woman's desires of a man. How could she not be attracted?

"Wife," he called her.

"Huh?" There was melodious music in her ears. Ning Qing was leaning in his embrace as she responded willfully.

"Wife," he called again.

Ning Qing couldn't help but chuckle in his embrace. There was an eagerness her voice that even she herself didn't notice. "Why? You're the good guy but you're also the bad guy."

Lu Shaoming frowned, "Tell me, how am I bad?"

Ning Qing made her hand on his shoulder into a fist and punched him. "You made me invite you for a dance and you think you're a good guy?"

Lu Shaoming pursed his lips and said, “Ning Qing, I’m trying to help you make it to the headlines tomorrow. Can’t you see?”

Ning Qing was at loss for words. Their dance would definitely make the entertainment headlines tomorrow. Ning Qing courageously made an advance for love and danced with Young Master Lu.

“There are many ways to make it to the headlines. Couldn’t you have come over and asked me for a dance? Let me enjoy the treatment of a princess.” Every girl’s criteria for a relationship was the same. These expectations were very common. Ning Qing wasn’t much different in that regard.

“Who told you to provoke me? If you were to have waited for me obediently, I would have asked you to dance.”

“You!” Ning Qing was dying to kick him again. How was he so unreasonable?

Lu Shaoming held her waist and pulled her closed into his embrace. He lowered and spoke into her ears. “There was something earlier that I have to take care of. Wait for me. We’ll go home together. Mm?”

“Mm!” Ning Qing smiled and replied happily.

We’ll go home.

...

After the dance, Ning Qing quickly came out to look for Xia Xiaofu. The female celebrity couldn’t find her and Ning Qing was worried.

The banquet hall was huge and Ning Qing ran for two rounds but she didn’t see her. Something’s weird. Where’s Ou Luo Xi?

Ning Qing stood on the spot and thought. Where would Xiaofu go?

She turned around and ran to a secluded area.

When Ning Qing got to the garden with the water fountain, she heard chiming bell-like laughter.

She ran over and saw Xia Xiaofu took off her heels and was dancing on the cobblestone by the raised flower bed.

She’d tied her light purple skirt and exposed her smooth calves and delicate feet. The water fountain at the raised flower bed was decorated with colorful neon lightings. She was like a little girl when she tiptoed to fill water in her hand.

From Ning Qing’s angle, she could see Xiaofu’s delicate oval face. Her features were filled with innocent happiness. The water beads splashed on her body and she was like a fairy that was taking a shower among the fog.

Ning Qing stopped but didn’t interrupt her.

A talented woman scholar who studies and researches Mandarin like Xia Xiaofu; there must be a poet that lives in her heart. They yearned for freedom and romance, they were acutely sensitive yet high spirited.

Besides her laughter, Ning Qing heard very gentle and soft music. It was as though it had been played with two tea leaves, extremely melodious.

There's someone?

Ning Qing quickly looked over at the forest which was next to the grassland. Who would it be?

Then, "Xiaofu!" An angry man's voice was heard. Ou Ze was walking over.

The moment Ou Ze appeared, the music stopped. Xiao Xiaofu's smile disappeared.

"Xiaofu, what are you doing here?" Ou Ze ran over to grab Xia Xiaofu.

Xia Xiaofu took a step back as it was a conditioned response. She turned around and ran into the forest.

Ning Qing saw that Ou Ze chased after Xiaofu and there were a few bodyguards that followed closely behind. Ou Ze immediately turned around and bellowed, "Turn around! Whoever takes another look, I will make him blind!"

The bodyguards turned around.

Ning Qing then noticed that the dress that Xia Xiaofu was wearing was wet and it exposed her beautiful graceful body. Her dress wasn't transparent but looking at her exposed smooth white skin, even Ning Qing who was a woman became shy at the sight.

Xia Xiaofu pushed the bush aside. She was disappointed as the branches were. There were only two leaves on the grass.

She bent down to pick up the leaves.

The leaves were still warm. It must be from the temperature of the person's lips.

## **Chapter 87: Lu Shaoming, You Tyrant!**

She had gone for a walk because she was in a bad mood. The fountain was beautiful when it sprayed in front of the neon lights. She took off her shoes and stood on the pebbles to relax.

Just then, the tune of a song could be heard.

She knew that song. It was a simple one – kiss my baby.

The person had played the song while she stood on the pebbles. He had accompanied her for a long time.

But the person left when Ou Ze arrived.

She didn't know who the person was.

"Ah!" Xia Xiaofu felt the world spin in the next moment as Ou Ze lifted her off the ground.

Ou Ze put her gently on the flower bed and squatted down. He took her feet in both hands, took a square handkerchief out of his suit pocket and wiped the water droplets from her feet.

“Your feet are so cold; you’re bound to catch a cold. Why don’t you know how to take care of yourself? If you want to play with water, I’ll take you to a hot spring or go to sunbathe in Sanya on vacation tomorrow. This is not allowed in the future, understand?”

“Yes.” Xia Xiaofu nodded.

After putting on her shoes, Ou Ze draped a black overcoat on her. Xia Xiaofu rose and Ou Ze spread out his palm. “Give me the leaves.”

Xia Xiaofu hid her little hand that was holding the leaves behind her and kept her eyes on guard. “What do you want? This is mine.”

Ou Ze frowned. “Don’t make a fuss, Xiaofu. I’m not going to fight with you over the fact that you ran out of the hall and stayed with other men for so long. But I’m your fiancée. What are you doing hiding the two leaves left by other men?”

Xia Xiaofu’s eyes cooled down. She was originally like a fairy. Now that she looked so cold, it was as if she wasn’t mortal.

“Ou Ze, don’t make a fuss about it. How do you know it was left by a man. What if it was a woman? I’m tired of your constant suspicions. I don’t want to quarrel with you. My driver is waiting outside. I’m going to go now. I think we all need time to calm down,” Xia Xiaofu said and left.

Ou Ze went to chase after her, but Ning Qing ran up and stood in front of Ou Ze. Ning Qing smiled politely and said. “President Ou, give Xiaofu a little time. Lovers still need their space.”

Ou Ze saw that Xia Xiaofu had gone far. He shot Ning Qing a cold look. “Our relationship is none of your business.” He shook his sleeves and left.

Ning Qing, “...” In fact, what she really wanted to say was that businessmen and fairies were not destined to be in the same world!

...

Xu Junxi drove a Lamborghini with Ning Yao in his car. Suddenly, a luxury business car came into his sight. He looked at the license plate of the car. Of all the car’s in T City, this one had to be Lu Shaoming’s.

Why had Lu Shaoming parked his business car on the roadside? Ning Qing was in his car. What kind of shameless things were they doing inside?

His head grew hot and he smashed the brakes to park his Lamborghini beside the car. He honked his horn.

Hearing the sharp sound of the horn, Ning Qing came back to her senses and said, “Shaoming, someone’s here!”

The Lamborghini stopped a metre away from their car. The window was sliding down. Ning Yao looked surprised, as if she did not know why Xu Junxi had suddenly stopped. Xu Junxi stared at them with a jealous and ferocious look on his face.

Lu Shaoming gently took his gaze back and his mouth curved in a cynical smile. What did this Xu Junxi want from his wife?

“President Xu...”

Xu Junxi immediately looked for Ning Qing’s figure in the car, but Lu Shaoming’s strong and broad body blocked his sight, leaving not even a crack for him to peek through. Xu Junxi could not see anything.

He had no choice but to take his gaze back and laugh as he said, “President Lu, it’s such a coincidence, I saw your car parked on the side of the road, so I came to say hello to you.”

### **Chapter 88: Wait A Minute...**

Lu Shaoming lazily leaned backwards in the back seat and squinted his slender eyes as he leisurely said, “CEO, I think it’s best if you don’t greet as you plan on doing. What if you ruin the other person’s happy event?”

The phrase “happy event” made Xu Junxi’s face grow grave. He couldn’t keep his smile.

Lu Shaoming looked at Ning Yao with an ingenuine smile. “Miss Ning, I think CEO Xu is raging with fire. You, who are his fiancée, should help him extinguish the fire inside him.”

Ning Yao never thought that Lu Shaoming would look at her and she was suddenly blushing and her heart started racing.

She stole many glances at Lu Shaoming during the banquet that night. Among all the people she was close to, Xu Junxi was the most good looking of them all, but Lu Shaoming was even more good looking than Xu Junxi. The outline of his face was like a Michelangelo sculpture, exquisite and perfect.

The most crucial thing was that he was outstanding and rich. He looked handsome and elegant. When he stood among tens of thousands of people, he was above them all, and he was a respectable man.

Lu Shaoming’s white shirt was crumpled and he looked like a sexy yet lazily decadent. His shirt was unbuttoned and she could even see his muscular outline and his healthy sun-kissed skin.

She couldn’t hear what he said, she could only see the movement of his lips and her heart was racing.

“Young Master Lu...” Ning Yao revealed a gentle smile and she gave Lu Shaoming a flirtatious gaze.

It was a pity that she met Xu Junxi first. Otherwise, the man would be hers.

Ning Yao wanted to reply but swoosh, Xu Junxi stomped on the gas pedal. The Lamborghini sped forward.

...

As they left, Ning Qing revealed herself while Lu Shaoming was still watching the Lamborghini. Ning Qing pulled his ear to turn him around.

“They already left. What are you looking at? I saw that Ning Yao seemed to be interested in you.”

No one dared to pull his ear before. Lu Shaoming raised his eyebrows and with a half smile replied, “Take back your hand. You’re getting quite brave, huh?”

Ning Qing only noticed her inappropriate action after he taunted her. The flirtatious actions between husband and wife were rather strange to him, she wasn’t used to it either.

How dare she pull his ear... He was a president after all.

She quickly retracted her hand.

But the very next moment, two fingers wrapped around her delicate cheeks. The man pinched her cheeks and said delightfully, “You think I, your husband, have such standards? Don’t connect me with random people in your mind so willfully. In this world, I am into Ning Qing alone.”

Ning Qing extended her hand to slap away his. He didn’t allow her to pull his ear but he pinched her cheeks! Humph, this is so unfair!

“You’re saying this now. Wait till you meet someone who is younger and prettier and me. A man’s words lacked credibility. Save your sweet talk!”

Lu Shaoming extended his arm to bring her into his arms. He looked down and planted kisses all over her face. He gently asked, “What are you thinking about? I’m ten years older than you. I’ll grow old before you do. Plus, if I were to be shallow and only like those who are young and pretty, would I have had to wait ’til now? I’ve never tasted a woman but you only let me taste you slightly just now.”

Ning Qing grew weak in his arms. She really wanted to cover her ears to shut his voice out.

But she was really happy. He was telling her that he was like her, it was his first time too.

A thirty year old man still had his first time. This precious treasure, did she earn it or somehow come out ahead?

Lu Shaoming’s breathing was chaotic. A huge palm held the back of her head and found her soft lips.

Ning Qing leaned sideways to dodge. She buried her head into his collar and said, “I, I’m sleepy. I want to sleep.”

If they continued, she wouldn’t know what she’d do.

Lu Shaoming rubbed her hair and said, “Alright, sleep on my lap. I’ll wake you up when we get home.

...

Xu Junxi was raging with anger. He felt uncomfortable when he thought of Ning Qing and Lu Shaoming together. He stepped on the gas pedal and revved the engine. The speedometer continued to rise.

Ning Yao had never once traveled at such high speed. Her face was pale. "Junxi, I'm not feeling too good. Can you please slow down?"

The man next to her didn't respond. She looked at the steering wheel and saw that the veins in his hands were popping.

Ning Yao was afraid that there would be an accident if it persisted. She hurriedly leaned sideways and hugged Xu Junxi's waist. "Junxi, please slow down. I'm so scared."

As Ning Yao hugged him, Xu Junxi's emotions were finally reined back in. He saw that he was traveling at a hundred and sixty kilometers per hour and he quickly stepped on the brake to slow down.

D\*mn it, he lost control again because of Ning Qing!

He looked sideways and saw Ning Yao's pale face. She looked at him gently and innocently as she asked, "Junxi, what happened to you? You drove so fast... I was so scared. Today, Sister asked Young Master Lu to dance at the banquet. Are you suspecting that Sister was in the car with Young Master Lu? Sister has guts. Would she seduce Young Master Lu?"

Ning Yao wasn't stupid. She thought about things that happened that night and guessed why Xu Junxi lost control.

She gnashed her teeth in hatred. Why would Young Master Lu dance with Ning Qing while Xu Junxi was going crazy for her? Why would two men go crazy for her?

That was Young Master Lu, the man on the top of the pyramid. How dare Ning Qing be associated with him!

She definitely shouldn't! Ning Yao was certain.

...

Ning Qing was tired and sleepy. She didn't sleep enough as the filming had ended late for the past few days. Hence, she fell asleep the moment she lied on Lu Shaoming's lap.

Lu Shaoming's hand was caressing her face softly and his eyes were filled with gentleness and spoiling love.

"President." Zhu Rui pointed outside the window. "It's Xu Junxi's Lamborghini."

Lu Shaoming looked up and he saw the Lamborghini parked by the roadside.

"President, there's something that I'd like to report to you. Three days ago, Li Meiling got admitted into the same hospital madam was in. That night, Xu Junxi came. He and Ning Yao were in the room next to Madam's for very long and made a lot of noises."

Lu Shaoming heard and his hand paused. His dark eyes looked like there was ink spread, his sharp boundless expression chilled the air.

He was quiet for three seconds then he softly said, "Inform the police and reporters. I want CEO Xu to be in the headlines tomorrow."

"Yes," Zhu Rui nodded.

...

The next morning

Ning Qing opened her eyes slowly. She looked at the familiar crystal chandelier above her head. She was confused at first and she awoke in a start. She was already in her room.

She fell asleep on Lu Shaoming's lap last night. Ning Qing, are you a pig?

Ning Qing moved and she suddenly realized that she was huddled against a broad warm chest. Lu Shaoming was in a white shirt and pants. Morning sunlight poured in through the curtain and the golden rays shone on his handsome face. The imposing manner that he normally bore was replaced with gentleness on his beautiful elegant face. He looked extremely attractive.

Ning Qing realized that the two of them were lying very closely. Her head was using his arm as her pillow while his hand laid on her waist. The tip of her nose was below his adam's apple. As she breathed, she could smell a refreshingly masculine post-shower scent.

Wait, he showered... Did she shower?

Ning Qing looked down and she suddenly blushed in embarrassment. She had changed her clothes!!

Who, who took such petty advantage of her while she was sleeping?

Of course, Ning Qing only asked in her heart. In reality, she moved his hand away from her waist lightly and she wanted to leave the bed, immediately.

She turned around and she moved her legs to the side of the bed slowly. Almost there, she almost made it.

But then, "ah!" Her soft waist was attacked by a strong arm again. The man behind her exerted strength and she fell onto his chest.

So firm. She hit his bone and she felt painful.

"You want to run away after you slept with me, huh?" The man's voice was hoarse as he'd just woken up. It sounded very sexy.

Ning Qing moved to the side of the bed and wanted to escape from his seductive scent, "Nonsense. I fell asleep last night. How did I sleep with you? Plus, this is my room. You came to sleep with me!"

"Fine, I slept with you. As I already carry this charge, I might as well make it happen now." Then, he pressed down on her body as his lips rubbed against her neck.

"Lu Shaoming!" Ning Qing was dodging him in fear.

She tried hard to shake him off. Her hand was holding on to the side of the bed and she looked like she was going to roll off the bed.



Lu Shaoming's muscular arm held her waist and flipped her around to land on his chest. He pressed her head with his palm as he said helplessly, "If you were to fall down, your little butt would hurt again. I just put medicine on you last night, did you forget about the pain?"

His body was tall and towering. She was like a pet cat as she lied on him.

Ning Qing was blushing hard. She didn't know if him saying "little butt" was appropriate. They weren't close, really weren't close.

"I, did you change my clothes for me?"

"Yes, so don't be shy. I've already seen and touched what I should. I didn't leave anything behind."

"You!" Are you still that Lu Shaoming I know?

"Similarly, if I were to want to force you into anything, I would've done it last night.

Ning Qing then lied down obediently on top of him. Actually, they hadn't known each other long enough.

She needed to get used to it gradually.

As she listened to his heartbeat, Ning Qing squinted her eyes as she drew circles on his chest, "Shaoming, I'm not going on set today. I'll go keep Mom company in the hospital later. You? Do you need to go to the office today?"

Lu Shaoming rubbed her hair as he kissed her forehead. "I have two meetings today. I'll have dinner with the two of you."

"Mm!" She was being pretty indirect. What she actually meant was: I'm not filming today, can you not go to the office but keep me company?

He's too busy. There's no choice. But he agreed to have dinner with her and her mom. She was more than happy, she was satisfied.

Ning Qing got up after she lied down on him for a while. "It's late, I have to clean myself up."

She sat by the side of the bed as she slipped on the pink wool slippers that lay the carpet.

...

Aunt Zhang prepared breakfast and she saw that it was eight o'clock. She was worried that both Sir and Madam had overslept and affected their work schedule, so she went upstairs and wanted to wake them up.

Just as she was about to knock, the door automatically opened a gap. Aunt Zhang looked inside and quickly turned around to go downstairs.

Aunt Zhang who was almost fifty years old smiled and blushed.

When she looked at the spacious white bed, she saw that the husband was hugging his wife from behind while his wife was in an oversize white shirt.

...

Lu Shaoming was on his way to work when Ning Qing received a call from Xiao Zhou.

“Hey, Ning Qing, big news! Last night, Xu Junxi and Ning Yao had sex in the car by the roadside. Both of them were caught by the police and they spent a night at the police station.”

### **Chapter 89: Mom Has A Few Friends Who Would Love To Meet You**

Ning Qing was a little surprised. Last night, Lu Shaoming’s lighthearted “good thing” seemed to have agitated Xu Junxi. She had watched Xu Junxi rush away but had not thought that he had rushed off because he could not wait to couple up with Ning Yao on the roadside.

This Xu Junxi was no longer the Xu Junxi that she used to know.

“Ning Qing, last night when the police opened the car door. Xu Junxi’s clothes were untidy and he didn’t even have time to lift his trousers up. A group of reporters rushed in madly and kept taking pictures. They were locked up all night and released this morning. Guess what happened then? Xu Junxi’s mother arrived and gave Ning Yao a slap on the spot, then took her son with her and left fuming.”

Xiao Zhou laughed loudly from where she was. “This is the front page headline today, the number one scandal. Xu Junxi’s mother’s slap is telling Ning Yao “you slut, who asked you to seduce my son!” Ning Yao’s reputation has gone down the drain now, and the “Pink Lady” crew has been submerged by reporters. They’ve already announced this morning that they will stop filming.”

Ning Qing hadn’t realized that the matter was so serious. She was a little confused. “Xiao Zhou, with Xu Junxi’s present influence, do the police still dare to go up and investigate and handcuff him? It’s too much of a coincidence that both the police and the journalist arrived at the same time. Seems like it had been planned by someone.”

“Oh, my young mistress,” cried Xiao Zhou, “do you really not get it? It’s definitely planned. Is there anyone else besides your husband Lu Shaoming who dares to prank Xu Junxi so boldly like this in T City? Your husband is avenging you!”

Lu Shaoming?

They had already agreed that he would not participate in her affairs, and he had not intervened so far. Had Xu Junxi somehow agitated and irritated him?

However, that guy Lu Shaoming was really evil; it was all or nothing for him when dealing with someone.

From here on, this scandal would become the dinnertime gossip of the denizens of T City. Ning Yao’s image of a pure and clean woman had been completely destroyed, and it would be difficult to recover that image.

“Xiao Zhou, other than Xu Junxi and the others, am I included in today’s news?”

“Nope, your dance with Young Master Lu last night has flown by the wayside. Nobody knows about it other than the nobles. But Ning Qing, your sponsorship propositions arrived this morning. They are all big brands in China. You have become the new darling of the advertising ladies industry.”

Ning Qing had already anticipated this outcome. A man like Lu Shaoming would not allow himself to be deeply involved in gossip and rumors. He had a prominent identity.

Last night, he had said that he would help bring her name to the headlines. But that didn’t happen. All the people who had attended last night’s dinner were the top officials in T city. He had helped her make the headlines in those people’s minds.

No matter how popular a female star becomes, they were worthless in the eyes of rich people. That was why many female stars eventually choose to retire and marry into a rich family. The female stars were climbing high into the social ladder.

And her identity had soared with him overnight. Maybe what he had really wanted to give her was everyone’s gaze. He wanted to make her a Ning Qing that everyone could see.

Ning Qing was very touched. This man’s love was so delicate and broad, touching lives silently, saying that he won’t interfere. But in the end, he still wanted her to have a higher starting point in the entertainment industry; he wanted to make things easier.

He really loves her.

...

After ending the conversation with Xiao Zhou, Ning Qing went to the hospital to see her mother.

Ning Qing realized that something was wrong with her mother. When they chatted, her mind often wandered away. When Ning Qing saw her mother fall asleep after lunch at noon, she went to ask the nurse what had happened.

The little nurse answered, “I don’t know, but Auntie Yue’s health is much better these days. She would often chat with her former patient friends. It seems like they had a fight or something unpleasant had happened while they were chatting. So Auntie Yue’s in a bad mood.”

Chat?

Who was Mom talking to?

Ning Qing thought about it. It was probably Auntie Kong, Kong Yang’s mother, and the auntie in the ward next door. Ning Qing went to Auntie Kong’s ward in order to understand the situation.

She stood by the door. The door of the ward was not closed. She saw four or five aunties chatting inside.

“That Auntie Yue said that her daughter is married, and her son-in-law has good looks, good character, and good prospects. She is 100% satisfied with him. I don’t believe it.”

“Yes, I think Ning Qing is only about 20 years old. We haven’t heard that she is married. Young people nowadays are very open-minded, they’ll live together after getting a boyfriend. When they bring their boyfriends to their mother, they’ll introduce the guy as her husband. They are not embarrassed at all.”

“That’s right, even if that son-in-law exists, why haven’t we met him? If the Son-in-law’s condition is so good, why not bring him out for us to see. I usually think Auntie Yue is a very nice person, but I didn’t expect her to love boasting.”

“Well, isn’t there a phrase now, pseudo-rich. Auntie Yue and Ning Qing had better not be deceived by others.”

Ning Qing was amused as she listened outside the door. Was this the legendary gossip session between aunties? She had experienced it for the first time.

Mother was 45 years old. Women like to boast about their children when they reach this age. She hadn’t expected her mom to be so satisfied with Lu Shaoming.

No wonder mother was unhappy. Any mother who had been cross-examined by others regarding her daughter would be unhappy. Besides, she really is married to a good man.

So, what should she do?

If she went in to explain, these aunties would certainly not listen to her. Mother had no relatives, friends, or sisters. Those aunties were the only ones she could confide in, and the only people she could boast about were her daughter and son-in-law. Was she really going to do nothing about this for her mom?

Ning Qing thought for a moment and took out her mobile phone to make a phone call.

“Hello, Shaoming.”

“Yes? Have you eaten yet?” The man’s environment at the other end was usually very quiet. If he was not in the conference hall, then he would be in his own office.

“Yes. Have you eaten yet?” Ning Qing’s lips lifted as she bantered with him.

Actually, these aunties weren’t the only ones who had a hard time believing that she’d married a good man. She would sometimes feel as if she were dreaming as well. She didn’t understand why he had married her.

“Not yet, after I finish everything I had on hand. Where would you like to have dinner tonight? Does Mom like anything? I’ll ask Zhu Rui to reserve a table.”

That was what she was getting at. Ning Qing became hesitant and embarrassed, stuttering as she spoke. “Shaoming, erm... can we have dinner earlier tonight? My mom has a few friends who would love to meet you.”

...

At five o’clock in the evening.

Ning Qing stood at the entrance of the hotel. A luxury Rolls-Royce pulled up. The valet opened the door and Lu Shaoming, dressed in a black shirt and black pants, stepped out.

Ning Qing jumped down the stairs, grinning like a flower as she grabbed his arm with an expression of flattery as she said, "Shaoming, you're here."

Lu Shaoming handed the keys to the hotel worker for him to park the car. He brought Ning Qing into the hotel lobby and looked down. He gazed at her gently and asked, "You admit that you're wrong?"

Ning Qing stuck her pink tongue out and her delicate little face was full of wit. "What, it's because you're so excellent. My mother likes you so much, she boasts about you so much to her friends that no one believes her now. Only you can prove my mother's innocence."

Whatever, she'll just praise him first.

Lu Shaoming listened but didn't react to her words. He was dressed in black, not as elegant and gentlemanly as he was in a white shirt, but he looked tall, stylish and noble.

Ning Qing saw that they were nearing the room. She took his arm and shook it a couple of times. Her small head peeped out in front of him as she acted like a charming woman. "Shaoming, be patient later, laugh more and give my mother face."

Lu Shaoming glanced at her and remained silent.

...

The waiter opened the door and the two of them went in. Yue Wanqing and four aunties were sitting together. When the aunties saw the door open, their gazes swept over with a whoosh.

Ning Qing saw that the gazes of those aunties were unfriendly. She raised her eyes and saw a room full of hostile provocations and deliberations. Ning Qing understood that these aunties wanted to scare Lu Shaoming a little.

People in the countryside loved to do this.

But even though she could understand, Lu Shaoming might not understand. A big president like him was being eyed and treated like goods now, would he be displeased?

He often had an unhappy expression in front of her and was very willful.

Ning Qing glanced at the man secretly. Surprisingly, the man's hard and handsome face was soft. He looked at the aunties gently and slowly. His eyes were full of attention and respect for them. His red and thin lips moved as he said. "Hello, aunties."

A couple simple words, but Ning Qing could feel the tension.

She wanted to laugh and was very touched. This was probably this man's first time dealing with these kinds of people in his 30 years, and he was not used to them.

Lu Shaoming's impeccable appearance and graceful manners caused the aunties' eyes to shine. Where were the lines that they had prepared just now? They had forgotten the entire game plan.

Lu Shaoming pulled out a chair for Ning Qing gentlemanly. Ning Qing sat down. The waiter pulled another chair. Lu Shaoming was sitting between the mother and daughter.

“Mom.” Lu Shaoming called out.

“Yes!” Yue Wanqing replied happily.

She was worried that her son-in-law would be unwilling to come. She grew up in an orphanage before she turned eight. She had kept in contact with several sisters in the orphanage after the Ning family had selected her. But Ning Zhenguo didn't like that very much. The rich people were very respectful of their appearance and dignity. They thought that dealing with the poor would cause them to lose their status.

But her son-in-law was here!

As everyone settled down at the table, the hotel manager stood behind Lu Shaoming, ready to serve him as two waitresses poured warm tea for the four aunties.

“Ahem,” an auntie coughed gently as she asked, “Umm, little Lu, do you have a house? Where about is your house?”

“Yes, our house is at Tea Pavilion.” Lu Shaoming replied in a low and mellow voice.

“What?” An auntie asked in confusion as she turned away with disgust. “What kind of place is that? I've never heard of that place. Rich people's houses in T city are all in Diaoyu Island, where the most expensive villas in this city are. The price is about 70,000 per square meter, and it costs 10 million average. Xiao Lu, have you ever heard of it?”

“Oh,” Lu Shaoming listened carefully and answered frankly, “I've just come to T city, so I'm not very familiar with it.”

So the aunties rolled their eyes at Shaoming, full of contempt. Showing that they thought of him like a frog in the bottom of the well, with a narrow outlook and not in the same world as them.

Ning Qing's little face turned red. It's over! their family's president has been despised and people had rolled their eyes at him!

Another auntie then asked, “Little Lu, do you have a car? What kind of car is it?”

Lu Shaoming thought for a moment before replying, “There's a garage at home. I usually drive the Bentley.”

“Garage, Bentley?” The auntie frowned and was very dissatisfied. “Little Lu, let me tell you this, auntie used to look after garages for others. There are all kinds of bicycles and electronic scooters in the garage, but nothing with four wheels. I don't care about whatever Bentley you're driving. Auntie won't require you to buy Ning Qing a BMW that most businessmen in T city drive, but you have to at least have a Shanghai Volkswagen.”

“Pfft.” Ning Qing heard a slight laugh and looked up. The two waitresses were trying to hold back their laughter and were about to lose it.

The waitresses expressions seemed to say – What's wrong with you?!

Ning Qing secretly lowered her head. What bicycles, electronic scooters, Shanghai Volkswagen, etc? She felt extremely embarrassed.

She dared not look at Lu Shaoming's face now, for fear that he would shoot her with a disdainful expression that said, look at the riff-raff that you've found!

And the auntie had not seemed to notice the expressions of others at all, and continued, "Xiao Lu, have you heard of BMW? My son drives that, and it costs more than a million."

Lu Shaoming held up his teacup. An expensive watch was on the wrist of his big hand that was slender and beautiful, paired with the blue and white porcelain teacup pattern, it added a layer of nobility and elegance in his handsome temperament.

He knitted his handsome brow slightly, and his expression was somewhat amused as he said. "I've heard of it."

"Now that you've heard about it, just take owning a BMW as your goal in the future." The auntie said proudly.

Lu Shaoming took a sip of tea, his Adam's apple bobbing sexily as he said one simple word, "Sure."

Ning Qing, "..."

Then another auntie said, "Xiao Lu, how old are you this year? Our Ning Qing is only 20. You look as if you are quite old."

Ning Qing's heart thumped in her chest, she wanted to stamp her feet as she thought, auntie, do your questions have to be so sharp?

Asking about his age was a big taboo.

A 30-year-old man was mature and charming in her eyes, but in the eyes of these aunties, he would become as cheap as cabbage. How would that make him feel?

What would he think?

Ning Qing secretly stretched out her little hand and placed it on his thigh. She caressed him lightly as if she were petting a tiger and telling him, be good, let's bear it.

Her little hand was clasped by a big palm, as the man grabbed her hand directly and place it on his crotch.

Ning Qing's small face was red. Hey hey hey. What are you doing?

She took her little hand back.

"This, little Lu..." Yue Wanqing also felt that this question was too much. She opened her mouth, wanting to help Lu Shaoming.

But Lu Shaoming sat upright, two proud long legs under the table crossing together casually, becoming more languid as he gently opened his mouth and said, "Auntie, I am 30 this year, 10 years older than

Ning Qing. My age is the perfect age because I know how to pamper others. Ning Qing will not suffer when she's with me."

Yue Wanqing was very satisfied with her son-in-law's answer and even threw a couple of praising gazes at Lu Shaoming.

Ning Qing's heart felt as sweet as honey, and even her mouth felt sweet.

He doesn't speak sugared words very much, but he never stints on sugared words when he has to use them, and he was full of a strong petty bourgeoisie sentiment.

Those aunties had nothing to say for the time being. They agreed that the material conditions of this Xiao Lu were not so good, but they could not pick out any big problems.

When the waiter came in and served them, the aunties salivated as they watched the beautiful food on the table. There was a saying that goes "the gift blinds the eye." An auntie laughed as she said, "Little Lu, it's just a casual meal, why have you picked such an expensive restaurant? This table must have cost thousands of dollars. You must have spent a month's salary here."

### **Chapter 90: Ning Qing, I'm Ten Years Older Than You. Do You Think I'm Old?**

Lu Shaoming smiled in a reserved manner but didn't reply.

The hotel manager couldn't hold back; he took the dish from a waiter and served the dish to the aunt. He said politely, "Aunt, he is our hotel's CEO. Every dish here is specially cooked by the top chef in the hotel. You can't find it anywhere else. Aunties, please enjoy your lunch."

"CEO?" The aunt's suspicious emotion seemed to reveal her confusion, what's that?

"CEO means boss," the hotel manager explained patiently.

The aunties gasped. The hotel looked like it was one of the top hotels in T city. The person opposite them... was the boss?

They shook their heads in disbelief.

Lu Shaoming took a bowl and filled the bowl with soup before he placed it in front of Yue Wanqing, "Mom, this is shark fin soup with cordyceps and sea cucumber. It's really good for your health. I told the chef to cook it for you. Try it."

The aunties heard cordyceps and sea cucumber, and they started salivating. Those were words that they would hear in a wealthy family's dining room. They grabbed their chopsticks and started eating.

Ning Qing saw the aunties had eaten the dishes on the table at a tornado speed. They didn't even manage to swallow. It was as though they were scared that someone was going to fight them for their meals and Ning Qing blushed even harder.



She stole a glance at the side. The man didn't eat much but he looked on gently. As the dishes on the table were emptied, she heard him tell the hotel manager, "Serve the signature dishes."

The hotel manager took his order while he stole a glance at Ning Qing. His gaze was filled with great respect.

Yes, though he was out of place at the dining table, his actions made it clear how much he cared about Ning Qing.

Because she was there, he was there.

The waiter served another plate of stir fried meat. Ning Qing tried a piece and found it thin yet juicy, very delicious.

She took another piece and put it into Lu Shaoming's bowl.

Lu Shaoming was talking to his mother-in-law. He looked down and saw the meat that his wife took for him. He looked sideways and saw the girl looking at him with her crystal clear eyes while she smiled at him.

She wore her hair down that day and she had braided the right side of her fringe into a beautiful fishtail braid that flowed behind her ear. She'd clipped the braid on her head with a butterfly hair clip. The youthful fashion made her look like she was only eighteen years old, like a very beautiful and innocent university student.

There was an autumn moon in her beautiful eyes. She looked at him when she smiled and there was a tinge of warmth and dependence towards him. The expression was enchanting.

Lu Shaoming's bright slender eyes displayed affection. He picked up his chopsticks and put the meat into his mouth.

This little girl... Finally, my effort wasn't in vain.

Ning Qing saw that he was eating so she quickly placed a little into his bowl every time a dish was served. The man was very humble but his high standard of living wouldn't change. He didn't quite fit alongside those who'd always eat like it's their last meal.

Lu Shaoming saw that his wife by his side was extremely busy. Very quickly, there was a mini mountain in his bowl.

The corners of his lips lifted as he enjoyed being taken care of.

Yue Wanqing watched the sweet interaction between her daughter and her son-in-law. Her eyes welled up. She was worried that her daughter wouldn't be happy in a flash marriage. It seemed that she had worried too much.

Her daughter's happiness was written all over her face.

...

After the dinner ended, the aunties were so full that their stomachs were round. Lu Shaoming exhorted the hotel manager, "Serve some fruit."

The aunties didn't raise any objection. They thought they might as well complete the meal with some fruit.

Then, the private room door was pushed open. A young man in a suit stood by the door anxiously. He nodded and bowed slightly. "Young Master Lu, good afternoon."

One of the aunties saw that someone had come and she quickly stood up. "Son, why are you here?" It was the son who drove BMW.

The BMW son gave a look to his mom which was meant to tell her to shut up.

"Young Master Lu, thank you for your hospitality today. My mom and the aunties are done with their meal, I shall bring them home."

The hotel manager moved the chair and Lu Shaoming stood up slowly. He put both his hands in his pocket and nodded, "Sure, see you again."

The BMW son held his mom by her arms and pulled her out. The other three aunties, who followed the lead of the BMW aunt, quickly bid farewell to Yue Wanqing and followed the two out.

Lu Shaoming, Ning Qing and Yue Wanqing stood by the door as they watched them leave.

...

The BMW aunt wanted to pull her arm back from her son, "Son, what are you doing? Little Lu is treating me to lunch, I'm not done yet."

The BMW son frowned, "Mom, Young Master Lu invited you for lunch and you went? Who do you think you are?"

"Son, how can you speak like that? A person who can't afford a house at Diaoyu Island but bought his house at Tea Pavilion. Why would I be scared of him?"

"Do you know who owns all the properties in Diaoyu Island? They're the Lu family's! Tea Pavilion is right in the center of T City. Young Master Lu built a house for himself in the city center so he can overlook the entire city when he opens the window; he can see a maple tree forest when he opens the door. He named it Tea Pavilion. It is the one and only in the entire city. It's not something that you can buy just with money. Do you understand?"

"Wh... What," the aunt was in a shock, "But little Lu said that he had never heard of Diaoyu Island."

"Heh, that is because he has too many properties under his name. T city is just a small land, Young Master Lu, of course, doesn't focus much of his attention on this place."

"... But little Lu said he has a garage. So, I thought he meant bicycles, motorbikes and what not. He says that he drives Bentley. He can't even afford a BMW."

"Mom, you don't know much. Can you not try to scare anyone else in the future? One of his Bentley models would be able to buy my BMW. A garage with bicycles and motorbikes, you're dreaming!"

“... But, but little Lu...”

“Aiya, mom, please, I beg you. Stop calling him “little Lu”. Are you trying to make me go crazy or are you trying to kill me?”

The aunties shut their mouths then. Heh, we have yet to tell you that we think he’s too old.

...

Until the aunties disappeared, Ning Qing looked up at the handsome man who was one head taller than her. “You’re the one who invited the aunt’s son?”

“Mm,” Lu Shaoming nodded. His slender black eyes revealed a sharp gaze with wisdom. He replied calmly, “The aunties harbored a preconceived idea. They wouldn’t have believed anything we said. They will only wake up when their sons tell them.”

“Then, why’d you treat them to a meal? Why not just tell their sons to tell them off?”

Lu Shaoming lowered his voice. There was a tinge of affection in his deep voice. “Didn’t you say that they’re your mom’s friends?”

Ning Qing didn’t say anything else. Her crystal clear eyes were welled-up with tears. If her mom wasn’t there, she’d really want to hug him, very tightly.

He was trying to tell her, he’ll do anything to make her happy.

Yue Wanqing was very happy that night, “Shaoming, thank you.”

“Mom, that’s what I should do.” Lu Shaoming’s phone rang and he answered the call. He said, “Ning Qing, I’m going downstairs for a while. Zhu Rui has a document that I need to read through. There’s a health center at the hotel. I’d tell the manager to bring you, see what mom likes.”

“Mm, hurry up and go.” Ning Qing nodded.

Lu Shaoming took a huge stride as he left.

Yue Wanqing watched the man’s handsome back and sighed happily. “This Shaoming, the more I see, the less I’m worried. But Qingqing, was what the aunt’s son said true? It’s so scary. Is Shaoming’s family really that rich?”

“Mom, I married him because of who he is. Why are you so worried?” Ning Qing was afraid that her mom would overthink so she quickly changed the subject.

Ning Qing herself was surprised that she had fallen into this gold pit.

...

Lu Shaoming walked out of the hotel and noticed there was a luxurious car parked next to the stairs. Zhu Rui was standing next to the door.

Lu Shaoming looked but didn’t walk towards Zhu Rui. He walked down the stairs and turned towards a secluded area.

There was a man standing there, Kong Yang.

Kong Yang clenched his fists and there was jealousy in his eyes. "You think you're great that you won against me? It was just money. Do you think Ning Qing would be with you if you didn't have money?"

Lu Shaoming stood straight and took out a pack of cigarettes from his pocket. He lit a cigarette with his lighter and took a puff. The smoke curled up as his gaze grew deep and dark. He smirked in disdain. "Ning Qing is with me because I'm rich. Then why would Ning Qing follow you who are poor? Because of love?"

Kong Yang hated his wealthy aura. He stood handsomely and every single word he uttered showed that he was the helmsman.

He was an authority.

Kong Yang was inferior because he knew that he couldn't win against the authority. He was too weak. But he was the one who liked Ning Qing first, how could he overtake him?

The more inferior he realized he was, the angrier he felt.

"Am I wrong? If you couldn't afford to pay Ning Qing's mom's surgery fees, if you couldn't help her in her entertainment career, would she love you?"

"Heh." Lu Shaoming smiled. He looked calm and quiet but his sharp gaze pierced Kong Yang as he said, "I paid her mom's surgery fees, I helped her, due to my capability to provide her a good materialistic foundation. This is what I do because I love her. What do you have? When her mom needed surgery, you took out a mortgage on your property and you only managed to lend one fifth of the surgery fees. What do you have to show her your love?"

Kong Yang was stabbed right where it hurt. His eyes grew red.

Lu Shaoming continued, "In your head, Ning Qing is a good girl. In this word, the better the girl is, the more exquisite she deserves to be treated. You can't provide for her but I can. How are you qualified to question me?"

"I look down on you not because you have no money but because you're a coward and you're not willing to accept the reality. Ning Qing does not owe you. You couldn't get what you want so you became wicked. You stirred up the few aunties and put Ning Qing's mom in a difficult position. Hatred derived from love; you're a wicked man."

Kong Yang clenched his fist and it cracked. "I see. So, you knew. Go ahead and tell Ning Qing. Tell Ning Qing what kind of a person I am."

"There's no need to." Lu Shaoming shook his head.

"Why?"

Lu Shaoming looked at the lamp afar and replied gently, "There are very few people who've treated Ning Qing with kindness and Ning Qing remembers everyone who lent a helping hand to her sincerely. She thinks you're one of those people. I don't want her to feel disappointed nor do I want her to feel upset."

Kong Yang's body stiffened as he looked up at Lu Shaoming.

He...

The tears in Kong Yang's eyes flowed down. He gnawed and said, "I give up but remember this, I'm giving up not because I lost to you but because I lost to your love for Ning Qing. I'll take the steps to further my studies at Cambridge UK tomorrow. I'll return in five years. If you will have treated her poorly by then, I will take her back."

Then, Kong Yang turned and ran.

Lu Shaoming exhaled out the last puff of smoke. Then, he put off the cigarette butt under his shoe. There wouldn't be a chance; Ning Qing will forever be his!

...

Ning Qing left the hotel to look for Lu Shaoming. He was talking to Zhu Rui in front of the car.

Zhu Rui was holding a document while Lu Shaoming had one hand in his pocket and the other pointed at the document as he muttered something. The man's deep sideburns were beautiful. His mountain-like nose was plump and good looking. He was a mature looking man.

Ning Qing looked at him and suddenly looked away. She realized that she's become more and more shallow. She would stare at him uncontrollably and sometimes blush for no reason.

She thought about it and she felt bad. He was so busy with work but she dragged him to have dinner. She was not understanding.

"Ning Qing," Lu Shaoming saw her and called.

Ning Qing quickly looked around and Zhu Rui had already retreated to the side politely. So, she walked towards the man.

"Where's Mom?" Lu Shaoming asked.

"Mom is having a massage at the health center so I came to look for you." Ning Qing avoided meeting his gaze when she spoke. Her face was filled with apology and embarrassment.

Lu Shaoming smiled. "Why, you know you did something wrong?"

Ning Qing put both her hands behind her and nodded obediently. "Mm, I'll not get you into any more trouble."

This silly girl. Is the trouble he got into not enough?

Why would the aunties in the ward suddenly start accosting her mom? She would never guess that the boy who was once so friendly to her was the instigator.

And also Xu Junxi. As a man, Xu Junxi brought Ning Yao to do things in the room next to hers, only a dumb person wouldn't understand how filthy Xu Junxi's mind was.

A man's desire could easily be stoked by the voice of a woman they long for.

She didn't know how provocative she was, which put him at odds with two different men.

The girl was one head shorter than him. He took a step closer to her. "Ning Qing, I did you a great favor today. I taught you before, how would you thank me?"

Ning Qing blushed. How could he be... So improper?!

He liked to ask for kisses!

After thinking for a moment, Ning Qing tiptoed and extended her arms to hold onto his neck. There was a denim colored scarf around her smooth fair neck, accentuating her exquisite look.

She closed her eyes and kissed his handsome face.

Just as she stepped back, she heard the man's arrogant voice, "Ning Qing, I'm ten years older than you. Do you think I'm old?"

Ning Qing was stunned. She'd never thought that he would ask such a question.

A man like him shouldn't be afraid of aging. Time to them meant richer life experience; it meant a higher and more elegant place in the world.

### **Chapter 91: He's Better Than Me?**

"Shaoming, why do you ask that?"

"I'm just curious. When I'm 35, you'll only be 25. If a returning student from Cambridge pursued you then, would you be attracted to him?"

Men in this world were all the same. They would feel uncomfortable if others were to even take a second look at their wives. He was very possessive.

He had taken Kong Yang's "Come back in five years" to heart. A man peaks at 30. He was 10 years older than her. When she's 30 years old, he would be 40, quite old.

Who knows if she would be attracted to Kong Yang when he returns from studying abroad and talked with her about the stars, moon, and philosophy of life, about poetry and lyrics?

Ning Qing's beautiful lips curved into a sweet smile, and her eyes smiled as well. Turns out that this man who appeared all powerful in front of her would be troubled over his age as well.

"Shaoming, are you encouraging me to cheat?"

When Lu Shaoming heard that, his face sank. "You dare!"

Ning Qing giggled and laughed while diving into his broad arms. Her voice was sweet and soft, and she was a little coquettish as she said, "That's settled then, isn't it? Lu Shaoming, I'm your wife. I want to spend my life with you. What do those Cambridge students and Harvard students have to do with me? You are the only one in my eyes!"

Lu Shaoming's long black eyes glanced at her casually, and his originally firm face softened. "You're smart!" Even if your husband is 50 years old, he will be better than those 30-year-old men. I'll be sure to satisfy your every need. Touch it if you don't believe."

Ning Qing's little face was flushed, and her long eyelashes fluttered like two butterflies as she asked in a delicate voice, "What are you doing?"

She hadn't dealt with him regarding what had happened just now, but he was getting insatiable now.

But both of her legs had gone limp as an electric current traveled through her nerve endings again and again, and his burning heat remained on her palm, burning her skin.

This man. She hadn't talked to him at the dinner table. She didn't know where his reaction came from.

A single word to describe him: pervert!

Two words: extreme pervert!

"Wifey, kiss my mouth." In her embrace, her sweet and soft scent lingered around his nose. Lu Shaoming's eyes narrowed languidly and shot her a yuppie look.

Ning Qing couldn't stand his gaze at that moment. Such a serious and proper man was narrowing his eyes. Stylish lines rippled from the corners of his eyes, with the aura of both a bad boy and a mature gentleman.

Ning Qing blushed, closed her eyelashes tremblingly and kissed his lips lightly.

His lips were dry, so the lines were very clear and the feeling of kissing him was too sexy.

Ning Qing gulped.

When she wanted to kiss him again, "Qingqing." She suddenly heard Yue Wanqing's voice.

Ning Qing was startled and quickly retreated from his neck. Now her ears were red. Mother just saw her kissing a man!

Sigh, she wanted to die.

Yue Wanqing walked up to them and looked at Ning Qing crossly. "Qingqing, Shaoming is busy with his work. Can't you see that the secretary is still waiting there? Besides, this is the entrance to the hotel. You have to take note of your surroundings; don't pester Shaoming so irresponsibly."

"Mom, when did I pester him?" Ning Qing twisted her little body. Why did her mother make her out as the pervert? The kiss was Lu Shaoming's idea! She was just following through.

"This child!" Yue Wanqing's eyes were full of adoration.

She had seen it clearly just now; her daughter had tiptoed and hooked her arms around her son-in-law's neck. Her son-in-law looked so cool with his hands in his trousers pocket, brows knitted together and enjoying himself.

Sigh, why are young people like this now?

"Mom," Lu Shaoming laughed and changed the subject. He was afraid that if his mother-in-law continued talking, his little wife would be annoyed. "The doctor said you could leave the hospital. I wish to pick you up tomorrow and for you to move in with us."

Yue Wanqing disagreed. "I like quietness, so it's best that I don't live with you young people."

"Why, Mom? It'll be easier for me to take care of you if you live with us." Ning Qing knitted her dainty eyebrows.

"Mom's not old yet, I don't need you guys to take care of me, and besides, you're busy with your jobs and I'll be restrained if I live with you guys. If you guys truly care, you can find a house for me. When Qingqing has a child, I will concentrate on taking care of my grandson."

Mother's attitude was very persistent, Ning Qing could not persuade her, Ning Qing's eyes were a little red, she didn't know how much longer her mother could live for, and now her mother was insisting on living alone.

Was it not good to live with her? She really couldn't understand her mother's thoughts.

Also, who wants to have children with Lu Shaoming?

Mom can dream on.

She was only 20 this year.

Lu Shaoming put his hand around Ning Qing's shoulder and said, "Okay, Mom, I'll find a house for you near our house and hire an assistant. Ning Qing, Mom will be very close to us, so don't be sad, alright?"

"Alright." Ning Qing nodded sadly.

...

Yue Wanqing slept in the hospital that night. Lu Shaoming had gone to the office and never came back. Ning Qing sat on the sofa in the living room of the villa, reading her script.

"Madam, Sir will probably take some time to return. It's cold now. Why don't you go back to your room and sleep?" Auntie Zhang said.

Ning Qing looked at her watch, it was 10 o'clock. "Auntie Zhang, you can go to bed ahead of me. I'll wait for him."

Auntie Zhang did not insist any more and went back to her room.

Ning Qing changed the lamp lighting in the living room to an orange tone. She found a comfortable spot on the sofa and lay down. As she read the script, her eyes slowly closed.



Lu Shaoming drove back half an hour later and parked the Bentley in the garage. He opened the door of the villa and walked in.

The orange light in the living room gave off a hazy warmth. The girl was covered with a red blanket. Her fair face was buried in the blanket like a lazy kitten. Her silky hair fell from the sofa.

Quiet and beautiful.

An extremely tender expression appeared on Lu Shaoming's handsome face. He put his briefcase on the tea table, squatted down and picked up the script that the girl had dropped on the carpet.

Looking at the girl so closely, her skin was really tender enough to pinch water from it, white like a de-shelled egg. She was pouting in her sleep and looked very lovely.

He stood up, bent down, picked her up and walked to the room.

Ning Qing woke up in his arms and opened her drowsy eyes. Right in front of her was his handsome face. Ning Qing put her hand around his neck in confusion, and her cool little face rubbed against his broad chest. "Shaoming, you're back?"

"Yes," Lu Shaoming leaned down and kissed her forehead. She smelled so nice, like milk bath lotion. "Isn't it cold, sleeping on the sofa? Next time, go to bed. Don't wait for me."

"No, I want to wait until you come back." Ning Qing was half awake, and spoke with the crisp whine of a girl, causing Lu Shaoming's Adam's apple to bob as he listened to her.

"Shaoming, have you had dinner yet? Would you like to have supper? I'll prepare it for you."

Lu Shaoming looked at the girl who was so sleepy she could not even open her eyes and said with an adoring laugh, "I'm not hungry, you go on sleeping, I'll take you back to the bedroom."

He entered the room, and he laid her on the big soft bed, pulled the blankets over her little body, tangled one hand into her silky hair, and gently kissed her lips.

His kiss was very gentle, with the usual domination that lured her. Ning Qing couldn't tell if it was a dream or reality, she just liked it.

"Mmm..." She cried out softly.

The girl knitted her brows tightly in her dreams, pulled his big hand out with two small hands, turned over, reached for her beloved bear and held it in her arms.

Lu Shaoming looked at the girl. Without his interference, she fell asleep quickly, with pink bubbles at the corner of her mouth, like a little girl under 18 years old.

Lu Shaoming sat on the edge of the bed, his clearly knuckled big palm loosened the tie around his neck, threw it on the bed casually, and took a deep breath to suppress the burning desire in his body. He showed a sense of helplessness and decadence.

Why had she waited for him?

Probably to let him suffer.

He stood up, he took off his black handmade suit and draped it around his wrist. His shirt sleeves were half-rolled, revealing his strong tanned arms with a low-key and expensive wristwatch. He was full of elite charm.

He bent down and kissed the girl's forehead, Lu Shaoming pinched the bear's ear with disgust, "Why sleep with the bear? Is he better than me? Can he make you weep tears of joy? Good night, Qingqing."

Lu Shaoming switched off the light and went out of the room.

The little bear on the bed burst out: Damn it, my ears hurt, I am innocent!

...

The final scene of "Wind and Dust" was to be shot in T City. On this day, Director Wang paid everyone for the film, and Ning Qing received a card.

"Ning Qing, we've gotten our pay and we don't have to shoot today; let's go shopping," Xiao Zhou suggested.

"OK." Ning Qing nodded and agreed.

The two girls came to the mall and Xiao Zhou asked Ning Qing, "Ning Qing, this is the first bucket of gold in your life. Tell me honestly: what do you want to buy and who do you want to buy it for with the money?"

Ning Qing did not reply, but she stopped in front of a men's clothing store.

"Wow," Xiao Zhou covered her mouth and laughed, "Ning Qing, what a good relationship you have with Young Master Lu. He's the first one you think of and want to buy clothes for after you've gotten your money."

Ning Qing's little face flushed red, but she did not speak. She raised her foot and stepped into the men's clothing store.

She had never bought anything for him for as long as they've known each other. Now that she had money, she wanted to buy him some clothes.

"Miss, what style of men's clothes do you want to buy?" The saleswoman asked warmly.

Ning Qing looked around, she hadn't decided what to buy yet. Lu Shaoming's clothes were all hand-made and branded. It would be embarrassing if she couldn't get him something good enough.

"Miss, what's your boyfriend's height and figure? You can tell me and I'll recommend something for you." The saleswoman said.

"Haha." Xiao Zhou joked, "Ning Qing, someone's asking for Young Master Lu's height and stature, what is his image like in your heart, say it."

Ning Qing turned around and glared at Xiao Zhou, telling her – don't cause any trouble.

But the saleswoman was looking at Ning Qing with a pair of very frank and enthusiastic eyes while waiting for her answer. Ning Qing bit her lower lip with her pearly whites, stretching out her tiny fair finger and pointing hesitantly to her side.

Xiao Zhou burst out in laughter, Ning Qing had pointed to a male mannequin by the window.

The saleswoman understood her in seconds, "Miss since your boyfriend is in such good shape, he must be suitable for all the clothes in our shop. What style does he like?"

Ning Qing's little face was hot. This Xiao Zhou could only laugh at her.

What style?

Ning Qing looked at the row of shirts and suits. She saw a dark grey shirt. Dark colored clothes actually suited men like him very well, they would look smart, handsome and dapper in them.

Ning Qing walked over, her little hand feeling the material of the shirt.

Just then, the door was pushed open and a beautiful figure came in. The person took off her sunglasses. When Xiao Zhou looked towards the person, it turned out to be Ning Yao.

"Sister, such a coincidence, you've also come to buy clothes?" Ning Yao saw Ning Qing's surprise and asked, "Why are you buying men's clothing, sister? Have you gotten a boyfriend recently?"

"Hmph, Ning Qing, I've told you that some people were thick-skinned. They've just been released from the police station and the scandals had yet to die down, but she dares come out? Who are you trying to act close with by calling her sister? Our Ning Qing doesn't know shameless people," Xiao Zhou went forward and said.

"You!" Ning Yao's delicately made-up face twisted rapidly after she heard that.

"Forget it, Xiao Zhou," Ning Qing looked at Ning Yao coldly and intended to ignore her. She asked the saleswoman, "How much is this shirt?"

"Hello, miss. This shirt is handmade. There's only one shirt in the shop. The price is 70,000 dollars." The saleswoman said

"Wow, Sister, do you like this shirt too? I like it very much. It would fit Junxi very well. Would you please give it to me?" Ning Yao came over to grab it.

"Why should she give it to you? First come first serve!" Xiao Zhou glared at her as she said.

"Sister, why are you like this? Saleswoman, I'll offer double the price for this shirt. Pack it for me to take away."

The saleswoman was in a difficult position.

Xiao Zhou wanted to speak but Ning Qing put out a hand and stopped her. She took a step forward. Her beautiful lips were half curved and her voice was clear and elegant as she said. "Yaoyao, are you fighting me with money? Alright, I just got paid today. I offer 500,000 dollars for this shirt."

500,000?

Xiao Zhou's mouth gaped open, buying a shirt worth only 70,000 dollars for 500,000 was too wasteful!

Xiao Zhou Fox looked suspiciously at Ning Qing. What had happened to Ning Qing? She had never done anything so irrational.

A proud smile appeared on Ning Yao's face. "Oh, sister, are you competing who is richer with me? Your card has your salary, but the card in my hand is Junxi's, unlimited overdraft. Did you say half a million? I'll pay 800,000."

"900,000." Ning Qing said.

"One million." Ning Yao didn't even blink.

"OK, deal." Ning Qing concluded resolutely, "Saleswoman, give this shirt to this lady at a price of 1 million dollars. I don't want it anymore."

Ning Yao quickly realized that she had been tricked. Ning Qing had done this on purpose, deceiving her on account of her generosity.

The saleswoman was very happy. She had sold a 70,000 shirt for 1 million dollars. It was like a pie falling from the sky. She'd get a lot in commission.

The saleswoman quickly wrapped the shirt up and handed the bag to Ning Yao. "Miss, your total is 1 million, are you paying by card? Thank you."

Ning Yao, "..."

Looking at Ning Yao's face that was turning from blue to red, Ning Qing began to twirl her beautiful hair near her cheeks and turned around gracefully. "Xiao Zhou, let's go."

Xiao Zhou made a face at Ning Yao and trotted after Ning Qing. "Ning Qing, you are such a genius."

## **Chapter 92: Wear It At Home, You Look Nice in Anything**

Ning Qing smiled. Actually, it's easy to deal with Ning Yao. Despite so much experience, Ning Yao hasn't improved at all. It might have something to do with the environment she grew up in.

Whenever Ning Yao was in trouble, she'd have Xu Junxi and Li Meiling to guard and escort her. She never really needed to use her brain. Ning Qing was like her when she was eighteen years old, when she was the daughter of the Ning family. She didn't know anything and she got so badly cheated by Li Meiling and her daughter.

Ning Qing exited the men's fashion store and suddenly greeted a familiar face. It was Xu Junxi's mom.

Mother Xu's hair was tied up neatly and she was gorgeously dressed, just like a wealthy man's wife. Mother Xu saw her too and they each picked up the pace.

Ever since Ning Qing had fallen, Mother Xu looked down on her. Then Ning Qing caused the incident in the entertainment circle, and Mother Xu disliked her even more.

Mother Xu "humphed" and lifted her chin up high.

Ning Qing didn't feel hurt anymore. Her relationship with Xu Junxi had ended so she was extra lenient with Mother Xu. At the end of the day, she's just a stranger.

"Aunt Xu," Ning Qing greeted politely.

Mother Xu didn't respond.

Then, "Mom!" Ning Yao ran out from the store with a big smile plastered on her face. It was obvious that she was ingratiating herself with Mother Xu, "Mom, why are you here? Do you want to shop? Let me keep you company."

Mother Xu didn't treat Ning Yao any better either. She stole a glance at Ning Yao coldly and said, "Don't call me your mom. Those who don't know better might misunderstand our relationship. Has the Xu family accepted you? Stop dreaming of entering the Xu family's door!" Then, Mother Xu took a look at Ning Qing again, "I don't know what the Xu family owes the Ning family! Junxi is just so tangled up with you sisters."

"Mom, you misunderstand me. I really love Junxi..." Ning Yao tried to explain.

Then, the salesgirl ran out from the shop. She pulled Ning Yao by her sleeve, "Miss, I've wrapped up the shirt. One million dollars, please make payment."

"A million?" Mother Xu lifted her head to look at the name of the shop. "This place doesn't carry any big brands. What kind of shirt costs a million dollars?"

Ning Yao was suddenly at loss for words.

Ning Qing smiled and replied, "Aunt Xu, I saw a shirt in this shop earlier but Yaoyao came in to fight over it with me and said it's for Junxi. She also said that she has a card that Junxi gave her. It has no spending limit and she's not short of money. So, she decided to spend a million dollars to buy the shirt for Junxi."

"What?" Mother Xu's face suddenly grew grave. She extended her hand and pointed a finger at Ning Yao. "Well. You have yet to enter the Xu family's door and you've already started spending our money! You don't even blink at the idea of spending a million dollars on some shitty shirt. What are you thinking you little b\*tch!?"

Ning Yao was stunned when she heard "b\*tch". She never thought Xu Junxi's mom would be a virago.

Mother Xu's anger didn't cease. She went forward to grab Ning Yao by her arm. "Follow me. Let's go and look for Junxi. I'll have him make a decision today. If he were to take you in, I'd kill myself."

Ning Yao was tearing up from the harsh words. Mother Xu made a huge scene and everyone at the shopping center started surrounding them. She saw that a few of them recognized her.

"Mom, listen to me. I can explain..."

Ning Qing watched the chaos as she smirked. She shall let Ning Yao get a taste of how Mother Xu had treated her back then!

Xiao Zhou got very excited and she took out her phone, "Ning Qing, let me film this and upload to the internet. Let's see how Ning Yao ends up?"

Ning Qing agreed.

But before she could film, two bodyguards walked over to separate Ning Yao and Mother Xu. The bodyguards pushed Ning Yao behind them and another person walked over, Li Meiling.

Li Meiling was wearing a huge pair of shades. She looked at Mother Xu and smiled politely. "Sister Xu, I happened to be looking for you to have a cup of coffee. As we run into each other today, let's have a cup of coffee together at a nearby cafe."

Mother Xu rejected her immediately. "I'm not going. I have nothing to talk to you about."

Li Meiling was wearing an unbeatable smile as she walked next to Mother Xu. She leaned towards Mother Xu and spoke in her ear. An expression of shock flashed on Mother Xu's face.

"Fine, I'll wait for you at the cafe." Mother Xu then left.

Ning Qing saw the drastic change in the dynamic; her face grew solemn. She wondered what Li Meiling told Mother Xu. She figured it must be related to the interest of Xu family.

The bodyguards dispersed the crowd. Then, Li Meiling took off her shades and walked before Ning Qing calmly. She called her as though they were very close, "Qingqing."

Ning Qing could see the vicious glimpse in Li Meiling's eyes. She stood straight and joked, "Aunt Lee, you and Yaoyao always wear shades nowadays? You used to be famous, why did you become so shameful?"

Li Meiling's face grew ferocious. It was this b\*tch's fault. She ruined her twenty years of hard work!

"Qingqing, you think you've won? Heh, what you could think of that hadn't already thought of a dozen years ago. You were too immature before. Alright, I shall discuss Yaoyao and Junxi's wedding date with Sister Xu now. By then, I will invite you to attend the wedding dinner. Haha," Li Meiling laughed as she left.

The salesgirl was brought back into the shop by the bodyguards. Ning Yao wore her shades and flashed a proud smile. "Sister, do you think you can defeat me and my mom just like that? To break Junxi and I apart? Your little actions don't cause any effect nor make us feel anything. Both of us are still living freely. We want men, we get men. We want money, we get money. Humph!"

Ning Yao walked away arrogantly.

Xiao Zhou was stomping her foot in anger. "Ning Qing, what's going on? It seemed as though we were going to win against the pair of mother and daughter, but they are like cockroaches that never die. They've been resurrected again. D\*mn, they're arrogant."

Ning Qing watched their back and had an idea. "Xiao Zhou, go and buy off the barista in the cafe. I'd like to hear what they say."

...

In the cafe

Li Meiling was sitting opposite Mother Xu. Li Meiling pushed an envelope to Mother Xu.

Mother Xu opened the envelope and there was a share transfer agreement.

"Sister Xu, there are always three to four directors of a different surname in the Xu family's holding, Emperor Entertainment Group. They have been eyeing Junxi's position and have been causing trouble. This is the fifteen percent share of one of the biggest directors with a different surname. As long as Junxi gets this, he would be able to remove all of the directors. From then onwards, Emperor Entertainment Group would belong to the Xu family entirely.

Mother Xu's eyes were beaming with joy. "How did you get this?"

"The director with a different surname has a son who likes gambling. A few days ago, he lost and the gang leader caught him. The director had no choice but to take out a mortgage on the agreement. In the end, I got it."

Mother Xu heard and asked straightforwardly, "What do you want?"

Li Meiling took a sip of her coffee and said, "This agreement is a dowry for Yaoyao. I want Yaoyao to be married into the Xu Family."

"This..." Mother Xu hesitated. To be frank, she was very unhappy with Ning Yao.

Li Meiling saw and put down her cup of coffee. She took back the envelope and stood up. "As Sister Xu is not happy with the dowry, forget it. I'll make a move first."

"Hey!" Mother Xu held Li Meiling. "Let's discuss this."

"There's nothing to discuss. I want Yaoyao to marry Junxi within a month!" Li Meiling was very persistent.

Mother Xu was hesitant. In the end, when Li Meiling wanted to leave, she nodded heavily and said, "Fine!"

Ning Qing had been hiding at the backseat in the cafe and she eavesdropped. There was a dull look in her eyes when she heard Mother Xu agree. She lowered her head in distress.

Li Meiling managed to convince Ning Zhenguo to not attend the dinner banquet for Quang Qing that night, and Ning Qing already guessed that Li Meiling had been extending her hands to the outside world for help in the past twenty years.

When Li Meiling kept Ning Zhenguo company to entertain the clients, not only did she control the Ning family business, she paid close attention to Emperor Entertainment Group and prepared herself long ago.

No wonder Li Meiling said that she had already thought about anything Ning Qing may think of twenty years ago. Ning Qing was too immature in this instance.

Though they'd fought for so long, Li Meiling still had her ways to put things back on track. Just like Ning Yao said, whatever she did wouldn't affect them. The mother-daughter duo continued to live freely.

Ning Qing clenched her fist and she once again felt lost in grief.

...

Ning Qing pushed the door open. She walked into the Guang Qing building with a few paper bags in her hand.

The receptionist saw her and quickly bowed as she greeted, "Miss Ning, are you here to look for the president? I'll bring you up."

During the Quang Qing banquet, Ning Qing danced with their president and everyone at Guang Qing treated her with great respect.

"Alright, thank you."

Then, the receptionist brought Ning Qing into the lift. When she walked to the president's office, she met many staff members. Everyone was shocked to see her. First of all, Ning Qing was famous. Second of all, it was her relationship with their president.

Zhu Rui never thought Ning Qing would come. He quickly came forward to greet her. "Madam, President Lu is in a meeting. He will return in ten minutes. You can wait for him at his office."

"Okay." Ning Qing walked into the office.

The receptionist gasped, Madam?

Did she hear incorrectly?!

It was Ning Qing's first time entering Lu Shaoming's office. His office was luxurious and spacious. The shiny french windows, black and white color scheme, and the simple yet magnanimous design revealed a silent coolness.

Everything in her sight was clean without a speck of dust. She put the paper bag on the sofa and she walked to his desk.

The documents on the table were either the numerical reports with four decimal points or they were in various languages. She could only understand Mandarin and English.

The pen in the stationery holder carried weight. The engravings were of an ancient exquisite pattern. It was low profile yet luxurious.

She walked to the leather office chair and sat down. She leaned back in the chair and spun around. Mm, she squinted her eyes leisurely, so comfortable.

She then spun another few rounds and the chair stopped moving. Suddenly, a man's man's deep gentle voice ask, "Aren't you dizzy spinning like that?"



Ning Qing quickly opened her eyes and looked. She didn't know when the man had returned. The hand that stopped the chair was holding a document while his other hand was in his pocket. His handsome brawny body was bent down slightly as his bright black eyes gave out an imposing aura.

A gentle ripple that quickly spread through Ning Qing's beautiful eyes. She replied softly, "Shaoming, you're done with your meeting?"

"Mm, just finished." Lu Shaoming took out his hand from his pocket and rubbed her exquisite face. He leaned forward and kissed her.

The man's refreshing scent filled her nostrils. Ning Qing's butterfly wing-like eyelashes fanned and she quickly closed her eyes.

But, his kiss didn't land.

When she opened her eyes, the man's handsome face was extremely close to hers. His mountain-like pointy nose was touching her skin slightly but he didn't kiss her. His deep slender eyes sharply looked into hers with a hint of affection, as though he saw through all her emotions.

Ning Qing was panicking. She thought he must be making fun of her.

"What are you doing?" She extended her hands and shoved him at his chest. She didn't like his introverted yet deep gaze. She was like a piece of white paper before him, a thirty year old man, and she couldn't hide anything.

Especially when he was so tall. When he leaned down, she curled up on the sofa. It was like he locked her up in his embrace and she was engulfed in the man's scent.

Lu Shaoming kissed her face lightly and smiled. "Why? You didn't even dare to let anyone see us together. Now, you come to my office so openly? Wife."

He emphasized on the title "wife".

Ning Qing was blushing intensely. She pushed him away and stood up. She walked towards the sofa. "I got my paycheque today and I went to buy you clothes at the mall. I passed by your office so I decided to drop by."

Ning Qing took out the piece of clothing that she'd bought from the paper bag. It was a knitted shirt.

Actually, she hadn't really planned to buy a shirt at the mall, but Ning Yao came so she put on a show.

"Do you like it?" Ning Qing turned around and wanted to show him.

Her smooth shoulder hit the man. She didn't know when Lu Shaoming had come behind her. He stood very close to her with his hands in his pocket.

In front of Ning Qing was a coffee table. He stood extremely close to her. She hardly sees him exercise but his body is as hard as a rock. The muscles underneath his shirt give her chills when she touches them.

"Mm," Lu Shaoming replied lazily. He looked and saw that it was a grey V collar knitted shirt that looked extremely soft. "I don't really wear knitted shirts."

Was he trying to tell her she made a bad purchase?

Ning Qing tried to lean forward while still keeping distance between them. She tucked her hair behind her ears as she said softly, "I know you always wear shirts but I can tell that they are all tailor-made. If I bought a shirt, you would feel uncomfortable even if you force yourself to wear it. I might as well buy you a knitted shirt. You can wear it at home. You... look nice in anything."

Ning Qing was confused. It was the first time she found a man who was so hard to please. She had to coax him to wear it after she'd bought it for him.

Lu Shaoming saw the girl's earlobe. The last compliment that she'd given him. Just how embarrassed was she?

Isn't it the truth?

He raised his eyebrows and the moist breath filled her ears, "As my wife bought it for me, I'll wear it. I'll wear it for my wife."

Ning Qing frowned. Why did he come so close to her ear when he talked? He thought she couldn't hear his happiness in his cheerful voice? She complimented him and he got so proud of himself.

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### Chapter 93: Tell Me, What's Wrong Today?

“What’s in the other bag, Wifey?”

“Nothing.” Ning Qing stretched out her small hand to cover the opening of the paper bag.

But it was too late. The man stretched out his long arm and stuck a long index finger in. The pink shoulder strap was hooked on his finger. “A bra, huh?”

Ning Qing’s face was red. She shouldn’t have come here today!

“Yeah, I felt like the size before was too small, so I’m trying a bigger size...” Ning Qing’s voice was like the buzz of a mosquito.

“Wifey, do I get credit for that?” Lu Shaoming placed his thin pink lips on her cute pink earlobe and spoke in a low and sexy voice while giving her a kiss.

Ning Qing was shaking. What was this man doing? Not only was he kissing her, but also rubbing his thumb on the shoulder strap that was on his index finger, like caressing the delicate skin of a woman.

When the elegant gentleman turned into a rogue, it brought about an indescribable temperament.

“Stop messing around!” She pushed his waist and abdomen with her elbow. The man did not budge, but she herself was pushed backward by the reaction of force.

“Ah!” She screamed.

A strong arm immediately wrapped around her petite and soft waist. The next second, she was in the embrace of the man. The man was breathing a little heavily. “What are you screaming for?”

What else could she be screaming for? She was about to fall.

What dirty thoughts did he have in his head?

“You, let go of me and leave me alone! It’s all because you were so close to me. I had no place to stand and therefore, I nearly fell.” Ning Qing pulled at his big hand with her two small hands.

Not only did Lu Shaoming not let go, but he also started groping around her waist casually. Her petite waist was so thin that he needed only half an arm to hold her.

“You fell just like this? I watched you dance in the “Pink Lady” competition that day; you could dance in any position. Would you like to split or rotate, or just lie against the wall and show me?”

What was he talking about?

Did he not feel shame?

Was he there that day, too?

“Lu Shaoming, don’t touch my waist. Please, it’s really ticklish. Hehe...” Ning Qing really couldn’t stand him touching her. She immediately laughed and hid away with a sharp twist of her small body.

Lu Shaoming refused to let go. As they wrestled, Ning Qing turned around. She looked up and her beautiful smiling eyes that were like flowers met his eyes. He was looking at her with indulgence and adoration.

Ning Qing stiffened and stopped struggling. Her two small hands slowly held his strong waist as he buried her small face in his chest. “Shaoming, thank you.”

From the first moment he saw her, he knew that she had something on her mind and was unhappy, so he always indulged her and coaxed her.

Lu Shaoming’s lower abdomen was tense and his physical reaction was very strong from the friction between them. But he had good self-control. He caressed her hair with a big hand and kissed her forehead. He opened his mouth and asked, “Tell me, what’s wrong today?”

“... I...” Ning Qing hesitated to open her mouth, but then the door of the office was pushed open after a couple of knocks.

Zhu Rui stood beside the door, and a female manager from the marketing department stood next to him. From the documents in her hand, it looks as if she were here to report on her work.

Ning Qing hadn’t expected anyone to come. She quickly released him. Now she was embarrassed. What was she doing in such a serious place like the office?

Zhu Rui hadn’t expected that the president and his wife would be intimate in the office. He had followed the president for eight years. The president was rigorous, self-disciplined, clear, and elegant. His private life was clean. He had no need for anything between men and women. He was surrounded by an air of suppressed sensual passion and cold temperament, which made Lu Shaoming a male god in his eyes.

Unexpectedly, male gods would also have times when they become mortals.

Zhu Rui was embarrassed. “Pre... President, it’s time to make a reservation. There’s a survey report from the marketing department that you need to approve.”

“Leave, and close the door!”

Ning Qing heard the man beside her murmur. The world spun around her while she was still shocked. She had been carried by the man and was moving to the restroom in the office.

Zhu Rui closed the door quickly. The message of the male god that had turned mortal was obvious – I’m going to be with my wife right now. Don’t bother me.

The marketing manager stared at the door in front of her, stunned. She had forgotten to react. About 30 seconds later, she quietly said goodbye to Zhu Rui and called someone as she walked towards the

elevator. "Hey, Xiao Juan, My gosh, guess what I saw just now? Our president was holding Ning Qing in his arms. Yes, that Ning Qing. Wow, you don't see the president open his arms. His body was so magnificent. His sculpted handsome face was so gentle, and his lips were rubbing against Ning Qing's face."

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Ning Qing was carried onto the soft bed. She grabbed the collar of the man's shirt and asked uneasily, "Don't you need to work?"

She didn't want to cause the man's professional downfall.

"No work, wifey is more important." Lu Shaoming bent down to take off her high-heeled shoes and he placed her cool little feet onto the black and white bedding.

Ning Qing rolled onto the bed and her face was hot. Had he taken her shoes off for her just now?

A man like him taking off her shoes for her... she wondered what he was thinking.

While she was still feeling a little embarrassed, her petite shoulders were each clasped by a big hand, and the man's strong body pressed up against her. "Wifey, since you've delivered yourself to my door, let's kiss."

He kissed her red lips.

Ning Qing's scalp went numb. She gulped and closed her eyes. Her little hands trembled while they moved around his suit and took it off for him.

Lu Shaoming turned over and laid on the bed. He curled one long arm around her, allowing her to rest her head on his chest comfortably while pulling the blankets up to her waist. Another big hand buried into the hair at the back head to deepen the kiss.

Ning Qing was dizzy. No matter what she does with this man, she's always very comfortable and loses herself easily.

After kissing for god knows how long, Lu Shaoming released her.

Ning Qing's face was red as she rested on his chest, heart racing. His heart was beating violently in a disorderly rhythm. She could feel it underneath everything. She didn't have to look to know what it was.

She suddenly didn't know what to do.

Lu Shaoming sat up slowly and leaned his broad back against the bed. The girl leaned against him. He embraced her and let her rest in his arms like a kitten.

"What's wrong? Tell me about it." He glanced sideways at her bright and full forehead.

Ning Qing adjusted her breathing. The atmosphere after making out was quiet and graceful. It was very suitable for a long talk. "Well, I encountered Li Meiling and her daughter and Auntie Xu when I was shopping today."

Ning Qing told Lu Shaoming what had happened.

“Mmm,” said Lu Shaoming, holding her tender little hand in a big hand while squeezing it compassionately. “So you feel like you’re a failure. Others are doing well, but you’ve been busy for nothing?”

“Yep!” Ning Qing nodded.

“At your age, what you’ve accomplished already is very impressive, but you haven’t done enough to deal with Meiling Li and her daughter. You haven’t grasped their key weakness, allowing them to still be able to walk around as they wish.” Lu Shaoming gave a pertinent comment.

“I know, but I don’t know what to do?” Ning Qing felt lost. “Before I was 18 years old, I felt happy. My family was harmonious. My parents loved each other. When I was in high school, I lived there with the whole family. When I was 18, I focused all my attention on the upcoming university entrance exam; I was absorbed in my studies. Then suddenly, my parents divorced and we were swept out of the house. No one told me the reason and I did not have the time to find out why. The pressures of life have been coming at me ever since. All I knew was that I should earn as much as I can.”

Lu Shaoming listened carefully and analyzed simply, “Your parents always had a good relationship. You say you don’t know the reason for their divorce. Actually, the reason is very simple. Something unexpected must have happened to agitate your father and challenge his bottom line.”

Ning Qing knitted her beautiful eyebrows together and looked up at the man’s shining eyes. “You mean... Grandma being pushed down the stairs by my mother?”

“Yes.” Lu Shaoming nodded. “Think of it this way: Your father had feelings for your mother, and your mother and your grandmother are mother and daughter. Your family was harmonious. Your father would not have filed for divorce if your grandmother had not been pushed down the stairs. He would have wanted to maintain his win-win situation, as he had both his family and the beauty.”

Now that they were talking about it, Ning Qing was angry. “My mother wouldn’t push my grandmother down the stairs! I am absolutely sure of it. They are terrible. I hadn’t known about it until recently. They feel guilty and have deliberately hidden it from me!”

“That’s it, isn’t it?” Lu Shaoming laughed dotingly. “Go investigate it then. In fact, you have been misdirected when going against Li Meiling and her daughter. Ning Yao is nothing to be worried about it. As the saying goes, ‘To catch thieves, you must first catch the king.’ You should take Li Meiling down first. Li Meiling has lived for so long; she’s not someone you can bring down after only fighting a couple of battles of wits.”

Ning Qing felt a sudden sense of cheerfulness. For so long, she had been confused by the movements made by Li Meiling and her daughter. She had wanted to win too much.

She had only learned about her grandmother through Li Meiling at the press conference. She had vowed to find out the truth and prove her mother’s innocence, but she had never calmed down to seriously think it through.

She had not figured out the characters of the Ning family clearly. She had not seriously considered that Grandma’s incident would be the fuse of the divorce between her parents. So she had not thought that it would be the source of the divorce and investigated it.

Thinking of Li Meiling's words during the conference: "If sister hadn't pushed grandmother down the stairs, Zhenguo would not have filed for a divorce." She hadn't even thought much of it.

Her heart was too chaotic. She wanted to knock down Li Meiling so much, but she was too blind.

That's right, water has the power to make a boat float or sink. Ning Zhenguo was the "water." She shall let Ning Zhenguo abandon Li Meiling, just like he had abandoned her mother back then.

Those closely involved could not see as clearly as those outside.

After listening to Lu Shaoming, her impetuous heart quickly calmed down.

"However, Grandma's incident happened three years ago. Grandma's mind is not so clear now. It's not going to be easy to investigate. Besides, I can't guarantee that Grandma's incident was planned by Li Meiling."

Lu Shaoming pinched Ning Qing's porcelain face and laughed. "Guessing boldly is the first step to victory, you have to believe your first instinct."

Does he love to pinch her face that much?

Ning Qing patted his hand away. "Don't pinch me, I'll drool." Although her hand had refused him, she burrowed deeper in his arms.

His arms were broad and warm, and his shoulders were strong. He was a man who could make any woman in the world feel as if she could depend on him.

She had a healthy sense of security.

Lu Shaoming pinched her face a couple more times and pecked her delicate lips with his eyes downcast. "Where's the saliva? I'll help you eat it."

"You!"

Seeing that the girl was really a little annoyed, Lu Shaoming quickly pulled her into his embrace. She really couldn't withstand agitation. Her face would turn red and she would stamp her feet.

Lu Shaoming said, "For a cunning character like Li Meiling, her means must be despicable. If you want to investigate Grandma's incident, the first step is to fetch Grandma and get her by your side. One's guilty conscience always fears danger; this trick will make Li Meiling uneasy. She will be unable to sleep and eat comfortably."

Fetch Grandma over?

"Impossible, Ning Zhenguo will not agree!"

Lu Shaoming looked at her with a proud long leg half curled casually and smiled softly. "Do you need me to help you?"

Ning Qing's eyes sparkled brightly, and a small hand grabbed the edge of his shirt and asked, "Shaoming, do you have a way?"

"Uh huh," he answered.

“Great.” Ning Qing almost jumped up in joy. Not only did she want to investigate her grandmother’s incident, but she also had a very good relationship with her grandmother. Finally, she could take care of her grandmother!

“Shaoming, thank you for your help. I must find out the truth before Xu Junxi and Ning Yao get married. I will not let Ning Yao marry into the Xu family.” Ning Qing’s eyes sparkled with confidence.

But the man next to her was silent after hearing that.

Looking sideways, the man’s narrow eyes were sweeping sharply across her face, and a lot of things in his eyes that were contemplative suddenly appeared to be unfathomable.

Only then did Ning Qing realize that there was something wrong with her words. Did he think that she still had feelings for Xu Junxi and could not see Xu Junxi and Ning Yao being happy?

“Shaoming.” Ning Qing grasped for his handsome face and said earnestly, “Xu Junxi and I are in the past. My destruction of his marriage with Ning Yao has nothing to do with my personal feelings. Don’t take it the wrong way.”

Lu Shaoming touched her little head and lifted his lips as he said, “I know, I won’t misunderstand it. Are you tired after filming these past two days? It’s noon now. Sleep here for a while. Only when you have enough sleep can you have the energy to fight.”

Ning Qing was a bit sleepy. Her recent filming schedule has caused her days and nights to reverse. She hadn’t had enough sleep.

Lu Shaoming laid her down. Ning Qing saw that he was getting up and quickly tugged his sleeve. “Shaoming, will you sleep with me for a while?”

“Ok.” Lu Shaoming lifted the blanket and lay beside her.

Ning Qing leaned over and faced him. She moved her little body towards him. Lu Shaoming laughed softly and stretched out his long arm and let her rest her head on it. Ning Qing slept in his arms.

So warm.

After a while, the girl fell asleep. Lu Shaoming watched her peaceful sleeping face, and reached out and touched the tip of her nose with his fingers. She was sleeping so soundly. Does she know that his body was suffering?

Tormenting imp.

“Ning Qing, is Xu Junxi really not in your heart anymore? Twenty years of being childhood sweethearts is a very long time.” The sleeping girl did not hear the man’s lamentation.

#### **Chapter 94: Bring Her To The Ning Family Home And Act Without Restraint**

When Ning Qing woke up, it was already three in the afternoon. The other half of the bed was empty. Lu Shaoming had left.



Ning Qing got out and walked to the office outside. Then, there was a knock on the door and Zhu Rui walked in.

“Madam.” Zhu Rui was holding a tray. He put it on the coffee table in front of the sofa, “President exhorted me to prepare this for you, madam. President went for a meeting and he will return at about five o’clock. He said that madam can leave to go home first, but if you have nothing going on today, you can also wait for him to go home together.”

Ning Qing took a look at the tray. There was an orange butter cake, a honey biscuit, a fruit plater, grass jelly milk tea, and most importantly, there was her favorite Häagen-Dazs ice-cream.

It was a very sumptuous yet relaxing afternoon spread.

Ning Qing flashed a sweet smile. Would he just keep spoiling her like that?

Zhu Rui left the room. Ning Qing sat on the sofa and took a spoonful of ice cream. Mm, so delicious.

Yue Wanqing had already moved into an apartment, and she’d been there for the past two days. The residential area is very near the Tea Pavilion. To quote Lu Shaoming, it was literally a five-minute walk away.

There was an aunt who takes care of her mom at the apartment. Her mom was recovering well and she was energetic. When she had time, she would knit clothes with the aunt at home or go to the entertainment area to exercise or play cards. She was living a great life.

Not only did Lu Shaoming take good care of her, but he also took good care of her mom. Could there be any woman who would dislike this kind of man?

Recalling his handsome face, Ning Qing smiled.

God is fair. Sometimes, she thought to herself that the three years of suffering she’d gone through was all to make her wait for his arrival.

It was as though her heart was coated with honey. Her phone in her bag rang. She got up and looked; it was Ning Zhenguo calling.

So fast.

“Hello, Qingqing.” Three years... It had been three years since Ning Qing had heard Ning Zhenguo call her so affectionately. It was obvious that he was ingratiating himself with her.

“Mm, what is it?” Ning Qing was straightforward.

“Qingqing, I wanted to call you long ago. I heard that you danced with Young Master Lu at the Guang Qing banquet. What kind of relationship do you have with Young Master Lu?”

Ning Qing smirked coldly and asked in reply, “What kind of relationship do you wish we were in?”

“This... Qingqing, to be honest with you, I never thought you’d be involved with Young Master Lu. The Lu family is not one that we small families can compare to. The Lu family has only been prominent for a few generations, and Young Master Lu is the only one of the new generation. His identity is extremely distinguished. However, if you were to really be in a relationship with Young Master Lu, our Ning Family would need to rely on you in the future. It could ensure the prosperity of the Ning Family for a few generations.”

Heh. In Ning Zhenguo’s eyes, no beneficial factor in business could be greater than family ties. His daughter became valuable when there’s use for her. He then quickly rushed over. Truly, he didn’t love anyone but himself.

“Aren’t you relying on the wrong person? You pushed me out of the Ning family three years ago. Li Meiling and Ning Yao are your precious treasures. You should rely on them.”

“Qingqing, are you still angry at Dad? I’ll apologize to you. I was a bastard. How about this? I’ll tell Aunt Li to prepare dinner tonight. You and Young Master Lu come over for dinner. I’ll ask Yaoyao and Junxi to come too.”

Hearing how Ning Zhenguo spoke so carefully, Ning Qing’s taunting smirk widened. “Stop beating around the bush. You wouldn’t even let me step foot in the Ning family house for the past three years, yet you invite me over for dinner now? If you need help from Young Master Lu, please be direct.”

Ning Zhenguo never thought Ning Qing would be so blunt. As he was embarrassed, he had no choice but to answer straightforwardly. “I eyed a piece of land long ago. The company had already pumped in seventy percent of our funds into it, but I just found out that the piece of land belongs to Young Master Lu and he doesn’t want to give me the rights to develop the land. Qingqing, the company’s money will go to waste if I can’t get the right to develop the land. Think about your grandma, this is the Ning family’s business!”

Lu Shaoming acted immediately and resolutely. He said that he would help her at noon and Ning Zhenguo begged her for help right after.

Ning Qing was even more grateful and touched.

“Okay. I’ll call Young Master Lu to invite him over for dinner but I do not care about the land. You discuss it with Young Master Lu on your own.”

...

Ning Qing waited for Lu Shaoming in the office. He returned at about five.

Ning Qing told him about everything in the phone call then they departed to Ning’s place.

By the time they left Guang Qing lobby, it was the end of the workday. They met many staff members on their way out and everyone bowed and greeted, ‘President, Mrs. President...’

Ning Qing didn’t know how everyone changed their term of address from “Miss Ning” to “Mrs. President” in just a few hours. She reckoned that it was because he’d carried her into the room, so word spread all over the office.

Woo, he should keep a low profile.

...

Lu Shaoming drove the Bentley and brought Ning Qing to the Ning family house. Ning Zhenguo was already waiting by the door.

“Young Master Lu, Qingqing, please come in.” Ning Zhenguo was smiling.

Lu Shaoming wore a suit and slacks, looking tall and handsome. As he entered the hall, it was as though he brought radiance into the house. The man shines like a piece of gold wherever he goes.

Ning Qing followed behind him. She looked up and saw Li Meiling standing behind Ning Zhenguo. Although she was smiling, the wickedness in her eyes couldn't be hidden. She reckoned Li Meiling never once imagined that there would be a day when she would stand by the door to welcome Ning Qing home.

“Aunt Li...” Ning Qing held Lu Shaoming's arm elegantly as she waved at Li Meiling.

“Qingqing, you came home.” Li Meiling could bow and could submit. She flashed a friendly smile at Ning Qing.

“This is?” Lu Shaoming asked in Ning Qing's ear.

“Oh, this is my dad's mistress. She became his wife three years back. In other words, she's my stepmom, Ning Yao's mom.” Ning Qing replied with a smile.

The word “mistress” made Li Meiling's smile grow stiff. She clenched her fists tight. She's toiled for twenty years and hates that word the most.

“Mistress?” Lu Shaoming looked at Ning Zhenguo, who looked embarrassed. “I can't tell from the look of it, but your family's condition is quite messy.”

Ning Zhenguo's face changed and joked, “Things that happened when I was young. Excuse me, Young Master Lu.” Then, Ning Zhenguo glared at Li Meiling, “What are you doing standing here? Young Master Lu is here. Hurry up and check how the dinner is coming along.”

They had no choice. It was because of Ning Qing that Lu Shaoming was there. Ning Zhenguo didn't dare to offend Ning Qing. He could only wave impatiently and hush Li Meiling to the kitchen so no one would embarrass anyone else.

Li Meiling couldn't say anything even though she felt aggrieved. She would bear with it for the time being. Then, she turned to enter the kitchen.

Ning Qing watched her back as she smirked coldly.

Just as they walked towards the living room, they could hear people talking at the door. They turned around and saw that Xu Junxi and Ning Yao were home.

Ning Qing's smile grew even wider. Just in time!

“Junxi, Yaoyao, you came back. Hurry up and come over. Young Master Lu came to have dinner with us today. Let me introduce you,” Ning Zhenguo said.

Ning Yao's smile was stiff. She lifted her gaze to look at the man standing in the middle of the living room. The brilliant light above him made him seem as though he were shining. His elegance made people want to worship him.

She can't get such a man, so why can Ning Qing?

When she received her dad's call this afternoon, she felt as though she'd been struck by lightning. She never thought Young Master Lu would come home with Ning Qing. Wasn't it just a dance?

What did it mean if he came home with Ning Qing?

She liked to fight with Ning Qing since their youth. Whatever Ning Qing had, she wanted. From beautiful clothing, to the status as Mr. Ning's daughter, to Xu Junxi; she has succeeded every time.

But then, Lu Shaoming came along. She can't pick a fight, she dared not to fight, even though she was itching to.

Why? How could Ning Qing be matched with a man of such status?

Ning Yao had yet to recover from such an attack.

"Young Master Lu, long time no see. Hello," Xu Junxi walked forward and greeted Lu Shaoming politely. He didn't look at Ning Qing.

"CEO Xu, hello," Lu Shaoming replied politely but faintly.

Just as his two sons-in-law took a seat at the living room, Ning Zhenguo shouted for Li Meiling, "Meiling, are you done with the tea?"

"Tea is coming." Li Meiling walked out with a smile. There was a maidservant behind her and she was carrying a tray. There were three cups of tea on the tray.

The maidservant put the cups of tea on the table, and Li Meiling bowed and served the tea with both hands. The first cup of tea was given to Lu Shaoming.

"Young Master Lu, enjoy your tea."

Lu Shaoming didn't reply, but glanced at Li Meiling.

The glance shocked Li Meiling.

She'd been in the entertainment circle for twenty years and she was in touch with men the most. After some time, she would even keep Ning Zhenguo company to entertain his clients. She had seen many kinds of wealthy people.

Lu Shaoming looked sideways and nodded slightly. He expressed his gratitude politely, but in his deep yet bright slender eyes, there was elegance and coldness of a highly positioned person that inspired reverence.

The man's expression in his eyes demonstrates an outstanding upbringing, the product of a true aristocratic family.

The man's strong aura of dignity drew people to gladly revere him.

Li Meiling reined back her gaze and passed the other two cups of tea to Xu Junxi and Ning Zhenguo.

As she was going to leave, she heard Lu Shaoming ask Ning Qing, "What do you want to drink?"

Li Meiling stiffened and her face grew grave.

It was not about a cup of tea; it was about the standard that the more powerful family, the stricter the upbringing. A woman shouldn't appear in a place where men discuss business. A woman was normally ignored, which explained why she only prepared three cups of tea.

However, Lu Shaoming was asking what Ning Qing wanted to drink!

Whatever Li Meiling could think of, Ning Zhenguo could too. The way Lu Shaoming looked at Ning Qing revealed how much importance he attached to her. No one knew Ning Qing was so high in Lu Shaoming's favor.

"Yeah, Qingqing. What do you want to drink? Let Aunt Li prepare it." Ning Zhenguo laughed.

Ning Qing moved her crystal clear eyes and looked at Ning Yao. "Yaoyao, do you remember how I used to love the rose tea that you'd make, with three sugar cubes in it."

Rose tea? Ning Yao didn't know what the hell Ning Qing was talking about.

Plus, how could she make her make tea for her?

Ning Qing was unhappy but Ning Zhenguo swept a glance and coughed, "Yaoyao, why are you still standing there? Didn't you hear what Qingqing said?"

"Dad, I..."

"Yaoyao, come. As Qingqing wants rose tea, we will make it now," Li Meiling cut Ning Yao off. She then pulled her by her hand.

Ning Qing looked at Lu Shaoming. They didn't discuss it on their way to the Ning family home, but the moment they entered the house, he raised her so high up in his palm.

He had the ability to bring her to the Ning family home and act without restraint.

...

Ning Yao brought the cup of tea. Li Meiling must have set her straight in the kitchen. Although Ning Yao wasn't willing, her face was plastered with a sweet smile. She held the cup of tea tightly as she was afraid that she might flip the teacup and get into trouble.

"Sister, your rose tea is here. Enjoy." Ning Yao bent down and raised the teacup before Ning Qing obediently.

"Thank you Yaoyao." Ning Qing extended her hand to take it.

Ning Qing looked at the cup and recalled the day when she came to the Ning family's house on her grandma's birthday. Ning Yao put on a show with a cup of tea. Back then, she had poured the tea on her own hand and framed her.

When Ning Qing recalled it, she found it rather amusing.

She extended her hand and turned her hand. She lifted a finger and the teacup clipped. The cup of rose tea suddenly splashed all over Ning Yao's clothes.

"Ah!" Ning Yao screamed.

"Ah, Yaoyao, I'm sorry. Are you okay?" Ning Qing asked innocently.

"Ning Qing, what are you doing?" Xu Junxi bellowed. He stood up and took out a few tissues to help Ning Yao wipe her clothes.

"This..." Ning Zhengguo was shocked as well. He knew that her daughters were not getting along well. But then, at such occasion, with Young Master Lu around, Ning Qing didn't bother to hide it. She splashed the cup of rose tea on Ning Yao in front of everyone. Her attitude was fierce, unreasonable, and arrogant.

She's too arrogant!

Ning Zhengguo looked towards Lu Shaoming.

Lu Shaoming stood up slowly and said in a calm voice, "CEO Xu, why are you so nervous? It's just a cup of tea, it wouldn't hurt anyone. Plus, Ning Qing already apologized. Isn't Ning Yao her sister? They naturally wouldn't be bothered about the cup of tea. With you shouting like that, it might hurt their relationship as sisters."

Ning Zhengguo could understand Lu Shaoming's intent to protect Ning Qing. He quickly said, "Haha, yeah, Junxi. Qingqing and Yaoyao are sisters. Qingqing was only... It slipped. She accidentally flipped the teacup. I'm sure Yaoyao wouldn't take it to heart."

Li Meiling and Ning Yao were gnawing in hatred. Heh, slipped. Just how careless she was. Only Ning Zhengguo would make such an excuse.

That was Ning Qing's intention. She splashed it all over Ning Yao but everyone was on her side.

Just how proud she must feel.

Xu Junxi was at loss for words. Ning Yao felt aggrieved in his embrace. Her eyes grew red as she showed her burned hand to him.

"Junxi, my hand hurts."

Xu Junxi looked and he frowned. Just as he was going to launch an attack, Ning Qing's loud and clear voice rang, "Yaoyao, what happened to your hand? It's so badly burned. You deserve it! It's not like you didn't know the rose tea I like is served cold, yet you wanted to serve it hot. You even made it burning hot for me. Luckily, it was splashed on you. If it were to have been splashed on me, I would really suspect that you had bad intentions.

**Chapter 95: Bringing Grandma Over For A Short Stay**

Ning Yao, “ ...”

Ning Yao had indeed made the tea burning hot intentionally; with any luck, it would burn Ning Qing’s mouth. But she hadn’t expected that Ning Qing would be so arrogant in front of so many people, daring to spill tea on her!

And Ning Qing had never drunk rose tea. She could say whatever she wanted to.

Ning Yao wanted to roll her eyes. Ning Qing’s clever and sharp mouth had challenged her efforts time and again.

Ning Zhenguo was afraid of making more trouble. He said in a slightly low voice, “Forget it, Yaoyao; isn’t it just a scald? What are you making a fuss about? Go apply some ointment. We still need to get down to business.”

Ning Yao’s face became even darker. Her father had never dared to reprimand her, but now he scolds her when she had been wronged?! Not only did he not help her, but he totally disregarded her!

“Forget it, Yaoyao, I think Qingqing did not do it intentionally. Let’s go. Mom will help you apply some ointment.” Li Meiling received Ning Zhenguo’s warning gaze. She dared not cause trouble, and could only grit her teeth and bring Ning Yao away.

Ning Qing was very happy to see the mother and daughter bearing suffering and humiliation together.

She wanted them to have a taste of what it’s like.

Ning Qing looked back at Lu Shaoming. The man’s deep narrow eyes were covered with the faint light of warm adoration as he looked at her. He looked as if he were praising her for doing well, and as if he were lamenting the suffering she had suffered.

He had a pair of eyes that could talk.

Ning Qing’s heart felt very warm. Today, she was a little arrogant, and had also lied. He must have noticed her subterfuge. In fact, she was afraid that he would dislike her, and she was also afraid that he only liked her beautiful appearance.

But he wasn’t shallow. He was protecting her and supporting her. He pitied the environment she grew up in and loved everything about her. She could expose her true self to him without disguise.

He understood her and pitied her.

“Young Master Lu, Junxi, let’s sit down and talk. Have some tea, have some tea, ha.” Ning Zhenguo smoothed things out.

“Shaoming, I’ll go check on Yao Yao in the kitchen,” Ning Qing said softly to Lu Shaoming.

“Alright.” Lu Shaoming sat on the sofa, his legs crossed with dignity and elegance.

Ning Qing turned around with a smile. When she turned around, she accidentally caught Xu Junxi's gaze. His face was very gloomy. Ning Qing even saw a blue vein jumping violently on his forehead.

Ning Qing sneered coldly. Why? Did it hurt him to see her bullying Ning Yao?

She would bully Ning Yao just to show him!

...

In the kitchen, Li Meiling applied the ointment to Ning Yao's hands. The tears in Ning Yao's eyes rushed down her face. She was so furious she cried. "Mom, that Ning Qing is too arrogant, and how can Dad do that? He didn't help me at all!"

"Yaoyao, Mom knows you've been wronged today, but you have to bear with it first. Your dad has something to ask of Young Master Lu. You can't ruin your dad's business and make him angry."

"Mom, how did Ning Qing get Young Master Lu? Young Master Lu has so much money, status, and dignity. Why does he like Ning Qing?"

Li Meiling sighed. "Sigh, Mom hadn't known about this until this afternoon either. How could that little bitch Ning Qing be so lucky? We can't end her no matter what we did."

Li Meiling looked at the love interest on Ning Yao's face and said in a cold voice, "You'd better not try to get Young Master Lu. The Lu family is not something you can climb up to. I discussed the date of the marriage with Xu Junxi's mother this afternoon, so you can just wait to marry into the Xu family and become a young mistress."

"Mom, I'm not thinking about getting Young Master Lu," Ning Yao said, but her face was a little red; she was even more disgruntled. "You said I can't climb up and get Young Master Lu. What about Ning Qing, she's qualified to get him?"

"Pfft," said Li Meiling with a contemptuous sneer. "Yaoyao, the Lu Corporation is a commercial empire, and the Lu family is a genuine noble family. As far as I know, Young Master Lu's parents are now living in Los Angeles in the US. Their demands on their daughter-in-law are quite harsh. Do you think the Lu family will be able to accept Ning Qing? Young Master Lu is just toying with her. Watch how Mom will deal with her once Young Master Lu gets tired of her."

"Yes!" Ning Yao nodded heavily. "Mom, you have to avenge me then, I..."

Ning Yao's voice stopped abruptly because she saw Ning Qing leaning against the door, those cool beautiful eyes of hers indicated that she was silently laughing at them.

"What are you doing here?" Sparks of hatred burst out from Ning Yao's eyes.

Li Meiling also looked up. She shielded Ning Yao behind herself and looked at Ning Qing sarcastically. "Ning Qing, haven't you always been very noble? Why are you also playing these sneaky tricks now?"

Ning Qing stood there languidly. The side of her soft face was cold as she laughed and said, "Sneaky? Hah, Auntie Li, are you blind? Everyone sitting in the living room knew that I had splashed Yaoyao intentionally, but so what? No one would help you."



“You!” Ning Yao was so furious that she was speechless.

Li Meiling smiled and said, “You feel honored that everyone has helped you along the way? Aren’t you still depending on Young Master Lu’s power, depending on a man? What are you showing off for?”

“Tsk tsk.” Ning Qing clicked her cherry mouth and retorted, “I’ve learned the skills of relying on men from Auntie Li and Yaoyao. Isn’t your purpose in life to hold on to men and make good use of them? Why haven’t you felt ashamed of showing off in front of me for 20 years?”

Li Meiling stared at Ning Qing, but she had no comeback.

Ning Qing gracefully stood upright. Her slender back was straight. She approached the mother and daughter one step at a time. She squinted her eyes and murmured, “Oh, I am different from the both of you. Look at the men you are trying to catch. What kind of prize are they? Why did they become cowards when they saw Young Master Lu? Being able to get Young Master Lu is an accomplishment of mine. Aren’t you interested in Young Master Lu, Ning Yao? Do you have the ability to make Young Master Lu look at you the way he looks at me? Hah, birds of a feather flock together. If you want to climb up the social ladder, you should take a mirror to look at yourself first!”

Ning Yao trembled with rage and Li Meiling’s expression turned ugly. She clenched her fist and gritted her teeth as she said, “Ning Qing, do you really think Young Master Lu will marry you? Do you think you will marry into the Lu family as Mrs. Lu? Dream on!”

“Hah...” Ning Qing suddenly remembered Xu Junxi’s mockery of her that day. Like this mother and daughter, he had said that Lu Shaoming was just toying with her. She wondered what the expressions of these people will be when the news of her marriage eventually comes to light.

Ning Qing laughed lightly. With a little wit, she asked, “Why don’t you take a guess, Auntie Li? Didn’t you say that you had known how I would end up 20 years ago? Haha, today I sit proudly in the Ning family’s living room while the both of you hide in the kitchen. Did you predict this when you were scheming all those years ago?”

“You!” Li Meiling raised her hand and tried to slap Ning Qing.

But her hand was intercepted by Ning Qing. Ning Qing sneered, “Auntie Li, are you so mad that you’re not thinking straight. Desperate? I advise you to think carefully before you slap me. If you dare to hit me, I can assure you that Ning Zhenguo will give you a slap in the face.”

Li Meiling’s eyes bulged in anger, but Ning Qing was right. If she did something to ruin Ning Zhenguo’s business, Ning Zhenguo would definitely deal with her.

She was now 45 years old, and could only rely on Ning Zhenguo for the rest of her life. She must not lose the man’s favor.

Li Meiling took back her hand.

“Hmph!” Ning Qing snorted coldly and looked at Ning Yao. She turned gracefully and calmly and left.

...

Everyone sat at the Ning family dining table for dinner. Ning Qing sat beside Lu Shaoming.

Ning Zhenguo carefully peeped at Lu Shaoming's expression. This man had practiced taichi with him when they were chatting in the living room. He was very obscure about the "rights to land development." He could not understand what he meant.

The man's table manners were proper and elegant. Even his quietly sitting posture had an air of awe-inspiring courage. Ning Zhenguo looked at him a couple of times, a little nervous.

He did not dare to rush him, but he was afraid that Lu Shaoming would just leave after dinner, so Ning Zhenguo buckled up and grinned as he said, "Young Master Lu, I wonder if you could consider giving me the rights to develop that land. My company has already invested a lot of manpower and financial resources. If I don't get the rights to develop the land, we will face bankruptcy. You know Qingqing is the precious daughter of our Ning family. If the company goes bankrupt, Qingqing will also be affected."

His "precious daughter" caused goosebumps to rise on Ning Qing's entire body as she sneered repeatedly in her heart.

"Tomorrow I'll ask my Secretary contact you about the rights to develop the land," Lu Shaoming opened his mouth and said.

This sentence made Ning Zhenguo happy and hopeful.

Ning Zhenguo kept winking at Ning Qing, asking her to say some good words and add fuel to his fire.

Ning Qing sneered; she didn't know where Ning Zhenguo got his confidence from. If it hadn't been for her grandmother, she would have wanted him to go bankrupt.

"I've come to dinner today because there's something I want to discuss with you. I want to take care of my grandmother for a while." Ning Qing looked at Ning Zhenguo and went straight to the point.

"This..." Ning Zhenguo was in a dilemma.

"No!" Li Meiling's hand stiffened and she instantly refused.

Her voice was a little agitated. Everyone at the table was eating quietly and looked up at her as they realized that she was acting out of place.

Ning Qing saw that Li Meiling's expression was unnatural and knew that she felt guilty!

"Qingqing, it's not that Auntie doesn't allow you to take care of Grandma, it's just that Grandma is old and not in good health. It's not suitable to move her, and Grandma's mind has deteriorated after falling down the stairs. She has symptoms of dementia sometimes, and she strikes out and injure people at other times. We have a professional doctor here. They have taken care of Grandma for three years and are very experienced, which is helpful to her recovery." Li Meiling calmed down and gave a reasonable excuse.

"Auntie Li, you don't need to worry about all these things. I've arranged it over there. Grandma is also my grandmother. Grandma always spoiled me most. I just want to be filial to my grandma as a granddaughter."

"But Qingqing, Grandma suffered a serious psychological trauma when she fell down the stairs. You live with elder sister; what if Grandma were to become agitated after seeing older sister again?"

Ning Qing knew that Li Meiling would bite on to this matter. Sure enough, Ning Zhenguo nodded repeatedly and agreed with Li Meiling.

Ning Qing drew up her lips and looked at Ning Zhenguo with a pair of bright autumn pupils. Word by word, she asked, "Are you really trying to stop me from taking care of my grandmother?"

Ning Zhenguo froze. The threat in Ning Qing's eyes was too obvious. If he didn't agree with her, the land development deal could not be discussed further.

Could she speak on behalf of Young Master Lu? Ning Zhenguo was suspicious.

Lu Shaoming put down his chopsticks and gracefully wiped the corners of his mouth with the wet towel on the table. His silent eyes gazed deeply at Ning Zhenguo, and he gently said to Ning Qing, "Ning Qing, let's go."

"Alright." Ning Qing was about to get up.

"Young Master Lu, Qingqing, please stay!" Ning Zhenguo was so frightened that broke out in a cold sweat.

Just now, Lu Shaoming gazed at him deeply. His displeasure was mixed with a sharp unwillingness to compromise on the matter. The strong pressure made his back grow cold.

He felt that ever since Lu Shaoming had entered the door, he had said very little. He had condescended to them a bit. Every movement of his was full of nobility, and he had been standing guard beside Ning Qing. Ning Qing was like a brave little girl, moving forward bravely to fight for her rights and interests, while he waited beside her, his handsome figure giving her the most powerful backing.

This kind of pampering was like how a brother or father would defend a woman in their family.

When Ning Qing threatened him with "agree or disagree", Young Master Lu had immediately said "let's go"; he was very protective of her.

Ning Zhenguo couldn't risk it. He bet on Ning Qing and laughed as he said, "Qingqing, you've misunderstood Dad. Dad knows you want to be filial. Grandma has been nagging for you these past three years. It's already very late today. You can send a car to pick up Grandma to stay with you for a period of time tomorrow morning. If Grandma can't adapt, then you should send her back."

"Zhenguo!" Li Meiling wanted to speak.

"Well, that's settled then." Ning Qing glanced askance at Li Meiling with a raised willow eyebrow. Lu Shaoming had accompanied her today but Li Meiling couldn't have seen that Ning Qing was going to win.

"Uncle Ning, I'll ask my secretary to draw up a contract tomorrow. After Ning Qing has fetched Grandma away, you come to Guang Qing to sign the contract for the development rights."

Ning Zhenguo's eyes gleamed. He had not chosen wrongly. "That's great. Thank you Young Master Lu. Qingqing, Dad is at ease, knowing that you'll be taking care of Grandma."

Letting Ning Qing take care of her grandmother for a couple days in exchange for the rights to land development was a matter of steady profits, and Ning Zhengguo really didn't need to think that one through.

"Zhenguo..." Li Meiling still wanted to say something.

"Enough, stop talking," Ning Zhengguo reprimanded her sternly. "Eat your dinner!"

Ning Qing felt refreshed after settling her grandmother's matters. She looked at the man beside her gratefully. Lu Shaoming curved his lips; his eyes were full of tenderness.

At this time, a servant served up a plate of crabs. Ning Zhengguo said to Ning Qing, "Qingqing, Dad hasn't forgotten that crabs are your favorite. Let the servant deshell one for you."

"Do you like crabs?" Lu Shaoming asked in a curious voice.

"I..." Ning Qing wanted to answer.

But Xu Junxi answered for her, "Young Master Lu, Ning Qing does not like crabs. Not only does she dislike crabs, but she also has skin allergies when she eats them."

Ning Zhengguo's face was covered with embarrassment.

Ning Qing glared at Xu Junxi sharply. Nobody would think that he was dumb for not talking. In front of Lu Shaoming, she could affirm that he had said that intentionally.

## **Chapter 96: You're My Substitute**

Ning Qing flashed a flirtatious smile at Lu Shaoming. "Shaoming, I told you long ago that I grew up with CEO Xu. He's now my brother in law and we are family."

Lu Shaoming understood from the girl's eyes that she was trying to explain. He smiled and gave Ning Qing a comforting gaze.

Everyone had dinner in silence but no one knew that the two men who were sitting opposite one another met gazes. Suddenly, there were sparks all over.

...

After dinner, the few men were chatting in the living room while Ning Qing went upstairs to see her grandma.

She pushed the room door open and her grandma was playing piano at the side of the room. Her grandma didn't know how to play; she was merely tapping on the keys playfully with her fingers as she randomly hummed a song.

"Grandma." Ning Qing walked over and stood behind her grandma as she massaged her shoulders.

Ning Qing used to massage her grandma's shoulders in the past. Hence, her grandma turned around delightedly and hugged Ning Qing's waist like a child. She chuckled and said, "Qingqing, why haven't you come to visit Grandma for so long? Grandma is so bored and I've missed baby Qingqing like crazy."

Ning Qing looked down at Grandma's white hair as her eyes welled up with tears. Actually, her grandma's health had been well. If it weren't for the tumble down the stairs a few years back, her grandma would likely live a long life.

Ning Qing held her grandma's hand and squatted down slowly. "Grandma, we will leave this room tomorrow. Qingqing will bring you back to Qingqing's for some time."

"Leave? Why?"

"Hasn't Grandma missed Qingqing? Grandma, come and stay with Qingqing. Then, Qingqing will keep Grandma company every day and play piano for you every day."

"Play piano? Yes, that's great!" Grandma clapped happily.

As Grandma had the awareness of a child, she was easily made happy. Ning Qing and her Grandma made a pinky promise that it would never change for a hundred years.

"Mom." Li Meiling walked in as Ning Yao followed behind.

"Who's your Mom?" Grandma wasn't nice to Li Meiling, and rolled her eyes at her.

Li Meiling walked forward and smiled. "Mom, Qingqing will bring you away tomorrow. Can you not go? Qingqing doesn't have anything nice to eat nor does she have a piano and there are many strangers. All of them are very fierce..."

"Li Meiling, shut up! Don't try to scare my grandma. Does your husband know that you've been treating Grandma like this?" Ning Qing cut Li Meiling off coldly.

"Exactly! I want to be with my granddaughter. If you dare to break us apart, I'll tell my son to divorce you!" With Ning Qing around, her grandma stood up and put her hands on her waist as she reprimanded Li Meiling.

Li Meiling gave Ning Yao a look. "Grandma, Qingqing is your granddaughter but Yaoyao is also your granddaughter. You can't be biased."

Ning Qing walked forward and held Grandma's arm intimately, "Grandma, I'm Yaoyao and you're also my grandma. Don't you love me too?"

Grandma started to panic and wanted to bat Ning Yao's hand away. "Who are you? Don't call me "Grandma". I only have one granddaughter, Qingqing. Whose illegitimate child are you? How dare you ruin my Ning family. Don't blame me for being rude."

Ning Qing saw that her grandma was starting to grow emotional and she suspected that Grandma may have already found out about Li Meiling before she had rolled down the stairs.

"Ning Yao, let go. You're scaring Grandma!" Ning Qing pushed Ning Yao.

“No way, we are both Ning Zhenguo’s daughter! Why is Grandma so biased?” Ning Yao gripped Grandma’s arm tightly.

“Ah, it hurts...” The pain from her arm triggered Grandma’s nerves and her face grew pale as she wailed.

“Ning Yao, what are you doing? Let go!”

The situation in the room suddenly grew chaotic. Grandma was stomping her foot in pain as Ning Qing pushed Ning Yao. However, Ning Yao and her mom clenched their teeth as they held onto Grandma. They couldn’t live well and they wouldn’t let anyone else either.

In the chaos, a voice could be heard. “What are you doing?” Xu Junxi walked in.

“Junxi, you come just in time. Sister is fighting over Grandma with me but I loathe for Grandma to leave. I don’t want Grandma to leave,” Ning Yao said.

Ning Qing stared at Ning Yao in disdain. The wicked one looked pretty even when she was complaining.

“Ah!” Suddenly, there was a scream. It turned out that Grandma had lowered her head to bite Ning Yao when Xu Junxi walked in.

Ning Yao felt pain and she quickly let go.

As they were pulling and pushing vigorously, Ning Yao’s sudden release of her grip made Ning Qing and her grandma fall backwards. As Grandma was going to fall, Ning Qing pushed her and her grandma fell towards the soft mattress by the side.

Ning Qing felt a sharp pain at her waist. She reckoned that she hit on the sharp corner of the piano. She tripped and fell back heavily.

The expected pain didn’t come. “Ning Qing!” Suddenly, someone managed to catch her by her waist. As she was about to fall on the ground, there was someone under her who became a human mattress.

It was Xu Junxi.

Then, there was a bunch of noise. The table lamp on the side bed table fell on the carpet.

Ning Qing’s tears flowed down immediately. Her waist hurt really badly and there must be a bruise.

The man under her let out a deep groan while Ning Qing felt warmth and moist in her hand but she didn’t know where she had touched.

She picked herself up with her hand and someone shouted, “Ah, blood!”

Ning Qing’s eyes contracted and she quickly got off of Xu Junxi. Both of her hands held Xu Junxi’s head. He hit the side bed table and the back of his head started bleeding.

“Hey, Xu Junxi, are you okay?” Ning Qing carefully put him into her arms and patted his face gently.

Xu Junxi’s eyes finally had focus as his handsome eyebrows knitted tightly. Until the pain went away, he looked at the familiar and delicate face.

She cried.

There were two rows of tears that flowed down her smooth porcelain cheeks. The last drop dripped on his dry lips. The tear was bitter; it was for him.

Xu Junxi was deeply moved.

Ning Qing saw that Xu Junxi was conscious and she knew that he was fine. Although he had done many ridiculous things to her, she didn't want him to die.

She didn't know why he saved her. In fact, she really didn't need him to save her.

"Junxi, are you okay?" Ning Yao came back to reality and ran forward. She squatted down and wanted to grab Xu Junxi back from Ning Qing's arms.

However, Ning Yao saw that Xu Junxi moved and extended his hand slowly. He touched Ning Qing face and spoke in his hoarse and quivering voice. There was also pity, "Qingqing, don't cry."

That caught Ning Yao off guard.

She wasn't even a shadow in Xu Junxi's eyes. He looked up at Ning Qing with a passionate and gentle gaze. Qingqing, now that hadn't been heard in a long time. They said that one sees love when there's life and death. He hit his head and he couldn't think straight. He only had the one woman in his eyes, Ning Qing!

Ning Qing then realized that she had cried. It was too painful when she hit her waist. Her tears flowed down in an instant but they had already dried up then.

But wait, would Xu Junxi think that she was shedding tears for him?

It was a great misunderstanding.

Li Meiling saw the scene and there was viciousness in her eyes. But then, there was a figure in the corner of her eyes. She turned around and smiled, "Young Master Lu, you are here?"

Lu Shaoming had been standing by the door, no one knew how long he had been watching.

Ning Qing looked towards the door and met Lu Shaoming's deep gaze. There was a series of complicated emotions in his eyes. It was as though they were very far apart. She couldn't see clearly.

"Shaoming..." Ning Qing called and instinctively wanted to walk to him.

However, Xu Junxi's hand was on her face while her hands were carrying his head and Xu Junxi was in her arms.

Ning Qing was stunned. It was such an ambiguous position, he probably misunderstood.

Ning Qing quickly let go of Xu Junxi.

Then, Ning Zhenguo called the family doctor and the doctor came to wrap Xu Junxi's head. Ning Qing stood up and walked out the door.

But as she walked, her grandma pulled her hand. She turned around and saw that her grandma's face was as pale as a bedsheet and she was distressed.

“Qingqing.” Grandma lost her childish and playfulness. Her face was covered with wrinkles. She pulled Ning Qing to the side of the bed.

Ning Qing was worried about her grandma. Then, she sat down and looked at Lu Shaoming. The man didn’t leave but stood by the door handsomely as he watched her in silence.

Ning Qing felt at ease temporarily.

“Junxi, come here and sit.” Her grandma extended her hand and called Xu Junxi over.

Xu Junxi had his head bandaged. He walked over and sat on the other side of her grandma.

Her grandma sighed and put Ning Qing’s hand into Xu Junxi’s. She said calmly, “Junxi, Grandma can tell that you love Qingqing. You really didn’t disappoint Grandma. I can’t live for long. In the future, if anyone were to bully Qingqing, you have to protect her. I passed Qingqing to you long ago.”

Ning Qing’s hand touched Xu Junxi and she quickly withdrew it.

Actually, she wanted to explain her relationship with Lu Shaoming to her grandma but she was worried that her grandma couldn’t accept it as she was stubborn. She thought it was definitely not the best time to explain it.

But, she wouldn’t put on a show with Xu Junxi anymore. She had Lu Shaoming and he had Ning Yao. She didn’t want to become entangled in an ambiguous relationship with him.

She felt her grandma stiffen and Ning Qing quickly hugged her grandma’s shoulder affectionately as she leaned her head against her grandma’s shoulder. She acted bashfully and called, “Grandma!”

Xu Junxi was wide awake. He saw that she’d shed two drops of tears earlier but she quickly put him down the moment she saw Lu Shaoming by the door. She then kept her distance from him. In her heart, Lu Shaoming was important.

It seemed like he had misinterpreted the situation when he wiped away her tears.

Xu Junxi didn’t stop her when she retrieved her hand. He told Grandma, “Grandma, Qingqing likes another man now. She doesn’t need me, you pass her to someone else.”

Ning Qing never thought Xu Junxi would be so shameless. Grandma was frightened earlier and he still wanted to provoke her.

“What?” Grandma was shocked. The old lady’s drip lips were moving confusedly. “Qingqing, is what Junxi said true?”

Ning Qing looked normal and continued to play coy. “Grandma, Qingqing doesn’t like anyone, only Grandma.”

She loathed to provoke her Grandma but she could only redirect the topic.

Her Grandma chuckled and quickly relaxed. She touched Ning Qing’s face and exhorted solemnly, “Grandma knew Qingqing liked Grandma but Qingqing likes Junxi too. There are many bad men outside. Don’t be cheated. You and Junxi have known each other for twenty years. No one could affect your relationship.”



Ning Qing heard this and felt unhappy. She lifted her gaze and looked to the door. What she saw was only a parting shadow. It was Lu Shaoming, showing only coldness and sorrow.

Lu Shaoming left.

Ning Qing's smile suddenly became forceful because she knew that he was definitely angry.

But then, she didn't have any better choice.

She could only comfort him later.

...

Lu Shaoming put both of his hands in his pockets as he overlooked the scenery outside the window. Then, "Young Master Lu." Xu Junxi walked to him from behind. "Let's chat."

Lu Shaoming turned around to look at him. He smirked. "Sure."

Xu Junxi stood by his head and said slowly, "I've known Ning Qing for twenty years. Ever since we were born, we've both existed in one another's lives."

"Ning Qing has been beautiful since her youth. She was a beautiful girl, sweet and kind. Everyone likes her. I've liked her since the first time I laid eyes on her. During summer nights when we were eight, she especially liked to read in the green field. I'd catch fireflies and keep them in the lantern. She would laugh very happily when she saw them."

"When she was twelve, she already knew how to take care of others. There was this one time that I cut my hand. She cried for a very long time. She hugged me and said, 'Brother Junxi, Qingqing helps you to blow your wound and the pain will go away...' Phew."

"When she was fourteen, she had her period and she was so badly frightened. It was me who bought her a sanitary pad and underwear. She left the bathroom with tears hanging on her face. I hugged her and kissed her cheek for the first time..."

Lu Shaoming heard and lifted the corners of his thin lips higher. He cut him off and said, "CEO Xu, if you are recalling the past? Did you recall the wrong person? To me, I'm more curious of why you share so many memories with Ning Qing, but you're with Ning Yao now?"

Xu Junxi was taking a stroll down the memory lane happily but Lu Shaoming broke his little daydream when he mentioned Ning Yao's name. He then came back to reality.

He looked towards Lu Shaoming and his eyes were cold, but there was no taunting gaze. Actually, he'd only said that to make him jealous but Lu Shaoming was unaffected.

Looking at a guy like this, maybe he couldn't match up.

Such feelings were provoking. Xu Junxi got angry but he laughed. "Yes, it's my fault that I loved Ning Yao after all that. But the more one loves, the more one hates, which was the reason why Ning Qing was so cruel to me. However, she shed tears for me because I saved her and I got injured. A woman sheds tears for a man uncontrollably. Young Master Lu, you understand what it meant, right?"

“Plus, before her grandma, Ning Qing’s point of view was definite. You’re only an outsider while I am her fiance forever!”

Lu Shaoming stood straight and frowned. He smiled faintly and said, “CEO Xu, don’t beat around the bush; be straightforward.”

“What I want to say is that Ning Qing loves me. Young Master Lu only got between us at our weakest point. You appeared beside her when she was at her loneliest, when she needed a companion. She accepted you naturally and it had nothing to do with love. You are Ning Qing’s means of fighting loneliness, but you’re only my substitute!”

### **Chapter 97: Don’t Worry, It’s Fake**

Lu Shaoming’s face remained calm and silent for three seconds. He opened his mouth and said, “Even if President Xu is right, what’s the matter with that? I’m willing. What’s that have to do with President Xu?”

“You!” Xu Junxi thought that what he had just said was very serious, and any man with pride and self-esteem would be hurt, let alone a man like Lu Shaoming.

But he had said those two words lightly – I’m willing?

“Hah, Young Master Lu, although you say so on the surface, do you really not mind in your heart? I was the only one for the first twenty years of her life! I was her fiance!”

“Mmm Hmm.” Lu Shaoming nodded calmly and stepped forward to Xu Junxi. An amused smile formed on his lips. “It’s alright. since President Lu knows that you’re the ex. You had Ning Qing in the past, but I have her in the present and the future. Thank you, President Xu, for taking care of her for 20 years, waiting for her to blossom like a flower, and sending her to be my – Lu Shaoming’s woman.”

“...” Xu Junxi clenched his fists tightly. For the first time, he realized that Lu Shaoming and Ning Qing really do fit each other to some extent. They were both so eloquent.

“Shaoming, why are you here?” When the two men’s gazes collided, Ning Qing came over.

Lu Shaoming stepped back a couple of steps and looked back. Ning Qing had already come to him and held his arm. “Shaoming, I’ve been looking for you for a long time. I’m going to my old room to find a couple of books. Come with me.”

“Alright.” Lu Shaoming followed and left with Ning Qing.

A layer of haze quickly covered Xu Junxi’s eyes. From beginning to end, Ning Qing didn’t glance at him once.

Ning Qing's eyes that had landed on Lu Shaoming were so gentle and focused. Her gaze used to belong to him only, but now she looks at another man.

The sentence, "Waiting for her to blossom like a flower and sending her to be my – Lu Shaoming's woman," echoed in his ear. His whole body felt as if it were being burnt in a frying pan. Had she and Lu Shaoming done it?

Thinking of her body when she had danced with a silk ribbon, and her delicate little face, he couldn't imagine how charming she must've been when coupling in joy under a man's body.

He did not believe it, he did not believe that Lu Shaoming really did not mind his existence.

...

Walking into Ning Qing's room, they could see that the room had almost been entirely emptied. Nothing remained but the pink wallpaper and the cream white dresser. Things things made Lu Shaoming feel that this room was full of a teenage girl's aura.

Lu Shaoming glanced around casually and finally fixed his gaze on a glass window cabinet. He approached it and saw that a music box had been placed at the very top.

He started to open it, and the sweet music that sounded like tinkling bells rang out from inside.

"Don't listen!" Ning Qing came over and put out her small hand to cover the music box.

Lu Shaoming looked at the girl's shifty eyes and smiled softly, "What's wrong? Is this from Xu Junxi?"

Ning Qing did not know how to answer, but she knew she could never tell the truth. "No!" The girl who never lied blushed.

"Hah." Lu Shaoming didn't force her to answer. He stepped over to the window, took out a cigarette from his pants pocket, and lit it with a lighter.

He took a deep breath and slowly exhaled smoke from his thin lips. Just now, the music box had been engraved with the abbreviations of J&Q, Xu Junxi, and Ning Qing. He could see it clearly.

The cabinet had a total of four layers. There were several kinds of gifts in each layer. He counted them with his eyes. 1, 2... 18, a total of 18 pieces. They must be Xu Junxi's birthday gift every year.

Gifts were just gifts, there was no need for her to lie.

"Shaoming, are you angry?" Ning Qing walked up to the man and explained in a low voice, "Xu Junxi head was bleeding because he had tried to save me today, that was why I was hugging his head. There's no other meaning. Grandma has been agitated today. It's not convenient for me to talk to Grandma about us. When the opportunity comes, I will tell her."

Lu Shaoming's chiseled handsome face looked hazy in the smoke. He stuffed one of his hands into his trousers pocket and placed the other on the windowsill. His slender and straight posture was impressive.

When the man was silent, Ning Qing was very nervous. He was always unpredictable. She never knew what he was thinking.

“Shaoming,” said Ning Qing sweetly, standing bravely in front of him, holding his strong waist hesitantly with two small hands. “Don’t be angry anymore. I really have nothing to do with Xu Junxi.”

“Alright.” Lu Shaoming took another puff of his cigarette and responded with an uncertain answer.

Ning Qing did not know how to appease him. He had never ignored her. He wasn’t even willing to look at her now.

Sure enough, after being the apple of his eye for so long, falling from his grace was very unpleasant.

When the man smoked, he would narrow his eyes, his long fingers tapping away the ash, his thin lips slightly ajar when breathing out the smoke. The lines on his lips were very sexy.

Because she was in front of him, and he was probably afraid of choking her with the smoke, he was always facing the window when he exhaled, showing her only half of his sharp and handsome face.

Ning Qing’s mouth was very dry. She stuck out her pink tongue and licked her dry red lips. She put her arms around his neck and tiptoed as she said, “Shaoming, sorry, don’t be angry with me. Shall I kiss you?”

Xu Junxi’s head was muddled. He had watched Lu Shaoming and Ning Qing enter the room and never come out. He was like a fool, like a super peeping maniac, wandering back and forth outside the door.

He wanted to know what they were doing inside. This curiosity was maddening.

He stopped pacing, placed one hand on the doorknob, opened the door by a crack, and peeked in. His body instantly became as rigid as a sculpture.

Xu Junxi released the door handle and turned away, feeling as if his heart had been pierced by a sharp knife. There was no blood, but the pain tore his heart and lungs apart.

Lu Shaoming was right. He has protected the girl for 20 years, and now she was a woman under someone else.

He was ridiculous, so ridiculous!

After a couple of steps, he bumped into Ning Yao. When Ning Yao saw Xu Junxi’s stunned expression, she rushed forward to hold him as she asked, “Junxi, what’s wrong with you?”

Xu Junxi laughed twice. His laughter sounded empty. He put one arm on Ning Yao’s shoulder and was somewhat dispirited. “Yaoyao, do you have any booze? Have a couple of drinks with me.”

“OK.” Ning Yao agreed happily.

...

Ten minutes later, in the room.

## **Chapter 98: Xu Junxi, Let Her Go**

If it were anyone else who would’ve come in, she would be embarrassed.

“I want to go home.” Ning Qing sniffled her nose and she pouted.

Lu Shaoming saw that she spoke, his tension was finally at ease. “Okay, let’s go home. I’ll turn around while you put on your clothes.” the man said.

He was about to turn around when he heard, “Hey!” Ning Qing was extremely angry. She extended her arm to tug his sleeve. “I, how can I put on these clothes? That, you made it wet... My pants are white and would be transparent.”

Lu Shaoming turned around and looked. The girl was in a hurry to tug his sleeve and the blanket covering her body glided down and exposed her smooth shoulders. Her smooth fair skin was covered with hickeys.

One could easily imagine just how rough he had been earlier.

Lu Shaoming’s eyes grew dark and his Adam’s apple rolled again.

Ning Qing could tell that his expression was weird and she realized that she was exposed. She quickly covered herself with the blanket properly and cursed in her head, Monster.

“Do you have any clothes here? If you don’t, I’ll go and buy some. Wait for me in the room. I’ll come back very soon,” Lu Shaoming said in his hoarse voice.

“Mm.” Ning Qing nodded then she added, “Hurry up and come back.”

...

Lu Shaoming left and Ning Qing slowly removed the blanket. She buckled her bra and put on her green lace shirt.

Lu Shaoming would likely be back in around fifteen minutes. She needed to clean herself up as she looked like she was in a fix.

Her butterfly wing-like eyelashes fanned as she closed her eyes and removed her dirty underwear. She couldn’t be naked and just put on her white pencil pants.

She was worried, so she tied her white jacket on her waist to block her lower body.

Then, she was at least presentable. She sat by the side of the bed and got off the bed.

Both her legs landed on the ground and she gasped in pain, psst. Besides her bruise that she had gotten from her grandma’s room, his tight grip earlier added more wounds to her waist.

Ning Qing cursed at the man in her heart again. She took her underwear and walked to the washroom. She threw the underwear into the dustbin and washed her face at the sink.

The girl in the mirror had rosy cheeks and a beautiful pair of crystal clear eyes. Although she was pouting, there was enchanting spring across her face.

In the mirror, the hickeys that the man had left on her neck were visible. Ning Qing gulped and she closed her eyes. The trembling feeling of when his rough hand in contact with hers was still there. Even such a calm man had difficulty controlling himself, and he panted in agony by her ears.

So wild.

Ning Qing bit her lower lip with her ivory-colored teeth. It's too embarrassing.

Ning Qing was so ashamed that she wanted to dig a pit. Knock knock. Someone knocked on the door. So fast, Lu Shaoming's already back?

Ning Qing quickly got out from the shower room and opened the door happily.

But, Xu Junxi was standing outside.

Ning Qing didn't say anything and closed the door immediately.

However, Xu Junxi took a step forward and blocked it. A man and a woman's strength were different, and Xu Junxi forcefully entered.

"Xu Junxi, what are you trying to do? We've got nothing to talk about. Get out!" Ning Qing said coldly.

Xu Junxi smiled tauntingly. When Ning Qing opened the door earlier, her eyes were filled with hope and gentleness. When she saw that it was him, she looked distant and on-guard.

Just how fickle-minded is this woman? She had come to like Lu Shaoming so much in just two month's time?

Xu Junxi took a glance at the room. He had some drinks and his half-squinted his drunk eyes looked to the side and glanced Ning Qing's strange outfit up and down skittishly. He laughed and asked, "You just did it with Lu Shaoming?"

His skittish glance made Ning Qing frown. However, she stood there as she replied coldly, "Don't doubt it. Believe what you see!"

Xu Junxi's face quickly turned gloomy. "Ning Qing, how could you be so slutty? You know that Lu Shaoming is rich so you couldn't wait to climb into his head, huh?"

Ning Qing wasn't angry but laughed. She said, "CEO Xu, aren't you tired? How are you and I connected? Who are you to bother with whose bed I'm in? Would it be that you felt so great about yourself for saving me in Grandma's room? If so, fine, I'll thank you. Thank you. So, can you leave now?"

Then, Ning Qing picked up the faint scent of alcohol. She knitted her eyebrows and asked, "You drank before you came here? Get out, I will not converse with a drunkard!"

Xu Junxi's chest started billowing. How could she play down on how he had saved her earlier? Did she forget that she shed tears for him?

When did she become a hedgehog that was covered in thorns before him? Yet, she was crying in Lu Shaoming's arm and contributed so willingly for him.

Why?

Xu Junxi charged forward and pulled Ning Qing into his embrace. He muttered confusedly, "Ning Qing, please don't talk to me like this. You cried for me earlier, you still love me."

Ning Qing pushed Xu Junxi with all his strength but she couldn't move him. She let both her hands drop as she said coldly with a smirk, "Xu Junxi, I hit my waist and I teared up because of the pain. I'm sorry if you misunderstood, but it had nothing to do with you."

"No, you're bullshitting me. Qingqing, I know you love me. I, I love you too. Let's be together, I..."

"Xu Junxi," Ning Qing cut him off, "don't you know how much I hold you in contempt when I see you acting like this? Ning Yao saved you. You enjoyed her tenderness and brought her next to my room to do things but at the same time, you are holding onto me, not letting me go, constantly monitoring my contact with any other man. Actually, you're mentally sick."

"Do you know who you really love? Do you know what the meaning of life is? I've known you for twenty years. You saved me in Grandma's room, so I felt at ease around you at that moment. There is no reason that it ended between us in the first place other than the fact that you're the one who disappointed me in our relationship! I'm in love with Lu Shaoming now, and I don't owe you anything. So, please, stop disgusting me with your fickle-minded attempts. I, Ning Qing, am not a person that you can just have when you say you want me!"

"No, no," Xu Junxi shook his head in agony, "You owe me, you'll forever owe me. If you wouldn't have stood me up back when we were eighteen, at our date at the park, I wouldn't have needed to accept Ning Yao's love. Don't you know how much pain I've been in for all these years?"

"Heh, Hehe," Ning Qing burst out in laughter. She pushed Xu Junxi away. "I'm sorry, I did not see how much pain you were in. All I could see was just how happy you were!"

Ning Qing didn't know if she should be glad that she saved the man three years ago. Friends are only obvious in times of adversity. Otherwise, how could she see through Xu Junxi's mask?

Then, Ning Qing walked to the door, "You're not leaving, right? Fine, I'll leave."

She didn't care how strange her outfit was, she didn't want to spend another moment with the bastard.

As she was about to grab the doorknob, Xu Junxi hugged her from behind and kissed her hair. "Ning Qing, don't go. Don't say you love Lu Shaoming."

When he kissed her, Ning Qing had goosebumps all over. She clenched her fist and said calmly, "Xu Junxi, let me repeat myself, let go!"

"No!" Xu Junxi kissed her harshly.

Ning Qing closed her eyes. He can't blame her for being blunt.

Ning Qing wanted to land a heavy punch on the wound at the back of his head. But before she could, the door before her opened and Lu Shaoming was standing there.

Lu Shaoming was holding a paper bag on one hand. His deep slender eyes were like ink that splashed all over. He looked like he had been through wind and frost of the night, which made him appear very imposing.

Ning Qing was stunned. Quite the coincidence that he ran into such a scene.

“Xu Junxi, let go of her,” Lu Shaoming commanded. There was no anger in his deep voice but he uttered the words heavily with an air of authority.

When Xu Junxi saw that Lu Shaoming was here, he hugged Ning Qing even tighter. He laughed maliciously. “Lu Shaoming, how can your two months with Ning Qing be comparable to our twenty years? Ning Qing loves...”

Before Xu Junxi managed to say “me”, Lu Shaoming took a stride forward and landed a heavy punch right on the bridge of Xu Junxi’s nose.

Xu Junxi had no choice but to let go of Ning Qing. He staggered to the back and fell into the corner.

Ning Qing saw blood flowing from Xu Junxi’s nose, yet he still attempted to stand up. He tried but he inevitably collapsed onto the ground. He looked like he was in a fix.

Ning Qing covered her mouth with her hand as she looked at Lu Shaoming. The man was still holding the paper bag in one hand and had his other hand in his pocket. His elegant demeanor did not reflect the fact that he had just hit someone.

He was too fast. He punched and the enemy collapsed. His action was carried out in a split second, and Xu Junxi hadn’t the endurance nor the strength to counter-attack. He won with just a single hit.

It was Ning Qing’s first time seeing Lu Shaoming hit someone. She never thought a man like him could be so brutal, yet charming even when he fights.

As she was in a shock, Lu Shaoming pushed the paper bag into her arms and said unhappily, “Change in the bathroom. Let’s go home.”

Ning Qing knew that he wasn’t in a good mood from the look on his face. She quickly grabbed the change of clothes and went into the bathroom.

...

After they bid farewell to Ning Zhenguou, they got into the car. Lu Shaoming held the steering wheel and made a smooth turn. Then, the Bentley was on the highway.

“Why did you open the door for Xu Junxi to enter the room?” The man broke the silence first.

“I thought it was you so I opened the door. I closed the door when I saw it was Xu Junxi but he squeezed in. I am not as strong as him, I couldn’t stop him,” Ning Qing explained.

“Heh.” Lu Shaoming smiled. “So, he hugged and kissed you because you had no strength?”



Ning Qing could hear sarcasm and she looked sideways at him. The man's determined face looked rather cold and his beautiful jaw looked as sharp as a blade.

Ning Qing's anger was boiling. "Lu Shaoming, what do you mean? You think I intentionally let him kiss me? What kind of person do you think I am? It's all your fault. You dirtied my clothes with those ridiculous things and I had no clothes. Otherwise, I would've left the room immediately!"

Lu Shaoming looked sideways at her and smirked maliciously. "Ridiculous? Is that how you describe our sons and daughters?"

Ning Qing, "..."

Ning Qing's anger had to place to vent. She didn't do anything wrong. How could he suspect her? Didn't he know just how hurtful his doubts were?

Bad guy, so bad.

...

The Bentley stopped at the field by the villa. The two of them sat in silence, but no one got out of the car.

A minute later, Lu Shaoming unfastened his seatbelt and got out of the car. He walked around the car and opened the passenger side door. The girl was extremely angry, she puffed out her cheeks and humphed.

"Stop it, get out of the car." Lu Shaoming sounded rigid.

"No, my leg hurts. I can't walk any further," Ning Qing emphasized on the word "leg". She was mad at him and she wanted to embarrass him. She wanted him to be ashamed!

Lu Shaoming bent down to unfasten her seatbelt. Then, he carried her.

"Hey!" Ning Qing clenched her fist and punched him. They had yet to reconcile. Who let him carry her?

Her welled-up eyes caught his handsome face but he didn't look at her. His determined face became gentler and his pursed thin lips seemed to indicate that he blamed himself.

Ning Qing's scorn quickly softened. The autumn night was cold but his embrace was warm and made her feel reluctant to leave. She held his neck slowly as she buried herself in his embrace.

How could he do that? He forced her. Although he didn't do it for real, she gave in. Can't he make her feel better? Where did his usual gentleman-like demeanor go?

...

Lu Shaoming put Ning Qing on the bed in her bedroom. He then went to the bathroom and came back.

She kept her gaze low and the man's black handmade leather shoes filled her sight. His hand touched her white jacket and he started taking off her clothes.

"What are you doing?" Ning Qing was frightened and rolled under the blanket to stay away from him.

“Your legs hurt, don’t they? I filled the tub and came to take off your clothes and bring you into the shower.”

“No, I’ll shower myself!” Ning Qing climbed down the bed and ran into the shower. She then locked the door.

Lu Shaoming watched the door shut tightly and there were helplessness and gentleness in his eyes. He leaned down to put her pair of pink furry slippers by the door. He exhorted gently, “Although there’s carpet, don’t run away barefooted. I leave your slippers outside. Put them on after your shower.”

She didn’t respond, and he could hear water running. She must be in the bathtub now.

Lu Shaoming leaned his back against the wall lazily as his Adam’s apple rolled. His throat and lips still felt dry.

He closed his eyes and reminisced about what happened on the bed earlier. She curled up into a ball under the blanket, fragrant and warm. She was like a piece of jade in his arm.

Her skin was fair. He took a glance and his self-control that he had always been proud of shattered. They agreed that they wouldn’t actually go that far, but he exceeded those boundaries.

Although it didn’t happen for real, it was unforgivable.

He knew that she wasn’t willing to. She was crying so badly as she trembled all over and moaned in pain.

## **Chapter 99: Fetching Grandma**

Actually, he hadn’t really done anything, he had just rubbed against her and finally soiled her uncontrollably – a very perverted and obscene act.

This experience was really bad, the one and only in Lu Shaoming’s life. He hadn’t really cared much about love and desire. He had spent his first 30 years of energy on his career and did not have much time to flirt around. Besides, there were no women who could catch his eye; he was pretty aloof.

She caught his eye three years ago. She was not as petty and coquettish as those noble ladies. She was bright, intelligent, brave, and full of vitality.

When they crossed paths again, she was leading a very bad life, but she had a tenacious vitality, like a blade of grass waving in the wind – so stubborn, so pitiful.

For the first time ever, he wanted to bring a woman under his wing and grow old with her.

But today, she let him down.

Perhaps he was even more disappointed with himself; despite 30 years of rich life experience, he still had to put on a fake show with her in front of Xu Junxi. What foolish and childish behavior.

He thought, as he was 10 years older than her, it would be enough to accommodate her with grace and a broad mind, and wait for her slowly. However, he found that he could not. He became petty and felt that Xu Junxi’s existence was annoying.

Perhaps, he needed to calm down.

Tss

At this time, a girl's hiss of pain could be heard from the bathroom

"What's wrong? Where does it hurt?" Lu Shaoming was stiff and his hoarse voice was full of tension.

Ning Qing was sitting in a bathtub full of petals and milk foam. She had her arms around her chest as she twisted her eyebrows gently. Her chest felt extremely painful and her shoulders were very painful. He had bitten and broke her skin.

Was he a puppy?

He only knew how to bite.

"It's all your fault!" Ning Qing muttered and pouted her lips upon hearing his voice.

Lu Shaoming lips curled up in a self-mocking smile and he said, "Yes, yes. All my fault. I won't touch you in the future, okay?" After a pause, he said, "Ning Qing, just take a quick bath and get up. Don't catch a cold. I have to go."

Have to go?

Ning Qing pricked her ears up; Lu Shaoming had indeed left.

Ning Qing immediately felt annoyed. Her little hand hit the water in frustration, and the milk foam splashed all about.

This Lu Shaoming! She had allowed him to touch her and also rub against her, and now he just said "won't touch you." What exactly did he mean?

How annoying!

Hmph.

...

When Ning Qing got up the next morning, Lu Shaoming had already left.

She went downstairs to see that Zhu Rui was bringing Yue Wanqing into the villa. Ning Qing was elated upon seeing her mother, and she ran over and said, "Mom, why are you here?"

Yue Wanqing took her daughter's small hand and laughed. "Qingqing, Shaoming called me last night and told me about Grandma. Shaoming said that you guys had brought Grandma over to live here and I should come to take care of her so that our family could reunite happily. I thought for a moment and felt that Shaoming was right. Secretary Zhu drove over to pick me up this morning, so here I am."

Lu Shaoming had called her mother. Why didn't she know?

"Yes, madam. The president has already contacted the authoritative brain specialist in Britain to treat Grandma. He should be arriving around noon. It will be easy to care for Grandma if she lives here, and the president knows that Madam had always wanted to be with her family. This is a good thing, killing two birds with one stone," Zhu Rui said.

Lu Shaoming had left last night. Ning Qing felt depressed all night and had a lot of resentment in her heart.

But after listening to Zhu Rui, the resentment dissipated instantly, and sweetness bubbled up in her heart for no apparent reason.

Bringing Mom here, contacting the authoritative brain expert – he had quietly arranged everything for her. She needn't worry about anything.

He had even taken her mood into consideration and fetched her grandmother and mother to accompany her to make her happy.

What kind of man was he?

She had thought about two possibilities when he had left last night. First, he might have been... dissatisfied with her body. Second, he had felt that she had not served him well.

There were many such men in this world. They would get bored and no longer cherish after they've got what they wanted.

She thought that he was like that. She had thought that he didn't like her anymore.

But he was so good to her now. What on earth was he thinking?

...

Zhu Rui was driving, and Ning Qing and Yue Wanqing were talking in the back.

"Mom, what had happened three years ago? Why did they all say that you were the one who pushed Grandma down the stairs?"

Yue Wanqing looked lost and sad. "Qingqing, you must believe Mom! I wouldn't push Grandma down the stairs. Actually, I don't know what's going on as well. Three years ago, at noon, I was standing at the stairway with Grandmother and we were talking. Grandma was fine at first, but then suddenly she had felt dizzy and fell down the stairs. I reached for Grandma, but I couldn't manage to grab her.

"Grandma was sent to the hospital, unconscious. The domestic servant blamed me. She said that she saw me push Grandma down the stairs. Your father was furious and forced me to sign the divorce agreement."

Ning Qing was puzzled. Why had Grandma suddenly felt dizzy?

Was she ill, or was it drug-induced?

If it had been plotted by Meiling, then not only did she need to drug grandmother's food, but she also would have needed to collude with the servants. If this were true, it seems that Li Meiling had controlled the backyard of the Ning family for a long time.

"Mom, do you remember the servant that had testified against you?"

"It was Xiao Cui."

Xiao Cui?

Ning Qing still had some impressions of Xiao Cui, who has been in the Ning family for more than 10 years. Xiao Cui had worked in the Ning household for a long time, but she didn't see Xiao Cui when she went to the Ning family home yesterday.

Ning Qing could confirm that Xiao Cui had been directed by Li Meiling.

What should she do now? Ning Qing's brain was running at full speed.

...

Upon reaching the Ning family home, Ning Zhenguo personally helped Grandma out the villa door. Only when Ning Qing took Grandma away could he go to Guang Qing to sign the contract, so Ning Zhenguo did not want to make any mistakes.

Zhu Rui opened the door and Ning Qing hooked Yue Wanqing's arm as she stepped out of the car.

Ning Zhenguo hadn't seen Yue Wanqing for three years, and he was shocked when he saw her.

Yue Wanqing was a perfect beauty when she was young. Although she had grown up in an orphanage, she had been well educated with the Ning family. Her gentle and virtuous personality, inner purity, and kindness did not allow the passing years to leave a trace on her face. She was tender and graceful.

To Ning Zhenguo, who was used to Li Meiling's ways that were so sweet it felt greasy, Yue Wanqing was like a wisp of spring breeze. She was like a freshness overcoming him.

Yue Wanqing also noticed Ning Zhenguo. She was shocked and diverted her gaze.

Seeing that Ning Zhenguo was staring at her mother, Ning Qing stepped forward silently, blocking Ning Zhenguo's peeping eyes. "Grandma, Mom and I have come to pick you up."

"This is great, Qingqing! Grandma has been waiting for you for a long time." Grandma immediately broke away from Ning Zhenguo and ran to Ning Qing.

Yue Wanqing's eyes filled with hot tears the moment she saw Grandma. She held grandmother's hand excitedly and cried out shakily, "Mom."

"Mom? Who are you?" Grandma did not remember Yue Wanqing.

Li Meiling was standing behind Ning Zhenguo. Last night, after everything that had happened, Ning Zhenguo had warned her not to cause any more trouble. She didn't dare to talk because she didn't want to spill the beans on him.

But just now, Ning Zhenguo had been staring directly at Yue Wanqing. They were flirting with each other through their gazes. She could only grit her teeth with hate.

Men were all like this. Back then, Ning Zhenguo had disliked that Yue Wanqing was too ladylike and was not open enough in bed. So Ning Zhenguo was seduced when he had met her, and he liked to get entangled with her and play with all kinds of tricks with her in bed.

Now that he had played with her for too long and hadn't touched that appetizer dish Yue Wanqing for three years. Ning Zhenguo wanted Yue Wanqing again.

Li Meiling was so filled with hatred, and when Grandma did not remember Yue Wanqing, she finally found the opportunity to open her mouth and quickly laughed, "Grandma, have you forgotten about elder sister? Have you forgotten how you fell down the stairs?"

When Grandma heard "fell down the stairs," she shivered. She was scared and hid behind Ning Qing.

"Mom." Yue Wanqing's heart ached so much that the tears in her eyes kept falling.

"Auntie Li, if you don't want us to pick up Grandma, you can tell us clearly and we can come back tomorrow, but the land development rights..." Ning Qing looked over at Ning Zhenguo.

Ning Zhenguo's expression soured. He shouted at Li Meiling. "Enough. Talk less. If you ruin it for me, we'll all have to sleep in the streets."

After that, Ning Zhenguo looked at Yue Wanqing again. His face was tense, and he obviously could not forget the staircase incident three years ago. "Wanqing, I hope you can treat Grandma better when you bring her back this time. The old madam is innocent. Grandma has been turned into this state by you, you..."

"I didn't!" Yue Wanqing interrupted Ning Zhenguo with a clear voice. Her face was covered with tears, but her eyes were open and firm. "Grandma was not pushed by me!"

"..." Ning Zhenguo was shocked, Yue Wanqing had always been as tender as water in front of him. This was the first time she had spoken to him so loudly in 30 years.

Yue Wanqing looked sideways at Grandma. She stepped forward and choked as she asked, "Mom, do you remember me? I am Wanqing, your favorite Xiao Nizi."

Grandma only had a son, Ning Zhenguo, in her life and had no daughters, so when she brought Yue Wanqing back from the orphanage, she regarded Yue Wanqing as her own and had brought her up herself.

When Yue Wanqing was a child, she had a fever and headache. Grandma stayed up all night, holding Yue Wanqing. She called out "Xiao Nizi" with love.

"Xiao Nizi?" Grandma looked at Yue Wanqing with a blank look. Tears welled up in her old eyes.

"Wanqing? My good daughter!"

"Yes, Mom, I'm Wanqing. I'm your daughter." Yue Wanqing plunged into Grandma's arms.

Since Grandma had fallen down the stairs three years ago, Ning Zhenguo has not let Yue Wanqing see Grandma. The mother and daughter pair had not seen each other for three years. Now that they were hugging and crying, the scene was touching.

Ning Zhenguo was stunned. He hadn't realized that Grandma had such deep feelings for Yue Wanqing.

"Don't cry, Mom. You take Grandma to the car first. I have a few things to say." Ning Qing embraced her mother's shoulder as she spoke.

"Alright." Yue Wanqing loosened her arms around Grandma and took her to the car.

When the car door closed, Ning Qing looked at Li Meiling and said with a smile, "Auntie Li, I remember that there was a servant named Xiao Cui in our family. Where is she now?"

Li Meiling's eyes flashed when she heard the name 'Xiao Cui', but she soon calmed down. "Qingqing, Xiao Cui left the Ning family three years ago. Her parents in the countryside had found her a husband. She is already over 30 years old and I suppose she must have already gotten married and had children. Qingqing, what do you want, asking about Xiao Cui?" Li Meiling asked.

"Oh," Ning Qing replied as if she had understood something. She said with a laugh, "Didn't Xiao Cui testify that my mother had pushed Grandma down the stairs three years ago? But as you have just seen, my mother and my grandmother's relationship with each other is like mother and daughter. Too many people in this world have been blinded by misunderstanding and conspiracy, but family relationships will never change.

"My mother will never push my grandmother down the stairs, so I'm going to confront Xiao Cui on the spot. It doesn't matter if Xiao Cui had left for the countryside. I'll find her. Thank you, Auntie Li. Goodbye."

Ning Qing didn't even glance at Ning Zhenguo. She turned around and went to the car.

Zhu Rui started and car and sped away.

Ning Zhenguo looked at the car going away and felt a little bit anxious and sad. His wife and daughter who used to be so attached to him wouldn't even spare him a glance now.

Even his mother had left.

When Li Meiling saw that Ning Zhenguo was still gazing at them, her eyes flashed with malice, but she smiled softly and coquettishly as she said, "Zhenguo, Grandma and elder sister are gone. Let's go inside."

She held Ning Zhenguo's hand intimately.

Ning Zhenguo looked back at Li Meiling. It was a tender smile, but when Li Meiling smiled, there were deep lines around her eyes, as if she were pretending to be affectionate.

Yue Wanqing's laughter was light and clear. Her clean eyes looked like rippling autumn lakes; they were full of tenderness and made people feel comfortable.

Disgust rose in Ning Zhenguo's heart. He shook off Li Meiling's hand again and said with displeasure, "In the future, spend less money on hyaluronic acids in the beauty shops. Look at Yue Wanqing, she hasn't spent a single cent but still looks younger than you. And you are already 45 years old this year. Don't wear such heavy makeup again. Look at how stiff and ugly your face is."

Ning Zhenguo entered the villa.

Li Meiling's so furious she almost couldn't catch her breath. The makeup on her face was delicate, right? He used to say that he liked her slightly powdered look best, that she was a beautiful actress.

But now, after taking a look at Yue Wanqing, he belittled her like this?

Fine, Yue Wanqing, Ning Qing: Wait and see!

...

In the car, Zhu Rui looked at Ning Qing through the rearview mirror and said, "Madam, why did you tell Li Meiling about Xiao Cui just now? It's very likely acting so rashly would alert the enemy."

Ning Qing's lips curved as she smiled calmly. "Precisely, I want to alert the enemy! The only clue we have of what had happened three years ago is Xiao Cui, but Li Meiling would have definitely hidden Xiao Cui very well. It would be hard for us to find out anything. Now that I've alerted the enemy, Li Meiling's guilty conscience will surely push her to make a move. We just need to track Xiao Cui down by following clues, and we can wait for Li Meiling to reveal her flaws on her own initiative."

Zhu Rui gave Ning Qing a look of true admiration. In his eyes, the madam was a very smart girl. She was a strategist and dared to go all out.

"Madam, the president has ordered that if you have anything, you can just tell me what to do. Would you like to send someone to monitor Li Meiling's every move, including her telephone activity?"

Ning Qing's eyes shone; she had that intention all along.

But she was too embarrassed to request it. Zhu Rui was Lu Shaoming's subordinate, and she had a row with Lu Shaoming only yesterday.

Unexpectedly, Lu Shaoming had settled everything already.

"Yes, let's send someone to watch Li Meiling now. I expect she will make a move soon."

## **Chapter 100: Cheering Him Up**

"Okay, Madam." Zhu Rui nodded.

Her grandma in the back seat was looking around curiously through the car window. She hadn't been out for three years and she found everything interesting.

"Qingqing, where Junxi? Why isn't Junxi here?" Grandma suddenly turned around to ask Ning Qing.

Hearing Xu Junxi's name made Ning Qing feel helpless. She and Lu Shamoing were on bad terms because of that man.



“Grandma, Junxi is very busy. Please don’t bring him up again. He and I...” Ning Qing carefully weighed her words and organized her speech as she explained tactfully.

Yue Wanqing looked shocked. She said, “Qingqing, why is Grandma still talking about Xu Junxi? You brought Lu Shaoming home last night. Didn’t you introduce Lu Shaoming to Grandma?”

“I...” Then, Ning Qing felt aggrieved. She told her mom about what happened the night before. Of course, it didn’t include what they had done in bed.

“Nonsense!” Yue Wanqing’s face grew grave as she reprimanded Ning Qing solemnly.

“Mom, don’t be so fierce with me. I didn’t do anything wrong...”

“Qingqing, didn’t you do wrong? Let me ask you. If you were to go to Lu’s house for the first time and Lu Shaoming had an ex-fiancee too. The ex-fiancee happened to be there. Then, Shaoming did the same as you did. He pretended to be in love with his ex-fiancee before his grandma but you’re Shaoming’s wife and you could only stand by and watch like a stranger. Would you feel comfortable with that?”

Ning Qing was suddenly at loss for words. She would definitely feel uncomfortable!

As soon as she imagined him with an ex-fiancee, she became anxious. She would make wild guesses about the intimate things that they had done before. She would be jealous. She would be unhappy.

Yue Wanqing looked at her daughter’s tightly knitted eyebrows and knew that it was her responsibility. As her daughter turned eighteen and she was in her first bloom of love, she witnessed her parents’ failed marriage. Then, her daughter had been working hard for three years to make money and her relationship with Xu Junxi went down-south. She didn’t know how to love.

“Qingqing, do you know what you did wrong now?” Yue Wanqing thought it was necessary for her to talk to her daughter in depth. “You had an ex-fiancee and this would be something all men would mind. Your grandma is your loved one. Introducing Shaoming’s identity before your grandma is respecting him. It’s a privilege that he should enjoy.”

“But, Xu Junxi and I already passed. Why can’t he believe in me...” Ning Qing rubbed her hands anxiously before her.

“What did you do to make Shaoming believe that Xu Junxi and you have ended things? It can’t be shown with mere words. You have to show him with your actions. What happened last night, Shaoming only saw that Xu Junxi saved you and you still maintain your relationship in front of Grandma.”

“...” Okay, Ning Qing admitted her wrongdoing.

The two of them had known each other for two months and Xu Junxi had been tangled up with her. She felt magnanimous and thought there was no need to explain. However, from Lu Shaoming’s point of view, things may not be so clear.

“Mom, I didn’t introduce Shaoming because I was worried that Grandma would be provoked. I’m afraid that Grandma couldn’t accept him. I want to look for another suitable chance.”

“Silly girl,” Yue Wanqing held her daughter’s hand, “Grandma loves you. Whoever loves you, your grandma would love him too. Grandma needs time. Shaoming needs to know you care. You complicated the entire thing. Like myself, when Shaoming suddenly came and called me “Mom”, I accepted him in the end anyway.”

“I... He wouldn’t be like this in the past. He never asked about Xu Junxi. He is gentle to me. So gentle that I thought he would never get angry.”

“Qingqing,” Yue Wanqing pulled her daughter into her embrace. She combed her daughter’s hair affectionately as she said, “No matter how knowledgeable or how polished a man is, he is a man after all. If a man really loves you, he would be the same as any other ordinary men out there; he would want an ordinary yet lasting love. He would be narrow-minded and jealous.

“Mm.” Ning Qing nodded. She seemed to understand but not understand at the same time.

“Qingqing, you aren’t young anymore. Everything you do, you have to learn to put yourself into someone else’s shoes. You must learn to be considerate and compassionate. When Shaoming stood by the door last night, you let him leave just like that. Have you thought of what Xu Junxi would think, have you thought of what Shaoming would think?”

Mm... From Xu Junxi’s point of view, it appeared that she still loved him, so he became proud. Oh yeah, on the balcony, Xu Junxi talked to Lu Shaoming.

Ning Qing could easily guess what he had said. He must have scoffed at Lu Shaoming.

Actually, she was Lu Shaoming’s wife. Who the hell was Xu Junxi? How could he clamor before Lu Shaoming? It was all her fault.

She helplessly aided Xu Junxi’s arrogance. It was she who made Lu Shaoming insecure and uncertain.

No wonder he lost control when they went to the room.

And, the music box was a gift from Xu Junxi and he could totally tell but she lied. Although he didn’t call her out on it, he must be utterly disappointed with her.

“Qingqing, it’s easy to fall in love. There’s no one who would treat you well for no reason in this world. Similarly, there’s no one who would contribute in silence but not hope for return of the same love and care. Shaoming’s nice to you and I can see it with my own eyes. The luckiest thing to happen to a woman in her life is to meet a man that loves her. Coincidentally, you love him too.”

...

They returned to Tea Pavilion and the prestigious neurosurgeon from the UK, Dr. Aaron, came to do a series of checkups for Grandma.

“Mrs. Ning, after examination, there is a blood clot in the patient’s head, which caused pressure to her nerves. This might be the main factor why the patient is unconscious.”

“Is there any treatment available?” Ning Qing asked anxiously.

“The blood clot is too near to the patient’s cranial nerve. If she goes through surgery, there’d be a risk factor of seven. I’ll have to discuss with my team to come up with a surgery plan.”

“Mm. Thank you, Dr. Aaron. Also, my grandma might have taken a medication that led to dizziness three years back. Can it be checked now?”

Professor Aaron shook his head with uncertainty. “Under normal circumstances, we wouldn’t be able to as three years was too long ago. But, I’ll draw some blood to test. We’ll give it a try.”

Then, Professor Aaron left. Grandma was tormented the entire afternoon so Yue Wanqing prepared her to bed. Until dinner time, Zhu Rui bid farewell and left.

Before having dinner, Ning Qing took out her phone and called Lu Shaoming after taking a deep breath.

“Hey.” The man’s deep magnetic voice could be heard on the other end.

“Hello, Shaoming.” Ning Qing looked down at her pink slipper as she blushed. “What time are you coming home? I’ll wait for you so we can have dinner together...”

They had argued the night before and she took the initiative to call him and reconcile.

He kept quiet for three seconds and replied, “Don’t wait for me. Go ahead and eat. I have a dinner to attend.”

A dinner to attend?

Ning Qing felt awkward after he rejected her.

Then, there was another man’s voice over the phone. “It’s rare that Young Master Lu is willing to attend dinner. Yishuang, my youngest daughter. She has been in awe of Young Master Lu all this while. Yishuang, hurry up and pour Young Master Lu something to drink.”

Then, Ning Qing heard a very gentle yet soft female’s voice. She reckoned the female should be quite young, probably a twenty years old, a daughter of a wealthy family.

Ning Qing didn’t know what to do.

“Is there anything else? If not, I shall hang up. Go to bed early,” the man said over the phone.

“Oh,” Ning Qing came back to reality and replied. Then she heard him hang up.

Yue Wanqing brought a bowl and chopsticks to the dining table. She watched her daughter’s back and asked, “Qingqing, is Shaoming coming back tonight?”

Ning Qing turned around and pretended to smile, “Mom, Shaoming is not coming back. He has a dinner to attend.”

Yue Wanqing didn’t think much but exhorted, “Man is the most tired when they have to entertain their clients. Qingqing, don’t go to bed early tonight. Wait up for Shaoming. If he happens to be drunk, cook him a bowl of soup to sober up. He probably will not have eaten much at the dinner. Ask if he’s hungry and cook him a bowl of noodles.”

“Mm!” Ning Qing nodded.

...

Ning Qing waited until ten at night. She was sitting on the sofa in the living room while she read a script for one of her projects. She took a two-day break and she would be going to set early the next morning.

Then, she heard the door open. Lu Shaoming walked in.

He was wearing a blue shirt with grey slim fit slacks. He didn't wear a tie and his shirt was slightly unbuttoned. It was a casual suit, the kind with four buttons. He looked very handsome.

His eyes were bright and clear and he didn't look drunk. He lifted his eyes and saw her in the living room. He supported himself against the front door as he changed into room slippers.

Ning Qing quickly got up and walked to him. “Shaoming, you're home!” She helped unbutton his suit for him.

Lu Shaoming didn't reject her. He stood straight and looked at her delicate face as he asked, “Why aren't you asleep? Have Grandma and Mom gone to bed yet?”

“Mm, Grandma and Mom are asleep. I stayed up to wait for you.” The living room was very quiet, and she'd only left a single dim light on as she was afraid she might wake the others up. Ning Qing spoke softly in a flirtatious tone. In the silent night, her voice stirred a commotion in one's heart.

Lu Shaoming didn't hold back and looked at her again.

Her head was at the height of his chest. She tiptoed when she took off his suit for him. As she did that, she rubbed against his shirt and her scent filled his nose.

“Shaoming, did you drink?” She asked softly.

“Not much.” He focused as he looked at her sleepwear. It was a yellow sleeping gown with a wide collar that revealed her beautiful collar bone. The puffy sleeves were three quarter in length and her forearms were exposed. Her arms were smooth and small.

Lu Shaoming lifted the corners of his lips and smiled. He didn't know what she was trying to do. Normally, she was only willing to wear a white cotton shirt, which was rather conservative. But now, she was wearing such an outfit.

Maybe she trusted him too much. He said that he wouldn't touch her the night before and she wore it without worries.

But the yellow highlighted her skin tone. She was as beautiful as if she were only sixteen.

Ning Qing put his suit in her arms and she looked at him with her pair of beautiful eyes, “Shaoming, I won't cook you any soup to sober you up since you haven't had much to drink. I can cook you a bowl of noodles, or you can have dumplings. Which do you want to eat?”

Lu Shaoming didn't say much. He put one of his hands in his pocket as he fixed his gaze on her.

Ning Qing blushed. She showered for him, and it had taken her a long time to pick the right sleeping gown. He must like it, right?

She knew she did wrong and she was pleading guilty. She didn't want the cold shoulder from him.

She knew clearly just how many women were into him. Hearing Yishuang over the phone made her jealous. She didn't like him looking at other women.

She could dress up very beautifully too. Women often dress themselves up for their loved ones. If he likes it, she could dress up for him every night.

As long as he's not angry.

She raised her hand to tuck away a lock of her hair that fell next to her cheeks. Ning Qing pinched her earlobe as she bore an embarrassed and nervous expression. "Shaoming, why are you looking at me?"

The man took the suit away from her arm with two fingers and he said calmly and slowly with a slight reprimanding tone, "Go back to your room and put on some pants. Aren't you cold dressed like this?"

The enchanting charm disappeared in an instant. The man turned to go upstairs. "I'm not hungry, go to bed. I have to work in the study room."

The man disappeared before her eyes and Ning Qing had yet to recover from the shock.

She ran to the front door and looked at herself in the mirror. She turned around, That's right. Lovely figure. Looking beautiful.

Why didn't he like it?

She intentionally asked him why he looked at her. Shouldn't he answer something along the line that she was beautiful? Then, she would have replied flirtatiously that he's being annoying. After that, he would pull her into his embrace. She'd already prepared all her lines.

But he told her to go back to the bedroom to put her pants on?

When did he become so inconsiderate?

Dang, dang dang!

What does he want?

She already lowered her ego to cheer him up. He treated her like that the night before but she dressed up so beautifully for him against the next day. She wore so little shamefully and she was afraid that her mom or Aunt Zhang would see. She did everything in silence just to make him happy.

She held back her urge to ask about Yishuang and asked if he wanted noodles or dumplings like a nice wife, but he walked away after he removed his suit. He didn't bother with her.

Humph, so pissed!

...

Ning Qing was really angry. She stomped her foot at the front door and only went upstairs after a while. She wanted to go back to her room but she turned and walked to the study room instead.

She didn't know how to cheer the man up. She hardly sees the man throwing a tantrum and she never thought it would be so difficult to cheer him up when he's angry.

She stood by the door and reached for the doorknob. She then opened the door quietly.

Through the gap, she saw a beautiful man coming out of the shower.

Lu Shaoming had just taken a shower, and he was wearing khakis with a white shirt. He only buttoned one button of his shirt and his sun-kissed tan skin was exposed.

His muscular figure had a graceful outline and his six-pack could make anyone drool.

His body wasn't bulky like those who worked out all year round but he had an elegant yet exquisite look. There wasn't any extra chunk of meat on him. His broad shoulders and narrow waist could be compared favorably to any male model.

His hair was still wet. He held a towel with one hand to dry his hair.

Ning Qing blushed at the sight.

She could even sense the tenacious desire below his waist, which was powerful.