

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 156

Chapter 156 I Respect His Choice and Believe in a Peaceful Break-Up

Xiao Qingqing watched Lu Jinye as he turned his engine over, and zoomed past her.

He had no intention to stay for a second longer.

If Lu Jinye had felt a tinge of reluctance, he would turn back to look at her. But he did not spare a glance at her. Thus, he did not see Xiao Qingqing stumbling onto the ground chasing after him.

Xiao Qingqing slumped on the ground for a long while before standing up. Lamenting tears flowed down her cheeks uncontrollably. She even started to hate herself. Why is the baby still alive? Why didn't I miscarry?

If she had miscarried from the fall, she could get the maid to inform Lu Jinye, and he would return for her in remorse. Subsequently, she would have another chance at salvaging the relationship.

The idea came to Xiao Qingqing when she was in despair.

However, when she stood up, she did not find any blood streaming down in between her legs like what the melodramas depicted. She felt no pain in her belly. Everything felt normal.

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All she could do was return to her room, and grabbed a jacket, then left the villa in desolation. She rang Shen Mobo and made her way to his place.

Xiao Qingqing did not know what else she could do.

But Shen Mobo felt a pang of heartache when he saw Xiao Qingqing's dejection. When he tried to convince her to let go of Lu Jinye, she showed her unwavering determination.

She refused to give up Lu Jinye. This was no longer about love. This was war. She must not surrender.

Wearing the pajamas Shen Mobo prepared for her, she sat on his bed and kept her head lowered, weeping throughout the night. She asked Shen Mobo to brainstorm ways for her to put her back into the battlefield, to have another shot at Lu Jinye's heart.

Shen Mobo stood next to her, gazing at her with resentful eyes. He slowly approached her, gathering her into his embrace, "Why would you be such a fool? Lu Jinye doesn't treasure you, but there are plenty of other men who would in this world."

Shen Mobo reminded Xiao Qingqing.

But, she lifted her swollen, bloodshot eyes, and said to him bitterly, "Mobo, would you let go of me?"

Her question left Shen Mobo speechless.

Xiao Qingqing then buried herself into his embrace dejectedly. She wrapped her arms around him to hug him firmly, then said in a sheepish tone, "You wouldn't. I'm sure of that."

"Then you should be clear of the pain I am currently feeling!"

Shen Mobo bent his head, tilted her chin up towards him to meet his gaze.

He saw the determined eyes on her pretty face, and ended up pushing her away in a fit of pique, commanding her, "Come to me!"

Xiao Qingqing did not answer him.

She lowered her head in silence.

Both of them were stuck in a stalemate for a long moment before Shen Mobo relented, looking at Xiao Qingqing's petite figure. He stepped forward to gather her towards his chest while she took the initiation to bring her lips towards him.

Amid exchanging rapid breaths, the warmth he exuded through his lips met her cold lips. It prompted his compassion towards her. He was desperate to warm her lips, firmly embracing her.

When Xiao Qingqing sensed his warmth, she curled up, and rubbed herself onto him, as though trying to become one with him.

She profusely fidgeted in his embrace.

Provoking his desires.

Until Shen Mobo carried Xiao Qingqing onto his bed, she looked at him with affection, begging him, "Help me, give it to me."

At that point, he could no longer tell if there was an overtone or simply humanly yearning.

Shen Mobo could only fondle on what felt like a soft, boneless figure, slowly penetrating her, hugging her, and responded gently and carefully, "Ok."

He felt dashes of discontentment and exasperation.

He vented his frustration at her, one time after another.

When Xiao Qingqing was exhausted and fell asleep, Shen Mobo stood up to use the bathroom. He put a jacket over him and sat in the lounge for that night. He spent the whole night smoking cigarettes. In the morning, he sent an anonymous message to Lu Leiming.

The Shen Group offered to inject 200 million into Lu Leiming's company, Leiting, to boost its finance capability to go up against Shanze.

At the same time, he requested Lu Leiming to propose a series of marketing plan to get Leiting listed, and subsequently corner Shanze.

Xiao Qingqing woke up two hours after Shen Mobo had arranged all these.

When she did, the TV was broadcasting the latest finance news, and Lu Leiming's figure came on screen. In the past, Leiting was regarded as a low profile, yet high performing company. Its boss tended to shy away from the public but his approach to business was ruthless.

There were plenty of speculations and rumors regarding Leiting on the market. The most common speculation was that Leiting belonged to the son or mistress of a tycoon. If it weren't for the support of a powerhouse in the industry, Leiming would not be expanding rapidly at this rate. Numerous finance journalists tried to investigate the boss of Leiting but to no avail. However! Today was the day he chose to come forth, causing an outrage in the finance world

During breakfast, it did not occur to Xiao Qingqing that the ordeal was related to her.

When she was done and preparing to leave, Shen Mobo suddenly stopped her and said, "Make sure you are decked up today, get your agent to organize a press conference, and announce the news of your break up with Lu Jinye, as well as your pregnancy."

Xiao Qingqing did not understand the intentions behind these.

But Shen Mobo insisted her to do as he said.

Thus, she complied with his instructions and wore light makeup followed by holding a press conference. She announced the news of her pregnancy on her social media through a subtle post, 'Child, I'm sorry that I cannot afford to give you a complete home, but I respect his choice and believe in a peaceful breakup. I trust that not long after when you have come to the world, you will understand my decision. In return, I will try my best to be a courageous mother.'

The few lines of words made Lu Jinye look like a complete scumbag.

...

Meanwhile.

The Lu Family held an emergency meeting.

Master Lu only called Lu Jinye, Lu Leiming, and Lu Yunxi to attend the meeting.

However, when he was informed by Master Lu's butler, Lu Leiming simply muttered at him,

"I've got no time."

He blatantly refused to attend the so-called family meeting.

Master Lu made a call to Lu Leiming personally, but the phone conversation did not end peacefully!

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Chapter 157 She Could Be Loveless, But Nobody Else Was Allowed To Possess Him

Lu Leiming did not sound any different than normal when he received Master Lu's phone call. He even greeted Master Lu courteously, "Dad."

Master Lu fumed!

"Don't call me dad, what the hell is Leiting about? What else have you been doing behind my back?!"

Master Lu questioned him stridently.

While Lu Leiming responded insouciantly, "Nothing much, but this is not the time to reveal them, and you don't need to know them, dad."

“Bastard!”

“Yeah, that’s me!”

Master Lu reproached Lu Leiming, and he went along with Master Lu with a malicious note.

In the end, they exchanged a few more words before ending the call peevishly.

On the other hand, Lu Jinye and Lu Yunxi rushed to the Lu’s Manor as soon as they received the order. When they arrived, the butler scurried out of the house, brushing past Lu Jinye and Lu Yunxi, ushering the paramedics to bring Master Lu into the ambulance on a stretcher.

The family meeting did not end up taking place.

Lu Jinye and Lu Yunxi rushed to the hospital.

Due to the on-going chain of events, news of Master Lu’s admittance to the hospital was suppressed. Nobody was aware of it apart from their family doctor.

The share price of the Lu’s family business was slightly impacted earlier by the rumors involving Lu Jinye, Mu Zhi, and Xiao Qingqing’s messy relationship. Fortunately, it was merely a momentary drop from the knee-jerk reaction of the market.

However this time, due to Leiting’s impact and Lu Leiming’s appearance on the finance news, numerous scandals related to Master Lu from the early days were uncovered by the paparazzi. Master’s reputation took a hit and consequently affected all of the subsidiaries of the Lu Family.

Meanwhile, Xiao Qingqing’s break up announcement with an emphasis on her pregnancy added to the reputation damage of the Lu Family.

Lu Jinye was capable, but he had been focusing on his business expansions. He had never been keen to rely on Master Lu to advance in his career.

As a result, many of Master Lu’s assets were managed by hired executives. Facing the sudden flurry of attacks, paired with the family’s pillar, Master Lu’s admittance to the hospital, the Lu Family had turned into chaos.

Amid the commotion, Lu Jinye was called upon to step up in place of Master Lu.

Master Lu regained his consciousness eighteen hours into his admittance. The first words that came out of his mouth were to ask for Lu Jinye.

Lu Jinye had never seen Master Lu this feeble before. Despite his persistent front, it was obvious that Master Lu's recent health complications had taken a toll on his body. He was almost begging Lu Jinye to save the core business of their family

The empire was built up from scratch throughout Master Lu's life.

Despite the strong performance from the other subsidiaries of the family business, Master Lu did not invest nearly as much time in the rest of the businesses as he did in the core business.

After making his orders, Master Lu fell into a deep sleep once again.

Lu Jinye could not turn a blind eye to his request.

Meanwhile, Lu Yunxi did nothing but panic while his mother was wailing nervously.

When Lu Jinye left the hospital, the first thing he did was to command the Public Relations Department to censor all news regarding the Lu Family, including that ordeal surrounding Xiao Qingqing.

However, it was too late for the cover up after dealing with Master Lu's condition. Lu Jinye resorted to visiting Xiao Qingqing for a discussion, to discuss a fire-fighting plan!

Xiao Qingqing thought Lu Jinye would come running at her after posting the passage on her social media page. However, she had waited for twenty-four hours but to no avail. She could feel herself burning out. She was eager to win over his heart.

Just as she was starting to get perturbed, Lu Jinye showed up before her.

He stepped into Xiao Qingqing's villa. Apart from a dash of exhaustion, he rocked his usual poise.

Seeing Lu Jinye's arrival, Xiao Qingqing hurriedly rose to her feet, slowly approached him, and asked coyly, "Jinye, what are you doing here?"

Glancing at her quietly, Lu Jinye sat on the couch and said, "You're a public figure. I've never interfered with what you do at your social media platforms, but Lu Family is experiencing several issues lately."

"Jinye, if you need any help, just let me know. I'm at your disposal."

Xiao Qingqing replied to him sheepishly. She subconsciously leaned into him, gradually rubbing her body against his.

She added, "Jinye, I know that you've just acted in a fit of pique earlier when you said you wanted to break up with me. You still love me."

Lu Jinye clenched his fists fiercely but kept a nonchalant front.

He looked at Xiao Qingqing coolly, and said, "I hope you could post another passage to prove that our relationship is still intact. After the ordeal is over, I won't stop you from doing whatever you want."

Xiao Qingqing did not listen to his words at all. She seized his arm, and hugged him, saying, "But... All I want is you. I only want to marry you."

Lu Jinye stared at her listlessly.

"Apart from getting married to me, I will fulfill any condition you request."

Upon hearing that, Xiao Qingqing clenched her fists nervously. She knew Lu Jinye. Thus, she could tell from his eyes that there was no trace of love and affection.

But she laughed lightly and said, "I don't want anything except you."

Lu Jinye's gaze turned solemn. He stared at her for a long moment and decided that there no room for negotiation. He stood up and prepared to leave.

At this moment, Xiao Qingqing came behind him and embraced him once again.

Her tone changed to an unwavering one.

"I have three requests, if you can fulfill them, I will do as you wish."

"Firstly, give me a glamorous wedding and make it known to the whole world. I am a public figure, and I've been active in charity in recent years. Apart from the scandals in the early stages of my career, I've always upheld a great reputation. I can help with the slumping share price of the Lu's family business. Secondly, invite Mu Zhi to the wedding. Thirdly, you must pretend to be in love with me in the public, cut ties with Mu Zhi."

"Till when?"

Lu Jinye peered at Xiao Qingqing with poise after listening to her conditions.

Xiao Qingqing sniggered, then drew a deep breath before saying, "A year."

"Half a year."

Lu Jinye said with a stern face.

Xiao Qingqing was utterly disappointed. Was Lu Jinye that eager to leave her?

Could he not spare a year to her? Must he shorten it by half?

However, just as Lu Jinye was about to leave, she stopped him, and agreed to him...

She could be loveless, but nobody else was allowed to possess him!

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Chapter 158 Mr Lu, You Can Marry Whoever You Wants!

After making a deal with Xiao Qingqing, Lu Jinye burst out of the villa. He showed no sign of wanting to stay.

Lu Jinye's Public Relations Department was a high performing team. In the blink of an eye, they managed to wipe off most news that was floating in the market. They also amended the reputation damages that could not be undone in the most proficient way possible.

At the same time, news of Xiao Qingqing and Lu Jinye's marriage took City A by storm.

Xiao Qingqing announced that the post earlier was just the result of a quibble between the couple. Lu Jinye released a statement that was consistent with Xiao Qingqing's.

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Fast forward, although Mu Zhi rejected Jian Xiaoning's suggestion to return to the country, there was a voice inside her head that urged her to search for the latest update regarding Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing.

However, the search results appeared to have gone through a filter. Every trace of Xiao Qingqing's rumor had vanished into the algorithm, including her scandals from the early years of her career.

Mu Zhi was a little confused. Apart from Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing's various intimate interactions in public events, she could not find anything else on him. Meanwhile, the clash between Lu Junnian and Lu Jinye's big days were merely dubiously covered by the media.

Holding the phone in her hand, Mu Zhi continued to vigorously search for news about Lu Jinye and Xiao Thus, she sensibly forced herself to set her phone aside.

But it had barely been five seconds when the phone was put down before it started ringing. Mu Zhi promptly leaned towards it and realized that the call came from Lu Jinye's number.

Umm...

She hesitated, and ultimately picked up the phone.

It wasn't until Mu Zhi said the word 'hello' when she realized that she was subconsciously eager for the call.

However, instead of Lu Jinye's voice, she could only hear a crisp sound of a laugh.

"Hello, Miss Mu Zhi, how are you? Xiao Qingqing here."

Mu Zhi could instantly tell who it was the moment she uttered her first word.

In a listless tone, Mu Zhi said, "What can I do for you?"

"Miss Mu, Jinye has sent you an electronic invitation to our wedding, I'm just wondering if you've received it. If you haven't, I'd just like to inform you verbally."

"No, thank you, I've received it."

Just as Xiao Qingqing was planning to make the verbal invitation, Mu Zhi cut her off right away.

But Xiao Qingqing did not seem bothered by the interruption. She chuckled lightly.

"Then I hope to see you at our wedding, Miss Mu. The wedding is a lot less fun without you."

"If that's the case I suppose the wedding is fated to be less fun."

Mu Zhi was upset. She clasped the phone tightly in her hand while responding in an indifferent tone.

"Miss Mu, why don't I ask Jinye to charter a flight to bring you home? You must be here, it won't take you that long."

Xiao Qingqing insisted on her provocative jeers.

"Nah, I suppose you understand that my mother has a condition. This is an important period and needs close monitoring. Alright, Miss Xiao, if there's nothing else you'd like to say, I gotta go."

Mu Zhi refused to wait for Xiao Qingqing's reply before hanging up the call.

After that, she heaved a deep sigh.

It had just occurred to her that... She was holding her breath involuntarily throughout the call.

Her hands were shuddering.

She promptly went to fetch herself a glass of water, gulped it down, and then steadied her emotions.

As soon as she did, her phone went off once again.

Lu Jinye's name appeared on the screen yet another time.

Mu Zhi hesitated. She did not want to answer the call.

But ignoring the call made her look like a coward.

Upon pondering briefly, she decided to pick it up.

She did not wait for Xiao Qingqing to speak before blurting out, "Stop calling me, Miss Xiao, I will not attend the wedding."

Finishing what she had to say, she started stretching out her thumb to end the call.

However, this time... Lu Jinye's voice came from the speaker, "Mu Zhi, it's me."

The four mere words made Mu Zhi pant rapidly.

For a moment, she struggled to gather a proper response.

"What is it?"

It took a long pause before Mu Zhi asked calmly.

Instead of addressing her question, Lu Jinye answered with another question.

"Did Xiao Qingqing call you?"

"Yeah, to inform me to attend the wedding."

Mu Zhi had nothing much to say to Lu Jinye.

After all, before coming to the States, the relationship between the two was in jeopardy. She was under the impression that Lu Jinye only sent her the invitation out of spite. There was no need to inform her once more.

Lu Jinye responded, "It's up to you if you don't want to attend, but I hope you could come."

Listening to his words, Mu Zhi did not want to say another word. She hung up the call immediately.

But hanging up on him did not soothe her frustrations.

Was Lu Jinye so madly in love with Xiao Qingqing? Unquestionably, Xiao Qingqing invited her just to assert dominance over her. Did Lu Jinye have to send ceaseless reminders to her?

Was he that eager for her to witness his wedding? Would he only be satisfied when she was upset?

Lu Jinye followed up with a text message. It was nothing but the address of their wedding.

Mu Zhi could no longer hold it. She grabbed her phone and made a return call to Lu Jinye. As soon as it was picked up, Mu Zhi did not give him a chance to speak while bursting out in a flurry of scolding.

“Mr. Lu, I understand that you chose to rescue Miss Xiao as a display of love when Mu Xiaomu and I were in danger.”

Drawing a deep breath, Mu Zhi was putting all efforts to sound as calm as she could.

She continued, “I can also understand the reason you coerced me into the repayment and drove me out of the apartment. After all, our marriage was built upon a contract. There was no affection between us. So, Mr. Lu, you’re free whatever you want to do!”

“But!”

Mu Zhi’s tone became increasingly unwavering. She said solemnly, “Mr. Lu Jinye, we are no longer related to each other. You can marry whoever you want to, just keep in mind that I will not attend the wedding!”

“If you don’t attend, Miss Mu, I’m afraid that I’m gonna have to collect the payment of the medical bill for your mother’s treatment.”

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Chapter 159 Did You Say Lu Jinye Had a One-Night Stand?!

Mu Zhi could not believe her ears when she heard those words.

She clutched the phone fiercely. But his voice was replaced by Xiao Qingqing out of a sudden.

Xiao Qingqing held his phone lightly. Every single word that came from her was mild and soft, but to Mu Zhi's ears, they were screamingly provocative.

“Miss Mu, Jinye has never had a tinge of love for you. He’s only paying the medical bill for you out of goodwill. If you attend our wedding, your mother will continue to get her treatment while Jinye and I will be over the moon. That’s a win-win situation.

Xiao Qingqing paused and continued.

“Miss Mu, why put all of us on the spot?”

Upon hearing those words, Mu Zhi could feel her teeth cracking from clenching her jaws too hard.

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But she refused to yield.

“Miss Xiao, does my presence at your wedding really make a big difference?”

Mu Zhi took her time to steady herself before asking.

Xiao Qingqing responded with hints of laughs, “Of course it does, I’d be over the moon if you could be here to bless Jinye and I, Miss Mu.”

“I wouldn’t want to make life too difficult for you. I’ll ask Jinye to send a chartered flight to pick you up at eight in the morning tomorrow for our wedding. We will be waiting for you, Miss Mu.”

Following that, Xiao Qingqing hung up on Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi was seething. She had the impulse to hurl the phone against the wall. But her rational mind stopped her from doing so. All she could do was slump on the couch in anguish, clasping her phone in her hands.

She stared at the clock on the wall blankly. Time was ticking by the second while she could not do a thing. She despised the powerless feeling that she was experiencing.

She had no means to retaliate, knowing that Xiao Qingqing was deliberately asserting dominance over her.

Why was Lu Jinye doing this to her?

He was willing to trample on her dignity without a good reason, just to stand up for the woman he loved.

Mu Zhi had no idea how to decide. She daydreamed for a full minute, ultimately grabbed her jacket, and headed towards the hospital. Through the glass window, she could see her mother breathing independently. The vitals were showing positive signs of progress. Thus, she decided that... She should compromise.

When she returned from the hospital, Mu Zhi did not inform Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing about attending their wedding. She switched off her phone, and fell asleep early in the night.

Meanwhile in City A, having just returned from Liang Yunzhan's place, Xu Se was pacing his home, intermittently gazing at the calendar on the wall. He went to look for Liang Yunzhan in hopes to find answers about what happened in the Lu Family.

However, Liang Yunzhan had no comment. He only said to Xu Se, "There's a reason Lu Jinye does what he does. The wedding isn't as simple as it seems. Jinye has always calculated a hundred steps ahead in his decision-making process. So, we don't need to worry."

Despite Liang Yunzhan's elaboration, Xu Se felt his words were baffling. Xu Se later concluded that these were simply words to deceive him.

He said to Liang Yunzhan furiously, "Brother, are you taking advantage of me just because I'm uneducated and don't understand your business strategies? Sure... I admit that I'm clueless about what Jinye is doing right now, but I disagree with his move to marry Xiao Qingqing."

Liang Yunzhan just yawned in response. He patted Xu Se on the shoulder, "I'm tired, let me take a nap, go home."

"Brother!"

Xu Se had more to say, but Liang Yunzhan was already heading to his room.

Thus, without a choice, Xu Se set off for his home angrily. As soon as he arrived at home, he called Jian Xiaoning over.

Xu Se was pacing his yard anxiously when Jian Xiaoning reached.

She glanced at Xu Se, wondering to herself that she had never seen Xu Se in such distress before. But she approached him and asked with an ignorant façade, "What did you call me here for? Is this about Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing's wedding?"

Xu Se nodded solemnly.

Jian Xiaoning sniggered. She scanned the area and found a wooden swing. She went to sit on it and started swinging nonchalantly. "I've informed Mu Zhi, but she doesn't seem to care. Look at Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing's loving front in their recent public appearances. What are you worried about?"

"What do you think the recent public appearances are all about? Umm... Look, do you think there's a connection to Lu Leiming's announcement to form an independent company?"

Standing next to Jian Xiaoning, Xu Se stared at her with a stern face and asked.

The question left her wordless.

She looked back at him, and asked, "I'm a doctor. All I do is interact with kids during work, and my favorite pastimes are watching melodrama and reading novels. How on earth do you think I possibly know the answer to your question?"

"That reminds me. Don't you sons of the rich have business training or something? I thought your father would teach you a thing or two."

"Sigh!" Xu Se became more perturbed.

He glanced at her in exasperation, "I will learn about these strategies in the future, and I will apply it to something else other than courting ladies."

Jian Xiaoning sniggered at his words.

She looked at him quietly. It suddenly occurred to him that Xu Se was adorable in some aspects.

At least he was frank.

"Why can't you make peace with Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing's marriage? Not like it has anything to do with you."

Jian Xiaoning and Mu Zhi were best friends. Knowing Mu Zhi's personality, she believed that Mu Zhi wouldn't express her wishes explicitly.

Besides, Mu Zhi loved Lu Jinye, but she was adamant that Lu Jinye had no love for her.

Xu Se wheeled around to look at Jian Xiaoning solemnly, "Based on my years of womanizing, I have never believed that there is a second chance at love. Besides, I've always thought that Xiao Qingqing is a cunning woman since they started going out."

“Later, Jinye set up his own company for Xiao Qingqing, but she chose to go to the States to advance in her career. Jinye was desolated for some time after the breakup.”

“This is why I don’t want to see them together. I don’t like that woman, and I don’t think she truly loves Jinye.”

“I haven’t seen Jinye tormenting himself like this before. He used to be loyal to his relationships. He hates fickle-minded men because Master Lu is one of them.”

“But in an attempt to get rid of his suffering, Jinye once told me to arrange for a one-night stand. He asked me to give him some drugs and booked the hotel himself. That was simply torturing himself!”

“Hang on! Did you say Lu Jinye had a one-night stand?!”

Jian Xiaoning anxiously leaped off the swing.

She gaped her eyes and interrogated Xu Se.

Xu Se nodded solemnly, but did not understand what Jian Xiaoning was trying to express.

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Chapter 160 Mu Xiaomu Is Mu Zhi’s Daughter!

The beaming smile on Jian Xiaoning’s face was too obvious. She jovially skipped around Xu Se, then clutched his face, saying, “Hey, you’re not that stupid after all, at least your brain can be useful sometimes.”

Facing the sudden compliments by Jian Xiaoning, Xu Se became even more confused.

However, Jian Xiaoning explained, “That means Mu Xiaomu is Lu Jinye’s child from the one-night stand!”

Xu Se was expecting a ground-breaking suggestion coming from Jian Xiaoning, looking at her cheerful expression.

But her words instantly made him give her an eye-roll.

“Pfft, who are you gonna fool with that stupid plan? Do you think Jinye will believe it when you say that he’s the father of your child?”

Jian Xiaoning glared at him.

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“Mu Xiaomu isn’t my child, she is Mu Zhi’s! Mu Zhi had a one-night stand before. But it’s too late now. The wedding is taking place tomorrow, the DNA results won’t come out in time. Fine, I’ve decided to go to the hospital to make a falsified copy of DNA report to prove that Lu Jinye and Xiaomu are father and child.”

“Then?”

Xu Se was completely caught off guard by Jian Xiaoning’s bold, outrageous plan at this point.

“Then... We will hide Xiaomu tomorrow, and announce of her disappearance in a timely manner.”

“Great!”

Xu Se could no longer analyze the logic of her suggestion. To him, any plan was a good plan.

After all, he had always believed in true love. All he wanted was to stop Lu Jinye from throwing himself under the bus, of which Xiao Qingqing was the driver, once again!

Done, that was the plan!

He promptly dropped Jian Xiaoning off at the hospital. She intended to backtrack Mu Xiaomu’s birthday to match the night of Lu Jinye’s one-night stand as a stronger justification, but Xu Se could not recall the exact date it happened.

Thus, the pair could only falsify the birth certificate for now.

Following that, Mu Xiaomu was brought to one of Xu Se’s villa to fake her abduction.

Next up... Was to lure Mu Zhi back to the country.

Mu Zhi had been too passive. Jian Xiaoning always believed that if Mu Zhi had witnessed Lu Jinye marrying another woman in person, her jealous self might make her realize that she actually loved Lu Jinye!

True enough, Jian Xiaoning had seen too many melodramas. All of these plans were devised based on what she learned from the dramas.

Thus, she executed what seemed like a flawless plan to her.

It was morning in City A and night time at where Mu Zhi was.

She received a call in the middle of the night. It was Xiao Qingqing nudging her to attend the wedding, and informing her that the flight was ready.

Mu Zhi intentionally dressed up in black.

He only made her attend the wedding but didn't specify what she should show up in.

Since they were blatantly gloating over their marriage, she figured she should retaliate by treating it as a funeral.

Mu Zhi boarded the flight in a drowsy daze. Before the flight departed, her phone rang once again.

It was from Jian Xiaoning. Her tone was overwhelmed by terror, saying, "Mu Zhi, Xiaomu has gone missing!"

"How did you lose her?"

Mu Zhi had her eyes shut for a light nap before the call came in. Listening to Jian Xiaoning's words startled her to the edge of the seat, question her solemnly.

"I have no idea. I brought Xiaomu out to play yesterday, we even ran into Xiao Qingqing. I brought her home and told her that I'll be going downstairs to buy some stuff. I told her to wait for me, but when I came back, she was gone!"

"I can't find anything on the surveillance footage too!"

Fortunately, she only had to lie over the phone call. Jian Xiaoning realized that her acting wasn't as seasoned as she thought it was. Despite countless rehearsals of the storyline she learned from drama, she could not resist her trembling during the call.

However... Jian Xiaoning's trembling voice was only perceived as nervousness in Mu Zhi's ear.

Mu Zhi clenched her fists uncontrollably at the sound of Xiao Qingqing's name but calmly consoled Jian Xiaoning.

"Don't be afraid, I'm on my way to City A. Confront Xiao Qingqing, keep an eye on her, and make sure she doesn't go anywhere."

"Ok."

Jian Xiaoning's worries were mollified. She didn't think the plan would happen so smoothly.

She promptly obliged.

And hung up the call.

Throughout the journey of the flight, Mu Zhi had never imagined that she would be so eager to see Xiao Qingqing.

The flight landed at a field of mount chateau. Mu Zhi got off the flight and was greeted by a romantic air of the wedding.

But she had no time to admire the extravagant wedding decorations Xiao Qingqing arranged. She asked the first footman she saw, "Where is Xiao Qingqing?"

Seeing that an overbearing air was clung onto Mu Zhi, the footman did not dare slight her, "At the makeup room."

Then, he promptly ushered Mu Zhi to the door of the makeup room before scrambling away timidly.

Mu Zhi did not bother knocking on the door before bursting into the room. Xiao Qingqing was surrounded by a team of makeup artists and fashion designers amid makeup. Noticing Mu Zhi's arrival, she greeted her through the reflection of the mirror, "Miss Mu, I didn't expect that you'd show up. What a forgiving woman you are."

"Cut your crap."

Mu Zhi peered at Xiao Qingqing disdainfully.

She must admit that Xiao Qingqing looked spectacular. The superb skills of the artists paired with Xiao Qingqing's charms made her look like she was an angel descended from the heavens.

However, Mu Zhi could not be bothered by Xiao Qingqing's appearance, as ethereal as she might be.

She questioned Xiao Qingqing right away, "Where is Mu Xiaomu?"

Xiao Qingqing did not turn back. In a languid voice, she responded, "Miss Mu, why would I know where Mu Xiaomu is? The child has nothing to do with me."

"Stop pretending."

Mu Zhi stood behind Xiao Qingqing.

Deep down, Mu Zhi was not that concerned. Listening to Jian Xiaoning's recollection, Mu Zhi had determined that Xiao Qingqing abducted Mu Xiaomu just to lure her to the wedding. Since Mu Zhi had shown up, Mu Xiaomu would be fine.

To her knowledge, Xiao Qingqing might be a sly woman, but wouldn't go as far as to kidnap a child.

After all, the wedding had taken the city by storm. Almost every member of the prominent media outlets of the city was invited. Thus, any devious actions by Xiao Qingqing would be exposed to the public in a flash.

However, Xiao Qingqing was clueless.

She said to Mu Zhi, "Miss Mu, I have no idea what you're talking about."

"Please excuse me, it's time for me to get changed."

She drove Mu Zhi away in preparation to change into the wedding gown.

At this moment, Lu Jinye showed up at the scene, considerably late.

He did not seem to be anxious in contrast to Xu Se, who showed up even later, scurrying towards Lu Jinye. He said, "Jinye, let me show you a laboratory test report!"