

## Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 171

### Chapter 171 The Judgmental Gaze

A nurse was scurrying around the floor, asking, “Any type O blood carriers here? There’s a shortage of type O blood in the blood bank, and your beloved Dr. Lu Junnian is in desperate need of blood transfusion!”

The floor was especially dedicated to the VIPs. If it weren’t for an emergency, the medical staff would not be coming to that floor for help!

Mu Zhi did not hesitate before dashing out of the room.

During their college days, Mu Zhi and Lu Junnian used to do crossmatching of the blood. She was a suitable blood donor to Lu Junnian.

Mu Zhi had been secretly struck by worry since she heard of Lu Junnian’s name earlier.

How did he get into an accident? How much blood did he lose? Is his life in danger?

Apart from concern for Lu Junnian, her actions were also motivated by a sense of mission as a doctor. It was a display of respecting lives!

However, before dashing out of the room, Mu Zhi was in the middle of a conversation with Master Lu. Her rushing away made Master Lu visibly upset!

Oblivious of Master Lu, Mu Zhi had headed downstairs anxiously.

...

Lu Jinye had just finished his meeting. Upon leaving the meeting room, he had the secretary brew a cup of coffee for himself.

Physical and mental exhaustion overwhelmed him. With the survival of Lu Group at stake, every move they made required vigorous data analysis, planning, and execution. Any single mistake would cost them the company. Thus, every decision made came with a large amount of tension!

Lu Jinye gulped down the coffee Linda delivered to him and started preparing for the next meeting. It was at this moment when Linda spoke up reluctantly.

“Mr. Chairman, when you left your personal phone in the office for charging, Mu Zhi sent you a text saying that she’s brought the child to see Master Lu.”

Hearing those words, Lu Jinye’s deep-set gaze became sharp like a hawk.

He did not waste another second. He leaped to his feet, put on a coat, and made an order to Linda, "Inform the head of each department to postpone the next meeting to tonight! I will be back for it!"

Finishing what he had to say, he swiftly burst out of his office...

He hopped into his car and raced to the hospital.

Where did Master Lu get the news from? Or it was Mu Zhi who had decided to see him?

However, when he arrived at the hospital and stormed into the floor where Master Lu's ward was, he noticed Lu Yunxi was sitting by the corridor, hanging his head.

Mu Xiaomu was sitting next to him, obsequiously enjoying her lollipop.

However... Mu Zhi was nowhere to be found!

"Yunxi, what are you doing here?"

Lu Jinye glanced in the ward's direction and asked, "Is Mu Zhi in there alone?"

Lu Yunxi shook his head with a helpless expression.

"Lu Junnian got into a car crash and got admitted to the hospital. He is in urgent need of a blood transfusion. When Master Lu was questioning Zhi, she suddenly burst out of the room like a mad woman. I'm guessing she's donating blood to Lu Junnian right now."

Upon listening to those words, Lu Jinye instantly let out a grim expression.

Lu Yunxi did not stop there. He continued, "Master Lu infuriated. He chased all of us out. I don't dare to leave but don't dare to go in either. All I could do is sit here and wait for Mu Zhi."

It was a critical moment for Master Lu and Lu Leiming's household.

If Lu Leiming hadn't made a scene, Master Lu would not have lost billions of net worth, and he would not be admitted to the hospital in the first place.

Lu Junnian was Lu Leiming's son, while Master Lu despised Lu Leiming. Thus rationally, Lu Junnian was on the rivaling side.

Not only was Mu Zhi's action not respectful of Master Lu, but she also saved the son of his enemy.

Moreover, Mu Xiaomu did not leave a good impression when she was being questioned by Master Lu...

That was the more worrying part.

Lu Yunxi heaved a sorrowful sigh. He noticed that their relationships were at risk.

And he was distressed by the complicated relationships.

Now that Lu Jinye was around... He should be able to feel relief. He shirked all responsibility to Lu Jinye, "What do we do now?"

Lu Jinye glared at Lu Yunxi, asking, "Which floor is Lu Junnian at?"

"The... The first floor, I suppose..."

Lu Jinye immediately turned around and headed to the first floor.

However, he had hardly taken a few steps before a series of clanking sounds came from Master Lu's ward, accompanied by his furious voice.

"Where do you think you are going? Are you not going to drop by and greet me? Am I dead to you?"

"Don't you go look for that bitch!"

Master Lu demanded.

He had asserted too much force into his shouting, and as a result, he coughed up a mouthful of blood immediately after.

Following closely, the emergency bell of Master Lu's ward sounded.

Lu Jinye and Lu Yunxi rushed into the room while the doctor and nurses came within seconds. They lifted Master Lu off the bed and wheeled him to the emergency room.

Master Lu had passed out on the spot!

As soon as Master Lu was brought into the operating theater, the emergency light was switched on.

Lu Yunxi thought about heaving a loud sigh but he was scared witless by the tension in the air.

Sitting next to him, Lu Jinye had forgone the idea of searching for Mu Zhi. He sat on the bench quietly, waiting at the corridor as his eyes were locked on the glowing operating theater sign.

Master Lu had issues with his health a long time ago. All he needed to do were to control his emotions and lifestyle to extend a few years to his life.

He had been warned by the doctor multiple times, but Master Lu had always boasted a resilient character.

Now... His business was compromised by his son's backstabbing while Mu Zhi's actions were no doubt adding fuel to the blazing fire!

...

After donating blood, Mu Zhi had been waiting for Lu Junnian to be brought out from the operating theater. Lu Junnian suffered a serious injury and his will to fight was seemingly non-existent. The doctor-in-charge could not help but make an exception to allow Mu Zhi to enter the theater.

She had merely whispered a few words of encouragement into his ears before he instantly responded with signs of life!

With the vitals coming up, the doctors hurriedly went ahead with the surgery. They told Mu Zhi to not wander off too far from the theater to keep Lu Junnian accompanied!

Mu Zhi obliged.

She was not aware of what had happened to Master Lu on the other end of the hospital building.

All she hoped for right now was to let Lu Junnian live.

Lu Junnian was pushed out of the room when the surgery was completed. The doctors informed Mu Zhi that the surgery was a success, and she was finally relieved. The doctor-in-charge intended to make her stay, telling her to leave only after Lu Junnian had regained consciousness.

But Mu Zhi had no time to spare. She told the doctor that she would return for a visit before hurrying to Master Lu's ward. Alas, when she was greeted by Master Lu's empty ward, she became perturbed.

Mu Xiaomu was nowhere to be found.

Where did everyone go?

She scurried to the nursing station and enquired. Upon getting informed by the nurse, she scrambled to get to the other emergency room.

She could see Lu Jinye from afar.

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye raised his head to meet her eyes, his gaze was distant and cold.

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Chapter 172 Were You the One Who Gave Lu Junnian Blood?

“Mama...”

Seeing Mu Zhi come over, Mu Xiaomu hurriedly leaped off the bench and scurried towards Mu Zhi obsequiously. She raised her delicate face to look up at Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi grabbed Mu Xiaomu’s hand and slowly approached Lu Jinye.

She was not only wondering when Lu Jinye showed up... But also puzzled by the troubled expression on Lu Yunxi’s face.

But she came to a surmise as she saw the lighted sign by the door of the operating theater combined with the fact that Master Lu was not in his ward – He required another emergency procedure.

Mu Zhi bit her lips subconsciously. She had her eyes at Lu Jinye but did not know what to say.

“Jinye...”

“Is dad...”

“Are you done with donating blood to your true love?”

As soon as Lu Jinye opened his mouth, hair-raising words of questioning left his lips.

His words left Mu Zhi speechless. She had no idea how she could put it properly...

“This is just a form of respect towards lives, the blood bank is running out of blood.”

Explained Mu Zhi.

Mu Xiaomu seemed to have sensed that Mu Zhi was nervous at this point. She lifted her face to Mu Zhi curiously while Mu Zhi had realized that there were plenty of misunderstandings between her and Lu Jinye needed to be resolved.

Following her poor attempt at explanation, she brought Mu Xiaomu towards Lu Yunxi and said to him, “Do you think you could bring Xiaomu to the children’s play area for a moment? There’s a slide and some other facilities next to the children’s ward.”

“Sure.”

Lu Yunxi could not wait to bolt. He hopped on his feet, grabbed Mu Xiaomu, and ushered her towards the elevator.

Mu Xiaomu showed signs of reluctance, but... The slide and play area were too tempting for her. She ultimately succumbed to her inner playful desires.

When the pair had left, the corridor was only left with Mu Zhi and Lu Jinye. She raised her eyes to meet Lu Jinye's gaze.

His gaze was flooded with listless interrogation.

"Why did you leave for Lu Junnian?"

"I've explained myself, it's a form of respect towards lives."

Mu Zhi's eyes were unwavering. "How's Master Lu? Why is he brought to the emergency room?"

"Aren't you clear with what's happening around us right now?"

Lu Leiming was on the verge of falling out with the Lu Family, and Mu Zhi chose to run to Lu Junnian's rescue?

Lu Jinye would not forbid to save a life... But! Why did she choose to do that in this instance?!

"I know."

If Mu Zhi said she didn't, she might have given herself a way out.

But on the contrary, she acknowledged it!

True enough, her words made the gloom on Lu Jinye's face grew.

He peered at Mu Zhi sinisterly and turned away from her after a moment of silence, heading towards the bench for a seat.

Mu Zhi could sense the coldness he radiated.

However, how was she going to explain herself?

"I am a doctor. Every human life is equally as important to me and it's got higher priority than anything else. Even if it wasn't for Lu Junnian; even if it was a wicked murderer, I'd do the same. It is my job as a doctor to save lives. It doesn't matter to me what happens to the murderer after they are saved, even if they're on death row I will not hesitate to save them when they need it."

Mu Zhi reckoned her reasoning was clear enough.

But Lu Jinye merely arched his brows, glanced at Mu Zhi, and chuckled.

“Why then were you so eager to see Master Lu and leave a bad impression? I suppose you’re just stalling for Lu Junnian’s household.”

Mu Zhi did not mean any malice.

But she had unintentionally made the whole situation worse for Lu Jinye.

Because... If it weren’t for Mu Xiaomu’s appearance, Lu Jinye would have married Xiao Qingqing by now. Subsequently, Xiao Qingqing’s reputation and public presence would have help to recover the Lu Group’s share price.

However, Mu Xiaomu showed up...

Due to Mu Xiaomu’s emergence, Lu Jinye was forced to take a gambit and forfeited the safe move to recuperate the losses of the Lu Group. Following that, while Lu Jinye was busy figuring out an appropriate plan, Mu Zhi chose to bring Mu Xiaomu to Master Lu. Then, in a perfectly timed fashion, she proceeded to leave Master Lu, scrambling to Lu Junnian’s rescue while Master Lu had to undergo another emergency procedure!

Mu Zhi’s schemes were too obvious and hard to think otherwise.

“Stalling for what?”

Mu Zhi could not comprehend what Lu Jinye was referring to.

But through his listlessness, she could sense that Lu Jinye was finding fault with her. He was condemning her for plotting against the Lu Family.

Lu Jinye did not respond. He merely peered at Mu Zhi with judgmental eyes.

Seeing that Lu Jinye had no intention to answer her, Mu Zhi became even more furious.

She clenched her fists, forced herself to swallow her ego as she stood still, waiting for Lu Jinye’s response... But Lu Jinye did not utter a single word after a while.

She glanced at him in discontentment, “Whatever!”

She could not bother explaining herself and turned around to leave.

How dare Lu Jinye accuse her of that... Outrageous! Unreasonably outrageous!

Lu Jinye looked at Mu Zhi as she stomped away. At this moment, the light by the operating theater entrance was switched off. Master Lu was brought out of the room. Thus, Lu Jinye hurriedly went up to him. He did not chase after Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi went downstairs, found Mu Xiaomu, and said to Lu Yunxi, "Master Lu is out, hurry up and check on him."

Lu Yunxi did not notice anything wrong with Mu Zhi. He left Mu Xiaomu to her and rushed upstairs.

Mu Zhi turned to Mu Xiaomu, "Let's go home."

"Mama, what about papa?"

Mu Xiaomu queried with a series of expressions.

"We're not waiting for him, let's go home first."

Mu Xiaomu then followed Mu Zhi to the ground floor.

The hospital had a unique design. The elevators were located at the end of the building and there was only one elevator that had access to the VIP patient ward's floor. Thus, there was only one corridor that led them to the exit.

On the ground floor, Mu Zhi had to pass by where Lu Junnian was.

Little did she expect that when she stepped out of the elevator, a doctor came running towards her.

"Dr. Lu Junnian is awake, he wants to see you."

Mu Zhi looked at the doctor, "Good that he's awake, he doesn't need to see me."

In between her words, Mu Zhi intended to bring Mu Xiaomu and headed for the exit. However... The doctor put up a troubled expression.

She wanted to stop Mu Zhi, but another woman was scurrying over anxiously. Her nervousness failed to hide her elegant charms. Mu Zhi had only seen Zhu Sha in heavy makeup before. She was shocked to see Zhu Sha with a modest, yet charming vibe.

When Zhu Sha rushed to the scene, she first noticed Mu Zhi.

She bounced her gaze between Mu Zhi and the doctor before her, then asked Mu Zhi, "Were you the one who donated Lu Junnian blood?"

## **Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 173**



## Chapter 173 Can You Please Stay Away From Lu Junnian?

Mu Zhi nodded silently, showing no emotion on her face.

There was not a scene. Zhu Sha was a sensible woman. She looked at Mu Zhi harmoniously and said, "Thank you."

Then, Zhu Sha hurriedly headed to Lu Junnian's ward.

Seeing that, the doctor rationally stopped persuading Mu Zhi to visit Lu Junnian. She let Mu Zhi leave in peace.

Lu Junnian was lying on the bed, expecting Mu Zhi's arrival. Seeing a silhouette flashing across the door, a dash of happiness surfaced in his eyes.

However, when he noticed that Zhu Sha was the one entering through the door, what smile he had instantly disappeared.

He asked Zhu Sha indifferently, "What are you doing here?"

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Zhu Sha gently approached Lu Junnian, sat down, and skimmed through the patient's report before replying to him, "Look at yourself, how could I not be here for you? I'd be here even as a friend, let alone your fiancée."

Lu Junnian's gaze was taken away by gloominess. He did not say a word.

Zhu Sha returned the patient's report to the doctor and said, "How did you get into the accident? Did you run into something yourself?"

Upon learning of Lu Junnian's accident, Zhu Sha had a look at the surveillance footage. It was clear from the video that Lu Junnian was distracted. He had ample time to slow down his car but he didn't.

Glancing at Zhu Sha, Lu Junnian said apathetically, "I wasn't paying attention and I had to dodge the car."

Seeing that Lu Junnian was blatantly trying to avoid the topic, Zhu Sha did not pursue it further. She witnessed the hopefulness in his eyes diminished into despair when she got into the room.

In the end, she heaved a lamenting sigh, "Is there anything you feel like eating? I'll prepare some at home and bring it for you."

"I saw Mu Zhi on the way to this floor, she was on the way out."

"There's no need to prepare it for me. Stop putting effort into me."

Lu Junnian uttered coolly, "I'm tired."

Then, he shut his eyes, turned his face away from Zhu Sha, and pretended to be asleep.

Meanwhile, Zhu Sha looked at Lu Junnian helplessly. She ultimately rose to her feet, turned around, and left...

Mu Zhi had just arrived home when she received Zhu Sha's call. She was not familiar with Zhu Sha's number. Thus, she had no idea who it was before answering it. A sense of bewilderment came over Mu Zhi when she heard Zhu Sha's voice.

"What are you calling me for?"

Mu Zhi asked.

After a moment of silence, Zhu Sha asked reluctantly, "Could you please stay away from Lu Junnian?"

If it were Xiao Qingqing who said these words, Mu Zhi would undoubtedly lash out at her.

But Zhu Sha was different. Her tone was filled with pleading. The emotional appeal had no trace of hostility at all, making it difficult for Mu Zhi to refuse.

Mu Zhi responded to Zhu Sha, "I didn't mean to interfere in your relationship."

"I know, but... I ask you to please keep a distance with Lu Junnian."

Mu Zhi remained silent.

Following a few seconds of wordlessness, Mu Zhi was the first to break the silence, "Sure, I understand."

"Thank you."

Zhu Sha humbly expressed her gratitude before hanging up the call.

Meanwhile, Mu Zhi was dazed as she listened to the beeping tone.

She was drained by the concoction of relationship issues she was experiencing. She felt cornered by her situation and was at a loss to her next course of action.

Mu Zhi turned around to look behind her. She thought about packing up and leave Lu Jinye's villa.

However, she realized that she had no interaction with Lu Jinye this time and most of her belongings were left unpacked.

On the one hand, Lu Jinye had Xiao Qingqing.

While on the other hand, Lu Junnian had Zhu Sha...

It suddenly occurred to Mu Zhi that she was redundant.

She had no place in this game. It was just an accident that she had a trump card in Mu Xiaomu, which... Forced her back into the ordeal.

She was supposed to quit a long time ago. Why was she still around?

Just as Mu Zhi finished packing up and was preparing to leave, the landline started ringing. Mu Zhi hesitated before scurrying over to answer it.

She could hear Lu Jinye's voice as soon as she did, "Since you could pick up the call, that means you're at home. Wait for me, I want to clarify everything with you when I get home!"

Mu Zhi responded hostilely, "What is there to clarify? We've both said what we needed to say at the hospital. I have nothing else to say."

"Wait for me, I'll talk to you when I get home!"

Lu Jinye's tone was overbearing.

Mu Zhi was reluctant. While pondering whether she should agree, the words 'wait for me' from Lu Jinye made her hang up the call in a flash.

Mu Zhi realized that she wanted to wait for Lu Jinye.

However, before Lu Jinye got home, her phone rang once again. The call came from the hospital in the States. They informed Mu Zhi, "Miss Mu, please make your way to the hospital at once to visit your mother. She's showing signs of adverse drug reaction. We apologize for breaking this news to you!"

Mu Zhi was stunned to hear the news. She clutched her phone in disbelief. "What did you just say? What does that mean?"

“We are terribly sorry!”

“Let me make my way there immediately! I’ll book the flight tickets right now!”

Mu Zhi had noticed the situation was too complicated to be explained over the phone! All she could do was to hurriedly set off to the United States and handle the issue in person. Her mother had undergone successful surgery. She had also been showing positive signs of recovery. Why did she suddenly have an adverse drug reaction?

At that thought, Mu Zhi could no longer bother with any arrangements. With Mu Xiaomu alongside her, she rushed to the airport.

Fortunately... The journey went smoothly.

As soon as she arrived at the airport, she bought the air tickets and boarded the plane bound to the States on the next available flight.

She was tensed all over from departure to landing.

She had never been this anxious in the past, even during her mother’s unconsciousness.

But now... She was given a glimmer of hope and the hope was quickly slipping away from her fingers. The anguish could not be described in words!

Mu Zhi promptly made her way to the hospital from the airport.

She only managed to apprehend the situation when she spoke to the doctors. The hospital prescribed a commonly-seen drug to the patient a few days ago. There was no evidence of reaction at the time, but for some reason, the symptoms arose today.

Throughout the process, there was no sign of abnormality in the hospital and nobody would have sabotaged the prescription.

The whole incident appeared to be a perfectly normal accident in the medical treatment.

However, the only exception to the seeming deception was that a few days prior, Zhu Sha prescribed a nutrient injection to the patient to keep up with her nutrition intake!

## **Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 174**

Chapter 174 How Desperate for Love Are You

Mu Zhi could not bear to the finish the end of their explanation.

She eased towards her mother's ward and through the glass window, she could see her mother lying peacefully on the bed. Mother's eyes were closed, looking like she was sound asleep. She was serene, yet sorrowing.

Sorrowing due to despair.

Mu Zhi interviewed every single doctor who handled her mother in an attempt to unravel the issue of the treatment, but to no avail.

It was merely an unfortunate medical accident.

An accident that brought desolation to Mu Zhi.

Why?!



Mu Zhi sat by the ward for a long time. She stayed by her mother blankly, dreaming that mother might miraculously show signs of life.

But nothing happened!

She spent the entire day by the ward. Mu Zhi watched the amber glow of the sunset. The orange-gold stretched far and wide like a harmonious canvas of an artist, but it was not bright enough to overshadow the misery of her heart.

For some reason, she would uncontrollably harmony to misery.

A harmonious view spelled like desolation to her!

During nightfall, she suddenly received a text message, 'How does it feel like to lose a loved one?'

Mu Zhi's heart skipped a beat when she read that. She promptly dialed the sender's number and was greeted by a voice that had been distorted by a voice changer, "There's no need to confront me. You are responsible for your mother's death. Does it feel good to juggle between two men? How desperate for love are you that you must take away what does not belong to you? Since you've made your bed, now you need to sleep in it at the cost of your loved one!"

In response, Mu Zhi asked, "Who made you do this?"

But the call was cut off.

She did not end up getting an answer.

She made several calls afterward, but nobody picked up her calls and eventually, the phone was switched off.

In her last effort at a call, she was greeted by a beep tone.

Mu Zhi could feel her body tremble involuntarily. How desperate for love are you... That you must take away what does not belong to you...

Why those words?

Who was the someone I took away? Mu Zhi pondered...

Zhu Sha! Or Xiao Qingqing?

But Mu Zhi was aware that Xiao Qingqing could not be related to her mother's treatment. Xiao Qingqing was in no place to interfere with her mother's treatment.

Even if she hated Mu Zhi, Xiao Qingqing would not have the resources to step in...

Amid a series of vigorous deduction, Mu Zhi was interrupted by Lu Junnian's call. With a hoarse voice, he greeted her, "Mu Zhi, I heard..."

He did not finish his words.

But Mu Zhi had started sobbing uncontrollably.

"Do you have any idea how hard I tried? I have never been so helpless throughout all these years."

Mu Zhi had no clue why she started breaking down into tears at the call, but she had no control over herself.

"I know."

Lu Junnian replied calmly to break his silence.

"Of course I know. Everything you've done these years is to help your mom with her recovery."

"Meanwhile, everything I've done these years is to help you achieve what you want to achieve."

Mu Zhi could not listen to Lu Junnian. All she could feel was her dejection.

She stared at mother's lifeless vitals but refused to give up on the possibility of a miracle.

"Mu Zhi, where are you?"

Mu Zhi heard Lu Junnian's question through the call.

But she had no intention to answer him.

The words seemed to have bounced off an invisible barrier placed in between her eardrums and her brain, a barrier that blocked off all signals from the outside world. She could not process the information.

After a moment, Lu Junnian asked again, "Mu Zhi, where are you?"

"At the hospital."

Mu Zhi had just finished with her response when something suddenly dawned on her. "Lu Junnian, I can't talk right now, gotta go, bye." She hurriedly said.

Following that, she hung up the call.

However, what was she supposed to do after?

Mu Zhi realized that there was nothing that she wanted to do... And there was nothing she could do too.

Apart from waiting for miracle to happen.

She paced the corridor relentlessly. During dinner time, the nurse approached her to ask if she wanted takeaway. She shook her head.

In the middle of the night, Mu Zhi sat down and did not move a finger.

When she was staring blankly in the direction of the ward, a man suddenly came before her, bent from the waist, and said, "Let's not wait here, I'll see you off."

"Nah, I want to wait here in case something happens to my mother."

Mu Zhi did not bat an eye at him as she responded somberly.

Bai Shao replied to her in a gentle tone, "Lu Junnian told me to keep you accompanied. He's concerned for you. Don't worry, I'll be waiting here. Go home and get some rest, alright?"

Mu Zhi raised her head to meet Bai Shao's gaze after the consoling words.

His tenderness made him feel like a brotherly figure.

And the same tenderness made Mu Zhi nod involuntarily.

Tears started streaming down her cheeks uncontrollably once again. She said, "Please keep a close eye on my mother. You must not let anyone else come near her."

Bai Shao nodded and reassured her, "I will."

Mu Zhi then stood up in compliance and let Bai Shao drop her off. There was a hotel nearby the hospital. Bai Shao brought Mu Zhi and Mu Xiaomu there, settled their accommodation, and bought some food for the both of them. However, facing the mouth-watering dishes, Mu Zhi did not take a single bite.

Bai Shao was rather worried to see her at that state.

But it was inappropriate for him to linger at the hotel. He put down their belongings and set off to the hospital.

When he left the hotel, Bai Shao sent a message to Lu Junnian to inform him of Mu Zhi's room number. Very quickly, Lu Junnian replied, 'Sure, thank you.'

Bai Shao shot back, 'Don't make me do this again, I can't be bothered to take care of women.'

Lu Junnian read the message and disregarded it.

Mu Xiaomu was exhausted. It took her seconds to fall asleep but Mu Zhi's eyes were wide open.

She had been sitting on the couch since Bai Shao led them to their room.

She spent the entire night on the same spot, staring blankly at the air. The blackout curtains at the hotel allowed no trace of sunlight into the room. Thus, she had no idea if it was daytime without checking at the clock.

She came back to her senses when someone knocked on the door. She did not answer it. When the housekeeper opened the door, she did not turn around.

"Mr. Li, please open the curtains."

Lu Junnian glanced at Mu Zhi who looked pale and feeble and felt a pang of heartache.

## **Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 175**



Mr. Li, who came alongside Lu Junnian, promptly obliged. He strode up to the curtains and pulled them open, allowing the dazzling sunlight to shine the entire room.

The light shone in the darkness and the darkness failed to overcome it.

Mu Zhi squinted at the sudden beam of light and came in contact with her constricted pupils. After getting used to it, she went back to the stationary self.

Lu Junnian ordered Mr. Li to wheel him towards Mu Zhi and told Mr. Li to excuse them.

Lu Junnian just went through a car crash. He was heavily bound by a bandage. Despite his difficulty getting around, he insisted on making his way to Mu Zhi.

He sat across Mu Zhi on a wheelchair, stared into her eyes, and said, "Mu Zhi, don't be upset, I'm for you."

As soon as she heard Lu Junnian's voice, Mu Zhi suddenly raised her head to look at him. She then pointed at the door anxiously, beckoning him to leave at once.

"Leave, leave right now!"

"Stop getting close to me! Mom only died because of me."

Mu Zhi suddenly went berserk. She leaped to her feet and bellowed at Lu Junnian.

Once again, tears started surging from her eyes.

"Your mother only got to live until today because of your hard work. This is not your fault."

Lu Junnian comforted her gently.

Mu Zhi said nothing.

Despite not being in the right mind, she was sensible enough to not tell Lu Junnian that Zhu Sha was the only person who could possibly be responsible to compromise her mother's treatment.

Moreover, she received a text which implied that her mother's consequences were brought upon by her for seizing someone else's lover.

After all, it was a baseless accusation.

She was a doctor. Although she understood that the world was littered with conscienceless doctors, she could vividly remember the oath she took when she first

started working. She believed that Zhu Sha was someone who respected human lives, just like her!

Thus, Mu Zhi could only glance at Lu Junnian at a loss. She had nothing to say.

Lu Junnian was pained by Mu Zhi's looks. He reached out his hand to rub the tears off her cheeks, then squeezed a smile, "Did you know? Even though I have a mom who seems to love me, every time I hear you talk about what you went through with your mom when you were little, I couldn't help but feel envious of you."

"Because I think that's how mother and children should relate."

"I've never experienced the same motherly love as a kid. I grew up witnessing how busy my mother was with her experiments and work. I wasn't even the one who decided to become a doctor."

Lu Junnian said to Mu Zhi softly, "I envy you."

Mu Zhi raised her head to look at Lu Junnian.

"But I killed my mom."

"How could it be... There's a limit to every human life. Your mother only gets to live until today because of all the efforts you put in to squeeze more days into her life. But, what if she is tired after all these years? She might not want to be trapped in that soulless body any more. She could be just as contented to watch over you from the heavens, to see what you've been up to, instead of waiting for you on that patient's bed."

Mu Zhi was stupefied by his words.

They were both atheists.

They did not believe in the existence of spirits or the idea of afterlife.

Their body were merely vessels for their souls. Without that vessel, they believed that their souls would diminish.

However, in this instance, Mu Zhi was starting to be convinced that the afterlife existed. There was an unknown force that had been guiding her.

"Is that true?"

Mu Zhi asked dishearteningly, eager to search for a glimmer of light amid despair.

Lu Junnian nodded solemnly, "yes."

His words of consolation seemed to have a positive impact on Mu Zhi. It felt like she had just woken up from a nightmare. Staring at Lu Junnian fixedly, she suddenly asked.

“What are you doing here?”

Lu Junnian laughed irresistibly. His bright smile resembled the tender sunlight while his tone was warm as the sunbeam, “I’m here because I’m worried for you!”

“What are you doing out of the hospital with all these injuries?! No way, hurry up and get back to the hospital.”

Mu Zhi said to Lu Junnian anxiously. She got up intending to wheel Lu Junnian out of the room.

However, Lu Junnian seized her hand. His grip was somehow soft yet unyielding.

“Don’t, don’t push me away. You need someone by your side.”

“And I want to be that someone.”

“No, you can’t.”

Mu Zhi refused decisively.

She tried to retract her hand, but she could not. Had she asserted the slightest bit of force, she would have reinjured Lu Junnian’s wounds.

She caught a glimpse of Lu Junnian gritting his teeth, seemingly in pain.

Seeing that, Mu Zhi promptly asked, “Are you alright?”

Lu Junnian was sweating bullets on the forehead, but managed to put up a stiff smile as he comforted Mu Zhi, “Yeah, I’m alright.”

...

On the other hand, Lu Jinye told Mu Zhi to wait for him, but when he arrived at the villa, he could not find a single soul, not even Mu Xiaomu!

When he made another call to Mu Zhi, her phone was switched off!

Lu Jinye was infuriated!

Earlier, when Master Lu woke up, he learned that Mu Zhi was not the one who asked to see him. As a result, he had a guilty conscience for falsely accusing Mu Zhi.

He thought about talking it through when he got home!

However! Mu Zhi was nowhere to be seen!

Besides, she ghosted him.

How insignificant could he be in her heart that this woman did not bother leaving him a message before leaving?

After several more failed attempts to reach Mu Zhi, Lu Jinye stormed out of the villa and headed back to work in rage.

It was almost midnight when he was done with the shareholders' meeting.

When he stepped out of the office building, the surrounding silence was deafening. There was even a dash of autumn chilliness in the air.

Lu Jinye walked up to his car and found Xiao Qingqing waiting for him by the headlights.

He lifted his eyes to look at Xiao Qingqing.

Without saying a word, she took a few strides towards him and embraced him, then started giving him a few relentless kisses.

Lu Jinye could smell the alcohol in Xiao Qingqing's breath. He shoved her away to keep a distance. However, in the process, Xiao Qingqing tripped over herself and almost stumbled to the ground.

Lu Jinye instinctively reached out to hold her.

"Jinye, I can't lose you."

"Why did you drink? It's not good for the baby."

Lu Jinye stared at her. There was no trace of affection in his words.

However, Xiao Qingqing chuckled nonchalantly. "Baby... What is the baby good for? The baby's father doesn't want him at all, what will a few drops of alcohol do to him?"

"You're drunk."

Lu Jinye scanned the area but did not see Xiao Qingqing's car.

Xiao Qingqing noticed his gaze. She giggled and lifted a leg, "I walked here all the way from the Dongda Street, isn't that impressive?!"

Despite the dim surrounding at night, the blood dripping from the graze wounds of her feet was frightening.

Lu Jinye could not ignore her, regardless of how unfeeling he was.

He carried Xiao Qingqing off the ground and put her into his car.