

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 176

Chapter 176 A Verified Scumbag

After settling Xiao Qingqing into his car, Lu Jinye set off towards her home.

Amid drunken stupor, Xiao Qingqing cast her groggy eyes out the car window. When the scenery outside became increasingly familiar, she uttered an exasperated snort, "Why are you in such a hurry to send me home? I don't want to go home."

Lu Jinye glanced at her and kept driving without saying a word.

Xiao Qingqing slumped against the side of the car, appearing to be heavily drunk but she was running her gaze around Lu Jinye.

Lu Jinye came to a halt at the entrance of her suburb. Without turning off the engine, he stepped off the car and headed into a 24-hour drugstore. Not long after, he left with a bag of medicine, hopped back into the car, and made headway into the suburb.

He opened the car door and reached in to help Xiao Qingqing off the car. However, she had barely taken two steps when she turned back with a scowl, hummed in discomfort, "Ouch."

Lu Jinye stared at her with furrowed brows. Upon twitching his scrunched forehead, he decided to walk towards Xiao Qingqing, bent forward, and lifted her off the ground once again.

He brought Xiao Qingqing into the elevator in his arms, then carried her into her house.

He placed her on the couch and handed a bottle of disinfectant as well as a band-aid to her, gesturing for her to dress the wounds on her feet.

Xiao Qingqing raised her dazed eyes. Despite her drunken stupor, she managed to grab the bottle of disinfectant.

She was barely conscious enough to dress her wounds but coerced herself to do it anyway.

Lu Jinye was about to leave. But he turned back to look at Xiao Qingqing, he could see her squinting her eyes to see what was before her. Under the influence of alcohol, her body was continuously swirling around. In several attempts to apply the disinfectant, she would miss every time.

That was also the case with the band-aid.

Lu Jinye felt a twinge of remorse. He slowly moved towards Xiao Qingqing, bent forward, and started meticulously applying disinfectants for her with a frown.

Xiao Qingqing's eyes were glittering under the dim lights as she stared at Lu Jinye fixedly.

When Lu Jinye was done dressing her wounds, she scrambled to stand up and hurled herself at him, hugging him firmly.

She buried her head into his neck. Her long, silky hair was draped over both sides of her face, drenched in the tears that yearned to flow all this while.

"Jinye, you still love me, right?"

Xiao Qingqing asked softly.

Lu Jinye said nothing. He pursed his lips tightly.

He could feel Xiao Qingqing shaking as she leaned on his chest.

However... He merely put a hand on her shoulder.

...

Meanwhile, in the hotel room in the States.

Mu Zhi had a look at the time and squeezed a stiff smile as she looked at Lu Junnian. "Thank you for visiting me, I'm fine now."

In between her words, she stood up and headed to the bathroom to wash her face.

Lu Junnian sat in the wheelchair, gazing at Mu Zhi caringly. His gaze followed Mu Zhi all the way into the bathroom.

He had no intention to leave.

Mu Zhi thought her words were subtle enough. After washing up, she was surprised to see Lu Junnian still around, sitting on the same spot.

Mu Zhi put on a coat and gave Jian Xiaoning a call to inform her of the latest development in the States. She had texted Jian Xiaoning the night prior.

She asked Jian Xiaoning what time she would arrive.

And Jian Xiaoning responded through the phone, "I'm downstairs, heading up now."

Mu Zhi hung up the call, steadied herself, and handed Mu Xiaomu to her when she came to the door.

Following the arrangement, she noticed that Lu Junnian still had his eyes on her.

Mu Zhi unintentionally brushed her eyes across him only to find his concerned gaze staring back at her. Her heart skipped a beat as she forced herself to look away.

“I need to set off to the hospital. Thank for you today. If you don’t feel like going home, feel free to stay here.” Said Mu Zhi listlessly.

Following that, Mu Zhi grabbed a coat and headed out the door.

Lu Junnian’s eyes were grim the moment Mu Zhi shut the door on him. He told the butler to wheel him out of the room.

The butler looked at him curiously.

While he uttered, “To the hospital.”

Mu Zhi was just putting up an unwavering front at this moment. Deep down, she was meek and sensitive.

He had missed all the opportunities to stay by Mu Zhi’s side during her challenges in the past... And he was determined to not let anyone cut him off to be the one for her!

The butler looked at Lu Junnian with a troubled expression, “Young master, your condition...”

“I’m ok.”

Lu Junnian responded insouciantly.

Mu Zhi was walking at an exceptionally slow pace on the way to the hospital. She lifted her phone to search for the required arrangements and regulations revolving around the death of an immediate family member in the States.

However, a news article popped up when she tapped on her web browser.

The caption was eye-catching and suggestive, attached with a clear picture depicting Lu Jinye carrying Xiao Qingqing into his car in the middle of the night.

The article was expressed evocatively.

‘Miss Xiao was expecting the chairman, Lu Jinye, before his car at midnight. They first embraced each other intimately in public before Lu Jinye suddenly lifted Miss Xiao off

the ground and headed into his car. The pair then set off into the blackness of the night...'

The writing style was as cringe as any other article on the internet.

Mu Zhi wanted to read further, but there was no second page.

What happens after?

Why is the rest of the article locked?!

Mu Zhi gritted her teeth furiously. She was seething at how she was left hanging by the article, similar to how she would in a web-novel.

However, she did not need to read the rest of the article before discontentment had overwhelmed her!

Lu Jinye was just telling her that he wanted to talk to her the prior night. What was there to talk about? To tell her that he was tangled up with another woman and that he had lingering love for her?

At that thought, Mu Zhi became even more infuriated.

In the heat of the moment, she commented on the article, losing her usual poise, 'A verified scumbag!'

Then, Mu Zhi went back to carry on with her search.

When she arrived at the hospital, she drew a deep breath to cheer herself up.

She thought she could deal with the situation calmly... But when she got to the floor where her mother was, it dawned on her that... The truth was hard to swallow!

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Chapter 177 Let the Past Stay in the Past

Mu Zhi pursed her lips firmly. She drew another deep breath and headed towards her mother's floor.

Still hoping for a miracle.

Despite knowing that everything was over.

When she arrived at the mother's ward, she first glanced at the vitals device that showed no sign of life. In this instance, the medical staff had removed all the connections of the machine.

It was common to find it difficult to accept the death of one's immediate family member.

Because... The juxtaposition of having one smiling at you, loving you, a person with emotions compared to the cold, lifeless body was difficult to swallow.

Mu Zhi did not dare to enter the ward. She stood by the door for a long moment.

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Finally, she plucked up the courage to push the door open.

Tears started gushing down uncontrollably.

Mu Zhi did not rub her eyes. She allowed the tears to come surging down.

Then, Mu Zhi slowly approached the bed and said, "Mom, let's go home."

As soon as the words were said, she could no longer hold her emotions. She started wailing without any reservation. Her voice was cracked and hoarse. She was crying with all the strength she had.

Not long after Mu Zhi got into the ward, Lu Junnian and his butler arrived. Both of them did not enter the ward. Lu Junnian was watching Mu Zhi. He felt sorry for her and had the urge to approach her for some comforting words.

However, before he could open the door, he heard a series of approaching footsteps followed by Zhu Sha's voice, "Lu Junnian."

She called out Lu Junnian's name. She gazed into the room with her charming eyes before turning her face to the butler, "Sir, I'll let you take care of the rest. Let me bring Junnian away for now."

Lu Junnian raised his eyes to glance at Zhu Sha.

She smiled at him lightly and said, "Darling, did you know? We should learn to cherish. Let the past stay in the past. If we could let go of the past, it might turn into pleasant

memories to look back on, but if we continue to live in the past, we might miss the beautiful things presented to us in the future.”

Lu Junnian clenched his fists tightly.

It was unquestionable that he understood what Zhu Sha was referring to. But he furrowed his brows, refusing to say a word in response.

Zhu Sha added, “Enough, let’s go.”

...

Mu Zhi sobbed for a long while before wiping the tears off her cheeks.

The butler had been waiting by the door. He only entered the room when Mu Zhi had stopped crying. Without saying a word, he started taking care of the paperwork for Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi had met the man. She knew that he was Lu Junnian’s butler.

But when she turned back to look at the door, she realized that Lu Junnian’s shadow was nowhere to be found.

Mu Zhi was then relieved and did not refuse the butler’s help.

She started packing up her mother’s belongings when the paperwork was completed.

Mu Zhi was grateful that Lu Junnian had gone out of the way to arrange for the transportation of her mother’s body back to the country.

Standing in the ward, Mu Zhi realized that there was nothing much to pack for her mother.

Her mother had been sleeping for too many years. She had not lived like a normal person throughout the years. She was merely a breathing, comatose vessel. She was no different from a plant.

Perhaps, mom’s tired of it?

After packing up what was left behind, Mu Zhi stood by the door, turned back for a last glance at the empty bed before leaving.

The body was scheduled to be transported the next day. She had twelve hours to wander around in the gloomy city. But Mu Zhi was too dejected to go anywhere.

She tried to recall if her mother had any unfulfilled wishes but to no avail. Mother had been absent from her life for too long.

For some reason, Mu Zhi headed to the rooftop of the hospital.

She stood by the rooftop, gazing down at the hustle-bustle of the figures on the ground floor.

Many came to the hospital in desolation while most left in mourning. It occurred to her that the hospital was a sorrowful place.

Despite that, she did not want to move. All she wanted to do was sit.

It was breezy on the rooftop. The longer she stayed up there, the chillier it got. She started shuddering in the cold wind involuntarily.

At this moment, a coat was suddenly placed over Mu Zhi's shoulders.

Mu Zhi turned around instinctively and was greeted by a man in a patient gown. He slowly approached her and offered his coat to her.

He looked like a mixed-blooded Asian with predominantly Asian features. He stood over 185 centimeters tall with a high nose bridge and deep-set eyes.

Despite wearing a patient gown, the temperament he exuded was completely different from a typical patient.

There was an indescribable uniqueness about him.

But after all, he was dressed in a patient gown. Mu Zhi treated him like a patient, so she hurriedly took the coat off her shoulders and returned it to the man. "You're a patient, my immune system should be better than you, here, take it back." She said.

"Don't worry about it."

The man uttered indifferently as he lighted up a cigarette.

"Patients are not supposed to be smoking."

Mu Zhi reminded.

The man let out a faint smile and turned his face to stare at Mu Zhi with his deep-set eyes.

He said, "I am not a patient."

Mu Zhi was shocked for a moment, "Then why are you wearing a patient gown?"

The man felt like a cold iceberg without a smile, but looked like the most dazzling star when he smiled, easily melting one's heart.

"I admitted myself to the hospital to keep a friend accompanied, I was afraid that he was lonely. But my friend passed away today."

The man's gloomy eyes became even more miserable after saying that.

Mu Zhi could not resist sighing, "You must be upset."

She too had just experienced the death of an immediate family. Thus, she could empathize with him.

"Are you upset?" The man sized up Mu Zhi.

As though he was aware that something had occurred to her.

Mu Zhi nodded in dejection.

"Actually, don't be upset. Death is a form of extrication."

"Why did you say that?"

Mu Zhi stared at the man in confusion while he curled his lips upward, saying, "I used to make a living as an assassin. I took lives in exchange for money. I despised the job in the beginning. I'd be reluctant to spend the money I made due to guilty conscience. But I had to do it. I needed to survive."

"But in the end, I killed a seemingly nice person. He was a doctor, curing diseases and saving lives. Before he died, he asked me, 'Why kill me? I've saved so many lives, what did I do wrong?'"

"I can't bear to do it."

Mu Zhi looked at the man... Whilst immersing herself in his story, the man's phone suddenly went off.

He glanced at the name on the screen, excused himself, and turned around to answer the call.

He walked a fair distance away. Thus, Mu Zhi had no clue who he was talking to.

On the other hand, as soon as he picked up the call, he greeted the caller by her name, "Xiao Qingqing, it's been a while."

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Chapter 178 Mr Xie, When Are You Coming to City A?

The man stood with his back straight during the phone call. The corners of his sleeves were whipping elegantly in the breeze, depicting him as an aloof figure.

“Mr. Xie Xiu, when are you coming to City A? I’m waiting for you.” He scrunched his brows while listening to Xiao Qingqing’s voice from the phone.

And then replied with a frown, “I’ll find you when I’m in town.”

“Please come as early as you can.”

Just as she intended to have a conversation with the man, he cut her off listlessly, “I have some business to take care of, talk soon.”

Finished what he had to say, he hung up the phone right away.

Xie Xiu then returned to Mu Zhi, who raised her head to meet his gaze. It just struck her that it was strange that they had not introduced each other despite having had a chat.

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Thus, she introduced herself to the man, “I’m Mu Zhi, how do I address you?”

“Xie Xiu.”

Mu Zhi nodded when she heard the name.

She suspected that the man had a lineage from Nation Z based on his features.

“We were cut off by the call, let me carry on with my story.”

Mu Zhi did not say anything in response. She was listening to him attentively.

Xie Xiu threw his gaze at the scenery afar and suddenly turned to Mu Zhi, asking out of the blue, “Do you think I look like a cold-blooded murderer?”

Mu Zhi looked at Xie Xiu. There was a lonely ambiance that clung onto him. He did not look like a murderer at all.

Murderers tended to look cold and had an arrogant air hovering around them.

Thus, Mu Zhi shook her head.

Xie Xiu chuckled in embarrassment. He turned his face away and continued with his unfinished story, "So, I failed that mission. After failing that mission, I learned that he forced a woman to do what she didn't want to do. He raised her up since she was a little girl, and sold her off when she was of age. The girl ended up selling off her body and used the money she got to hire me to kill the man."

"And on my second attempt, I did not hesitate before taking his life. I brought his body to the girl, she looked at me with a contented smile, there were tears of joy. I offered to return the money to her but she did not accept it."

Xie Xiu paused, glanced at Mu Zhi, and laughed lightly, "The girl told me that the money was useless to her because she can't spend it in the next world anyway. Following that, she committed suicide."

Listening to this, Mu Zhi could no longer put up a nonchalant front.

Because... Judging from his story and background, Xie Xiu must have been indifferent towards life and death. But contrary to his supposed nature, he only met Mu Zhi because one of his friends was dying. He admitted himself to the hospital because he was worried about his friend.

How could a man that was indifferent towards human lives, or perhaps contemptuous of lives, treasure his time with someone who was on the verge of dying?

He must be incredibly rational and resilient to be able to distinguish between his comrade and the victims of his crimes.

"Did I scare you?"

Mu Zhi instantly reverted to his usual poise and looked at Xie Xiu. He was staring back at her with compassionate eyes.

Shaking her head, she said, "Nah, I just take it as an interesting story."

Following that, she glanced at the time and added, "There's something I need to handle, I gotta go."

Xie Xiu fixed his eyes at her and gently nodded.

On her way to the ground floor, Mu Zhi could feel less melancholy compared to when she first got to the rooftop. Perhaps, it was due to Xie Xiu's story regarding life and death. Although it did not have any impact on her, there was an indescribable sense of relief after hearing the story.

After getting to the ground floor, she made a beeline towards her hotel. Words of comfort were at the tip of Jian Xiaoning's tongue, yearning to leave her lips when she saw Mu Zhi. But Mu Zhi's expression told Jian Xiaoning that she did not need consoling.

Then, Mu Zhi rationally took the same flight with Jian Xiaoning and Lu Junnian back to the country, then rationally dealt with the funeral.

At this stage, she did not even realize if her phone was out of battery as she did not turn it on in the first place.

She ran all errands like a machine. But after witnessing the burial of her mother, she returned home to Jian Xiaoning's place.

And wailed in lamentation.

And when she was done, she went to bed.

Mu Zhi wanted to force herself to forget what needed to be forgotten. But the more she tried, the more she was reminded. Thus, she started job hunting.

She married Lu Jinye years ago for money to foot the medical bill of her mother's treatment. Everything she did was for her mother. Her mother's departure left a void in her life.

She decided to look for a job to keep herself occupied.

At that thought, she turned on her phone.

As soon as she did, notifications started rushing into her phone like the gush of a violent river.

The repetitive buzzing and dinging brought a headache to Mu Zhi. Most of them came from Lu Jinye and others were mostly junk text messages. Lu Junnian's messages were sandwiched in between the junk messages.

Mu Zhi disregarded Lu Junnian's messages and made a call to Lu Jinye.

Lu Jinye was furiously rebuking his director in his office!

The Lu Family remained in a slump in the past days. Lu Jinye had been spending his nights at work.

He was too occupied to learn of what happened to Mu Zhi recently. He thought Mu Zhi was giving him the cold shoulders due to their conflicts at the hospital earlier.

Just as he told his director to scram, his phone rang.

Lu Jinye drummed his fingers on the desk, glanced at the name on the screen, and hurriedly answered it.

“Hello? You finally bother calling me now?”

He was concerned for her, but the words somehow sounded cold and distant as soon as they left his lips.

After a distressing day, Mu Zhi could not bother lashing out at Lu Jinye’s questioning. She said listlessly, “Is there anything you need from me?”

“What have you been doing these few days?”

“Handling some personal matters.”

What Mu Zhi went through those few days was heart-wrenching.

But Lu Jinye was ignorant of it, which made her even more dejected.

Perhaps she was just an insignificant figure in Lu Jinye’s eyes.

She was the only one who felt like it was the end of the world.

Since Lu Jinye did not take it to heart, she did not bother explaining.

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye’s tone was indifferent as always. There was no sound of thoughtfulness or emotions in his voice.

“Then, why did you only return my call now?”

The way he sounded made Mu Zhi feel like she was taken for granted.

She became even more upset.

Thus, with eyes full of gloominess, she uttered, “I’m worried that I’d disturb the sweet time with your loved one, that’s why I was hesitant to make the call, Mr. Lu.”

It was clear that Mu Zhi’s patience was running thin.

On the other hand, Lu Jinye was also peeved by her frustrations.

He loosened his tie irately. The accumulated vexation through consecutive days of working late hours had pushed him close to his limits.

In an annoyed tone, he growled at Mu Zhi, "Let's get dinner, I need to see Mu Xiaomu."

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Chapter 179 Miss Mu, You're the Dazzling Star

"I don't think I have the time, let's meet another day."

Mu Zhi continued to lock horns with Lu Jinye.

Having been extremely annoyed, Mu Zhi hung up the phone after finishing her words.

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye was about to lash out at Mu Zhi furiously when he cut off by the beeping tone...

Lu Jinye scowled in confusion. He checked the screen of his phone in disbelief only to find that Mu Zhi had hung up on him!

This woman! To hang up on the distinguished Lu Jinye?! She was simply courting death!

Lu Jinye snapped the pen in his other hand in half out of fury.

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Secretary Linda had just entered his office to inform him about the next meeting. But as soon as she stepped through the door, she could hear the crisp sound of the pen snapping. She almost wet her pants, standing still, without daring to move another step closer towards Lu Jinye.

"M-Mr. Lu... I'd just like to remind you of your three o'clock meeting."

"Ok, got it."

Lu Jinye was still fuming at this point. He muttered at Linda in response and did not do anything else.

Linda had her feet deeply rooted into the ground. She was secretly regulating her breath to steady her perturbed emotions. If she was given a second chance, she wouldn't be working that hard to get into Shanze, avoiding the 'honor' to be Lu Jinye's secretary at all cost.

After all, working in her position was too tormenting!

"Is there anything else you want to say?"

Seeing that Linda had not moved, Lu Jinye raised his apathetic eyes and glanced at her.

Linda swallowed, then said, "Umm, Mr. Chairman... It is twenty-eight past two, the meeting is at three, do you think you should start making your way there?"

Upon getting reminded by Linda, Lu Jinye brushed off his emotions.

With his usual poise, he uttered, "Sure."

Then, he rose to his feet and slowly headed out the door.

Linda followed closely behind. She secretly sighed in relief.

Lu Jinye was a perfectionist. He rarely made mistakes. He also had a habit of arriving at the meeting room ahead of schedule to prepare himself.

Linda only came to nudge Lu Jinye as the rest of the attendees had been expecting him for a while now.

Moreover.

Lu Jinye was seemingly distracted today.

But, Linda did not dare to ask him, afraid that she would be crossing her boundaries.

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Meanwhile, after hanging up on Lu Jinye, Mu Zhi was equally as peeved.

Her rational mind told her that she was not bothered by whether Lu Jinye had a love for her, but his attitude was infuriating.

She was drowned in sorrow in the past few days, while Lu Jinye was unaware of it.

Could the paparazzi be right that Lu Jinye was busy hooking up with Xiao Qingqing?

At that thought, Mu Zhi could feel her blood boiling!

She could no longer stay unemployed. In a fit of pique, she updated her resume and applied to a few jobs.

It hardly took ten minutes before receiving her first job interview.

It was a pharmaceutical manufacturer who called Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi refused to continue living life frivolously. She wore some makeup, made herself presentable, and hurriedly set off for the interview.

The interview went smoothly. Since the release of the statement clarifying her data falsification, Mu Zhi was able to easily secure a job she wanted with her expertise.

Mu Zhi got three job offers in a row. All three companies which interviewed her were pleased with her capabilities. Mu Zhi was able to weigh the pros and cons of each company, then make a suitable choice accordingly.

It was almost midday when she was done with her third interview. Thus, Mu Zhi went to a nearby area to hunt for lunch.

She came to a restaurant and ordered a serve of salad and a steak for herself. When the salad was served, she plunged her head into it.

Then all of a sudden, she heard a series of muffled screams coming from the women surrounding her.

Itched by her curiosity, she lifted her head with a mouthful of salad greens and noticed that all of the women's gazes were thrown at the restaurant's entrance.

The sunlight was shining into her squinting eyes from the door. All she could see was a man, seemingly decked up in a decent suit with a captivating ambiance attached to him. He felt like a prince who had just walked out of a fairy tale.

His temperament paired with his arrogance gave off a mysterious sensation.

A sensation where people would somehow yearn to approach him, yet afraid of him.

Judging by the reaction of the women at the entrance area, Mu Zhi surmised that the man must be a fine-looking piece. Otherwise, he wouldn't call for all the attention attracted to him.

But as the man slowly approached her, her heart skipped a beat.

Bloody hell!

He is... Xie Xiu?!

Mu Zhi blinked her eyes in disbelief.

“Sir, table for one?”

The waiter ushered Xie Xiu into the restaurant as he asked if he was dining in alone.

However, while he was walking majestically in the limelight, Xie Xiu suddenly caught glimpse of Mu Zhi's existence. He put a hand up, beckoning for the waiter to pause before saying, “There's no need to find me a table, my friend's here.”

Following that, Xie Xiu made a beeline towards Mu Zhi with a beaming smile. He pulled the chair and sat across her as he had just met a long-lost friend.

He told the waiter to prepare what Mu Zhi ordered.

In this instance, Mu Zhi could feel an indescribable murderous intent coming over her from the pack of women in the restaurant.

She promptly covered one side of her face and whispered, “What are you doing here?”

“I'm here to deal with some business, didn't expect to see you here, Miss Mu, seems like it's fated.”

Mu Zhi then responded softly, “Fated, yeah, fate.”

It just occurred to Xie Xiu at this point that Mu Zhi was behaving oddly. He asked curiously, “Why are you covering your face? What happened?”

Mu Zhi continued with a low voice, “Mr. Xie, you're too stunning, everyone has their eyes on you.”

“Don't worry about them.”

Xie Xiu raised the corners of his mouth. He reached out to remove Mu Zhi's hand from her face and said, “Actually, you're the dazzling one, Miss Mu. The men are jealous that I have the pleasure to share a table with you.”

Mu Zhi was mortified to receive the compliments from Xie Xiu.

Fortunately... The steaks were served at this moment, easing the awkward air surrounding the both of them.

Mu Zhi promptly lowered her head to cut the steak.

Then, she started putting bite-sized pieces into her mouth.

She intended to flee after finishing her steak, but just as she took the second bite, she could hear the similar muffle screams from earlier.

This time, she overheard the woman on the next table cheering, “What a lucky day it is! Is that man a movie star? He’s so hot! I need his signature!”

Mu Zhi hurriedly looked to the entrance.

Alas, as soon as she did, her heart skipped another beat!

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Chapter 180 Caught in the Act

The man was Lu Jinye!

Not only Lu Jinye, but also... What looked like a few executives behind him.

He must have brought his team of executives to the restaurant for a lunch meeting!

Lu Jinye’s physique was comparable to that of a supermodel. He towered over the rest of his staff as they entered the restaurant. He rocked an imperturbable demeanor, giving him a cool charm!

Meanwhile, the young executives were decked in dark suits and leather shoes. Standing alongside them, the contrast Lu Jinye and his staff propelled his charms off the charts, different from the mere ordinary folks who frequented the restaurant!

Mu Zhi understood Lu Jinye. He was usually not keen to have lunch at restaurants. He tended to ask his secretaries to order takeaway for him. When he chose to leave work for lunch, it meant that he was not in a good mood and needed some fresh air!

Mu Zhi was secretly lamenting on her misfortune. She pondered her decision to choose a restaurant nearby Lu Jinye’s office.

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Why don't I think of finding somewhere farther?!

She swiftly hung her head, hoping not to get noticed.

In this instance, the woman who thought Lu Jinye was a movie star suddenly stood up and approached him.

Mu Zhi espied the blush on her face as she enthusiastically handed a name card to him, “Hey pretty boy, I am Huang Yi, the eldest daughter of the chairman of Huangshi Construction Holdings, care to make friends?”

Lu Jinye eyed down at her. He did not bother glancing at the card, saying, “You’re in my way.”

That was the most courteous he had ever been.

Huang Yi was a fine-looking lady. She was decked up in an Armani dress, like a typical daughter from a wealthy family. By the looks of it, she was probably used to getting fawned over, having never been the one to initiate flirting.

She was peeved by Lu Jinye’s rejection.

Uttering a snort, she added, “You don’t know what you’re missing out on. Do you have a clue how many toady faces I meet every day? You...”

Huang Yi paused all of a sudden. She cast her gaze at the men behind Lu Jinye, “Judging by your looks, you must’ve been one of those poor entrepreneurs. Listen, if I connect you to my dad, he can make sure you prosper in the coming years, removing all the detours towards your success.”

Sitting afar, Mu Zhi was surreptitiously enjoying her steak with her head lowered. She almost sniggered at the sound of the woman’s words.

It was the first time she witnessed a woman flirting with Lu Jinye in such an overbearing way.

Hahahaha, interesting to see him being hit on like that.

She curled her lips into a smile.

Meanwhile, Xie Xiu realized that Mu Zhi was smiling by herself. He asked with a gentle gaze, “Miss Mu, what’s so funny?”

“Nothing, the way the woman flirts with him is rather intriguing.”

Mu Zhi casually explained.

Xie Xiu looked like a sharp guy. She dared not lie to him.

He turned back to glance at the door. Upon noticing that the man was Lu Jinye, he reverted his attention to Mu Zhi, saying, "Isn't that Lu Jinye?"

He was carefully examining Mu Zhi's response as he asked that question.

Mu Zhi acknowledged it while staring at Lu Jinye and Huang Yi.

She noticed that Lu Jinye was grumpily eyeing down at Huang Yi.

He tilted his face towards Linda, who was standing behind him, "Give Huang Zhishan a call."

Linda immediately complied.

With a smug expression, Huang Yi had not yet realized that she was digging her own grave.

"My dad doesn't really tend to random folks."

However, just as she finished her words, she could hear Linda say, "Mr. Huang, your daughter has been pestering Mr. Lu at the restaurant. Mr. Lu told me to give you a call."

Upon giving the order, Lu Jinye had circled past Huang Yi and headed to the private room he had reserved, leaving her in anguish.

Meanwhile, Mu Zhi was expecting a dramatic development to their interaction. But Lu Jinye managed to resolve it with grace and formality.

That's... Ridiculous!

Anti-climactic!

It took less than two seconds after Linda hung up the call before Huang Zhishan brought a body of men with him to bring Huang Yi away. He even tried to apologize to Lu Jinye.

However, Huang Zhishan was dismissed by Linda before he could get to Lu Jinye.

That spelled the end of the ordeal.

Mu Zhi diverted her attention back to the steak before her eyes.

She paid no attention to Xie Xiu. Hence she did not see the smile on his face.

Only when she was done with her meal that it dawned on her that Xie Xiu was sitting across her. She swiftly said to him in embarrassment, "Sorry, Mr. Xie, it's rude of me to not speak to you when you're sitting right before me."

Xie Xiu was not bothered. He looked at Mu Zhi with the same smile, "I quite enjoy quiet meals. Just be natural, there's no need to use words when both of us are comfortable."

Mu Zhi could only nod in response.

She was fixated on avoiding Lu Jinye while devouring her steak as fast as she could.

Thus, subconsciously disregarded Xie Xiu's existence, which was uncalled for.

"Miss Mu, do you have any plans in the afternoon? If you don't, I have a few tickets to an opera from a friend, I'd like to invite you to watch the performance with me."

Xie Xiu asked courteously.

Mu Zhi looked at Xie Xiu, "I have things to take care of, apologies, maybe next time, Mr. Xie Xiu."

Seeing that Xie Xiu was almost done with his meal, she was readying to leave.

Meanwhile, Xie Xiu was not bothered by her rejection. He rose to his feet gently and slowly headed out of the restaurant with her before bidding farewell.

He offered her a lift, but Mu Zhi refused him. She hopped into a cab and took off.

However, after passing the first junction, she received a message from Lu Jinye, 'How's lunch with the man? Aren't you going to greet your husband?'

Mu Zhi had goosebumps all over just by reading those words.

After all, Lu Jinye had spotted her, pretended like he hadn't, and allowed her to finish her meal in peace!

Fortunately for Mu Zhi, she did not exchange many words with Xie Xiu. Otherwise... She would have felt like she got caught in the act.

Mu Zhi responded furiously, 'Ex-husband, technically!'

And slammed on the 'send' button.

She received a reply within a split second, 'Come to my company.'

Mu Zhi contemplated briefly and decided to tell the cab driver to stop. She settled the fees and walked two blocks to get to Lu Jinye's office.

She didn't find herself guilty. But it was strange to her that... She was anxious to see Lu Jinye!