

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 151

Chapter 151 What the Hell Have You Done After Winning Over Her Heart

Mu Zhi tried to withdraw into the room, but that would only make her look guilty.

Thus, she chose to step forward. Upon steadying herself, she held Mu Xiaomu and walked up to them. But they were all heading to the ground floor. So logically, there would only be one elevator.

Seeing Xiao Qingqing and Lu Jinye stand by the elevator door made Mu Zhi hesitate. She could not bear being in the same space as Lu Jinye.

Just as the elevator door opened, she carried Mu Xiaomu.

Then turned around, planning to find an excuse to go back to her room. However, Lu Jinye appeared to share the same idea.

He looked at Xiao Qingqing, and said, "I just remember that I might have left something behind in the room, let me get it."

"Sure."



While Xiao Qingqing was replying to Lu Jinye, Mu Zhi seized the opportunity and dashed into the elevator like a bolt of lightning with Mu Xiaomu in her hand.

The elevator door rolled shut. It started heading downwards gradually when Lu Jinye wheeled around once again, looking at the floor number to ascertain that the elevator had moved.

"It should be fine now, let's go."

He did not bother returning to the room, making no attempt to hide his blatant lying.

But Xiao Qingqing could not say anything. All she could do was quietly follow Lu Jinye into the elevator and left the hotel as a pair.

Why do I feel like Lu Jinye and Mu Zhi are behaving strangely today? Their behavior told Xiao Qingqing that they were trying to hide something from her.

Xiao Qingqing held her suspicion in her mind. She followed Lu Jinye into the plane, flew to City A, and returned to her home, but the questions that she kept within her continued to bother her!

However, as soon as they got home, Lu Jinye made his way straight to the company, saying that he had work to do.

Staring at him as he left the door, Xiao Qingqing was infuriated!

Slight! Slight! Slight!

When a man refused to put any effort into telling a lie, it meant that the woman had completely lost her place in his eyes! At that thought, Xiao Qingqing could feel every drop of blood within her boiling violently.

She refused to stay in that space for another second. Putting on a coat, she stormed out the door. But she was standing outside when she realized that there was nowhere she could go. After all... At this moment, the night had draped over the sky of City A. The city was illuminated by the glowing city lights.

It was a huge capital city, a city that never slept.

Xiao Qingqing suddenly recalled the reason she came to City A in the first place. There was a book that depicted City A as a city of endless dreams and miracles.

The streets were always lively at night. Regardless of how desolated one was, they would always be able to find a company in this city.

The city was filled with love.

However, Xiao Qingqing had no clue where she could find the book that introduced City A to her.

She had no idea where she could find the company she desired.

Did that mean she was a loser?

She wandered on the streets for a long while and ended up dialing Shen Mobo's number.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye did not go to the company. He lied through his teeth about going to work but hopped into his car and peevishly circled the city. After passing the same junction for the third time, he felt as though the driving did not help to fill the void inside him. In the end, he came to a bar.

The bar was owned by Xu Se's family.

However, he did not inform Xu Se. Sitting by the bar, Lu Jinye ordered a drink, and started taking small sips at it.

Unfortunately, he had just finished his first one when Xu Se's loud and mischievous voice arose from afar, "Yo, yo, isn't that Young Master Shen?"

"Hang on, and you, Miss Qingqing?"

Lu Jinye did not turn around. He overheard Shen Mobo muttering, "Enough, cut your crap, is Jinye here?"

It had been a while since Xu Se noticed Lu Jinye's presence, but Shen Mobo and Xiao Qingqing came into the bar just as he was planning to greet him.

Moreover, Shen Mobo had also spotted Lu Jinye when he stepped through the entrance.

After all, Lu Jinye was too stunning. It was difficult not to be noticed sitting in the middle of the crowd.

While Shen Mobo was approaching Lu Jinye, Xiao Qingqing immediately turned around to leave, "I need to go home."

But Lu Jinye did not even flinch.

Upon glancing at Xiao Qingqing, Shen Mobo ordered his chauffeur to see Xiao Qingqing off.

After ascertaining that Xiao Qingqing had left, Shen Mobo walked up to Lu Jinye, grabbed an empty glass for himself, filled it with whisky, and gave Lu Jinye a toast.

"Isn't it bleak to drink alone?"

Lu Jinye merely lifted his eyes to glimpse at Shen Mobo. He had no intention to entertain Shen Mobo, gulping down the entire glass, and helped himself to another one.

Shen Mobo followed suit.

Seeing that Lu Jinye and Shen Mobo were drinking grudgingly as though competing against each other, Xu Se walked up to them and cleverly said, "I've decided to skip tonight, I have a date. Please help yourselves, I will put your drinks on the tab! Hohoho, see ya!"

On top of his sinister words, he turned to the bartender and ordered, "Please don't stop them from drinking, our monthly revenue falls on these guys!"

Following that, he headed out of the bar...

Lu Jinye and Shen Mobo did not bat an eye at Xu Se, carrying on with their drinking.

They had reached the bottom of the whiskey bottle, when Shen Mobo poured Lu Jinye a glass, saying, "Jinye, did I introduce you to Qingqing in the early years?"

Lu Jinye said nothing.

He knew Shen Mobo had more to say.

Thus, he waited for him to finish his sentence.

"If the Lu Family did not reject Xiao Qingqing, she would never move to the States, trying to prove herself, and your fall-out with Master Lu would not have happened."

"If it weren't for Lu Family's disdain for Qingqing, she would continue to be your lover, and the both of you wouldn't need to go through all the hardships."

"Xiao Qingqing's upbringing is different from us. She experienced wickedness since she was young. She had nobody to rely on, so she must rely on herself to progress!"

After finishing those words, Shen Mobo saw that Lu Jinye continued to keep mum. He sniggered scornfully, "What you currently possess is something that others are dying to win over. How dare you bloody not treasure her?!"

Shen Mobo suddenly smashed his glass on the ground, shattering it into what seemed like millions of pieces scattered across the floor. He glared at Lu Jinye with bloodshot eyes, "I bloody love Xiao Qingqing too! And look at you, what the hell have you done after winning over her heart?!"

The surrounding crowd and the bartender were flummoxed.

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye stared at Shen Mobo with an apathetic gaze, and asked monotonously, "If you like her, why won't you go after her? Who are you to rebuke me?"

His listless attitude challenged Shen Mobo's limits!

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Chapter 152 How Enchanting Is That Woman

Shen Mobo fumed. He threw a punch on Lu Jinye's face.

Lu Jinye was having none of it. He returned the favor by launching a punch at Shen Mobo.

Everyone knew that the bar was owned by Xu Se, and as such, nobody would dare make a scene at the bar.

Let alone brawling!

Everyone knew who the two were. All of the staff members were jaw-dropped. They were not courageous enough to step in but were troubled to see the mess they made.

Finally, someone could not help but speak up, "Hurry up, give Young Master Xu a call! W-we can't afford to have either of these young masters hurt!"

One of the waiting staff then scrambled for the phone, and rang Xu Se!

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Xu Se was having a great time in his bar in the first place. But he left the bar when he saw both Lu Jinye and Shen Mobo's moody faces, to run away from their gloom.

Upon leaving the bar, Xu Se had no idea where to go. He took a stroll around town, browsed his phone, and ended up hopping into his car, heading to the airport.

When Jian Xiaoning stepped out of the airport, she was baffled to see Xu Se before her eyes. He was there to pick her up.

She blinked her eyes at Xu Se in disbelief. After ascertaining that it was indeed Xu Se, she pulled the luggage and went in a different direction.

Xu Se felt humiliated by her action. He swiftly strode towards her to stand in her way.

In a roguish manner, he said, "What is it? Not happy to see me?"

Jian Xiaoning rolled her eyes to the back of her head, "My horoscope sign predicts that I should be taking this route. Is that not allowed?"

In this instance, Xu Se's phone suddenly rang.

He glanced at the phone and noticed that the call was from the bar. He answered it insouciantly only to hear a panicking voice from his staff member, "Mr. Lu and Young Master Shen just got into a brawl! Please come back here, we... We don't dare to stop them."

"Stop them, stop them right now!"

"Get everyone to pull them apart. Don't worry about the business, just don't let them fight!"

Xu Se could not bother his astonishment, he gave his orders, hung up the phone, seized Jian Xiaoning's luggage, and dashed towards his car.

Meanwhile, Jian Xiaoning was stupefied. Her luggage was in Xu Se's hands, so she could only chase after him.

"Hey hey hey, put my luggage down, what do you think you are doing?"

"Get in the car!"

Xu Se skipped the explanation to Jian Xiaoning. He was already standing by his car when he came to a halt, asking Jian Xiaoning to get in.

Jian Xiaoning was dumbstruck by the cool temperament Xu Se radiated. She complied obsequiously.

As soon as she entered, Xu Se took off with a screeching tire squeak. Jian Xiaoning grasped the armrest with both hands, feeling that she might be launched out of her seat at any moment.

When they got to the bar entrance, Xu Se told Jian Xiaoning to enter, explaining to her, "Lu Jinye and Shen Mobo got into a fight, you're responsible to dress their wounds."

"..."

Jian Xiaoning did not bother rolling her eyes at Xu Se anymore. She mumbled with a chuckle, "But I'm a pediatrician."

However, as soon as she stepped into the bar, the idea of her specialization instantly got swept away but what she saw.

Adults fighting like kids?

Moreover, Lu Jinye had always shown poise, while Shen Mobo was the calmest of the lot!

By the looks of their wounds, Lu Jinye's fighting skills were superior to Shen Mobo. Apart from a punch bruise, he did not appear to have any other injury.

When the staff saw Xu Se and Jian Xiaoning's arrival, they scurried over to explain the ordeal to Xu Se so that Xu Se would have a clearer picture of the situation.

...

In the United States.

When Mu Zhi rushed to the hospital, she found out that her mother had truly regained consciousness through the glass barrier. The numbers on the ECG machine showed everything was normal.

But the doctor informed Mu Zhi that she must not enter the ward yet. The patient had been unconscious for many years. Despite having woken up, she was just starting to get used to the perception of her surroundings. Seeing Mu Zhi might trigger an unwanted series of reactions.

Mu Zhi thought it was nothing short of a miracle. She was grateful to the gods for her mother's progress.

She quickly showed her eager gratitude to the doctor.

In this instance, her phone suddenly went off.

Noticing that it came from Jian Xiaoning, she picked it up anxiously. But before she could share the good news to Jian Xiaoning, she could hear Jian Xiaoning's gossipy tone, "Guess whose wound I dressed today?"

"Who?"

"Lu Jinye and Shen Mobo!"

"Why?"

Mu Zhi asked in surprise.

"Shen Mobo and Lu Jinye were brawling. I heard they fought because of Xiao Qingqing."

Jian Xiaoning was flummoxed. She must spill the hot tea to Mu Zhi, and gain some information from Mu Zhi to make sense of the incident.

However, Mu Zhi's heart skipped a beat.

Why would she be conscience-struck?

“Why did they fight for Xiao Qingqing?”

She asked tentatively.

Did Xiao Qingqing find out about what happened between her and Lu Jinye? She told Shen Mobo, and he wanted to stand up for Xiao Qingqing, hence the confrontation with Lu Jinye.

Also, did that mean that she was next in line to be beaten up?

Mu Zhi could not help but hold her breath, allowing Jian Xiaoning to carry on with her story.

But Jian Xiaoning was as clueless as her. She elaborated her surmise, “Perhaps Shen Mobo likes Xiao Qingqing too, and as you know, Lu Jinye is marrying her, so both of them were fighting for their love. Tsk tsk, I wonder what Xiao Qingqing did to enchant the two men.”

After finishing her gossip, Jian Xiaoning suddenly recalled Mu Zhi’s purpose of travel, she asked, “Oh right, how are things in the states? Would you like me to go and bring Xiaomu back tomorrow? It’s tough to take care of a patient and the kid at the same time.”

Before Mu Zhi responded to Jian Xiaoning.

The voice of a man suddenly came into her ears.

“Dad, she’s awake. Yeah, got it. Don’t worry, I won’t do anything to her. I won’t acknowledge our relationship too.”

“Her daughter seems to be quite adamant.”

The few lines sounded like it came out of a drama series.

Mu Zhi turned around to face the man and realized that it was Dr. Bai Shao, who was attached to the treatment.

A dash of anxiousness flashed across Bai Shao’s face when he saw Mu Zhi, he said, “I have some business to take care of, talk later, I’ll continue to update you. Goodbye, dean.”

He addressed him as the dean!

Mu Zhi was starting to get confused. Was Bai Shao's father the dean of the hospital? She was certain that she overheard him saying 'dad'.

However, Bai Shao just nodded at Mu Zhi courteously before leaving.

Mu Zhi came back to her senses and continued chatting with Jian Xiaoning.

But Jian Xiaoning told Mu Zhi that Xiao Qingqing had come to the scene. She had to catch up to the latest gossip and hung up the call.

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Chapter 153 Plans To Let Go of Love

After the phone call, Mu Zhi frowned at the thought that everything was strange. She shook her head, and hurriedly returned to the glass window to watch her mother.

It had been days. Mu Zhi was upset for the first few days due to what happened between Lu Jinye and her. However, seeing that there was progress to her mother's condition, Mu Zhi slowly let Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing slipped out of her mind.

Jian Xiaoning was very thoughtful for Mu Zhi. She came all the way to the States to visit Mu Zhi, and brought Mu Xiaomu back to City A.

While Mu Zhi did not hear news of Lu Junnian since the last time she met Zhu Sha.

Mu Zhi would run into Zhu Sha every once in a while. As a doctor, it was Zhu Sha's job to communicate with Mu Zhi regarding her mother's condition. There was nothing much to talk about apart from work.

Just like that, a week passed harmoniously. Mu Zhi's routine involving taking care of her mother at the hospital, and sleep.

Without Lu Jinye and Lu Junnian, life seemed to be more tiring, but much less stressful.

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She remembered the invitation card Lu Jinye gave her. The wedding was due to take place around two weeks since the day she traveled to the States. However, Mu Zhi was intrigued to realize that she heard no news about the wedding.

Another half a month passed peacefully. One morning, Mu Zhi received a call from Lu Junnian, asking if she was still in the States.

To which, she simply replied, "Yes."

When she routinely arrived at the hospital to visit her mother, she was surprised to see Lu Junnian at the ward entrance from afar, expecting her.

He appeared to have been waiting for her for a while now!

Mu Zhi stared at Lu Junnian quietly, while a dazzling smile formed on his face. He then put an invitation card into her hand solemnly.

Mu Zhi could not help but startle, then looked to Lu Junnian.

She opened the card as soon as she got it, and at the center of the card, the words wrote, 'Lu Junnian & Zhu Sha'.

It was an invitation to their betrothal.

And it would take place the day after tomorrow.

Mu Zhi gazed at the card for a long moment. She could hardly describe her own feelings in this instance. All she could do was scrutinized every word and punctuation on the card, and said to Lu Junnian, "Congratulations."

What smile on his face disappeared. He looked at Mu Zhi quietly. The stern face told Mu Zhi that he was eager to search for a certain expression. "Are you serious?" He asked.

"Kind of."

Lu Junnian's question had left her wordless. She did not even know if it was the right thing to answer him.

Because... How would one determine if that was serious or not?

But she understood Lu Junnian. Since he had decided to betroth to Zhu Sha, there must be a reason to it.

Perhaps something had occurred.

Thus, as a friend, Mu Zhi asked curiously, "Do you love Zhu Sha?"

But little did she expect that as soon as she let the words escape her lips, Lu Junnian would seize her hand out of the blue, dragging her towards the exit.

As luck would have it, upon leaving the building, they bumped into Zhu Sha. Lu Junnian disregarded her completely, as if she was invisible. He pulled Mu Zhi towards his car, made her get in, turned the engine over, slammed on the gas, and took off in a hurry with Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi stared at Lu Junnian, realizing that he was not in the right mind. But she had no idea what to say. She could only put on her seatbelt.

After a long moment, Lu Junnian finally slowed down the car steadily, as though his frustrations had been vented. Mu Zhi then stroked her chest, and asked him, "What happened?"

Lu Junnian turned his face to Mu Zhi.

His eyes were gleaming with adoration and a dash of sorrow, asking, "Will you marry me?"

Mu Zhi was stunned by his words. She chuckled awkwardly while replying, "Stop joking with me."

But Lu Junnian closed in on Mu Zhi, his eyes locked on her face.

Mu Zhi had no idea how to handle him. Feeling the warmth of his breath, she involuntarily started leaning away from him.

Lu Junnian clutched Mu Zhi's shoulders, and reiterated solemnly, "Will you marry me?"

"Aren't you getting engaged to Dr. Zhu Sha? I think she's a pretty woman. She suits you."

Mu Zhi gulped as she answered.

She had no idea what had happened to Lu Junnian recently, and why Lu Junnian would show up out of the blue, ask her a question that threw her off.

However, it was clear to her that her response was not what Lu Junnian wanted to hear.

Mu Zhi realized that, but she did not know what else to say.

Awkward, utter awkwardness.

Lu Junnian came to a halt by a river. Babbling and burbling, the stream sprung over the limestone rocks in its way to form a magnificent view while Mu Zhi was trapped in the narrow space of a car with Lu Junnian. She hesitated, backed away further, and said, "Why don't we get off the car to enjoy the scenery?"

She was merely giving herself a way out.

She thought that after switching topics, Lu Junnian would relent from asking that same question.

He did not stop Mu Zhi, allowing her to undo her seatbelt, open the door, and stepped off the car.

Lu Junnian followed suit closely after.

He stood behind her, recollecting to her softly, "Zhu Sha once booked every single cruise of the river at night, and arranged them into the word 'love' to confess her love for me."

Hearing that, Mu Zhi did not know what she should say.

Lu Junnian was not expecting a response, continuing.

"Zhu Sha has a different personality to you. She is extroverted, and is clear of what she wants."

"In the past, I thought I could forget you. I tried to accept another person, but I later realized that you are irreplaceable!"

Mu Zhi remained speechless.

She clasped the corner of her shirt, threw her gaze at the steady waves of the river while ceaseless ripples arose in her heart.

"Lu Jinye, you should move on to another person. We can never return to the past."

Mu Zhi hesitated for a long time before turning around to meet Lu Junnian's eyes.

She felt the need to exhort him.

In the end, before the rest of her exhortation left her lips, Lu Junnian suddenly stepped forward with a long stride, hugged Mu Zhi, and sealed his lips against hers, regardless of her struggling. He later tried to pry her teeth open.

Mu Zhi was stiff from head to toe. She tried to back away, but there was no space behind her.

Lu Junnian clamped her arms within his fingers. There was no way she could escape.

Their posture made her feel uncomfortable.

Only after a while then Lu Junnian slowly let Mu Zhi go. He turned around in despair and hopped into his car.

Mu Zhi did not feel one bit of relief.

When Lu Junnian freed her, it symbolized him finally letting go of their relationship. But why was she not relieved?

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Chapter 154 Lu Jinye's Last-Minute Wedding

Mu Zhi watched Lu Junnian enter his car, and took off without her.

When she returned to the hospital, she received another copy of the invitation to Lu Junnian's betrothal.

Except for this time, it was not from Lu Junnian but Zhu Sha.

She was invited to their banquet in the home country.

Just as she was wondering how she would deal with the invitations, she received an electronic wedding invitation in her email.

The hosts were Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing.

So, are Xiao Qingqing and Lu Jinye finally getting married?

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Mu Zhi scrutinized every single word on the wedding invitation once again, including the punctuations as well as the wedding photo. However, she felt nothing after reading through it a few times.

As if she was illiterate.

Thus, she re-read the invitation.

Amid her unremitting inspection, Jian Xiaoning's call came in.

Mu Zhi was indifferent while paradoxically, Jian Xiaoning was worried sick.

“Have you heard about Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing’s marriage?”

Upon listening to Jian Xiaoning’s panic-stricken voice, Mu Zhi could not resist putting on a relaxed smile, “Yes I have, what about it?”

Mu Zhi’s insouciance made Jian Xiaoning even more nervous!

“Why does it seem like you don’t feel a thing?”

“What should I feel?”

Mu Zhi’s gaze was fixed on the wedding invitation throughout the phone call.

Once again, she went through the invitation word by word.

“Sigh.”

Only to hear Jian Xiaoning’s sigh from the phone.

“I heard that Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing only got married because she announced her pregnancy to the public. They say there’s a conspiracy behind it.”

Jian Xiaoning’s words did not trigger a reaction in Mu Zhi at all.

Mu Zhi casually replied, “Nah, there must be true love between Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing, besides, will Lu Jinye ever allow someone to coerce him into making a decision? No way. You’ve just been reading too many melodramatic novels about the rich, hence your baseless surmise.”

“No, seriously, this is from Xu Se.”

Jian Xiaoning proclaimed solemnly.

“After Lu Jinye and Shen Mobo got into a fight last time, I heard Xu Se mentioned that Lu Jinye has been cold towards Xiao Qingqing... He made me call you to ask you if we should ruin their wedding.”

“Haha.”

Mu Zhi instantly sniggered in response to Jian Xiaoning’s suggestion.

“Jian Xiaoning, when have you grown so close to Xu Se? Besides... What kind of stupid idea is that? Ruining their wedding? Why would I? I don’t love Lu Jinye and he doesn’t love me, why would I do that?”

Mu Zhi thought she was composed.

But her heart did not seem to agree with her. The moment she said the words, 'I don't love Lu Jinye', she felt tingling in her nose.

Following closely, when the words 'he doesn't love me' left her lips, hot briny tears started surging down her cheeks uncontrollably.

Mu Zhi had always been persuading herself that she had no love for Lu Jinye.

Why did tears start coming down...

"Alright, let's cut it. Let me go wash my face, I haven't washed it since this morning..."

Mu Zhi made up a random excuse, then wanted to hang up the call.

However, before she could hang up, a bloating sensation arose out of nowhere. She raced to the washroom and started retching.

The nauseous sensation that followed was insuppressible.

She took her time to steady herself in the washroom, and finally managed to get it under control. She slowly walked out of the washroom and put her phone against her ear before saying, "Talk to you later, I have things to take care of, bye."

She hung up right away.

After that, she reverted her attention to the invitation, and noticed that Lu Jinye's wedding had clashed with Lu Junnian's betrothal...

That's strange, why would they put it on the same day?

She faintly recalled Lu Yunxi mention that Lu Leiming did not fancy the Lu Family. But even if that was the case, deliberately clashing the two events was still uncalled for. Which one was Master Lu supposed to attend?

Mu Zhi put her phone away, deciding to turn a blind eye to the matters.

Dwelling on it would not help. After all, she wouldn't attend both of the events.

Moreover, Lu Jinye did not inform her of his wedding personally.

Strangely, the peevishness residing within her would not go away. She had the sudden urge to drink.

She wanted to use alcohol to numb herself.

But for some reason, as soon as the idea of drinking came to her, the bloating and nausea arose once again.

She desperately dashed into the washroom once again.

Did I get food poisoning?

...

Meanwhile, after hanging up the call, Jian Xiaoning turned her face to Xu Se, who had been waiting for an answer. She shook her head helplessly, then said, "I don't know what's her attitude all about."

Xu Se seemed perturbed.

He paced the patient's ward anxiously while saying, "By the looks of it, nothing is normal, and I have no idea what's going on with Jinye!"

"Then you should convince Lu Jinye to cancel the wedding."

Jian Xiaoning responded helplessly.

But her remark made Xu Se fume, "Make Jinye cancel the wedding? I need to first meet him face to face!"

"Here comes the issue, where is him?"

Jian Xiaoning was immediately muted.

She rooted her feet into the ground blankly, stared at Xu Se anxiously pacing the room ceaselessly.

She never had a sharp mind for business matters. The past half a month was as normal as it could get in her eyes. It started with Lu Jinye and Shen Mobo getting into a brawl. One of them was admitted to the hospital. Then, she ran into Lu Jinye breaking up with Xiao Qingqing at the hospital.

Xiao Qingqing stormed out of the hospital miserably. She disappeared for a week while Shen Mobo stealthily left the hospital in the middle of the night.

Then... News of Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing's marriage started floating around.

Jian Xiaoning was bewildered by the way things unfolded.

Looking at her confused look, Xu Se drew a deep breath and heaved a sorrowful sigh. He decided to reach out to Liang Yunzhan.

Business had never been his strong suit too.

But he had a feeling that Lu Jinye's decisions must be related to business and pecuniary interests.

A man like him would compromise for nothing except business interests.

Thus, Xu Se decided to enquire Liang Yunzhan regarding Lu Jinye's financial situation!

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Chapter 155 I No Longer Love You

Xiao Qingqing was sitting on the couch, looking at ten different wedding gowns neatly laid before her. She merely took a glance before turning away, wagging her hand at the designers, "Enough, take them away, I don't want to see them."

Hearing her words, the designers hurriedly set the gowns aside.

She was waiting for the manicurist to do her nails. After finishing with her nails and drying them, she nonchalantly put on her slippers and headed toward the windows.

The window glass was squeaky clean. The footmen were busy putting up the decorations outside.

Through the window, she extended her gaze along the yard and stopped at where the gate was. There was a footman currently standing on the top of the ladder, meticulously hanging up the red lanterns.

At the sight of the lanterns, Xiao Qingqing became upset. She burst out of the room, striding all the way to the gate, and yelled at the footmen, "Who told you to put the red lanterns on? They're as ugly as your faces, take it off, take it off, I don't like these lanterns."

The footmen were troubled.



All they did was responding to her in cowardice, "Miss Xiao, the lanterns brighten up the atmosphere for your wedding."

"What do you mean by brightening up the atmosphere?!"

“Change them all to Christmas lights, I want the colorful lights to extend from the yard all the way to the house. The more dazzling, the better.”

The footmen were distressed. They stood still without moving a finger.

At this moment, Lu Jinye’s car started moving toward them from afar and came to a halt by the gate.

He stepped off the car, and asked listlessly, “What’s going on?”

Xiao Qingqing immediately took on a coquettish expression when she saw Lu Jinye. She said, “I don’t like red lanterns, I prefer the little Christmas lights, they look more fashionable.”

Lu Jinye did not bother listening to her description and reasoning before uttering to the footmen, “Just do what she says.”

Hearing what he said, a contented beam appeared on Xiao Qingqing’s face.

She held Lu Jinye’s arm and headed into the house jovially.

Lu Jinye did not take off his shoes and coat when he entered the house. He casually circled the compound and looked like he was ready to leave.

However, Xiao Qingqing asked him solicitously, “Jinye, Madam Zhang is preparing dinner, would you like to stay for a meal?”

Lu Jinye glimpsed at her coolly, “I have some business to take care of at work, not today. I only came to see you because I heard that you’ve been lashing out at home. Now that you’re fine, I need to get going.”

“Jinye...”

Xiao Qingqing grabbed his arm flirtatiously, “D-don’t you care about our big day at all?”

Lu Jinye wore a smile, and said to her, “It’s your wedding, just plan it like how you’d like it to be. I trust you. Thanks for your effort.”

Finishing what he had to say, Lu Jinye promptly wheeled around, made a beeline to his car, and took off.

Meanwhile, Xiao Qingqing was clenching her fists fiercely.

Lu Jinye’s sarcastic smile and ingenuity combined with the mocking words ‘thanks for your effort’ almost drove her mad!

She paced the room peevishly but refused to lash out. It was pointless to vent her frustrations!

She earned everything with her own hands.

Even if she was upset, she insisted to be Lu Jinye's bride.

There was a point when she thought it was over between them. But the gods were watching over her, lending her a hand. Thus... She should learn to be grateful, to cherish what she had.

She could vividly remember the pain she felt when Lu Jinye told her that it was over between the two of them!

That night...

After learning of Shen Mobo and Lu Jinye's brawling, Xiao Qingqing rushed to Xu Se's bar as soon as she could.

Lu Jinye did not end up going to the hospital. He did not spare an extra glance at Xiao Qingqing. Instead, he got into his car and set off towards his villa.

Xiao Qingqing had no clue of what led to their fight. After ascertaining that Shen Mobo did not leak what happened between the two of them to the public, she went after Lu Jinye like nothing had happened.

At the time, after letting Xiao Qingqing into his villa, Lu Jinye handed a cheque to her right away.

It was a 50 million cheque.

Following that, Lu Jinye handed her a few house ownership certificates, saying, "This is my compensation to you, there're two villas, two apartments in the city center, and a sea-view apartment in City S."

Xiao Qingqing was flummoxed by Lu Jinye's actions.

She blinked a few times. Looking at Lu Jinye, she put up an ignorant front while asking, "Jinye, what is this?"

Lu Jinye's eyes were gleaming with affirmation. There was no trace of tenderness. He responded softly, "Sorry."

The word 'sorry' knocked every bit of strength out of Xiao Qingqing. She fell and slumped on the couch, looking up at Lu Jinye powerlessly.

Lu Jinye added, "I can't be married to you. The houses and money should set you up for life. If you don't want to keep the child, you can get an abortion. It's still early, which means the side effect should be lesser. If you choose to get an abortion, I will make sure you get the best care to nurse you back to health, but if you choose to keep the child..."

Lu Jinye paused and pondered before continuing, "If you choose to keep the child, I will compensate you with 100 million in cash. The child will be raised by the Lu Family. But if you want custody of the child, I will continue to provide alimony which includes your daily expenses and any extravagant expenses. I will be accountable to support you financially until you get married to a man you love."

Amid listening to his words, Xiao Qingqing stared at him with tear-brimming eyes.

She hesitated for a long moment before asking, "Jinye, what is all this? I don't understand."

"Look, I'm pregnant with your child, you love me, and I love you. We can be together!"

"Qingqing, you know what I meant. Stop pretending like you don't. I no longer love you."

Xiao Qingqing had intentions to keep up the act, but when Lu Jinye said those last words, she could no longer hold it in.

She rose to her feet in shock, caressed the bruise at the corner of his mouth, and said, "Jinye, have I been giving you too much stress? Do you need some time before marrying me? That's fine. I don't need you to marry me right away, I can wait."

"I can retire as a celebrity. After all, I haven't been in touch with people from the circle anyway. The paparazzi won't find out about my pregnancy before marriage. Or I can just lock myself up at home."

Xiao Qingqing was perturbed. She did not know what else she could do to salvage the relationship.

But Lu Jinye merely stared at her coldly.

His gaze was unyielding as he said, "Qingqing, you know that I don't love you anymore. There's no need to salvage our relationship. Our relationship had ended five years ago."

"No!"

Xiao Qingqing bellowed at him, "It's not over! Why is it over?! I have repented. I know I used to blindly chase after career progress five years ago, but I've learned my mistakes. Jinye, I only returned to the country for you, you know that..."

“What did I do wrong? Or what can I do better?”

Tears started streaming down Xiao Qingqing’s cheeks.

However, Lu Jinye did not say another word to her. He left the assets behind and headed out the door.

Xiao Qingqing scrambled to chase after him, but... She got tangled up in her own feet and tripped over herself.