

Chapter 971: Very Arrogant

The military managed to promptly control all the medical personnel who participated in Zhou Xiaocheng's emergency treatment, including the hospital's higher-ups. Ambulances from the other hospitals arrived in ten minutes to ferry their remaining patients to other hospitals.

Jiang Yao stayed at the hospital for about half an hour, but no one collected Chai Xianglong's body. Then, she left the hospital with Ah Lu and Big Ke—they took a taxi back to the hotel.

Chen Xuyao acted very quickly too. News about what had happened to the Chai family at the hospital had spread through the radio and television. Some reporters even interviewed patients who were transferred from the hospital. They asked about Zhou Xiaocheng's death and about what had happened in the operating room that day.

The reporters learned that the deceased's family had questions for the hospital, but the doctors did not even know the deceased's blood type, nor could they provide a list of medication that they had given to the deceased. Then, the hospital had called the police, and Chai Xianglong had brought more than a hundred men to capture the deceased's family and took them away.

News about that incident was broadcast to every household and then from word of mouth to neighbors and friends. Thus, almost everyone in Yuan City had heard about that in only less than half a day.

After Jiang Yao returned to the hotel, she still paid attention to the development of the matter. Chai Xianglong had fallen to his death. Not long after she had left the hospital, the hospital director followed in Chai Xianglong's footsteps—he spouted some nonsense about ghosts. However, he was luckier than Chai Xianglong because the soldiers had been with him, so he did not get a chance to jump to his death.

After Lu Xingzhi left the hospital, he and his men continued to work for a long time. They only returned to their temporary command center at the police station after it was dark.

"Has that woman come out of the operating room yet?" Lu Xingzhi asked Zhou Junmin, who was inside, as he pushed the door open. "It has been so long; we should be able to interrogate her now. The longer we wait, the more disadvantageous we'd be."

"They completed the surgery quite a while ago; they sent her back to the police station after that. Now that we've detained her, I'd like to know why we removed that bullet for her? We shoot her so that we can convince the public—isn't it a waste of medical resources?" Zhou Junmin pursed his lips. "She is awake now, and she's very arrogant. She keeps asking for her lawyer."

"Lead the way." Lu Xingzhi took his mask off, adjusted his coat, removed his military jacket, and then put his hands into his pockets.

The weather outside was so cold that he could see his breath if he were to utter only one word. However, he had been so busy that he had not had a minute of rest.

The cold wind blew on his face like an icy knife.

The temporary detention center at the police station was not in great condition. Madam Chai had just undergone surgery for her arm, and it had been bandaged. She no longer looked as arrogant as she did when she forced her way into Jiang Yao's room during the day.

Lu Xingzhi was the person in charge of the arrest, but he was not part of the interrogation team—that was usually handled by staff from a specialized department. However, Lu Xingzhi had instructed them only to start when he was there, so they had waited for him.

“Sergeant Lu.” The police officer on duty greeted him. “Inspector Liao and Officer Chen will be here soon.”

“Thank you for your hard work.” Lu Xingzhi patted the police officer’s shoulder before he dragged a chair and sat on the side to wait.

Chapter 972: Who Gave You the Courage?

Inspector Liao and Officer Chen were also from Jindo City, and they were in charge of interrogating Madam Chai. They quickly rushed toward the temporary command center when they learned that Lu Xingzhi had returned.

They did not move Madam Chai to a special room for the interrogation. Instead, they placed two tables and chairs outside the room where she was held. The room had an iron door where one could look through the iron bars to see the inside and outside of the room.

Lu Xingzhi sat beside Inspector Liao and Officer Chen like a steady clock; he kept watch. Zhou Junmin would mutter to him from time to time.

“Chai Manwen, you used the Chai Enterprise to launder money, bribe, and cover Chai Xianglong’s abuse of many underage girls. You also threatened the victims’ families after the events. Among them, Zhou Xiaocheng’s murder case is the most heinous.” Inspector Liao flipped through the documents in his hands. “In this case, the victim, Zhou Xiaocheng, was raped by Chai Xianglong and a few of his friends, and the victim went insane after that. Then, you told the police department to keep this under wraps and used violence to threaten the Zhou family to withdraw the case. When Zhou Xiaoguang injured your son’s bodyguard, you also used that as an excuse to detain Zhou Xiaoguang illegally. You allowed Chai Xianglong’s bodyguard to stalk and spy on others and even injured Mr Jiang and Zhou Xiaoguang.”

Inspector Liao realized that Madam Chai’s expression did not change when he said that. He knew that it would not be easy to deal with her even though her son had only just died.

It was no wonder that a businesswoman could control the entire city for decades. How could such a woman say anything and everything when someone yelled at her?

“The Chai family had illegally kidnapped and detained the victim and their family members and also forced the victim to jump off a building. When the victim was sent to the hospital for emergency treatment, they bribed the hospital and the medical staff not to save her. Instead, they were to let the victim die. Every single detail of this case sent a chill to one’s bones.”

The Chai family had turned Yuan City into their empire, and the commoners had lost whatever right that they had before that.

“I want to see my lawyer.” Madam Chai straightened her back as she sat up in her chair. She only said those few words; she did not even raise her head to look at the people in front of her. Even though she was not as frivolous as before that, she still retained her arrogance.

“You’re already here. Do you really think that your lawyer can still act so freely at the moment?” Lu Xingzhi sneered, though he did that so miserly.

At that time, anyone who had daily contact with Madam Chai was included in their investigation. Then, one by one, they would be interrogated.

Madam Chai raised her head slowly to look at the people outside the iron door. Her gaze finally landed on Lu Xingzhi. “Third Young Master Lu?”

Even though they had never met, Lu Xingzhi was not surprised that Madam Chai could recognize him. He guessed that she even knew about his brothers.

“Let’s not talk about other things; the fact that you held a gun illegally is true. It is also a fact that you kidnapped my wife. I am a soldier, and so, my wife is a military relative. What crime do you think you committed when you kidnapped a military relative?” Lu Xingzhi’s fingers tapped the table heavily. “You took her from the hotel to the hospital and then pointed a gun at her. Madam Chai, who gave you the courage to call my wife Young Madam Lu while you do all these things to her?”

The temporary detention room was brightly lit, but it was so bright that it made one feel cold.

Chapter 973: Regret

“Young Master Lu, who gave you the courage to keep me here? Do you think that I can control the sky for so long without any trump cards?” Madam Chai’s expression looked even more arrogant than Lu Xingzhi. “Let’s see how long you can keep me here.”

“It’s good to have confidence.” Lu Xingzhi smirked. “We’ll see if you still have a chance to regain your freedom.”

Lu Xingzhi did not say anything else because there were other people with them. However, his cold expression told Madam Chai that no one in the world would support her for the rest of her life.

Madam Chai had placed too much faith in the person who supported her. If Lu Xingzhi did not have enough power and confidence, how could he bring the army to Yuan City to suppress the Chai family?

At that moment, no one was allowed to enter or leave the Chai mansion—not even a mosquito could fly out of there.

A man in a white coat stood outside the door; he waved at Lu Xingzhi with a document in his hand. When Zhou Junmin saw him, he got up, opened the door and took the folder from the man. Then, he turned around and returned to Lu Xingzhi.

“Is Zhou Xiaocheng’s autopsy report?” Inspector Liao asked.

“Yes, that was the medical examiner from the Jindo City’s Police Crime Squad.” Zhou Junmin nodded as he passed the autopsy report to Lu Xingzhi.

When Lu Xingzhi read Zhou Xiaocheng’s autopsy report, Inspector Liao also went to take a look. Both of them might not have understood the technical terms on the report, but they learned that the hospital did not treat Zhou Xiaocheng at all.

They passed the autopsy report to Officer Chen when they were done with it. Suddenly, Lu Xingzhi's phone rang; he picked it up and said a few words to the caller.

Inspector Liao continued to interrogate Madam Chai while Lu Xingzhi was on the phone. He stood up, picked up the autopsy report, and leaned against the iron railing. "Take a look—this is Zhou Xiaocheng's autopsy report. This proves that the hospital did nothing to help Zhou Xiaocheng while she was there. How can a person be so cruel? Perhaps the term poisonous woman was coined after you. Only you would let a teenage girl die in the operation room."

Madam Chai did not force them to cremate Zhou Xiaocheng's body since the dead girl's family had already agreed to her conditions. After all, the people in Yuan City preferred to bury their dead in peace. Zhou Xiaocheng's parents would never allow them to cremate her body as it would mean they would lose her bones as well. Yuan City's customs would never allow that to happen.

Madam Chai regretted that decision then. If she had known what would follow after that, she would have told her son to send Zhou Xiaocheng's body to the crematorium!

Madam Chai's gaze was fixed on the autopsy report, and then she looked at Lu Xingzhi. His expression was too cold—she did not know if his confidence was because he could predict her moves or because he had underestimated her?

Whichever it was, Lu Xingzhi had brought the soldiers from Jindo City to intervene in that matter. She knew that he was there to arrest her because the issue had attracted the higher-ups in Jindo City.

Zhou Xiaocheng's autopsy report was the indisputable truth. They had let her die in the operating room, and her death was enough to pin a murder charge on Madam Chai. Was that not too ridiculous?

Chapter 974: Behavior

Madam Chai moved—she crossed her legs before she said, "I don't know how Zhou Xiaocheng died. I may be Xiaanglong's mother, but he is almost 30 years old. He is an adult, and he acts independently. How would I know about his actions behind my back? I'm not the one who raped Zhou Xiaocheng. I don't know anything about bribing any hospital doctors, and I didn't bring anyone to the hospital to take the Zhou family members."

"First of all, you can't deny that your people took the Zhou family and their daughter's body that day. We have photos from the reporters that showed you at the hospital, even though you weren't in the operating room. You sat in your car, and you didn't go in. It's obvious that you were there to wait for your son." Inspector Liao took two photos from the table and showed them to her.

Lu Xingzhi glanced at Chai Manwen before he lowered his head to look under the table—he wanted to send a message to Jiang Yao.

Jiang Yao, who was still waiting for him at the hotel, called out to Big Ke and Ah Lu when she received the message. The three of them immediately left the hotel and drove to the police station. When the three of them arrived, they saw a few soldiers escorting three doctors and five nurses out of the car.

"Sister-in-law!" The leader of the group shouted and waved excitedly when he saw Jiang Yao.

Jiang Yao turned around—she recognized the person immediately. He was one of Lu Xingzhi’s soldiers from the Jin City Army. She smiled at them before she let them through first. Then, she followed behind Big Ke and Ah Lu.

When Jiang Yao entered the police station, she saw Lu Xingzhi in the hall. He strode toward her when he realized that she had arrived. Then, he reached out to pinch her face and said in a low voice, “My dear wife, have you lost weight?”

Lu Xingzhi had wanted to ask that question when he saw Jiang Yao, but he had not had enough time to ask that.

Jiang Yao swept Lu Xingzhi’s hand from her face and looked around them. When she realized that no one paid any attention to them, she kicked Lu Xingzhi and asked, “Who was the one who said that one should behave like a soldier when they are in uniform? You’re in uniform now!”

“Pinching my wife’s face won’t damage my reputation in the military.” Lu Xingzhi chuckled and then continued to say, “That woman, Chai Manwen, still thinks that she still has support. She thinks that we can’t do anything to her.”

He did not say anything inside, but Lu Xingzhi and Jiang Yao could talk about anything since there was no one there.

“Chai Manwen doesn’t only have one son, Chai Xianglong. She also has an illegitimate child with someone in Jindo City. That child is already 18 or 19 years old this year. The man adopted the boy, and his wife and daughter did not know that the boy was an illegitimate child.” Lu Xingzhi learned by accident—not even Du Chen’s network knew about that. One could see just how deeply that man was hidden.

For the past few days, Ah Lu and Big Ke had been reporting to him about the situation in Yuan City. So, when Lu Xingzhi confirmed that piece of news, he immediately reported the matter regarding the Chai family. He had done that because they had threatened his wife in Yuan City, so he wanted the authority to punish the Chai family for harming a military relative. Then, he reported the matter about Zhou Xiaocheng out of convenience.

He was not surprised that the incident attracted his higher-ups, and they had called for an emergency meeting. They decided to appoint him to lead the operation and dispatched dozens of military helicopters for his usage. As a result, Lu Xingzhi had managed to bring elite soldiers from Jindo City to Yuan City in only one night.

Chapter 975: An Illegitimate Child

Jindo City sent many inspectors and assisting police officers—it did not matter if Madam’s Chai’s backer knew about the news. Could he still have helped the Chai family?

Furthermore, the issue with Madam Chai and Chai Enterprise was too significant. Would that person still dare to protect them? Perhaps he was more afraid that people would find out his connection to Chai Manwen.

Chai Xianglong had done a lot of bad things in Yuan City over the years. Lu Xingzhi used information, which Du Chen had given him, bit by bit, and that was enough to let Madam Chai stay in prison for the rest of her life.

However, he was a step too late—Chai Xianglong had fallen off the building and died. No one even collected his body, and Lu Xingzhi had instructed the hospital to be closed after that incident. That was why they transferred the patients to other hospitals and controlled the medical staff involved in the case. It was likely that there were not many people left in the hospital then.

“An illegitimate child?” Jiang Yao almost died from the shock. She could not even begin to imagine the mess that was Madam Chai’s life.

“Let’s go. I’ll take you to see her.” Lu Xingzhi told Ah Lu and Big Ke to stay outside and wait for them. Then, he took Jiang Yao’s hand and walked toward the interrogation room.

When Jiang Yao walked past the room, she saw the medical staff that the soldiers escorted from the car. She tugged Lu Xingzhi’s sleeve and asked, “Will those doctors be convicted?”

“They’re all to turn themselves in. The director is interrogating them in another room.” Lu Xingzhi pointed to a brightly lit room in front of him and said, “Chai Xianglong shouted that he saw a ghost. He said that Zhou Xiaocheng was back to seek revenge on him, and then he went crazy and fell off the building. Not long after we left, the hospital director also went mad and yelled about the same thing. These doctors are scared out of their wits. They said that Zhou Xiaocheng had come back to take their lives, one by one. Therefore, they didn’t last long before someone said that they wanted to turn themselves in. They were afraid that Zhou Xiaocheng’s ghost would haunt them—they were so anxious that they could not wait to surrender.”

Jiang Yao laughed and thought, ‘It looks like my hard work today has not been in vain. The same old trick can really scare the sh*t out of these doctors in this superstitious city.’

If they surrendered, it meant they were responsible for the loss of a life. Jiang Yao thought that they could hold on for another day or two; she did not expect they would last only one afternoon.

Jiang Yao did not say anything else; she followed Lu Xingzhi quietly as they walked for about five to six minutes before they arrived at the temporary detention center.

“Young Master Lu, Madam Chai said that Chai Xianglong was the one who bribed the doctors, and she didn’t know anything about that. She pleaded guilty to two counts of carrying a gun illegally and threatening a military family member.” Zhou Junmin spat, “This woman is as slippery as an eel. She’s pushing the blame onto her son because he is dead.”

“It’s not like she can just say whatever she wants. The doctors have already turned themselves in. We’ll read their confessions later.” Jiang Yao said, “Madam Chai is someone with a strong personality—Chai Xianglong would not have acted without her approval. She must have instructed the doctors to do her bidding to destroy all the evidence.”

Chai Xianglong was almost 30 years old, and he was not married yet. It was apparent that Chai Manwen did not give much authority to her son to make any decision because he was only a mere deputy general

manager in the company. If she did not instruct the doctors to kill Zhou Xiaocheng, they would not have dared to do that.

Chapter 976: What Did You Say?

If Jiang Yao could think of that, then the person in charge of the interrogation would think of the same thing as well. Therefore, they were not in a hurry to make that point. They would have an answer once they managed to question everyone from the hospital.

Lu Xingzhi did not ask for Jiang Yao's presence for her to see Madam Chai. She was also one of her victims—Madam Chai did point a gun at her, so she was there to make a statement so that they could charge her for that crime as well.

Officer Chen took Jiang Yao's statement; he was gentle with her because he knew that she was Lu Xingzhi's wife. He asked a few important questions and then ended the interview quickly.

While Jiang Yao and Office Chen were busy with her statement, Lu Xingzhi leaned against the table and fixed his gaze on the person behind those iron bars. He lowered his head and said in a casual tone, "Chai Xianglong has died, and no one has collected his body. However, his mother has pinned all the crimes on him. I wonder if he would still be willing to die if he were to know about that."

Lu Xingzhi paused before he smiled mockingly and said, "I guess that he won't be so willing to die. After all, he has yet to meet his younger brother. Oh, well, he doesn't even know that he has a younger brother, does he?"

Madam Chai's eyes widened when she heard that. She stood up and rushed toward Lu Xingzhi, and her body trembled as she shouted, "What did you say?!"

"You didn't hear me? Forget it, then. I don't have the patience to repeat my words unnecessarily to a criminal." Lu Xingzhi realized that Jiang Yao was done with her statement, so he turned toward her. "Have you eaten dinner?"

Jiang Yao shook her head, so he took her hand, and they went to get their dinner.

Lu Xingzhi was not in charge of the interrogation, so he could enjoy some private time after he had completed his work.

However, he was worried that some other matters might need his attention, so he did not take Jiang Yao, Ah Lu, and Big Ke anywhere too far away. They found a nice and clean restaurant near the police station and decided to eat there.

After they placed an order for some dishes, Lu Xingzhi asked for some hot water and helped Jiang Yao sanitize some bowls and chopsticks for their meal. Then, he said, "After everything is done here, you can go back with him. We'll head to Jindo City first. Big Brother and Sister-in-law mentioned that they needed to talk to us."

After he said that, Lu Xingzhi looked at Ah Lu and Big Ke. "While she's with me, you can choose to stay in Jin City or Jindo City. Go wherever you want; just keep in touch with us."

He could not bring Ah Lu and Big Ke to the barracks with him. The two bodyguards would not have anything to do while Jiang Yao stayed with him before she had to go back to the university.

"I think I'll go back to my hometown to take a look. I haven't been back in many years," Ah Lu said.

Da Ke thought for a moment and nodded. "Yes, then I'll go back to mine as well."

It did not matter to them if they had a holiday or not; they did not have anyone they missed. However, since they had the time, they wanted to take a leisurely look at their hometown.

Jiang Yao waited for Lu Xing Zhi and Ah Lu to finish their conversation before she said anything. She asked, "It's almost the New Year. Have you received the transfer order?"

"Not yet." Lu Xing Zhi did not look very happy when he mentioned that. It was not only about the delayed transfer order. He still did not know where the new special forces would be based, and General Liang told him that after negotiations between the various military districts, they had decided to set up a team of female-only special forces. They would select its members from a list of candidates that Lu Xingzhi had eliminated last time.

Chapter 977: A Funeral

It seemed like General Chen intended to use his connections to include Chen Feitang in the new team.

That made Lu Xingzhi extremely unhappy! It looked like someone who had been eliminated could still join the special forces. He would see if Chen Feitang still had the dignity to stay in the team.

Lu Xingzhi received a phone call after their dinner—he had been called back to the police station. Jiang Yao and the two other men returned to the hotel.

Lu Xingzhi did not manage to go back to the hotel to look for Jiang Yao, and Yuan City's newspaper sold like hot cakes the following day.

Their lawyer, Mr Jiang, bought them many newspapers when they met for breakfast. Most news reported the butterfly effect caused by the Chai family's incident.

A certain department's director was investigated and confirmed to have taken bribes and was subsequently suspended. Then, a certain bureau's director was found to have received many cash bribes from the company for an extended period.

Half of the active officials in Yuan City were suspended for investigation in one night, and a third of retirees were summoned to help with the interrogation and inquiry.

Lu Xingzhi's men had brought Taozi with them the previous night. They had managed to clear Zhou Xiaocheng's case in only one night—from the origin of the case to what Taozi did to everyone's involvement. They concluded that the hospital had let Zhou Xiaocheng die in the operating room—everything about that had been published in the newspaper. They had arrested everyone involved in the case—no one could escape.

When Jiang Yao saw the news, she was so happy that she ate an extra herbal egg for breakfast. That was the first time she had an appetite since she arrived at Yuan City.

"What a satisfying report!" Chen Xuyao slammed his fists on the table excitedly. "Third Brother, you've become Yuan City's hero!"

“Here, read this.” Jiang Yao handed her newspaper to Chen Xuyao. “It’s both hateful and delightful.”

The news reported that Chai Xianglong’s victim and her family went to the police station overnight to report the incident. It was not the first time Chai Xianglong and his friends had done something like that—they were already used to it. They had even assaulted Zhou Xiaocheng in a room they had always used for that purpose. They had assaulted five or six girls in that room—they were all underage and beautiful girls.

Two of those girls had been sent abroad by their families. One of the girls had committed suicide by slicing her wrists the next day—they had not been able to save her. Some of the girls had gotten married hastily while some were still in depression—they had to live in pain.

It had been a long time since the incident happened—Jiang Yao was not sure if the girl who died because they could not save her in time really did die that way, or if it was a tragedy like Zhou Xiaocheng’s case.

Jiang Yao and Chu Sheng attended Zhou Xiaocheng’s funeral three days later.

It was a very simple funeral—only a few relatives from the Zhou family and the Chen family were in attendance.

Finally, the family decided to bury Zhou Xiaocheng in a grave about three kilometers away from the family’s ancestral grave. Still, there was hardly any green in the mountains, and the exposed land was covered in frost.

A coffin, a tomb, buried, and covered—a girl’s life had finally been buried; she would sleep there forever and alone.

Who knew if there was a next life?

Who knew if the girl who slept there was willing to live again in a world that terrified her?

“Jiang Yao, thank you for your help and thank your husband. The Chai family could not collapse so quickly without his help. I believe that Xiaocheng can now rest in peace when she finds out in the underworld.” Zhou Xiaoxia hugged Jiang Yao.

Chapter 978: We’re Divorced

“I’ve decided not to go back to school when it starts next year. It’s almost the New Year, so I won’t call them now and spoil their mood. I feel fortunate to have met you. If it weren’t for you, I don’t know what will happen to my brother and me now.”

If it were not for Jiang Yao, perhaps Zhou Xiaoguang would still be in the police station, or perhaps Zhou Xiaocheng’s would not have ended before the New Year.

Zhou Xiaoxia had been very happy to read the newspaper for the past few days—if her sister could see it, she would be delighted too.

Yuan City would welcome a new dawn, and previous sins would be suppressed. It was too bad that the dead would never be able to experience that.

Zhou Xiaocheng had lived in the city's darkest moments, and she had left with despair and pain.

"Thank you so much, Jiang Yao," Zhou Xiaoxia said. "We haven't spent much time together, yet you spent so much effort on my problems. You even put in more effort than my parents in Xiaocheng's matter. This may sound very sentimental, but I think that you are the kindest person I've ever met in my life, even though you don't talk about the things that you have done. I hope that you'll visit me if you're ever in Yuan City again, and I hope that we can stay friends."

Jiang Yao did not expect Zhou Xiaoxia to decide not to go back to school after the matter was over. She wanted to persuade her, but she could not find the words.

When she looked at the lonely grave in her, Jiang Yao finally saw the emotions in Zhou Xiaoxia's eyes. She knew that her friend was afraid that Zhou Xiaocheng would be lonely when she was back in Nanjiang City.

Zhou Xiaoxia could not let go of Zhou Xiaocheng, who had just passed away, nor could she let go of Zhou Xiaoguang, who had yet to grow up.

"You can take a leave of absence," Jiang Yao said. "Sort out your emotions and think about it before making a decision."

She patted Zhou Xiaoxia's shoulder and left the mountains with Chu Sheng.

Chu Sheng turned around to look out the rear window as the car headed back to the city. She only wrote a note to Jiang Yao when they reached the bustling city.

She asked, "Do you know why I insist on going abroad to study criminal psychology?"

Jiang Yao looked down at the note and smiled. She nodded but did not say anything.

Of course, she knew the reason; it was because Chu Sheng had hoped to bring all the criminals in the world to justice.

Chu Sheng had been hurt by those criminals when she was young. She had hoped there were no more criminals in the future.

Jiang Yao thought that she should learn more about the system—she wanted to use the knowledge to save poor people and use her profession to punish those who got away with it.

The case in Yuan City was still ongoing, and there were new reports about it daily. So, Jiang Yao and Lu Xingzhi decided to take a flight back to Jindo City first.

When Liang Yueze and Luo Ruoran knew that Lu Xingzhi did not have time to stay overnight in Jindo City, they made an appointment with a few of their brothers that afternoon.

Chen Xuyao had wanted to drag Chu Sheng with them, but she found an opportunity to run away before that could happen. Chen Xuyao was so angry that he was hopping mad.

They were at Longteng Restaurant, in the same private room, but they had ordered different dishes. Everyone was there except Gu Haoyu; even Zhou Weiqi was there.

“Why did you ask me to come here all the way from Jin City? I haven’t even started my annual holiday yet; I feel so bitter!” Zhou Weiqi asked as he attacked the pile of peanuts in front of him.

Luo Ruoran glanced at Liang Yueze, but he did not say anything.

Jiang Yao thought that the two of them looked cold when she arrived. They had not seen each other for months, but it seemed like the couple’s relationship was strained.

However, Zhou Weiqi acted as if everything was fine; he urged them again. “Are you guys going to tell us that Luo Ruoran is pregnant so that I can prepare a red envelope for the New Year? If that’s the case, I will despise—”

“Liang Yueze and I are divorced.”

Luo Ruoran suddenly opened her mouth and interrupted Zhou Weiqi.

Chapter 979: Why?

Luo Ruoran’s sudden words stunned everyone.

A quail egg in between Zhou Weiqi’s chopsticks fell back into the bowl. He quickly took a sip of the water beside him as if he wanted to suppress his shock.

“You’re joking, right?” Chen Xuyao looked at Luo Ruoran and then at Liang Yueze. “Are you guys celebrating April Fool’s Day in advance?”

Chen Xuyao did not believe it. His brother had kept his eye on Luo Ruoran for almost ten years before he could finally marry her. Why would they get a divorce in less than half a year?

Who would believe that?

“Don’t tease us! I’d rather prepare a big red packet! I’ll use my year-end bonus, okay?” Zhou Weiqi said, “I think that Sister-in-law is pregnant; it’s impossible that the two of you would get a divorce. Anyway, I don’t believe it.”

Jiang Yao tugged Lu Xingzhi’s sleeves. When he turned around to look at her, she asked discreetly, “What’s going on?”

“I don’t know.” Lu Xingzhi also had no idea. He did not expect Liang Yueze and Luo Ruoran to tell him to bring Jiang Yao with him to Jindo City to announce the matter like that.

Jiang Yao had mentioned to him that Luo Ruoran was not in the right mood, but Lu Xingzhi did not think much about that. He felt that a woman would better understand another woman, and Jiang Yao seemed to have taken it seriously. He did mention it once to Liang Yueze when they had dinner.

However, Liang Yueze did not say anything about that. Lu Xingzhi thought that his brother did not seem happy when he heard that. He felt that the man was in a strange mood.

“What pregnancy? Don’t spout nonsense. That’s too scary.” Luo Ruoran’s face stiffened. She raised her hand and punched Zhou Weiqi, who sat next to her. “Eat your food!”

Lu Xingzhi glanced at Zhou Weiqi; he was also shocked by that news.

“Are you serious? Does Uncle Liang Know?” Lu Xingzhi asked.

“We just got divorced two days ago. My parents still don’t know about it.” Even though they had been divorced for two days, Luo Ruoran still addressed them as her parents—it was a habit.

Then, Luo Ruoran glanced at Liang Yueze and said, “Big Brother and Sister-in-law already know about this; we told them the other day. Since it’s almost the New Year, we don’t want the elders to worry about us. We’ll tell our respective families after the New Year. I will also go abroad after that. I will probably stay abroad like Brother Haoyu.”

Luo Ruoran smiled and picked up some food for Zhou Weiqi. “So, you should cherish the time you have with me now.”

“Why did you get a divorce all of a sudden?” Lu Xingzhi was confused about that. He even looked at Liang Yueze when he asked that question, but the man remained silent. Divorce was a big issue, and most of the time, the reason had something to do with the man. “What are you thinking?”

Lu Xingzhi thought that Liang Yueze must have lost his mind when he was not in Jindo City. That was probably why he divorced Luo Ruoran.

It was apparent that the man loved his wife; it had not been easy to marry her. At least, for Lu Xingzhi, he would never get a divorce once he was married, not even in death.

If he had to get a divorce, then what about the things he did to get married? Had those efforts been meaningless? Were they useless?

Chapter 980: Preparing to Leave the Country

Liang Yueze did not answer Lu Xingzhi. Instead, he lowered his head and downed the glass of red wine in one huge gulp. Luo Ruoran took the glass in his hand and said, “You still need to drive back to the company. Why are you drinking?”

Unfortunately, Liang Yueze did not seem to appreciate her good intentions.

“You didn’t meddle in this when we were married. Suddenly you care when we’re already divorced?” Liang Yueze snorted. “Who are you to care whether I drink or not, Luo Ruoran?”

“Didn’t we say that we’ll stay friends even after we’re divorced?” Luo Ruoran said as she returned the wine glass to Liang Yueze. “We grew up together; we can still stay friends even though we’re divorced. I thought things would still be the same as before.”

Luo Ruoran had a forced smile on her face. She withdrew her hand, but she kept it under the table. No one knew how her hand had trembled slightly.

“Of course, it will stay the same!” The atmosphere had gotten weird, so Chen Xuyao decided to be the pacemaker. “No matter what happens, we’ll always be good friends and brothers. That will never change. Did you think you can forget about us when you’re divorced and are abroad? When one of us gets married, you will still have to come back and join the celebration, no matter where you’ll be at that time. And if you see anything nice while you’re there, please think of us as well. We’ll always like gifts from abroad. There’s no need to be specific; we’ll love it because it’s from you. Of course, nothing too cheap, please, but we know your taste, so I feel assured about that.”

“That’s right, that’s right! I’m getting married soon. When I get married and have children, you’ll have to rush back here, no matter where you are at that time. You have to participate in the celebration.” Zhou Weiqi was happy. “Don’t forget your red packets too; that’s very important, so you must remember that. And when you’re away, you have to give us your contact information.”

“Fourth Brother, you’ll still have to find the right person first before you get married.” Jiang Yao thought that Zhou Weiqi and Chen Xuyao had gotten unreasonable, so she hit Zhou Weiqi. Then, she turned to Luo Ruoran and said, “Where are you planning to go? What will happen to your family’s company?”

“Well, I will still be in charge of the Luo family’s company. The company’s senior management has decided to expand to the overseas market, and I will be in charge of it. I just haven’t decided on where I’m going first.”

Luo Ruoran said, “I will probably be busy in the coming years after I go abroad. However, when any of you get married or have children, I will definitely come back for that.”

Luo Ruoran and Jiang Yao smiled at each other. “I have known Third Brother for a few years, but I have only known you for half a year. Even so, you are my friend. You don’t have to call me Sister-in-law; just call me Ruoran. The three of us will remain friends in the years to come. And if anyone needs my family or me, just let me know.

“That’s true. No matter where you go, we’re still on the same side.” Zhou Weiqi echoed. “Well, you can always look for Second Brother! He has been abroad for so many years; his connections are much better than ours. He can help you if you have any difficulties. Since you’ll be alone there, we’d be more at ease with him looking after you.”