

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 146

Chapter 146 The Masquerade Ball

Lu Jinye felt a tinge of fury brewing within him as he stormed away.

Meanwhile, Xiao Qingqing was in a great mood lately, especially after Lu Jinye had announced news of their marriage to the public. Xiao Qingqing was indulging herself in congratulatory greetings every day.

She worked in the entertainment industry. It was an unspoken rule that celebrities of the entertainment circle would compete against each other to marry into a wealthy family. Xiao Qingqing basically took the crown of a queen by marrying Lu Jinye!

Thus, there was an unprecedented number of brand representatives who swamped Xiao Qingqing to be the sponsor of their wedding.

Diamond rings, wedding gowns, and everything that could be used at the wedding was offered to her as means of advertisement.

However, Xiao Qingqing pridefully refused all of them.

“My husband is Lu Jinye, do you think that we need the money?”

Unquestionably, Xiao Qingqing did not choose to burn bridges with the brand representatives. These words were said to her agent, who was looking back at her with a troubled expression. It was such a pity to lose out on money-making opportunities.

However, seeing as they had been partnering with each other for years, he could not help but remind her.

“Mr. Lu appears to have gone overseas today.”

“I’ve been reluctant to say this, but you can’t be complacent just because you’re getting married to Lu Jinye. You’ve got to prepare a backup plan.”

Xiao Qingqing refused to listen to him.

She turned around and glared at the agent with a stern face, “You mean Lu Jinye has gone overseas? What’s he doing?”

She was under the impression that Lu Jinye had been spending his nights mingling with Liang Yunzhan and the gang, drinking and partying. Even if Lu Jinye were to womanize, Xiao Qingqing was not bothered.

However, she was caught off guard upon learning news of his travel.

"I don't know. I only saw someone who looks like Mr. Lu when I went to the airport today."

"It shouldn't be him."

Xiao Qingqing muttered in an attempt to save her pride.

"Jinye will definitely let me know before traveling. You should go, I need to carry on with my makeup trial."

Xiao Qingqing chased the agent away with a simple excuse.

But she could not help feeling worried when he was gone. She went on the internet to search news about Lu Jinye and found out that there was no report of Lu Jinye's overseas travel. Then, she relieved a little as she completed her makeup trial in preparation for the wedding.

After deciding on the style of the bride's makeup, they were supposed to finalize the outfit of the groom. The makeup artists and fashion designers Lu Jinye hired were his close acquaintances. Xiao Qingqing thought that he'd make time to choose his outfit amid his busy work.

However, when she was done with everything and preparing to leave, she noticed that Lu Jinye had not made his way for the fitting session.

When the fashion designer asked Xiao Qingqing of his whereabouts, she could not gather a response. As his fiancée, she had no clue of where Lu Jinye went!

"Umm, Jinye is in the middle of a meeting, I'll tell him to make time for the fitting session later."

That was all Xiao Qingqing said before scrambling to leave.

She tried to make a call to Lu Jinye but it could not go through. Left with no option, she resorted to calling Linda. Linda took a long moment to pick up the call, saying that she had just got off the plane.

Xiao Qingqing was starting to be upset. She did not bother wasting another second to greet Linda, asking peevishly, "Then what about Jinye? Where is Lu Jinye?"

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Lu Jinye did not return to City A. He was about to board the flight bound to City A when a call came in. It was his business partner in the States. During their chattering, Lu Jinye gave the business partner his address while the partner zealously invited him to stay for a few days for a vacation.

It sounded like a good plan to him.

Lu Jinye looked into Mu Zhi's address and booked a room in the same hotel Mu Zhi stayed in. He made sure that his room was next to Mu Zhi's.

At night... When Mu Zhi was preparing to unpack Mu Xiaomu's luggage, she heard a door-knock. Hurriedly standing to her feet, she walked up to the door, answered it, and stared at the attendant in confusion, asking, "Can I help you?"

"Miss, it is the hotel's 50th Anniversary this year. We are organizing a ball and extending our invitation to you. This is the invitation card and the event takes place at nine in the evening."

"And this is the outfit to the ball."

The attendant tactfully presented a gown to her.

Despite her suspicion, Mu Zhi glanced at the mask and decided to accept it.

She wasn't planning to go, but it was inappropriate to decline the attendant.

However, when Mu Zhi brought the outfit into the room, Mu Xiaomu was excited by the look of the mask. Exhilarated, she said to Mu Zhi, "Mama, can we go and have fun?"

Mu Zhi glanced down at Mu Xiaomu intending to refuse her.

But she had not managed to say a word when they were interrupted by a phone call.

It was Lu Junnian. As soon as Mu Zhi answered the call, Lu Junnian said, "I'm downstairs, coming to look for you now."

Finishing what he had to say, Lu Junnian hung up right away.

Mu Zhi glared at the phone, infuriated...

If he was on the way, why bother informing her?

She turned her eyes to the outfit furiously. Great... Seems like the gods are telling me to attend the masquerade ball.

Mu Zhi then noticed that the attendant thoughtfully prepared a children's mask as well as a miniature cloak.

Mu Zhi handed the cloak and the mask to Mu Xiaomu, saying, "Hurry up and get changed, mommy is changing too. Let's go have fun."

Mu Xiaomu shot her arms in the air, cheered merrily before obsequiously changed into the ball's outfit. She even wore her mask neatly.

Meanwhile, after making sure Mu Xiaomu was presentable, Mu Zhi hurriedly changed into the gown. Before Lu Junnian had come to the room, she grabbed Mu Xiaomu's hand and headed to the rooftop.

Similarly, Lu Jinye had received a mask too, which was lame in his eyes. He was contemptuous of events like this. Overhearing the sound of the door shutting outside, Lu Jinye curiously checked the peephole and found Mu Zhi decked up in a mask, heading towards the elevator with Mu Xiaomu. He peered at the mask, realizing that it was not as lame as he thought.

In the end, he showed up at the rooftop, wearing the mask.

On the other hand, Lu Junnian did not find anyone when came to the room. After knocking on Mu Zhi's unanswered door for a long moment, he started regretting at the phone call. It acted as a reminder for Mu Zhi to flee.

Mu Zhi caught him off guard and managed to dodge him in the short amount of time between the call and his arrival.

After pondering for a moment, Lu Junnian decided to head downstairs to enquire if the attendant was aware of Mu Zhi's whereabouts. In response, the attendant handed Lu Junnian an outfit for the ball, along with a mask.

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Chapter 147 Powerless

The masquerade ball was organized at the open-air rooftop of the hotel.

Under the magnificent moonlight, women were boasting their beautiful dance moves while the gentlemen were socializing among themselves with the tinkle of cocktails.

The event was thoughtfully set up by the hotel. It was not solely designed for adults to indulge themselves in their social desires. There was also a children's play area for small families.

Mu Xiaomu was enjoying her time in the children's area. She was playing tag with the other kids, chasing around the area. In the end, all of the children started pulling off their masks amid jovial laughter.

Everyone was seemingly having a pleasant time except Mu Zhi, who was the odd one out.

She was here to avoid Lu Junnian.

When Mu Zhi recalled how she scrambled to get away from her room, she started laughing at herself amusingly. At this moment, a man with a fox masquerade mask gradually approached Mu Zhi. He bent forward from the waist to invite her to dance.

Mu Zhi had been hanging around the children's area the moment she stepped onto the rooftop. Courteously refusing the man's offer, she pointed at Mu Zhi, who was playing at a fair distance away.

In response, the man left reluctantly.

It did not take long for another man to take turns approaching her on various excuses. However, every one of them was met with rejection.

One of the men was seemingly reluctant to leave her.

Standing at the balcony, Lu Jinye caught sight of the man – a man who rocked a lion masquerade mask, and a lengthy figure. By the looks of his hair, the man appeared like a Caucasian man.

He approached Mu Zhi tactfully, then invited Mu Zhi for a dance. Similarly, Mu Zhi pointed in the general direction of the kids as a rejection, beckoning that she was a mother who needed to look after her child.

The man circled the dance floor in desolation before coming back to Mu Zhi for the second round of invitation.

"The kids will be safe here, we can just hang around the children's area. Miss, I really like you."

Mu Zhi maintained a courteous front as she declined him, "Thank you for your gesture, maybe next time."

Once again, the man with the lion mask walked away in despair.

Mu Zhi thought that was the end of it. Thus, she diverted her attention back to Mu Xiaomu.

But not long after, she realized the same man came trudging up to her again.

This time, he had a glass of mojito in his hand. He casually approached Mu Zhi and handed the glass to her while pointing afar at a few men.

"Those are my friends, they know that I like you so they're pushing me to woo you. I'm quite embarrassed now because I have been rejected twice. Without any choice, I could

only treat you to a glass of mojito.” Said the man dolefully as he pointed at the few men not far away.

Mu Zhi looked at the mojito, contemplating to refuse it once more.

But before she could say a word, the man added, “You could have it here, there’s no need to stay away from your child. Miss, I suppose that should be convincing enough, right? Miss, please accept it, or I’m gonna jump off the building.”

“It’s just too humiliating at this point. I can’t even invite a woman I like to dance.’

Mu Zhi was helpless, listening to the man’s lamentations. She received the glass and took a small sip at the mojito.

Seeing that Mu Zhi finally complied, the man was contented. He introduced himself, “My name is David, I’m in room 2709, you’re welcome to come have fun tonight.”

His remark instantly put Mu Zhi off.

She did not even care to respond to him. Standing up, she was looking to move away from the man.

Fortunately, the man did not appear to want to pester her. Holding his glass of wine, he slowly returned to where he came from.

Mu Zhi took a seat on another chair, checking the time intermittently. Lu Junnian should be here now, she thought to herself. He’ll leave when he notices I’m not around. Taking into account the time Lu Junnian might take to search for her, Mu Zhi estimated that fifty minutes should be more than enough before the coast was clear!

When the time was up, Mu Zhi decided to bring Mu Xiaomu back to the room for bed.

However, as soon as she rose to her feet, a dizziness sensation struck her.

She did not read much into it, pinning it on fatigue from the past few days. She bit the bullet, and headed towards Mu Xiaomu, telling her that it was time to go.

She started coaxing Mu Xiaomu to leave.

“Mama, your face is so red.”

Mu Xiaomu bade farewell with her newly made friends obediently, and came before Mu Zhi, saying in her little girl’s voice.

Upon getting pointed out by Mu Xiaomu, Mu Zhi caressed her face subconsciously... Why is it burning?

After caressing her face, the scorching hot sensation grew from the cheeks to all over her body, adding to the initial dizziness!

It had just occurred to Mu Zhi that something was not right. It might be due to the high alcohol content of the mojito earlier, hence her drunkenness. Mu Zhi hurriedly brought Mu Xiaomu and headed downstairs.

While waiting for the elevator, a few men came up to Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi's vision was starting to obscure. She was putting all effort to maintain her poise, clutching Mu Xiaomu's hand firmly, and shuffled to the side.

However, the man did not seem to be bothered by Mu Zhi's movements. He took a step towards Mu Zhi, leaning into her.

The man had taken off his mask. He had gold hair and blue eyes. Despite his fine looks, his face was relatively scrawny while his eyes, which were staring at Mu Zhi fixedly, appeared to be... Blatantly lustful. His gaze made Mu Zhi want to move backward.

"What is it? We were just having a drink earlier. Don't you recognize me anymore?"

The man said in a sinister tone.

He turned his face to me in between his words, saying, "It's me."

Following that, he put his mask back on!

It was the man who wore the lion mask!

Mu Zhi's eyelids were crashing down in this instance. But she continued to will herself awake, "The elevator is here. You can go first, I just remembered that I left something behind."

Then, she held Mu Xiaomu, preparing to return to the ball venue.

However, the man had reached out to clasp her wrist, "What did you forget? Wait for me on my bed, let me go get it for you."

In response to his mischievous words, Mu Zhi had the impulse to slap him across the face.

But she was drained of strength.

Lifting her hand in the air, she was as feeble as a kitten.

Meanwhile, standing next to her, Mu Xiaomu started wailing fearfully!

Lu Jinye had been gazing at Mu Zhi, but... He was overly captivating. A pack of women appeared out of nowhere, and swamped him, wanting to get to know him.

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Chapter 148 Am I That Unattractive

When Lu Jinye finally managed to free himself from the pack of thirsty women, he noticed that Mu Zhi had gone missing. He hurriedly scanned the ball venue but failed to pinpoint Mu Xiaomu. Thus, he deduced that Mu Zhi was no longer around.

He promptly wheeled around and strode towards the elevator.

When he came to the elevator, he caught glimpse of the elevator doors closing. Mu Xiaomu was left behind, weeping sorrowfully alone while Mu Zhi was carried into the elevator by a man.

Lu Jinye leaped forward to stop the elevator from shutting completely. He glared at the man with a pair of cold, apathetic eyes. The man was stunned, as though frozen from head to toe, and started trembling in response.

However, he picked up the remaining courage that was left in him, and warned Lu Jinye, "You better leave right now, mind your own business!"

Lu Jinye rooted his feet into the ground, standing by the elevator door, and would not let it close. He curled his lips into a faint smile. Without uttering a word, he launched a punch at the man.

The man did not react in time. He was knocked several steps backward, and almost stumbled to the ground. Mu Zhi slipped from his arms.

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Lu Jinye swiftly caught Mu Zhi before she landed on the floor.

Mu Zhi's face was oddly flushed all over. She fought to crack her eyes open to see at Lu Jinye before immediately letting her eyelids close.

She was powerless.

The contact between Lu Jinye's arms and Mu Zhi's body told him that something was not right with her. She was scorching hot!

At that thought, he reverted his gaze to the man. Before he could react, Lu Jinye aimed a hefty kick right on top of his belly.

Then, with Mu Zhi in his arms, Lu Jinye stepped out of the elevator.

The man was amid staggered to his balance when the elevator door shut on him and started heading downwards.

Seeing that Mu Zhi was rescued by Lu Jinye, Mu Xiaomu immediately stopped wailing. She sobbed dolefully, looked at Lu Jinye, face dappled with tear marks, and shouted, "Papa, mama hot."

Lu Jinye did not pause for a moment. He brought Mu Zhi into the next elevator, and held Mu Xiaomu's hand, returning to Mu Zhi's room.

He scrambled to retrieve Mu Zhi's room card from her purse, then brought Mu Xiaomu and her into their room.

However, he was trying to put Mu Zhi down on the bed when she relentlessly clung onto his neck. She buried into Lu Jinye's embrace ceaselessly, like a needy little kitten desiring to be petted.

But... With Mu Xiaomu around... Lu Jinye did not go with her flow.

It was clear that Mu Zhi was incapable to take care of Mu Xiaomu at this stage. Lu Jinye lowered his head to glance at Mu Zhi, then turned his attention to Mu Xiaomu, saying, "Your mama is asleep. Let me bring her to another room, then papa will be back to tell you a bedtime story, alright? So our story doesn't wake mama up."

"Ok."

Mu Xiaomu complied obsequiously.

Lu Jinye hurriedly seized his room card, brought Mu Zhi to his room, and tucked her into his bed. He stared down at her as she unremittingly tossed and turned in the bed.

Sighing helplessly, he leaned in to say to Mu Zhi softly with an enticing tone, "I understand that you feel uncomfortable right now, but I need to put Xiaomu to sleep."

By the looks of it, Mu Zhi might lose control anytime!

Lu Jinye must make use of the little amount of time he was given.

Mu Zhi could only feel emptiness and bleakness within her. What is Lu Jinye doing here?

The question continued to echo in her head. Besides that, all she wanted was to feel Lu Jinye.

When she reached out to hook her arms around Lu Jinye, she caught nothing but air. The next thing she realized was Lu Jinye had left the room, shutting the door behind him?!

Am I that unattractive?

Why is Lu Jinye running away from me?

Mu Zhi was burning inside.

She stood up, poured herself a glass of water, gulped it down but it did not quench her thirst at all. She was blazing. It was uncomfortably hot.

When she recollected about Lu Jinye leaving, she could sense blood surging into her brain.

She even followed her intuition to send Lu Jinye a text message, questioning him, 'Am I that unattractive? Why did you run away?'

Lu Jinye had just entered Mu Zhi's room to accompany Mu Xiaomu when the phone in his pocket went off. But he did not check it.

He peered at Mu Xiaomu, pondering. He never had any experience with babysitting...

Moreover, when he tried to recall his personal experience of being coaxed to sleep by his mother, it seemed to be non-existent. He had been sleeping independently.

However, the running clock on the wall felt like a ticking time-bomb, urging Lu Jinye to pick up his pace.

Lu Jinye ultimately asked Mu Xiaomu, "How does your mother usually put you to sleep?"

"Mama will read the book, a bedtime story."

"Bedtime story..."

It instantly dawned on Lu Jinye.

He swiftly put Mu Xiaomu onto the bed.

Bedtime story... Lu Jinye brainstormed briefly. What story should I tell her?

Lu Jinye did not know any children's tales like 'the Tortoise and the Hare', 'the Ugly Duckling' or 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

After all, Lu Jinye had never been into these tales when he was little.

He tried to recall the stories he used to read when he was Mu Xiaomu's age, and it immediately struck him that there was a story that suited Mu Xiaomu.

Fortunately, he could remember the story vividly without having to look through the net.

Let's go with the Currency Wars.

"The year was 1964 when the England Bank was founded. Within the span of three hundred years, the world evolved in a way such that every country had been impacted by the power of financial capital... The history of finance is littered with the conspiracy of mankind."

Mu Xiaomu stared at Lu Jinye solemnly. She was trying her best to process the gibberish that was leaving Lu Jinye's lips.

Despite recognizing most words that Lu Jinye had said, the combination of words made no sense to Mu Xiaomu at all.

What is a conspiracy?

And who is finance?

However, Mu Xiaomu was too desperate for a father. Even though she could not comprehend him, she was diligently trying to make sense of the story, listening to every word Lu Jinye had to say.

It was also Lu Jinye's first time coaxing a child to bed. Seeing that Mu Xiaomu was staring back at him with her expressive eyes, he thought she was enjoying his story.

But it did not take long before Mu Xiaomu collapsed into his chest and fell asleep.

Lu Jinye was startled to see Mu Xiaomu sound asleep. He had barely gone on for ten minutes.

Was that raw talent of putting a child to sleep?

But knowing that he had no time to spare, he came back to his senses, rose to his feet, and hurried back into his room to check up on Mu Zhi.

As soon as he opened the door, he was shocked by what was presented to him...

He understood that some drugs were powerful and worked wonders. But Lu Jinye did not expect Mu Zhi to strip herself naked, sitting on the bed, and staring at him with a stern face.

“Why don’t you like me?”

The first words that escaped her tongue were confrontational.

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Chapter 149 The Name of the Drug Is True Love

Mu Zhi got off the bed and started to trudge up to Lu Jinye. It felt like she could not recognize him.

But she continued, “Lu Jinye, let me tell you what, I’m no longer your wife!”

Lu Jinye had no idea what drug Mu Zhi was given. The effects of the drug seemed to be different from the ordinary ones he could normally see on the market. A typical drug resembled the sleeping pill, knocking someone out.

Or it would give someone a blazing desire.

But... In this instance, Mu Zhi was shirtless but displayed many forms of characters.

She first experienced dizziness, followed by heat flushes, and looked completely normal right now.

No way, Lu Jinye hurriedly lifted his phone, ignored the interrogating messages from Mu Zhi, and dialed a number.

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The personal doctor of the Lu Family answered his call and swiftly asked if there was anything he could do. But Lu Jinye was exasperated at this moment. He quickly summarized the symptoms Mu Zhi displayed, and asked, “With her condition, is there anything I can give her to cure her condition?”

There was a short pause on the other end of the phone, followed by the doctor’s explanation, “Mr. Lu, there’s a hallucinogen in the states called ‘true love’. I haven’t witnessed it myself, but I heard the drug only takes effect when the user has someone they desire. As you mentioned, at the third stage, the user would visualize whoever she comes across as their true love, and subsequently, they would go on to fulfill their needs...”

“How do I cure it?”

Towards the end of the doctor’s explanation, Lu Jinye could not bother listening to the nonsense.

Meanwhile, Mu Zhi was gradually crawling towards Lu Jinye, climbing on top of his shoulders, wrapping her arms around him.

The doctor then responded in a seemingly troubled tone, “Th-there’s... No cure.”

“Beep...”

Listening to his words, Lu Jinye immediately hung up the call, and put his phone away!

Since there was no cure, he figured there was no need to waste time.

He turned to Mu Zhi with a frown, asking, “Who am I?”

“Lu Jinye, what are you doing?”

Mu Zhi responded peevishly with a scowl.

That threw Lu Jinye off.

He studied Mu Zhi like a hawk. Mu Zhi did not behave any differently than an ordinary person.

But the expression of her eyes was more charming than usual, while the flushes of her skin gave her a more youthful demeanor.

Her actions were what confused Lu Jinye.

He had never truly understood her. Mu Zhi used to put up an obedient front towards him, playing the role of a gentle wife.

◦

Upon leaving him, she became independent and modest.

But now...

Lu Jinye kept his frown as he peered at Mu Zhi, while Mu Zhi had taken the initiation to cling onto him. Mu Zhi’s body was soft and tender. She had always kept a fair complexion.

It had been a while since Lu Jinye had his needs fulfilled. Her movements and touches ignited his burning passion.

Mu Zhi continued to press on. She aggressively flicked away the dangling hair that was in her way and then climbed on top of him.

She breathed into his ear, "Lu Jinye, why don't you like me?"

Lu Jinye...

She called out his name. Lu Jinye didn't normally feel anything special when she called him that.

But under the circumstances, it was pleasing to his ears.

That meant... In Mu Zhi's heart, Lu Jinye was her true love?

While Lu Jinye was pondering, Mu Zhi had pressed her lips against his. The instance her silky lips touched Lu Jinye's icy-cold lips, Mu Zhi felt a hint of relief.

She no longer wanted to let go.

Her mind had never been as irrational as it was right now.

Mu Zhi embraced Lu Jinye tightly, using her sprightly tongue to pry Lu Jinye's teeth open, and tactfully stimulated Lu Jinye's sensitive nerves.

Lu Jinye was stiff all over.

Mu Zhi was not in the right mind, but he was!

She had lost her rational mind, but he hadn't.

Usually! Lu Jinye had a reputation for being a quick decision-maker. He would not flinch before signing a business deal worth tens of billions.

Contrary to his usual self, when he was going up against the sheepish and eager Mu Zhi, Lu Jinye was hesitant to make a call.

He understood the position that he was currently put in. He also understood his responsibility.

When Mu Zhi was in the right mind, she would also push him to live up to his responsibility.

But! This woman! Made him uncontrollably desperate!

“Mu Zhi!”

Lu Jinye tried to shift his body away from Mu Zhi. But Mu Zhi raised her alluring eyes to stare at him. Her gaze was brimming with thirst. Biting her lower lip, she appeared to be reluctant.

“Lu Jinye, I never had the courage to tell you that... I like you.”

Upon finishing her words, a tear started rolling down her cheeks.

Lu Jinye could no longer resist. He leaned in to rub the tear off her face and then started running his fingers through her body.

Mu Zhi was cooperative.

While Lu Jinye was eager.

Firmly embracing Mu Zhi, Lu Jinye had never realized how much he needed her. In this instance, he was unwilling to let her get away from him again. She belonged to him.

Mu Zhi was meek like a little rabbit as she rested in Lu Jinye’s embrace while he had his arms tightly wrapped around her. It started raining outside without him realizing it.

...

When Mu Zhi woke up, she only felt sore all over.

She massaged her temples to soothe the agonizing headache, which felt like a hangover. Then, she wanted to pour herself a glass of water.

However, she felt the touch of a body when she was about to get off her bed.

She was startled awake. Turning to her side, she realized that it was Lu Jinye!

Mu Zhi was dumbstruck. It felt like a bolt of lightning had run through her. Why am I in the same bed as Lu Jinye?!

But before she could steady herself to think about the reason behind it, she was overwhelmed by what she should do now!

What can I do... She analyzed with her rational mind. After a series of pondering, the first idea that came to her was... Flee!

She scrambled to pick up her clothing, draped them over herself, opened the door, and bolted into her room.

At this moment, it suddenly occurred to her that Lu Jinye's room was right next to hers.

However, she could not recall a thing from what happened the prior night.

Upon returning to her room, Mu Zhi found out that Mu Xiaomu was still sound asleep. She was just planning to take a sip of water to calm herself down when she heard a series of footsteps from the corridor, followed by Xiao Qingqing's voice.

"Are you sure this is Jinye's room..."

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Chapter 150 There's You, There's Me, and There's Love

Hearing those words made Mu Zhi feel embarrassed and angry at the same time.

She promptly locked her door so it felt more secure.

She understood that it was consensus and everyone had their needs and rights to choose what they want to do with their bodies, but... It was Lu Jinye. Knowing that he was going to be a father, Mu Zhi felt she had crossed the boundary. She had the urge to jump off the building from her guilty conscience right now.

Bursting into the toilet, she turned on the shower to allow water to pour onto her skin, knocking some senses into her. But amid a cold shower, fragments of what happened the prior night started to come over her.

The more complete the visuals were, the more she hated herself.

Why did I take that drink without any awareness?

Mu Zhi heaved a sorrowful sigh and turned on the shower once again!

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What will Lu Jinye think of me now?

At that thought, it suddenly occurred to Mu Zhi that she might be overthinking. No way, I must divert my focus.

...

Xiao Qingqing came all the way from City A to the United States of America. When the door was answered, it was obvious to Xiao Qingqing that Lu Jinye had just woken up. He was disheveled with a casual T-shirt on.

Upon noticing that it was Xiao Qingqing at the door, his gaze instantly turned cold and distant.

“You’re pregnant, why did you come all the way here?”

What else? Just to see if you have another woman out here!

Xiao Qingqing fumed, but these were words must not leave her mouth. She walked into the room, pulled the curtains open to let the morning sunlight pour into space.

The bedsheets were disarranged. All of these were unlike Lu Jinye.

Xiao Qingqing could feel her body shuddering from rage. She hurriedly stormed into the bathroom. But! Nobody was there!

She searched the cupboards and anywhere else that might fit a person. In the end! She did not find a single soul!

Lu Jinye understood what Xiao Qingqing was after, but her actions did not seem to bother him. Allowing her to sweep through the room thoroughly, he languidly stepped into the bathroom, twisted the tap, and took a shower.

After his shower, he stepped out to see Xiao Qingqing seated upright on the chair.

“What were you looking for?”

Lu Jinye looked at her casually as he asked.

Xiao Qingqing clenched her fists, displaying a stiff smile on her face, “Jinye, I thought you have a new girlfriend since you came to the States. I’d just like to see her charms.”

Meanwhile, she could not stop sizing up Lu Jinye, hoping to find traces of clue from him.

However, Lu Jinye disregarded her remark. He grabbed a jacket, pulled it over him, then started buttoning his shirt steadily. When he was done, he looked to Xiao Qingqing.

“You’ve always been smart and sensible.”

So, don’t do anything stupid.

Lu Jinye did not let the latter words slip his tongue, but the message was successfully sent across.

Xiao Qingqing flushed to the roots of her hair. She scurried towards him, and seized his hand, stammering, "I... I might be influenced by hormonal fluctuations from the pregnancy. That's why I'm sensitive."

Lu Jinye indolently lifted his arm to check the time, and then told Xiao Qingqing, "I'm late for an appointment with a client. I'll get Linda to book a ticket for you. Go home."

"Jinye, I want to keep you accompanied."

Xiao Qingqing clasped Lu Jinye's hand, followed closely behind him with a solemn expression, desperately trying to fawn over him.

Lu Jinye studied her like with his deep-set eyes. However, he merely paused for a few seconds before turning to his usual listlessness.

He opened his lips, uttering, "Qingqing, I prefer how you were in the past when you focused on your career. I know you're ambitious. There's no need to sacrifice your dreams for me."

Finishing what he had to say, Lu Jinye took her hand away, preparing to set off.

But Xiao Qingqing let her emotions took over her once again. She raced towards Lu Jinye and hugged him from the back. Her voice was cracking when she started speaking.

"I'm willing to give up my dreams for you. I've repented from my mistakes. Why won't you give me a change? Jinye."

Xiao Qingqing sounded genuine.

Despite not turning around, Lu Jinye could feel her surging tears drenching the back of his dress shirt.

"I used to be fixated on my career just so I could match up to you. I was just fighting to marry you with dignity. But now... I've regretted it. If I will lose you in exchange for the success of my career, I'd rather not have a career."

Xiao Qingqing had completely broken down into tears towards the end of her remark.

Amid choking and sobbing, she confessed dolefully, "I love you, I've never felt so much pain in my life. You used to say that you'll stay by side regardless of what happens to me."

“You only married Mu Zhi in the first place because I left you. But I’ve returned, can you please give me back the love you once had for me?”

Lu Jinye had never witnessed Xiao Qingqing choking up this badly from her tears. She was trembling all over towards the end.

Finally, Lu Jinye wheeled around, gathered her into his embrace, and patted her to calm her down.

Xiao Qingqing buried herself into his neck, and would not leave, proclaiming to him, “Now that we have a baby. There’s you, there’s me, and there’s love. We can form the happiest family ever.”

Her words made Lu Jinye feel like a complete scumbag.

In the past, Lu Jinye would never allow Xiao Qingqing to shed a single tear.

But for reasons unknown to him, he now had the heart to see her cry without a twinge of heartache.

Thus, Lu Jinye could only console her by fulfilling her wishes. He said gently, “Ok, let’s go home.”

He had decided to return to City A with her.

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Mu Zhi was surreptitiously leaning against the door to overhear the ordeal outside. She planned to wait until both of them had left before leaving the room.

However, in this instance, she received a call from the hospital, “Miss Mu, we need you to come to the hospital at once, your mother has just woken up.”

Hearing those words brought goosebumps all over Mu Zhi.

She hurriedly hung up the call, brought Mu Xiaomu with her, and burst out of her room.

Alas, Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing were still standing at the entrance.

Upon exchanging uneasy glances, the surrounding air instantly turned thick with awkwardness.