

## Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 226

### Chapter 226 A Sudden Harmonious Ambience

Lu Jinye did not refute the idea of buying a gift for Master Lu as an apology. He tagged along with Mu Zhi to the shopping mall.

In the mall, Mu Zhi was meticulously selecting the best gift while asking Lu Jinye about Master Lu's personal preference. Lu Jinye responded to her questions thoughtfully.

He wore a smile throughout the process.

After picking a gift, Mu Zhi turned to Lu Jinye and was startled to find his dazzling smile.

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

Lu Jinye giggled, "Master Lu barely stays at home when I was little. But whenever he was coming home, my mom would always clean every corner of the house in advance. She would buy a hefty amount of items, soliloquizing to herself if the things are suitable."

"I couldn't bear her nagging at the time. I didn't understand why mom did what she was doing. After all, everything was readily available at home, and Master Lu might not appreciate what she bought. But, she would let her joy overcome her exhaustion."

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"But I realize it now."

Mu Zhi loaded the tea leaves she could into the car and fastened her seatbelt, "What did you figure?"

Lu Jinye said, "It... Is how a blissful home should feel like."

"I picked up the same feeling from you, from the efforts you put into working towards a blissful home."

However, the characters were now different from the visual in his head. His mom did it for Master Lu, while Mu Zhi did the same for him.

After listening to those words, Mu Zhi could not help but chuckle, "Actually, I never thought that I'd put in this much effort in the first place."

"From the way you described your mom, I can tell that she was a marvelous woman."

Lu Jinye took the wheels steadily as Mu Zhi stared at Lu Jinye with a stern face. After some moment, she suddenly asked, "Do you find any similarities between your mom and me?"

Over the past few years of knowing Lu Jinye, Mu Zhi had never asked him about his mother.

But Lu Jinye seemed to have intermittently opened up about this mother recently.

It was a sign that Lu Jinye's mother was a beloved figure in his heart.

Due to how precious his mother was, Lu Jinye would openly share about her to the closest people to him.

Thus, Mu Zhi felt like getting to know more about his mother.

Lu Jinye threw an earnest look at Mu Zhi. He sized her up for a long while before saying, "Not really. The only similarity I can think of is that both of you are fine-looking women."

Lu Jinye reverted his gaze to the road as he continued driving. He drove steadily while saying casually, "My mother was a simple woman. She tended not to overread situations. She was naïve, which was why she would gullibly imagine what the future looked like, holding unrealistic expectations as a result. Such a woman isn't as eye-catching, and hence she was not an impactful lady."

At this point, Lu Jinye paused momentarily before continuing, "You're different."

"How am I different?"

Mu Zhi suddenly turned to him and asked.

"You fight for yourself proactively. For instance, you volunteered to marry me in the first place, and it was a display of fighting for yourself."

"I was cornered."

Mu Zhi shook her head helplessly. She could vividly remember how foolish she looked when they first got married. She pounced at Lu Jinye and sold herself off like an object.

Before they realized it, they had arrived at the Lu's Manor. Mu Zhi held the gift in her hands and followed behind Lu Jinye as they headed into the house.

Lu Jinye held Mu Zhi's hand spontaneously.

That felt warm and indescribably intimate.

However, as soon as she stepped through the door, Mu Zhi was surprised by the house's ambiance.

She was sure that Master Lu would be infuriated when she came.

But that was not the case... The butler zealously said to Mu Zhi, "The master is upstairs, please give me a moment while I inform him of your arrival."

Finishing what he had to say, the butler headed upstairs.

Mu Zhi held the gift with both hands, waiting patiently. Not long after, Master Lu was seen gradually trudging down the stairs with the butler's support.

Master Lu no longer carried the same stateliness he had before. Mu Zhi was surprised to find him a little friendly towards her.

She was confused and unsure what was going on.

"Please take a seat."

When Master Lu got downstairs, he invited the pair for a seat softly, yet somehow domineeringly.

Lu Jinye found his seat right away while Mu Zhi was contemplating whether she should sit. In the end, she decided to hand the gift to Master Lu, and said reluctantly...

"Dad, I understand that I am not in the place to address you as dad just yet, but Lu Jinye and I truly love each other. I apologize for what happened in the hospital before, and I hope that you could bless us."

Mu Zhi bit her lower lip. Despite having practiced these lines numerous times throughout their journey, she could not control but feeling nervous.

In response, Master Lu raised his head to look at Mu Zhi, "How can I blame you? It's not your fault."

He said in a deep, silvery voice.

“No, it’s my fault. I shouldn’t be too blunt with my words. I should’ve explained to you before rushing to Lu Junnian’s rescue.”

The Lu Family members did not seem to like showing expression on their faces, as with Master Lu and Lu Jinye.

Thus, Mu Zhi could not tell Master Lu’s feelings by the sound of his tone. She surmised that Master Lu was sarcastic.

Hence her eager explanation.

However, hearing her words, Master Lu said in response, “But, you saved my grandchild.”

His remark was laced with tenderness.

It felt no different from words that came from the mouth of an ordinary old man.

Mu Zhi raised her head to look at Master Lu astonished only to find him smiling at her.

She had never felt more welcomed into the Lu’s Manor before.

Thus, everything in the surrounding was incomprehensible to her.

Did Master Lu just forgive her that easily?

Wasn’t he supposed to be one of those stubborn oldheads?

In this instance, somebody had opened the door of the first floor’s study. Lu Leiming and Xu Changshu slowly headed out of the room and walked down the stairs while Lu Junnian and Zhu Sha followed suit.

Mu Zhi was starting to doubt her eyes, thinking that it was all an illusion.

Is Xu Changshu smiling at me?

What’s happening with the Lu Family? Why is there a sudden harmonious ambiance?

Mu Zhi turned to look at Lu Jinye, and he gave her an enigmatic smile.

## **Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 227**

Chapter 227 His Compromise and Love

Mu Zhi wheeled back to face the front and gawked at the bizarre turmoil presented to her. She suspected that she was in a dream. That was the only explanation for the blissful ending to the family.

Xu Changshu and Lu Leiming were before her at this point.

It's just too strange.

Before Mu Zhi could put the two and two together, the butler had approached her with a bright smile. He looked at everyone courteously and said to Master Lu, "Dinner is ready, should we start?"

"Wait a moment."

Master Lu threw his gaze out the window and turned around to check the time, seemingly expecting someone else.

At this moment, a series of footsteps came from the yard, one significantly heavier than the other. Lu Yunxi's voice followed it, "It is such a chore to pick up a kid from the kindergarten. You won't believe how packed it was at the entrance."

"Uncle, just admit that you took the wrong route!"

Mu Xiaomu's little girl voice arose in response to Lu Yunxi's remark.

Lu Yunxi immediately carried Mu Xiaomu off the ground and said light-heartedly, "Humph, won't you show your uncle some courtesy? Put some respect on my name!"

"You've made several complaints on my driving skills over the journey. Keep in mind that if you weren't an adorable little girl, I would've dumped you in the middle of the road!"

Mu Xiaomu sounded like she understood what Lu Yunxi was saying. Her voice turned sheepish, "Uncle, please don't leave me on the road. There're some snacks in my bag, and you can have them all."

"Humph, it's too late. Stop bribing me already. I will never pick you up from the kindergarten again."

Carrying Mu Xiaomu in his arms, the pair was quibbling playfully into the house.

Master Lu finally let out an affectionate smile. He rose to his feet and announced gently, yet somehow authoritatively, "Great, we can have dinner now!"

"Everyone is here!"

Mu Zhi remained in a trance.

Dinner was exceptionally harmonious and comfortable. The jolliest person at the dining table was none other than Mu Xiaomu. She had never experienced the warmth from such a big family in her life. Master Lu seemed to have made special arrangements for her, ordering the kitchen to prepare a variety of food suitable for little children. The food were mouth-watering, appealing, and nutritious at the same time.

The second happiest was undoubtedly Master Lu. Any elderly person would yearn for family love, despite how carefree they were during the span of their lives.

The infectious beam on Master Lu had momentarily distracted Mu Zhi from wondering what made Lu Leiming and Xu Changshu return to the family and how she received forgiveness from master Lu.

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye was also wearing a placid smile.

The atmosphere in the house felt too perfect and harmonious. While Mu Zhi was glad of that, she could not ignore the worry she felt.

She was glad that things started to take a positive turn for her. Seeing how happy Master Lu was, she figured that logically, he would bless Lu Jinye and her relationship.

However, her concern stemmed from the subconscious belief that good things wouldn't last.

After dinner, everyone did not appear to be in a rush to leave.

Lu Jinye took Mu Zhi for a stroll around the manor. The manor was spacious. Combined with the yard's unique design and the moonlight's silhouette, the place looked extraordinary.

They were wandering in the garden when the butler strode toward them. He told Lu Jinye that Master Lu asked for him, so Mu Zhi did not stop Lu Jinye from leaving. She stayed in the garden to indulge herself in the peaceful moonlight.

She headed to the swing not far away and sat on it casually.

Zhu Sha showed up next to her out of a sudden. Her footsteps were light, so Mu Zhi did not notice her approaching. Zhu Sha was standing behind her when Mu Zhi sensed her presence. "I'm envious of you." Zhu Sha said, gazing at the distant moon.

Upon hearing Zhu Sha's voice, Mu Zhi raised her head in surprise.

The swing could fit two people. Mu Zhi thought it was impolite to not invite Zhu Sha to sit with her. Simultaneously, it was inappropriate for Zhu Sha to take a seat since she

was pregnant. Mu Zhi sprung up from the swing and said, “Miss Zhu Sha, you’re pregnant, let’s take a seat at the bench.”

Zhu Sha did not object to it. Both of them headed to the nearest bench and sat down. “I’m envious of you.” Zhu Sha broke the silence with a reiteration of her earlier remark. Mu Zhi struggled to think of a suitable response.

“Why are you envious of me? The grass is always greener on the other side. What you see on the surface might not necessarily be true.” Uttered Mu Zhi nonchalantly.

But Zhu Sha chuckled and asked her, “Do you know why we show up here in the first place? And why Lu Junnian’s father have reconciled with Master Lu out of the blue?”

Mu Zhi shook her head to gesture her ignorance honestly.

Meanwhile, Zhu Sha did not seem to be surprised by Mu Zhi’s response. She continued softly, “Because of you.”

That intrigued Mu Zhi.

“Why me?” She asked solemnly.

In this instance, Zhu Sha cast her gaze at the far distance. It took her a while before saying, “I suppose, knowing that you prefer a peaceful and harmonious family, Lu Jinye chose to let Lu Leiming get away and told him to seek forgiveness from Master Lu.”

Zhu Sha did not elaborate on Lu Jinye’s maneuvering, but it was enough to tell Mu Zhi that he had compromised in the business sense.

Hearing that from Zhu Sha, Mu Zhi was moved.

Zhu Sha then added, “Mu Zhi, do you have any idea why Lu Junnian chose to marry me?”

Mu Zhi figured it was for the child.

But directly pointing it out might have been too brutal for the unborn baby.

Thus, contrary to her belief, Mu Zhi answered, “I suppose it’s because he loves you.”

Her response brought a sardonic smile to Zhu Sha’s face. She looked at Mu Zhi miserably and said, “Apart from mistaking me for you that once when he was drunk, Lu Junnian had not laid a finger on me.”

Mu Zhi was stunned to silence.

She could not gather a proper response.

After a long while, she said, "I'm sorry."

Tears started streaming down Zhu Sha's cheeks after the apology.

She looked at Mu Zhi, rubbed the tears off the bottom of her eyes, then said, "Lu Junnian has been smoking and drinking ceaselessly. He doesn't want to be a doctor anymore. He's been putting all his efforts learning how to do business."

"Do you have any idea what changed him?"

Zhu Sha's voice started cracking at this point.

## Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 228

Chapter 228 Young Folks These Days...

Mu Zhi would prefer to be charged at, slapped across the face, and yelled at her – 'Bitch, how dare you steal my man?!'

That was what Xiao Qingqing did when she mistook Mu Zhi for seducing Lu Jinye.

Mu Zhi could accept being jeered at, but she could not take Zhu Sha's doleful sobbing.

Mu Zhi bit her lower lip, so flustered that she could hardly speak.

Anything she said would sound insincere to Zhu Sha, and any form of comforting words would not affect Zhu Sha. After all, they were love rivals.

All Mu Zhi could do was stand rooted to the ground. After some moment, Zhu Sha suddenly yelled at Mu Zhi, seemingly to vent her frustration, "Mu Zhi, what's so good about you that you could get all these?! What gives you the right?"

"Do you have any idea how talented Lu Junnian is in the medicine field? Do you know that you've destroyed him?"

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Mu Zhi lowered her eyes, allowing Zhu Sha to bellow at her without fighting back. It took Mu Zhi a while before she raised her head to ask, "What do you think I could do? Am I supposed to tell Lu Junnian that he's wasting his time? Do you think he'll listen?"

Mu Zhi went straight to the point with composure and poise.

Zhu Sha did not expect that Mu Zhi would say this to her. She looked at Mu Zhi in astonishment, then shook her head.

Mu Zhi heaved a lamenting sigh. "Zhu Sha, I hope you can understand that I've made it very clear. The person I love is Lu Jinye. Whatever we had is in the past. Regardless of how hard Lu Junnian tries, there won't be a future between the two of us. I've told him multiple times, but to no avail. I don't even know what to say anymore."

Mu Zhi paused in between her words, then continued, "So, I hope you could stop blaming me from now on. You should spend some time to think about how you could make Lu Junnian fall for you and how you could change him."

After saying these, Mu Zhi sized up Zhu Sha.

She remembered the first time she met Zhu Sha. Just like the cinnabar, Zhu Sha was bright and catching to the eyes. Her vibrant, crimson red outfit gave her an energetic demeanor.

In contrast, Zhu Sha's current outfit was dull. The apathetic moonlight further magnified her bleakness.

After sizing up Zhu Sha, Mu Zhi retracted her gaze and said, "This color doesn't suit you. You should stop imitating me because that's only going to remind Lu Junnian of me. So, why don't you be bold and be yourself?"

Zhu Sha silently nodded while she was listening to Mu Zhi's words. She then raised her eyes to meet Mu Zhi's gaze, "I am sorry for what I have said earlier."

Zhu Sha then turned around and left after her apology.

Mu Zhi stood on the same spot, staring at Zhu Sha as she walked away. When she came back to her senses, she turned around to find that Lu Jinye was standing from afar, looking at her with a smile.

"When did you come back here?"

Mu Zhi was awkward. She was not sure if Lu Jinye had heard what she said to Zhu Sha.

Thus, she tiptoed and sat on the swing as a means of distraction.

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye started pushing Mu Zhi on the swing insouciantly and said, "I came just in time to witness the lecture you gave Miss Zhu Sha."

Hearing that, Mu Zhi became red in the face.

"Have you always been that indifferent towards your exes?"

Lu Jinye lowered his head and asked Mu Zhi playfully.

Mu Zhi laughed lightly. "Well, Mr. Lu, aren't you the same?"

She could feel the swing abruptly slowing down under Lu Jinye's firm grip. Closely after, a kiss was placed on Mu Zhi's lips. The two of them started tangling to each other when their smooth and silky lips touched.

The moonlight felt like their spotlight.

Mu Zhi could feel Lu Jinye's kiss become increasingly aggressive. She was perturbed but welcomed it zealously.

She could hardly succumb to her bodily desires.

As the kiss continued to progress, Lu Jinye had started running the tip of his fingers along with Mu Zhi's figure. With his warm and thick hands, Lu Jinye unscrupulously undid the buttons on her clothes.

In the fraction of a second, when Mu Zhi came back to her rational mind, she noticed that Lu Jinye had almost completely undone her top.

She desperately used her hands to hold up her shirt, but Lu Jinye uttered in a hoarse voice, "Don't be shy."

The night breeze gave Mu Zhi goosebumps all over, and she was worried.

"Lu Jinye, not here."

After all, they were in the yard.

The Lu's Manor was massive, and this was quite a surreptitious spot, but... That did not stop her from feeling shy.

Her remark did not yield a response from Lu Jinye, and she had felt a tingling sensation in her body. At this point, Lu Jinye had gently pried her open and dove into the cave.

It was all too late.

Mu Zhi had utterly lost control of herself.

She was too familiar with Lu Jinye's body, and he familiar with hers. He could easily identify the right spot to trigger a reaction in her while she would cooperate with him to give him the best experience.

Mu Zhi was resistant in the first place. But she eventually lost her mind. She no longer retaliated.

Instead, she was passionately receiving what was coming.

She bit her lower lip so she would not make a single noise.

A fair distance away, behind the bush, an elderly maid had witnessed everything unfold. She snapped a photo of the pair but forgot to turn off the flash.

Following that, she scrambled to flee the scene.

When she had gotten far enough, her phone started ringing.

Xiao Qingqing's voice came from the phone. "Madam Liu, have you checked out Jinye and Mu Zhi's interaction today?"

Her voice was modulated and laced with a rare tinge of gentleness.

"Umm... Miss Xiao, I can't bear to say it. Let me just send you a photo and see for yourself. Young folks these days... Miss Mu is disgusting!"

Madam Liu then hurriedly sent the photo to Xiao Qingqing.

After taking a look at the photo, Xiao Qingqing could feel steam shooting out of her ears. She paced her home five rounds before steadying herself, then said, "Madam Liu, then please show Mu Xiaomu the photo I sent you! I believe Jinye's late mother would be grateful to you."

"Hey, Miss Xiao, don't say that I did all these willingly."

Then, Madam Liu hung up the call and hastily proceeded towards Master Lu's study room.

...

On the other hand, after getting off Lu Jinye's body, Mu Zhi coyly and hurriedly dressed herself.

## Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 229

## Chapter 229 The Rubik's Cube and a Photo

When she turned around to steal a glance at Lu Jinye, she found him staring at her contently and affectionately. As a result, her heart rate immediately started picking up.

She said to Lu Jinye in a flurry, "It's late, let me check out on Mu Xiaomu."

Without saying another word, she bolted towards the house.

Staring at Mu Zhi scurried away made Lu Jinye smiled with satisfaction. The woman was adorable to him, regardless of what she was doing.

He gradually headed towards his car, turned the engine over, and waited for Mu Zhi.

After finding Mu Xiaomu, Mu Zhi tacitly and spontaneously brought her to the car where Lu Jinye was. She got into the car with Mu Xiaomu, sitting in the back row. Using the rearview mirror, Lu Jinye ensured that the two of them had fastened their seatbelts before steadily set off.

Mu Zhi had just experienced what felt like hot yoga – her cheeks were still blushed and her heart thumping rapidly. Thus, she was still a little shy to face Lu Jinye.

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On the other hand, Mu Xiaomu had not noticed anything odd with her parents at all. She had put all her focus on her tiny bag.

She brought a Mickey Mouse bag to school today. The bag was usually used to store snacks, and she would normally wolf down everything before school finished. However, Mu Xiaomu's bag was still bulging in this instance. She turned it upside down only to see snacks pouring out of it.

The snacks were not what Mu Zhi usually packed for Mu Xiaomu. It was evident that someone else gave her those.

Mu Zhi watched Mu Xiaomu satisfyingly going through all the snacks that came from the bag before meticulously putting them back one after another, like precious treasures.

Then, Mu Xiaomu moved on to her toys.

"Where did you get the snacks from?"

Mu Zhi asked gently, gaze fixed at Mu Xiaomu.

“Grandpa gave them to me.”

Mu Xiaomu answered obediently, fiddling with the Rubik’s cube in her hands. The Rubik’s cube came in a delicate embroidered bag. By the looks of it, it was tens of years old.

“Where did you get this Rubik’s cube from then?”

“From grandpa too,” Mu Xiaomu was diligently solving the Rubik’s cube as she explained.

The surrounding was dark, and the light was scarce in the car. Mu Zhi did not bother taking a close look at the Rubik’s cube, allowing Mu Xiaomu to play with it.

After twisting and turning for a while, Mu Xiaomu did not manage to solve a single side. She dozed off quietly, shutting her eyelids to let her long eyelashes met like a shameplant. It looked like her brain power had been depleted.

Mu Zhi laughed at her little girl helplessly. What a silly girl. She thought to herself, gathering Mu Xiaomu in her embrace throughout the journey.

They had arrived at their villa. Lu Jinye parked the car steadily before coming to the back seat to open their door.

“Let me carry Xiaomu. You’re tired.”

True enough, she was exhausted.

Mu Zhi’s wrists were sore. She could no longer bother being modest, handing Mu Xiaomu into Lu Jinye’s arms.

Then, she waggled both hands to alleviate the soreness.

After bending over to collect Mu Xiaomu into his embrace, the Rubik’s cube slipped through her little hand and landed on the grass field by Lu Jinye’s foot.

It plunged into the grass and did not roll away.

The lights in the yard were bright enough to show him where the cube was.

Lu Jinye paused his footsteps with Mu Xiaomu in his arms and peered down at the Rubik’s cube with a frown.

Mu Zhi retrieved the embroidered bag of the Rubik's cube and Mu Xiaomu's Mickey Mouse bag off the car, then headed toward them.

She noticed the frown on Lu Jinye's face.

"What is it?"

Mu Zhi closed into him and asked.

"Rubik's cube."

The two words were all Lu Jinye said.

Mu Zhi bent over to pick up the Rubik's cube. She patted off the dirt on its surface while saying, "Xiaomu said it's from grandpa."

"The Rubik's cube belonged to me when I was little."

It was clear that Lu Jinye's tone became strange at this point.

Mu Zhi sensed the abnormality in his tone. "I'll ask the little girl to put it away and stop playing with it."

"Never mind, I'm glad Xiaomu has it."

The dejected and nostalgic air that was hovering over Lu Jinye instantly vanished. He returned to his usual poise as nothing had occurred and headed into the house carrying Mu Xiaomu.

Lu Jinye did not break it to Mu Zhi that the Rubik's cube was a gift from his late mother.

Moreover, he was playing with that Rubik's cube at the time of her mother's suicide.

He stopped playing with it since mom had left him, despite being a prodigy at it.

Mu Zhi had no clue of what the Rubik's cube meant to Lu Jinye. She followed behind him and entered the house with the cube in her hand. When they were inside the house, Mu Zhi started unpacking Mu Xiaomu's belongings and opened the embroidered bag, preparing to slip in the cube.

However, when she opened the bag, Tiffany blue in color, she suddenly felt a piece of an object inside.

Mu Zhi pulled it out of the bag and realized that it was a photo.

The woman in the ID photo was her late mother when she was younger.

Mu Zhi's mother did not have any photos when she was younger. All she had was portrait photos for her ID card. Mu Zhi kept a few of her mother's photos, and this was one of them.

Mu Zhi inspected the photo for a long moment. It was intriguing to her.

When did Mu Xiaomu learn to search her drawers? Mu Zhi only stored mother's photos in the deepest end of the drawer.

She took a longer look before putting it back to the drawer, but she did not slide it into the farthest end this time.

After tucking Mu Xiaomu in hand, Lu Jinye headed back into the bedroom to find Mu Zhi. Mu Zhi had just shut the drawer by the time he walked in.

...

Meanwhile, after recovering from his arm injury, Xie Xiu did not inform Mu Zhi.

After expressing his feelings on a slip of the tongue during the last time they met, he had stopped reaching out for her.

On the other hand, after being punished by Xie Xiu, the secretary no longer dared to go against Xie Xiu's wishes at work, despite feeling discontented.

She could not comprehend Xie Xiu's passiveness amid news of Mu Zhi and Lu Jinye's wedding taking the city by storm.

In the end, she could not resist asking, "Do we sabotage their wedding? Why do I feel like you have feelings for Mu Zhi, but remain passive nonetheless?"

## **Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 230**

### **Chapter 230 The Appearance of Her Birth Father**

Based on her knowledge of Xie Xiu, he was not someone to sit around waiting for opportunities to come.

Xie Xiu did not seem nervous at all. He was insouciantly touching up his ink painting while saying to Secretary Rao, "Did you know? I love how you used to handle everything for me with poise. Unlike now, where you seem to be constantly overstepping your boundary."

Upon hearing what Xie Xiu had to say, Secretary Rao immediately hung her head.

However, she tried to defend herself, seemingly upset with his remark.

After suppressing her emotions for a couple of seconds, she blurted out disgruntledly, "Mr. Xie, you act differently from before this time. You've never treated women like this in the past."

Xie Xiu held the brush in the air. Without completing the elegant phoenix drawing, he raised his eyes to look at Secretary Rao, "Are you saying that I've lost myself in front of a woman?"

"Not really."



Secretary Rao immediately kept mum.

"Enough, I'm tired, prepare the bath."

Xie Xiu made it clear that he didn't want to speak of it any longer.

Secretary Rao seemed to have more to say, but the words did not ultimately leave her tongue.

After getting his bath prepared, Xie Xiu suddenly ordered her to search for a man who had the slightest resemblance to Mu Zhi's facial features and bring him to Xiao Qingqing.

Secretary Rao complied, not knowing what Xie Xiu's intentions were. However, when Xiao Qingqing received the man who had a dash of Mu Zhi's resemblance, she seemed over the moon and expressed her gratitude to Mr. Xie.

On the way back to Xie Xiu's place, Secretary Rao suddenly remembered something that made everything fall in place for her.

Mr. Xie Xiu was not passive. He was a master at utilizing his pieces on the chessboard.

He knew from the beginning that Mu Zhi and Lu Jinye were not going to get married.

...

It was late when Mu Zhi reached home. The photo from Mu Xiaomu's embroidered bag was trapped in her head, and she could not sleep as a result.

Tossing and turning in bed, she wondered whether her mother's death was man-made or it was purely a medical accident, which was common in the medical world. She



replayed the whole incident in her mind throughout the night and only managed to catch some sleep when it was dawn.

It had barely been an hour since she slept before the morning sunlight pierced through the window. The car engine's vrooming sound made the day's first noise, followed by footsteps of someone entering the house.

Mu Zhi got off the bed, put on a jacket, and headed downstairs only to see a maid from the Lu's Manor visiting them.

The maid smiled at Mu Zhi and explained, "Master wishes to see Xiaomu, so he hopes to bring Xiaomu to stay over at the manor for a few days. I will be in charge of sending her to kindergarten."

Mu Zhi stared at the lady with a frown, and she was distracted by Lu Jinye, who just headed out of the room.

"What's the matter, Madam Liu?"

Lu Jinye looked at the woman and asked.

Mu Zhi reiterated what Madam Liu just said to her. Lu Jinye thought for a few minutes before saying, "Why don't we ask Xiaomu? We'll let her go if she feels like it. I grew up under Madam Liu's care. She's trustworthy."

Finishing what he had to say, Lu Jinye grabbed a jacket and hastily set off for the company to deal with work.

Mu Zhi waited until Mu Xiaomu was awake in the bedroom and asked if she wanted to go to grandpa's for a stay-over.

To her surprise, Mu Xiaomu was exhilarated to hear the news. She scurried back to her room and grabbed the bag full of snacks, then skipped towards Mu Zhi and said, "Bye mom, I'll miss you."

She could not be happier.

"..." Mu Zhi was left speechless.

Without any other option, she could only oblige.

Besides, it was a perfect opportunity to spend some quality time with Lu Jinye.

After Mu Xiaomu had left with Madam Liu, Mu Zhi headed out to shop for the wedding gown, following Lu Jinye's arrangements.

As soon as she arrived at the fashion designer's doorstep, a Mercedes-Benz MPV came to a halt beside her.

It did not catch Mu Zhi's attention. She was about to reach out for the doorknob when a man with a tuft of grey hair left the MPV. The man looked to be in his fifties, but his temperament was younger than his peers due to his well-groomed appearance to go with his vehicle's elegance.

Upon seeing Mu Zhi, the man's chauffeur held up a photo next to her as a comparison, as though trying to confirm his suspicion. Then, the chauffeur turned to the man with a delightful expression.

"Mr. Mu, this should be young lady."

Mu Zhi caught a glimpse of the chauffeur's actions.

Thus, his words were astounded to her.

Following that, the man strode towards Mu Zhi and said, "Mu Zhi?"

His voice was shuddering, and he could barely hide his excitement.

Mu Zhi was flummoxed. She stared at the man doubtfully.

But the man took out a photo from his pocket. It was Mu Zhi when she was a little girl.

Looking at the man's trembling hands, Mu Zhi's intuition told her that the man was here for her.

"How can I help you?"

"Mu Zhi, is that you? I finally found you!" The man held both of Mu Zhi's hands enthusiastically.

Mu Zhi immediately shook him off.

"May I know who you are..."

She asked after taking two steps backward.

The man said to her eagerly, "I-I am your father! Look at me, don't you see the resemblance?"

Upon a closer look, he did share some similar features with her, especially his brows and the lines of his face.

Meanwhile, the chauffeur showed Mu Zhi another photo.

The photo portrayed the man carrying a little girl in his arms. The girl was smiling jovially, and Mu Zhi could tell that it was her when she was little.

“Young lady, Mr. Mu learned the news of your wedding these few days from the internet. As soon as he saw your photo, he scrambled to look for your whereabouts without getting any sleep last night.”

Mu Zhi had no memory of her father whatsoever.

The only memory she had of her parents was limited to her mother.

When she was little, she used to ask mom about her father’s looks. But mom chose to keep mum.

Her father did not show himself during all these years.

Mu Zhi stopped bringing up about dad because mom was reluctant to discuss the topic.

Thus, the idea of having a father eventually diminished from her life.

She was astonished to see someone calling himself her father out of the blue.

At this point, Mu Zhi was flustered and did not know what to do!