

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 181

Chapter 181 Letting You Take a Look at the Background of Your Partner

Mu Zhi headed straight for Lu Jinye's office.

Since Lu Jinye had Linda send her a message, that meant he must have left the restaurant at this point.

True enough, Linda was expecting Mu Zhi by the time she arrived at the company. Linda had a doleful expression on her face, telling Mu Zhi that she desperately needed rescue.

Mu Zhi noticed Linda's expression, "What's the matter? Why are you looking at me like that?"

Linda tactfully ushered Mu Zhi into the building and whispered, "The Lu Group is facing a bottleneck lately, so Mr. Lu has been showing a hot temper. Watch what you say later, don't trigger him, or... We're going to have a tough time later."

Mu Zhi glanced at Linda. She had no clue what Lu Jinye was going to say to her and she had not exactly been on good terms with Lu Jinye lately, but she obliged to Linda's pleading.

They strode towards the entrance to Lu Jinye's office.

Linda came to an abrupt halt before his door and let Mu Zhi enter alone.

Mu Zhi knocked on the door. Upon hearing Lu Jinye's invitation to enter, she nonchalantly opened the door and headed in.

Lu Jinye was sitting by his desk, where piles of documents stacked like little mountains. Lowering his head with a scowl, he seemed to be deeply troubled.

It was the first time they met each other since their last unpleasant encounter at the hospital.

During which, they spoke on the phone twice. But they were ignorant of each other's troubles during both times. So, the calls ended up with them butting heads spitefully.

Mu Zhi was convinced that she was rational enough to accept the truth that Lu Jinye had no love for her. She refused to meet Lu Jinye, and even if she did see him, she was confident that she could hold her ground.

However, seeing how Lu Jinye was drowned in work, she could not help but feel a twinge of heartache.

Lu Jinye raised his eyes to see Mu Zhi. Her expressive eyes were as dazzling as they had always been, but it was obvious that she had shed some weight.

Lu Jinye felt oddly upset to see that she became skinnier.

But his concerns dissolved into his listless tone, "Not going to spend more time with Mr. Xie?"

As soon as Mu Zhi heard those words, what heartache she had for him instantly vanished.

She curved her lips upward and chuckled, "Mr. Lu, similarly, why don't you spend more time with Miss Huang?"

In response, Lu Jinye rose and trudged up to Mu Zhi. He brushed his gaze across Mu Zhi's body and cracked his thin lips open, "I can't get used to your peevishness."

Mu Zhi pursed her lips.

While Lu Jinye disliked her peevishness, she too could not get used to his listless attitude.

Thus, she blurted out habitually, "Mr. Lu, likewise."

Listening to her words, vicious energy flashed across his eyes.

What's wrong with this woman? How does she transform from a gentle sheep to a ferocious porcupine?

Lu Jinye had a near-squeaky clean relationship history.

His only ex was Xiao Qingqing.

Then, he got married to Mu Zhi.

Despite his countless scandals after their marriage, they served as publicity to the celebrities under his company. He never had a tinge of affection for any of them.

Numerous women swamped to fawn over him, but Lu Jinye would not bat an eye at any of them.

Xiao Qingqing was a gentle and magnanimous woman while Mu Zhi had completely changed from how she was before. He had no idea what she was thinking right now.

Thus, Lu Jinye was clueless in handling his relationship with Mu Zhi.

He cleared his throat softly. Figuring that it was counter-intuitive to continue locking horns with Mu Zhi, he ordered Linda into his office, "Bring us two coffees."

Linda complied and hurriedly headed out to prepare the coffee. It was routine to her. She habitually prepared two cups of black coffee.

Without creamer and sugar, like he usually had it.

When Linda placed the two cups on the table, Lu Jinye scowled and ordered her to bring two serves of creamer and sugar.

Linda scrambled to bring what she was asked. Lu Jinye then adjusted the creamer and sugar to Mu Zhi's liking, casually slid the saucer before her fingers, and said, "Alright, let's talk after the coffee."

Mu Zhi was bewildered by Lu Jinye's actions. Seeing that he was nonchalantly taking sips of the coffee before her, she spontaneously followed suit.

No word was exchanged during the five minutes. Both of them sat on different ends of the couch, quietly drinking their respective coffee.

When Lu Jinye was done with his black coffee, he suddenly stood up, walked up to his desk, grabbed a file, and handed it to Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi raised her eyes curiously as she received the document.

She flipped it open and read through the first few pages.

The first page was covered by a massive portrait of Xie Xiu.

It was a thick report outlining his background. Mu Zhi briefly skimmed through the whole document. The extent to which the report went was terrifying.

It started from the year he was born, breaking down the main events of every year of his life.

His marital status, how many girlfriends he had. Everything was listed clearly!

Mu Zhi then browsed the content page. She did not go into the details of the Xie Xiu's background before hurriedly returning the file to Lu Jinye.

"Why would you conduct such a detailed investigation? That's scary." She said.

Mu Zhi was adamant that she had an understanding of Xie Xiu's true colors. After all, he mentioned his job as an assassin. Moreover, she found him to be a decent and gentle man when they met at the restaurant.

Some professions might be more common overseas. Thus, Xie Xiu's past did not bother her.

Besides, Xie Xiu was just a normal friend to her.

In her eyes, Lu Jinye might have overreacted.

Lu Jinye did not address her query. He handed the document back to Mu Zhi and said, "Look again."

Mu Zhi frowned at Lu Jinye doubtfully. She was confused by his adamance but flipped through the document anyway.

'Xie Xiu, 30 years old, the chairman of WE Media Group, global investor, jewelry collector, philanthropist. Born in poverty, mother worked as a sex worker, father's identity unknown. Joined an assassin organization at the age of 5.'

At that point, Mu Zhi stopped reading.

"What is this all about?" Asked Mu Zhi.

"Nothing much, just letting you take a look at the background of your partner."

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Chapter 182 Sleeping in Lu Jinye's Embrace

Lu Jinye's raised his wide, captivating eyes, observing Mu Zhi's facial expression.

Meanwhile, Mu Zhi could not help but frown. She returned the file to Lu Jinye and pouted her lips, "He isn't my partner."

Lu Jinye then replied with a smirk, "If he isn't your partner, why would you refuse my invitation for dinner and end up having the time to get lunch with him?"

With his domineering temperament, the sound of Lu Jinye's words felt suffocating to Mu Zhi.

She glared at Lu Jinye right away, "Because I don't feel like having dinner with you."

"Mr. Lu, I suppose you're after the custody of Mu Xiaomu and I don't believe that's good news to me. So, I don't want to see you. I just want to escape from you. Mr. Lu, can you empathize with me?"

Lu Jinye said nothing in response.

In silence, he stared at her with his deep-set and enigmatic gaze, which made her...
Terrified.

Mu Zhi turned her back towards him and ignored Lu Jinye while leaning against the back of the couch.

A long moment later, Lu Jinye clenched his fists and said, "Stay away from Xie Xiu."

His tone was rather gentle.

And comparatively much more tender than seconds ago.

While Mu Zhi was giving him the cold shoulders, Lu Jinye managed to instantly melt her heart with his warmth. She was dumbfounded by the sudden gush of affection.

She bit her lower lip and nodded at him, "Fine, got it."

"Thank you."

She expressed her gratitude in the end.

Lu Jinye glared at her.

He despised her 'thank you'.

However, he was running out of time to carry on with their conversation. Linda had reluctantly knocked on the door to nudge him about the upcoming meeting.

Lu Jinye glanced at Mu Zhi, "Wait here, I have more to discuss with you after the meeting."

You expect me to sit around and do nothing?

The words were at the tip of Mu Zhi's tongue, but Lu Jinye had burst out of the room at this point.

Thus, she could only swallow them.

As a man who prided on efficiency, the meetings Lu Jinye held tended to be short and succinct. Understanding that, Mu Zhi was prepared to make herself comfortable on the seat to wait for him.

After a moment of waiting when boredom came over her, Mu Zhi got up to browse Lu Jinye's bookshelf and picked a book from it.

Mu Zhi had not been sleeping well since the passing of her mother. She would lay in bed early at night but take hours to fall asleep. The slightest sound in the middle of the night would startle her awake, and she would wake up in the morning to a pillow drenched in tears, not remembering what dreams she had the prior night.

However... She would pretend to be an ordinary person by the day.

She was grateful to Jian Xiaoning for looking after Mu Xiaomu all this while.

Jian Xiaoning would not hesitate to make time for Mu Xiaomu if Mu Zhi had run into personal issues.

But Mu Zhi was reluctant to trouble Jian Xiaoning anymore. Maintaining a bold and optimistic front, Mu Zhi insisted to bring Mu Xiaomu to school every day and cook up large meals for the three of them at night.

She would try to be as productive as she could during her free time.

But the positive energy would ultimately disperse every night. The darkness of the night would tell her that sleep was a horrifying thing, making it difficult for her to sleep.

At the end of the day, she had lost the battle against misery!

Sitting in Lu Jinye's office, Mu Zhi was focused on the book to pass her time. But for reasons unknown to her, she had hardly read a few pages before drowsiness struck her. She fell asleep without realizing it herself.

Lu Jinye chaired the meeting consciously knowing that Mu Zhi was expecting him. Thus, he cut the meeting short by a whole hour, concluding the meeting in an hour and a half for what would take two hours under normal circumstances.

The executives who had been vigorously working alongside Lu Jinye were jaw-dropped. They could not comprehend how Lu Jinye managed to produce at the rate that he did without the help of drugs.

In any case, the team welcomed an efficient meeting!

After the meeting, Lu Jinye headed straight towards his office while Linda was following closely behind. In the half-an-hour break, she needed to bring these documents to his office for him to go through.

But when Lu Jinye pushed the door open, he was greeted by a curled-up Mu Zhi soundly sleeping on the couch. She had a book on her forehead, forming a comical sight, but her body language told Lu Jinye that she lacked a sense of security.

Lu Jinye slowed down his footsteps. He pointed at this desk, beckoning Linda to place the documents on top of it.

Linda obliged and sidled out of Lu Jinye's office before scurrying away.

Lu Jinye locked his eyes on Mu Zhi. Despite her captivating features, he realized that her facial complexion was paler than usual. She looked even more unwell than his staff who were living in the office in the past few days.

He frowned at the question of what the woman had been through.

Slowly, he moved towards Mu Zhi, removed his coat to put it over her body in a sequence of gentle movements, afraid that he would wake her.

Luckily, Mu Zhi showed no reaction.

Just as Lu Jinye retracted his hands, preparing to return to his desk to go through the work documents, Mu Zhi suddenly started sobbing softly, as though she was having a nightmare.

Lu Jinye hurriedly stopped his movements and clutched her hand firmly, "Don't be afraid."

The sound of his words seemed to have enticed Mu Zhi. She immediately stopped sobbing, but her brows were still scrunched.

Lu Jinye wanted to return to his desk but found out that he could not withdraw his hand.

It was being grasped by Mu Zhi.

Left with no choice, he stood up carefully and stretched every inch of muscle, bone, and tendon in his body to fetch the document from his desk, all this while allowing Mu Zhi to grab one of his hands. He sat down to go through the file as he rested Mu Zhi on his lap.

When the next meeting was due to start, Linda knocked on the door, entered his office, and reminded Lu Jinye about it. She was baffled at the sight.

"Umm... Mr. Chairman, meeting."

In this instance, Mu Zhi was comfortably resting her head on Lu Jinye's thigh while he had his back fully straightened to give her the right height.

"Ok."

Lu Jinye nodded. He motioned for Linda to quietly take the file off his hand and gently shuffled away from Mu Zhi. She finally let go of his hand, but she remained asleep.

He then strode towards the next meeting.

This meeting lasted two hours, and Mu Zhi slept through the entire period.

Following that, Lu Jinye went on to chair another meeting, but Mu Zhi was still asleep when he returned.

She seemed to have progressively fallen deeper into the sleep each time he came back.

Lu Jinye stayed after working hours to attend to some work while Mu Zhi continued to sleep like a log.

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Chapter 183 Why Is the Woman Crying?

In the dimly lit office, if it weren't for her rhythmic chest movement from breathing, one might have mistaken that she had been dead.

It was approaching midnight. Lu Jinye had decided that he would not wait any longer if she had not woken up.

He bent forward to lift Mu Zhi off the couch, but Mu Zhi spontaneously buried into his embrace, showing no sign of waking up.

Lu Jinye figured that Mu Zhi must be living at Jian Xiaoning's place, but he was not certain where her place was. Thus, Lu Jinye brought Mu Zhi back to his place.

...

Earlier that day, after completing a surgical procedure at the hospital and preparing to set off for home, Jian Xiaoning received a phone call from the kindergarten to inform her to pick up Mu Xiaomu. It was two hours since school had finished.

Jian Xiaoning was wondering to herself why Mu Zhi did not show up for Mu Xiaomu while she went to bring her home.

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Afterward, she hurriedly rang Mu Zhi to ask her about her whereabouts.

But the call was not answered.

Jian Xiaoning went on to make several more attempts but to no avail.

It was midnight, and Mu Zhi did not return home. Jian Xiaoning could no longer stay in her seat. She finally decided to call everyone that might be related to Mu Zhi and Lu Jinye was the first of her deducted list.

Lu Jinye had just tucked Mu Zhi into the bed when he received Jian Xiaoning's call.

To avoid disturbing Mu Zhi's sleep, Lu Jinye headed down to the lounge to answer the call.

Jian Xiaoning burst out in a flurry as soon as her call was answered.

"Hello, have you seen Mu Zhi? She's gone missing and didn't pick up Mu Xiaomu from school today. Do you think she might be suicidal?"

Lu Jinye frowned at Jian Xiaoning's nervous-stricken voice.

It had barely been past midnight at this point. Did that call for Jian Xiaoning's reaction?

However, Lu Jinye was not in a rush to answer Jian Xiaoning's question. He chose to first seek information from Jian Xiaoning.

"Why would Mu Zhi be suicidal?"

Lu Jinye did not find anything odd about Mu Zhi when he met her earlier, apart from her hot temper.

But why is that happening?

"Because Mu Zhi's mother has passed away, she's uncannily ordinary from the surface these few days! The more normal a person appears after a traumatic experience, the more dangerous it is!"

Elaborated Jian Xiaoning.

But the exasperation had gotten the best of her at this point. “No way, I need to call the police right now!”

“There’s no need to, Mu Zhi’s here with me.”

Uttered Lu Jinye.

“Really?”

“Yeah.”

Upon getting the reassurance from Lu Jinye, Jian Xiaoning appeared much calmer, “Then, what is she doing now?”

“Sleeping, since one in the afternoon, she showed no sign of life so far. I brought her home from the company and lifted her off the car, but she’s sleeping like a log.”

“It’s fine.”

Jian Xiaoning was even more relieved to hear his words.

She said, “She must have not been getting enough sleep lately even though she tried to act normal. It’s good that she finally gets some quality sleep now.”

“Alright, everything is fine, bye for now.”

“Sure.”

Lu Jinye did not say another word to Jian Xiaoning. He went to the bathroom for a shower after hanging up the call, then spent the night in another room.

He woke up early in the morning.

The first thing he did after waking up was to ring Linda and told her to bring Mu Xiaomu over from Jian Xiaoning’s place.

Then, he left Mu Xiaomu playing in the lounge as he entered the kitchen.

Mu Zhi felt like she had been knocked out for days when she woke up.

In the past few days, the morning beam would glare into her eyes. She habitually slid a hand under her head to feel the pillow to see if she had spent the night crying.

But the pillow was not soaked...

Moreover, the texture of the linen felt strange to her touch and the softness of the pillow did not feel like what she used at home. On the contrary, it felt like what Lu Jinye normally used.

Mu Zhi shot her eyes wide open and it hit her that she was at Lu Jinye's place!

She scanned the area anxiously, sat on her back, and realized that... Everything about the space told her that she was in Lu Jinye's room.

Strange... She could not recall what happened before her sleep as it felt like an eternity ago.

She stepped off the bed. Dressed in a cozy outfit, she didn't feel the need to get changed. She slowly headed out the room for the stairs.

By the stairwell, Mu Zhi was flummoxed by what was in her eyes!

She rubbed her eyes in disbelief.

Why was Mu Xiaomu here?

In this instance, Mu Xiaomu was obediently playing with Lego on the couch with a cartoon showing on the TV.

"Lu Jinye?"

Mu Zhi first called out Lu Jinye's name tentatively.

Could it be a dream? This feels like such a beautiful dream.

After calling Lu Jinye's name, he walked out of the kitchen and said to her, "Wash up now, breakfast is almost ready!"

The harmonious scene of their little family was too perfect to be true!

It must be a dream!

Mu Zhi wanted to pinch herself in an attempt to wake herself up.

Seeing that Mu Zhi was awake, Mu Xiaomu jovially leaped to her feet and scurried towards Mu Zhi in her chunky little legs, hugging Mu Zhi firmly, "Mama, mama, papa said that I'm not going to the kindergarten today. He's bringing me to Disneyland."

While Mu Zhi believed that it was a dream, everything somehow felt too real to Mu Zhi. She had no idea how to react.

All she could do was nod, grab Mu Xiaomu's hand, and head downstairs.

She even forwent the idea of pinching herself, afraid that she would wake up into reality where the flawless dream was shattered.

She brought Mu Xiaomu to wash her hands before splashing water on her face.

Every single item in Lu Jinye's washroom was arranged the same way as he usually did.

Mu Zhi sighed at how real the dream felt.

After washing up, she ushered Mu Xiaomu out of the washroom only to see Lu Jinye had served breakfast on the dining table.

He said, "It's been a while since I cooked, I'm not sure how it tastes like. The waffles are freshly made, I remember that you don't like greasy foods as breakfast, you prefer sunny-side-up eggs to go with waffles and milk."

Mu Zhi stared at Lu Jinye blankly as he spoke to her.

Meanwhile, Mu Xiaomu seemed to be famished. She shook Mu Zhi's hand and hopped onto the dining chair, indulging herself in the breakfast.

Mu Zhi continued to lock her eyes at Lu Jinye intently.

Noticing that Mu Zhi had not moved a finger, Lu Jinye looked at her in confusion, "Is the food not appetizing?"

Lu Jinye eyed down at his breakfast.

It looks... Mouthwatering!

Mu Zhi did not say a word.

Lu Jinye frowned and asked, "Umm... You don't like it?"

She did not touch the food. Perhaps, it did not entice her.

Mu Zhi shook her head in response.

"Then, what's the matter?"

Mu Zhi remained mum, but tears started streaming down her cheeks.

Seeing that, Lu Jinye was perturbed.

Why is this woman crying?

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Chapter 184 Missing Mu Zhi's Reliance on Him

Lu Jinye had never prepared breakfast for a woman before.

Besides, he had never displayed that much affection for any woman in his life.

To his surprise! He had the urge to care for Mu Zhi and spend some quality together with Mu Xiaomu. But what was she crying all about?

Coaxing women was not Lu Jinye's strong suit.

Lu Jinye was instantly at a loss. He turned around to look at Mu Xiaomu.

Mu Xiaomu was contently munching on the breakfast Lu Jinye prepared. She had no intention of getting distracted by Lu Jinye.

He frowned as he pulled a piece of tissue to wipe the tears of Mu Zhi's face, then said, "Alright, stop crying now. Why are you crying by the way?"

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His question put Mu Zhi in a daze.

Why am I crying?

I feel resentful, perhaps.

But why resentful?

She had been handling all the adversities alone. Meanwhile, it did not occur to her that she was physical and mentally exhausted. Besides, she did not notice that she needed to rely on Lu Jinye. After witnessing what he had done for her, she became emotional.

Lu Jinye's family business was currently facing numerous threats. Thus, it was understandable that Lu Jinye was unaware of her mother's passing.

Mu Zhi bit her lip, rubbed the tears off but resentment continued to flood her.

"It's fine, stop crying. Why are you so tired lately?"

Lu Jinye reached out to wipe her tears and asked once again.

Mu Zhi suddenly raised her head and said dolefully, "Lu Jinye, my mom's gone."

The emotions that she had just managed to suppress came gushing once more.

She started wailing, exhibiting no control over herself.

She was convinced that she was strong enough to face everything alone. She had never shed a tear before Jian Xiaoning, Mu Xiaomu or anyone else.

But for some reason, she became a helpless, meek lady when she was around Lu Jinye.

Lu Jinye straightened his back after listening to what she said.

His furrowed brows were relaxed. After faltering for a long moment, he steadied himself, "What happened?"

He had researched about the hospital and the procedure of the treatment.

Knowing that the success rate of the treatment was high, it was difficult to believe that Mu Zhi's mother would pass away out of the blue.

He even sent his personal assistant to enquire about her mother's situation. Wasn't she... Doing fine not long ago?

Lu Jinye caressed Mu Zhi's back and gathered her into his embrace.

Mu Zhi could feel an indescribable sense of security with his arms around her. She thought that all the years away from Lu Junnian and delivering Mu Xiaomu alone were enough to make her an invincible, unwavering woman!

However, little did she expect that she would find a sense of belonging in Lu Jinye's embrace.

She was clear that the feeling would not last long. But her greed had stopped her from leaving his arms.

She cried for a long moment before finally collecting herself. She unhugged Lu Jinye and said, "I'm fine now."

Mu Zhi even squeezed a bright smile when she said that.

Lu Jinye gazed at her emotionlessly.

He seized her hand and brought her to the bathroom, "Let's wash the tear marks off your face, we'll bring Xiaomu out for fun after breakfast."

Mu Zhi had returned to her usual poise. "Ok," she responded.

She headed into the bathroom, twisted the tap open, allowed water to run into the basin before cupping her hands underneath the flowing water and splashing it onto her face.

Mu Zhi displayed no sign of having cried earlier when she walked out of the bathroom.

She came to Mu Xiaomu, sat next to her, and poured a glass of milk each for Lu Jinye, herself, and Mu Xiaomu.

Lu Jinye watched her slowly approaching and sat down.

This woman... How does she manage to put all her thoughts away in such a short time?

Lu Jinye even started to miss the brief moment when Mu Zhi had relied on him.

Spontaneously, he moved next to Mu Zhi, cut a piece of the sunny-side-up egg while Mu Xiaomu raised her face full of runny yolk towards him, "Papa, do you think we can take some photos at Disneyland today? I want to show Tingting and Haoran that I finally have a papa now."

"Who are Tingting and Haoran?"

Mu Zhi asked Mu Xiaomu as she wiped the yolk off the corners of her tiny mouth.

Mu Xiaomu looked up at her with adorable, round eyes, "The people who always tease me for not having a dad. I hate them!"

"Humph."

Mu Xiaomu pouted her lips before carrying on with her sunny-side-up eggs.

Lu Jinye was sitting across her. He frowned and said to Mu Zhi, "I heard Yunzhan mention that he's looking to enroll Jieyi into an overseas junior school. I'm thinking to have Xiaomu follow Jieyi's footsteps when she's graduated from kindergarten."

Lu Jinye was aware that Mu Zhi had given the best she could to Mu Xiaomu.

But the school was still not up to his standards.

"I'll think about it and let you know."

Mu Zhi tilted her head upwards with knitted brows as she pondered.

Lu Jinye was seemingly not in a hurry for an answer. He nodded and gulped down the glass of milk.

Meanwhile, Mu Xiaomu was obsequiously munching on the food.

It was... A mysterious feeling.

Mu Zhi had never felt the same way before, where Lu Jinye, her, and Mu Xiaomu were together like a blissful family.

After breakfast, Lu Jinye hastily rose to his feet and headed out the yard to pick a suitable car for their trip.

His garage was boasted with numerous sports cars. He had a luxurious RV in case he felt like a road trip. But it was inconvenient to park at the theme park. Thus, in the end, he opted for an SUV.

Mu Zhi put on a casual outfit for Mu Xiaomu and herself while Lu Jinye also went to change after a vigorous car selection process.

Despite not wearing matching outfits, the three of them looked harmonious together.

Mu Xiaomu was the most excited person in the car.

She asked for a photo with Lu Jinye as soon as they got into the car, then sent to her little friends to brag about her father.

Mu Zhi was busy lecturing Mu Xiaomu while obliging to the little girl's requests.

Looking at their interaction, Lu Jinye let out a beaming smile but felt a twinge of heartache.

Because... He could not help but feel that he was indebted to Mu Xiaomu.

After sending the photos, Mu Xiaomu cheered jovially for a few minutes before gradually nodding off.

When Mu Xiaomu was asleep, Lu Jinye said to Mu Zhi, "Does Xiaomu have a hobby? Do you think we should plan for a trip to the Maldives?"

Mu Zhi was astounded...

What's going on with Lu Jinye?

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Chapter 185 You're Surprisingly Shy

Is he being a little too serious about his role as a father?

Mu Zhi could not help but feel overwhelmed. She looked at Lu Jinye, flabbergasted while blinking her eyes and pondered.

In the end, she had decided that it was the case!

Lu Jinye used to ask her if he could be a good father when he learned about Xiao Qingqing's pregnancy earlier.

The Lu Jinye at the time must have been stressed out!

Thus, now that Lu Jinye found out that he had another daughter, Mu Xiaomu, the same stress started coming over him, hence his arrangements.

At that thought, an even more serious issue dawned on Mu Zhi!

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Xiao Qingqing!

Mu Zhi must not be doing this!

Because... Xiao Qingqing was conceived with Lu Jinye's child too. Besides, he was supposed to be in love with Xiao Qingqing, but he was currently occupied by Mu Zhi.

She could shamelessly seize Lu Jinye on the ground of love. But her guilty conscience told her that she must not rob a child of their father.

Mu Zhi suddenly turned her face to Lu Jinye, hesitated, and said, "Lu Jinye, what are you planning to do with Miss Xiao's child?"

Lu Jinye made it obvious that he did not want to discuss that.

"Mu Zhi, I just want to spend a relaxing day with you and Mu Xiaomu. We can talk about the annoying matters later."

Mu Zhi was astonished to hear his response.

She was wondering if she should press on.

Mu Xiaomu was sound asleep. Thus, it was not the best time to discuss it with Lu Jinye in case the argument got heated up and startle Mu Xiaomu as a result.

Mu Zhi relented. She reminded Lu Jinye in a different tone. "You don't really need to bring us out for fun. Seeing that the Lu Family is overwhelmed by troubles, you don't have to do these for us. Besides, there's no need to feel pressured into being a good dad."

Mu Zhi had clearly misunderstood Lu Jinye.

He scowled at her in response, "I'm not pressured into being a good dad."

I do it out of love.

But the latter words did not leave his lips.

And hence the message did not get sent across to Mu Zhi.

She glanced at Lu Jinye. Troubled with a strange feeling, she said, "Mu Xiaomu and Xiao Qingqing's child are equal. Both of them need fatherly love but the difference is that Mu Xiaomu has grown up without a father and Xiao Qingqing's child isn't born yet. I don't wish the same for the baby, missing a fatherly figure since the baby is little."

Mu Zhi could feel her heart clenching after saying those words.

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye contemplated briefly and said, "I will try my best to make up to the kid as a father."

They had come to the entrance of Disneyland as they spoke. Mu Xiaomu seemed to have telepathy abilities, jerking her eyes open in a timely fashion. Gazing at the magnificent constructions in the surrounding, she started cheering euphorically.

Then, she could no longer stay put, "Papa, mama, look, it's Mickey Mouse!"

The supposed jovial air was seemingly ruined by the conversation between Lu Jinye and Mu Zhi.

He uttered at Mu Zhi listlessly, "Take Xiaomu off the car with you, I'll look for a parking."

Mu Zhi could not sense any emotion in his words.

She hummed in response, got off, circled the car for Mu Xiaomu, and glanced at Lu Jinye before carrying Mu Xiaomu off the car. But all she could see was Lu Jinye's apathetic expression.

Mu Zhi hesitated but ended up taking Mu Xiaomu off the car.

She bought a balloon for Mu Xiaomu and she was exhilarated to hold it.

However, Mu Zhi was secretly remorseful.

Lu Jinye got up early in the morning, arranged to bring Mu Xiaomu over, and planned for the Disneyland trip. It was apparent that Lu Jinye had prepared for the day thoughtfully.

He wanted to create some memories for the three of them, to diligently work towards being a good father.

Mu Zhi was peeved. Judging by his intelligence, Lu Jinye must have already figured out what she was trying to say during the journey.

Why must she ruin the jolly atmosphere?

She could have indulged in the beautiful moment, pretended to be a blissfully ignorant woman, and treated the day as a dream. She should not have allowed her rational mind to interfere with her fantasy.

Mu Zhi could have left Xiao Qingqing out just for the moment and find a way to make up to her afterward.

While Mu Zhi was immersing herself in the sea of thoughts, Lu Jinye had parked the car and was walking up to her. There was no evidence of fury on his expression. He made a beeline to Mu Xiaomu and lifted her off the ground, then turned to Mu Zhi, "Let's go."

Mu Zhi nodded and followed closely behind.

The two of them seemed to have come to a tacit understanding.

Lu Jinye brought Mu Xiaomu to every ride they could go on throughout the day.

Mu Zhi could not recall the last time she saw Mu Xiaomu this happy...

She had gradually put the conflict behind her, and plunged into the jolliness with Lu Jinye and Mu Xiaomu.

It was dusk when the three of them started setting off for home.

Mu Xiaomu dozed off the instant she got into the car.

While Lu Jinye played some soft music.

Mu Zhi figured that it was foolish to bring up the same topic again, killing what joy they had experienced throughout the day.

Not knowing what else she could say to Lu Jinye, she closed her eyes for a quick nap.

But... A quick nap turned into a deep sleep.

When they arrived at Lu Jinye's villa, he brought Mu Xiaomu back into her room in an extraordinarily gentle series of movements. Mu Zhi remained asleep, oblivious of her surroundings.

But when Lu Jinye returned for Mu Zhi, she suddenly woke up in his embrace.

They locked eyes. Mu Zhi was in a trance. She had not yet realized that Lu Jinye was carrying her in his arms.

She became in the face the moment she met Lu Jinye's captivatingly enigmatic gaze. She tried to escape from his arms, but Lu Jinye stared down at her and commanded, "Stop moving."

The words felt like an enchantment, immobilizing her in a flash.

Lu Jinye had his arms firmly wrapped around Mu Zhi and he brought her to the bedroom.

Mu Zhi's face was nestled up against his chest. She could hear his heartbeat.

Simultaneously, her heart rate started picking up.

It wasn't until they got to the bedroom that Lu Jinye saw her heavily flushed face.

"You're a surprisingly shy lady, I didn't know that."

Lu Jinye teased with a playful smile.