

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 251

Chapter 251 Where's the Daughter

The sky was gradually getting darker. Master Lu was sitting by the dining table enjoying his dinner.

He raised his eyes nonchalantly and glanced at the butler, "Any news on Mu Xue?"

"I got something."

The butler scanned the area reluctantly, then leaned in, lowering his voice, "Mu Xue got into a car accident over ten years ago and was hospitalized. We thought she had left City A, but that's not true. She had always been around. We focussed our search on different institutional units but never thought about the hospital."

After a brief pause, the butler continued, "Mu Xue lived in comatose all these years, which is why we never found any expenses or travel records on her. We had been going in the wrong direction all this while, so it wasn't a surprise that our efforts were in vain."

Master Lu took a sip of the snow fungus and lotus soup before raising his head to peer at the butler fiercely.

"Stop explaining why we fail to find anything about Mu Xue. I don't care about these, it's all in the past. Does she have any family members? Where is my daughter?"

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The butler let out a troubled expression.

"Speak!"

Master Lu bellowed at the butler angrily along with his furious glare.

After some moment, the butler said, "Perhaps Madam Mu Xue's daughter had disappeared, or she's passed away. We can't find any trace of Madam Mu Xue's daughter."

Following that, the butler mopped the sweat on his forehead with the corner of his sleeves.

It was apparent to him that Master Lu was enraged from the grimness of his face!

“Not a thing about her? Dead? Disappeared?”

“Yes.”

“Sure?”

“Yes.”

Master Lu interrogated the butler, hoping to get a different answer, but to no avail.

His flurry of questions started vehemently, but he quickly let his low spirits get the best of him at the sound of the butler’s confirmation.

Even the delectable snow fungus and lotus soup tasted bland to him. Master Lu stood to his feet and started making his way towards the stairs.

“True enough, in hindsight, the Shi Family was furious at the time. Although Shi Chu was no longer at home, she is a member of the Shi Family after all. How could Mu Xue and her daughter get away? After years of being bedridden, it’s not hard to imagine that our daughter...” Has fallen victim into her hand.

Master Lu mumbled in soliloquy but could not bring himself to finish the sentence.

All he could do was heave a lamenting sigh before heading up the stairs.

From the back, he looked remorseful and miserable.

He regretted the fact that he was not brave enough all those years ago. If he had confronted ‘them’, he could have changed Mu Xue’s course and his daughter’s fate.

In this instance, Madam Liu brought out a freshly braised pig trotter from the kitchen. She placed the bowl on the dining table and glanced at Master Lu.

He looked heart-wrenchingly disheartened.

Then, she diverted his attention to the butler. She seemed to have put the two and two together but felt obligated to ask Master Lu at least take a bite.

“Master, have some braised pig trotter.” She said in a slightly raised voice in Master Lu’s direction.

“Nah, I’m tired.”

Master Lu’s voice was not sonorous like usual.

“Why is he tired? Wasn’t he doing fine just moments ago? What did you say to him?”

Madam Liu first asked as her gaze was fixed on Master Lu, then directed the latter question at the butler with a disgruntled expression. “Speak, what did you say to master?”

“I-I... Didn’t say anything. All I did was tell the truth about Madam Mu Xue.”

The butler responded while giving Madam Liu a look, beckoning her to stop dwelling on the topic.

But the butler’s gesture appeared to have flown over her head.

Upon hearing his reply, she smacked her thigh resentfully, “You! Why would pour salt on his unhealed wound?”

Madam Liu gazed at Master Lu tactfully as she spoke, “Master, don’t listen to the butler, let me tell you what, there’s nothing to worry about. Everything will be fine.”

“Some days ago, I just saw Mu...”

“Madam Liu, is something burnt in the kitchen? Please check it out.”

Madam Liu wanted to press on, but the butler drew her away.

She went into the kitchen doubtfully, sniffing the air like a bloodhound trying to hunt down a deer.

She searched the area thoroughly but could not find anything burnt.

While she was distracted by the search, the butler stormed into the kitchen and snapped at Madam Liu, “You troubler-maker! How dare you call me out for poking at his wounds?”

“Are you any better?”

“Didn’t master tell you to look into Madam Mu Xue’s daughter? Why did you tell him that you couldn’t find anything? Isn’t that more depressing for master?”

Madam Liu glared at the butler peevishly as she muttered under her breath.

“What do you suppose I tell master?”

Seeing that Madam Liu was relentlessly pushing him, the butler snapped in retaliation.

“Tell him the truth, why must you lie to master?!”

“How am I supposed to break the news to him? Tell him that Mu Zhi is Madam Mu Xue’s daughter? That master’s son and daughter are getting married in seventy-two hours?!”

The butler was at a loss! He bellowed at Madam Liu in response to Madam Liu’s irritating pursuit.

At this stage, there was nothing he could do which would salvage the situation. Every option seemed to be wrong.

Lying about it wasn’t an option, neither was telling the truth.

However, after listening to his words, Madam Liu did not look too surprised. She insisted, “You must tell him the truth.”

“What truth?”

While Madam Liu and the butler was butting heads, a third voice suddenly arose.

Both of them instantly zipped their mouths with a start, turning their gazes at the entrance of the kitchen. Lo and behold, Master Lu was staring at them with a domineering stance.

“Tell me what you need to say. I’ve noticed that there’s something you’re keeping from me by the look of your face earlier!”

Master Lu was not impressed. But due to his old age, he appeared to have lacked conviction as he articulated his words.

The butler chuckled awkwardly, then said, “Nothing at all, it... It’s just some trivial matters. There’s nothing that concerns you, master.”

“What trivial matters?”

Master Lu now seemed adamant to get to the root of what the butler was trying to hide.

In the end, Madam Liu suddenly shook off the butler. She dashed towards Master Lu and bowed at him from the waist, saying, “Master, the butler is keeping it a secret from you because he’s afraid that you’d be upset. But I don’t think we should hide it from you any longer as I’ve recently noticed that Mu Xiaomu’s intelligence is far from normal!”

Master Lu was astonished at what Madam Liu blurted out.

Madam Liu did not call upon Mu Xiaomu to test her intelligence. She continued, "I've been feeling nostalgic for Madam Shi Chu in the past days. In my dreams about her, she told me that she is unhappy because someone she despises is among us. It bothered me for days until some days ago I peripherally heard Mu Xiaomu said that her grandma's name is Mu Xue!"

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Chapter 252 Time for Karma To Catch Up

"Stop it!" The butler quivered all over as soon as he heard the name.

He took a step forward to stop Madam Liu, grabbing her by the corner of her sleeves to lug her towards him as he said, "What are you talking about?"

Madam Liu glared at the butler fiercely and then uttered maliciously, "I'm telling nothing but the truth, you should know that out of everyone!"

The butler was stunned to silence.

Because... Madam Liu's sinister look was screamingly intimidating.

"Let her finish!"

Master Lu peered at Madam Liu angrily, yelling, "Carry on! What else do you know?"

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"I didn't believe it in the first place, so I followed Miss Mu Zhi to her mother's grave and realized that her mother is indeed Madam Mu Xue!"

"Master, you know that I've met Madam Mu Xue before."

Gloom took over Master Lu's face in the blink of an eye.

He didn't say anything to Madam Liu, immersing in the sea of thoughts. After a long moment, he turned to the butler and snapped, "Did you find out about this when I told you to look into it earlier?"

"Master..."

The butler stuttered. His body was trembling heavily.

“Speak!”

Master Lu thundered. The butler slumped onto his knees in a flash. Banging his forehead on the floor, he explained, “Master, I... I-I’m afraid that you’d be heart-broken.”

“Although it was true that Madam Mu Xue came to you pregnant all those years ago, we can’t be sure that the baby in her womb was Miss Mu Zhi!”

There was no arguing against that!

Upon listening to the butler’s words, everything started falling into place.

One could be sure that Mu Zhi and Mu Xue were indeed mother and daughter!

His unscrupulous womanizing had finally come back to haunt his children.

Master Lu could no longer sit still. He rose to his feet, barely staggering to his balance, clutching the walking stick in his hand as he trudged towards his bedroom. “So, is this karma?” He mumbled to himself. “Yeah, this must be. It is karma!”

The butler looked at Madam Liu, then turned his gaze to Master Lu’s despaired slouch before heaving a lamenting sigh.

“Sigh!” He could no longer manage a proper response while looking back at Madam Liu.

Madam Liu did not look remorseful at all. There was even a trace of smugness on her face. Yes, you’ve made your bed, and now you must lie in it!

This is just the beginning!

Everything only ends when every member of Mu Xue’s family has left the world!

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth!

In exchange for Miss Shi Chu’s life, all of you must die!

If it weren’t for Mu Zhi’s existence, Mu Xue wouldn’t come looking for Master Lu.

And Miss Shi Chu wouldn’t have been agitated!

Hahahahaha, time for karma to catch up!

In her bedroom, Madam Liu took out Shi Chu’s photo, rubbing the dust of her face.

On the other hand, the butler remained standing on the same spot for a long while, even after everyone had dispersed. He wasn't sure where to go. In the end, he walked up to the telephone at home reluctantly. He picked up the phone receiver and punched in the digits to Lu Jinye's number with his wrinkly hands.

He thought of making a call to Lu Yunxi.

Because... It didn't matter if Lu Yunxi had known everything. He wasn't directly involved in the ordeal, and he was a crafty man. He would've figured out the best solution to the commotion.

However, the butler ultimately decided to reach out to Lu Jinye.

At the end of the day... The matter had to be resolved by the most vital person in a predicament.

Master Lu and Mu Zhi's mother met each other when he was on a business trip to a village in the mountains. Master Lu was injured at the time, but there was no clinic in the rural area. When the night fell, he ran into Mu Xue – Mu Zhi's mother.

She was a traditional Chinese medicine practitioner. She learned everything about medicine from her husband. Thus, she could only dress master's wound, apply some herbs on him, and let him rest.

Master Lu nursed himself back to health at Mu Xue's place. During which, he would tell Mu Xue stories about the urban area. Stemming from her curiosity, Mu Xue was attracted to Master Lu for his knowledge of the outside world.

On the other hand, Master Lu was captivated by Mu Xue's beauty and kindness.

Then, the two of them experienced intimacy during a snowy night. The warmth of their bodies seemed to have ignited their burning desires for each other.

Without a doubt, the same warmth also burned down what looked like a perfectly harmonious home.

Master Lu left when his injury was fully healed. But he didn't leave without giving Mu Xue an address and a phone number, telling her that she must look for him when she had the chance.

Mu Xianyong was at another village during that period, attending to a patient. He did not notice anything odd when he returned.

Except for the occasional rumors.

The rumors were about his wife, Mu Xue and a strange man.

Weeks later, Mu Xue found out that she was pregnant. She was flummoxed, not knowing who the child belonged to.

Mu Xianyong finally succumbed to the pressure of the gossips. He believed in what everyone'd said that his wife, Mu Xue, was lewd.

He was convinced that Mu Xue bore Master Lu's child. Thus, he started physically abusing her.

While she was heavily injured, Mu Xue ran away from Mu Xianyong while he was fast asleep.

The butler only managed to connect the dots after gathering bits and pieces of information throughout his investigation.

Then, Lu Jinye was aware of what happened afterwards.

He was there during that day when he was enjoying the hotpot with his mother. A pregnant woman barged into the house and told his mother about the love story between Master Lu and her.

She hoped that Shi Chu could bless her relationship with Master Lu because she was pregnant.

In the past, Shi Chu was a poet and an artist. Her world was full of imagination. She believed in real love. To her, real love was never-changing; real love should be spotless.

Shi Chu could not accept how the woman had burst into her life, pleading and bragging to her at the same time. She even found the story difficult to believe.

Thus, she questioned Master Lu, and from his hesitation, she confirmed that everything the pregnant woman said was true.

She ended up getting depression. She yearned for death.

Thus, she started pressuring Master Lu once again.

However, ceaseless pester would only catalyze the growth of animosity a man had for a woman.

In the end, when Master Lu did not return home for a full week, it became the last straw for her. She pushed the windows open and jumped off from the thirtieth floor.

Her silky white dress turned red as it was soaked in her blood when she hit the ground.

Lu Jinye had not much memory of Mu Xue. He could hardly remember what the woman looked like.

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Chapter 253 Don't You Dare Tarnish Young Master Jinye

Lu Jinye was a little boy at the time, and he only caught a glimpse of the woman.

In the later stages, he searched for information about the woman on the internet, but to no avail. It felt like the woman was wiped away from the surface of the earth.

The butler straightened himself, clasping the phone in his hand nervously as though he was facing the biggest enemy of his life.

It had been a while since he had taken a solemn behavior. He could not remember the last time he shuddered uncontrollably due to nervousness.

Every beep sound coming from the phone receiver felt like a thump on his heart.

Each thump on his heart felt harder than the last.

Lu Jinye did not pick up the call in the first instance. The monotonous beeping sound felt like a call from the devil into the vehement hellfire.

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The phone was suddenly answered when the old butler had lost count of how many beeping sound he had braved through.

“Hello?” Lu Jinye’s voice sounded from the receiver.

“Young master!” The poor butler’s voice was trembling frailly.

“Bad news!”

His voice cracked towards the end while Lu Jinye could not help but scowl.

“What happened?”

“Master told me to look into a woman called Mu Xue today, and in the end, i-it.. It led to Miss Mu Zhi.”

Lu Jinye gaped his eyes at the sound of the butler’s words.

...

On the other hand, Xie Xiu tried to stop Mu Zhi when she bade farewell to him. He said to her solemnly, “Stay here tonight, I’ll let you go tomorrow morning.”

“Why must it be tonight?”

Mu Zhi frowned at Xie Xiu in confusion. Xie Xiu took on a somber expression, saying, “Because I don’t think I can last until tomorrow.”

Xie Xiu went out of the way to get an injection of a unique drug. The drug would give him a feeble appearance for a period.

Looking at Xie Xiu’s state, Mu Zhi was torn. Part of her wanted to leave, and the other part felt sorry for him.

Xie Xiu looked as frail as a lily.

Mu Zhi stared at him intently for a while.

Meanwhile, Xie Xiu eyed Mu Zhi. Seeing that she was silent, he strode towards her and seized her hand, dragging her back into the house.

However, Mu Zhi’s phone rang in the heat of the moment. She glanced at the screen before hurriedly accepting the call, which came from Madam Liu.

“What is it?” Asked Mu Zhi gently.

“Madam Liu?”

Madam Liu’s voice was anxious. “Miss Mu, this isn’t good, Mr. Lu got into a car accident!”

“Where?”

“At the Chefeng Road.”

Hearing Madam Liu’s convincingly anxious voice, Mu Zhi did not slight her for a moment. She hung up the call and dashed out of Xie Xiu’s house.

“Hey.”

Xie Xiu's secretary leaped forward in an attempt to stop Mu Zhi, but it was too late.

Mu Zhi was no longer within her reach.

The secretary then turned back and gave Xie Xiu a helpless look, "Mr. Xie, do we chase after her?" She was waiting for an order.

"We can easily catch up to her if we start now."

But Xie Xiu had looked away at this point. He scoffed, "Why should I chase after something that doesn't belong to me? If she's destined to be mine, fate will bring her back to me eventually."

Finishing what he had to say, Xie Xiu headed up the stairs without looking back. He asked the doctor to come over to prescribe him a dose of toxin. Then, he limped into the piano room to play the piano, accompanied by the amber glow of the sunset.

Meanwhile, after getting in the cab, Mu Zhi told the driver to head to the location Madam Liu mentioned earlier. But when she arrived, Lu Jinye was nowhere to be found. Moreover, the traffic was seamless. It didn't look like the scene of a car accident.

Mu Zhi searched the area thoroughly but could not find any clue. She became increasingly worried and ultimately decided to call Madam Liu.

When the phone was answered, Mu Zhi was greeted by a menacing voice, "Are you there yet?"

"Yes, why don't I see Lu Jinye here?"

Mu Zhi asked anxiously while scanning the area ceaselessly, hoping to find a trace of Lu Jinye.

"You may stop looking for him. Young master hasn't been here at all. I'm only luring you over to tell you a story."

"What story?"

Mu Zhi was clueless. She could feel shivers going down her spine at the sound of Madam Liu's voice.

She could not help but quiver.

Then, drawling every syllabus of her words, "Miss Mu, have you ever heard of the name Shi Chu?"

"Yes, I have."

Mu Zhi vividly remembered that it was Lu Jinye's mother's name.

"Then, Miss Mu, do you know how Shi Chu died?"

Mu Zhi was aware of it too. "She took her own life due to depression."

"You're right!" Madam Liu sounded a little agitated. She was seemingly surprised by the fact that Mu Zhi knew how Shi Chu died.

With a hostile tone, she said, "Then, do you know who the mistress was? Do you have any idea how the remains of a body look like when it falls from the thirtieth floor? Can you feel the desolation of committing suicide due to love?"

Her flurry of questions put Mu Zhi in a trance.

"Madam Liu?"

Sensing that Madam Liu's behavior was a little odd, Mu Zhi asked softly, hoping to get an answer to the millions of questions she had in her head.

Not only did she not get an answer, but she also received a wild roar from the phone, "Stop calling me Madam Liu, I am not your Madam Liu! Everyone can call me that but not you. You don't deserve that because your mother is Mu Xue!"

Mu Zhi was astounded to hear the name of her mother, "What does my mom have anything to do with this?"

"Why don't you ask who the bitch was that pressured Shi Chu to her death? That was your mother. Your bitch of a mother conceived a bastard child and destroyed someone else's beautiful family. She was responsible for Shi Chu's depression and her death!"

"And while Shi Chu was dead, you shameless creatures continue to dwell gleefully on earth!"

Madam Liu screamed at the top of her lungs.

Her voice was shrill and confronting. It stunned Mu Zhi to silence.

Mu Zhi struggled to gather a response. Why is she accusing mom of being a home-wrecker?

Also, how is mom related to Lu Jinye's mother?

"Madam Liu, what are you talking about?"

“Haven’t I been clear enough? I’ve explicitly said what I needed to say! Think for yourself, stop pretending to be a fool. Oh right, hahahaha.”

Madam Liu chortled madly, “Oh right, if I’d done the same, I would put up a fake front too. After all, who would be willing to hold themselves accountable for a human life? Let me reiterate!”

“Mu Zhi, you are the bastard child of Master Lu and the bitch, Mu Xue! And your brother is Lu Jinye!”

“I don’t care how disgusting you are, but don’t you dare tarnish Young Master Jinye.”

Upon finishing her words, Madam Liu hung up the call right away.

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 254

Chapter 254 Have You Really Fallen in Love With Mu Zhi

Mu Zhi’s mind went into a state of blankness when Madam Liu’s voice stopped coming from the phone.

After staring at the air fixedly for a few moments, she suddenly lifted up her phone and started making several call attempts to Madam Liu.

She wanted to know if everything Madam Liu said was true.

However, none of her calls was answered.

The headlights of a car came glaring into her eyes out of the blue. She held up a hand before her eyes and squinted at the car. It was an MPV. It’d had its registration number covered, and... It was flying towards her at what felt like the speed of light.

It was rapidly zooming into her eyes.

By the time that she had worked out that she must jump out of the way, every inch of her muscle stiffened.

Her feet felt like they were glued to the ground, but she managed to make out the fact that the driver of the MPV was Madam Liu.

Madam Liu had a sinister sneer on her face, like a blood-thirsty vampire.

The car did not seem like it was slowing down.

It was too late for Mu Zhi to dodge the incoming car.

She shut her eyes miserably, preparing for her last breath.

At the very last second, a Maybach suddenly charged out of a junction and rammed into the MPV without hesitation.

The MPV appeared to be almost touching Mu Zhi when the Maybach forced it out of the way.

Mu Zhi was flabbergasted.

She stood still, jaw dropped to the ground, and gawked at the upheaval in front of her.

Lu Jinye managed to control his timing perfectly, such that the MPV was barely moved away from a straight line to prevent a catastrophe.

He hopped off the car as soon as it came to a halt and dashed up to Mu Zhi anxiously.

He stared at Mu Zhi with furrowed brows.

“Why didn’t you run?”

He sounded like he was reproaching Mu Zhi as he had lost control of himself due to anxiousness.

Upon taking a closer look at Lu Jinye, Mu Zhi finally recomposed her thoughts and senses.

She opened her mouth with a start, but could hardly manage to get any words out.

Her words appeared to be stuck at her throat.

When Madam Liu told her of the truth, she became flummoxed, not knowing how she should face Lu Jinye.

She gaped her eyes at Lu Jinye for a long while before mumbling in a daze, “Lu Jinye, we can’t be together anymore, we...”

“Enough, stop talking.” Lu Jinye interrupted Mu Zhi before she could finish her sentence.

He placed both hands gently on Mu Zhi’s shoulders, saying calmly, “Let me take care of the rest.”

Then, he wheeled around and approached the MPV.

Sitting in the car, Madam Liu was slightly injured from the crash.

When she opened the door and noticed Lu Jinye was at the scene, she ran towards him and bellowed, "Young master, do not stop me, if it weren't for this woman, your mother wouldn't be dead."

"I want to avenge your mom!" She roared.

Lu Jinye disregarded Madam Liu's words. He glanced at her silently and then said, "You've done enough, stop living in your mistakes."

Madam Liu raised her head with a flinch. She gawked at Lu Jinye in disbelief with her wrinkly and lifeless eyes, "Young master, what are you talking about?! Have you forgotten? If the bitch, Mu Xue, hadn't confronted Madam Shi Chu, Madam Shi Chu wouldn't have died!"

...

From a distance away, Mu Zhi witnessed Lu Jinye and Madam Liu quarreling. They were within hearing distance, but for some reason, she heard nothing but buzzing in her ears.

Following closely, she felt air thinning around her, and she was gasping for air.

She turned away from Lu Jinye and Madam Liu, running away in the opposite direction.

She did not know where the street was leading her to.

At the end of the street, she made a turn and ran two more blocks.

When every bit of strength was drained of her, Mu Zhi suddenly blacked out and fell to the ground with a thud.

From afar, a car started approaching Mu Zhi and gradually came to a steady halt by her body.

The woman beckoned two men to bring Mu Zhi into the car, then took off with a rev towards Xie Xiu's villa.

During midnight, a black canvas draped across the sky, enveloping the city in darkness.

On the contrary, Xie Xiu's villa was illuminated by a flurry of lights. It was bright as day in there.

"Mr. Xie, we've brought her back."

The woman gestured the men to bring Mu Zhi towards Xie Xiu while Xie Xiu put down the document in his hands, slowly staggering to his balance from the couch.

He trudged towards Mu Zhi, bent forward and scooped her into his embrace. Without saying a word, he brought Mu Zhi upstairs.

Xie Xiu accommodated her in the farthest room of the west wing.

The bedroom was filled with the scent of burned lily, giving it a relaxing air to breath.

Xie Xiu gently placed Mu Zhi onto the bed. Mu Zhi's brows were tightly knitted at this time.

By the looks of her outfit, she appeared to have run a fair distance.

Xie Xiu lowered his head to inspect Mu Zhi.

Apart from the frown on her face, her fists were tightly clenched together.

Mu Zhi looked like she was suppressing a tidal wave of emotion whipping violently in her heart.

After a long stare, Xie Xiu heaved a sigh.

Behind him came a series of anxious footsteps. It was the clanking of high heels against the marble floor tiles that made it distinct.

Then, a woman's uncomfortably shrill voice arose, "Yo, they say Mr. Xie Xiu only sees women as tools. Little did we know that Mr. Xie Xiu has such a gentle side towards a woman."

Xiao Qingqing appeared by the bedroom door amid her voice.

She rocked up in a crimson red fuzzy sweater with lipsticks which matched the color tone of her sweater perfectly, looking exceptionally flirtatious.

Xie Xiu's face was brimming with gloominess when he turned around to glance at Xiao Qingqing. "Piss off, who let you up there?"

His voice was cold and apathetic. It gave Xiao Qingqing shivers. She instantly lost her alluring demeanor and scrambled to go down the stairs.

Then, Xie Xiu turned his face back to Mu Zhi. After another episode of long stare, he tucked Mu Zhi into the silky, velvet blanket.

Following that, he rose and gradually headed out the door.

As soon as the door closed with a soft click, he took on his usual murderous expression.

Walking down the stairs, he saw Xiao Qingqing waiting for him on the couch.

“What are you doing here?” Uttered Xie Xiu in displeasure.

Xiao Qingqing leaped to her feet and walked up to Xie Xiu. She did not address his question. Instead, she answered with another question.

“Have you really fallen in love with Mu Zhi?”

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 255

Chapter 255 We're Getting Married Nonetheless

Xie Xiu threw a malicious glance at Xiao Qingqing with squinted eyes and did not bother saying a word.

He found his seat insouciantly and started setting up for tea-brewing.

Xiao Qingqing chuckled, seeing that Xie Xiu remained silent. Her baby bump was clearly protruding at this point. One could easily tell that she was pregnant.

“As a friend, I shall remind you that Lu Jinye isn't as simple as he seems. Although he keeps a low profile and doesn't look vicious to you... He is in fact a ferocious leopard which would rip a tiger apart through sheer tenacity!”

“It's late, Miss Xiao, please make your way home.”

“Our collaboration ends here. There's no need to keep in touch anymore.”

Xie Xiu's decisiveness told Xiao Qingqing that he had no plan of seeing her again.

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She looked at Xie Xiu in disbelief. Upon taking a closer look at his adamance, she reluctantly put her emotions away and started heading out.

She left in dejection.

What's so good about Mu Zhi?

Not only was Lu Jinye crazy over this bitch, but Xie Xiu was also eager to jump into her protection.

Throughout their arrangements, there were numerous opportunities to kill Mu Zhi, but Xie Xiu had been secretly ensuring that she could make it out alive!

After returning home, Xiao Qingqing immediately started with her preparation. She drew the fake Mu Xianyong away in case complications arose!

After all, Mu Xianyong was merely a bait. He was responsible for arousing curiosity towards the past, then slowly but surely... Blow the issue out of proportion.

At that thought, Xiao Qingqing could not help but draw a deep breath! This was the reason Xie Xiu was formidable!

Meanwhile... The Lu's Manor was undergoing a sleepless night.

Every member of the manor was gathered in the same room because Lu Jinye and Mu Zhi's wedding fell on the next day.

Lu Yunxi paced the lounge area anxiously, checked the time on the wall clock, glanced at his watch, then looked at his phone.

Looking at the flurry of actions from Lu Yunxi, the butler became nervous too. He said, "Young Master Yunxi, stop fooling around, please think of something, you've always been a clever man since you were little."

"What do you mean fooling around? I am panicking!"

Lu Yunxi then frantically bounced his gaze between the wall clock, his watch and his phone before snapping at the butler, "It's late. Tell me, why isn't Jinye here at this time? Do you think that he's broken down from the news?"

The butler sighed sorrowfully. He could not get any words out.

On the other hand, Master Lu glimpsed at everyone, then headed up the stairs with his walking stick. He locked himself in the bedroom, lighted a cigarette, and started puffing on it.

When it was finished, master lighted another one, and another one after...

It had been years since he laid a finger on cigarettes.

But he was out of options!

He needed to steady himself.

The threats presented before him this time was different from the previous ones.

The challenges in the past were made up of rivalries of his business. Regardless of how intense the competition was, it fell within the rules of economics. The winner would be determined solely by the maneuvering of their respective plans within the boundaries of economics.

But this time, the foe was coming straight for the Lu Family.

Lu Jinye had made it known to the world that Mu Zhi was the love of his life. He loved her unconditionally and wholeheartedly. Since coming into the limelight, their relationship became the most coveted one in the entertainment world.

The challenges this time was a life-altering trial to the relationship of their family.

The foe seemed to be clearer about the Lu Family than the Lu Family themselves.

The foe was charging head-first towards the Lu Family.

He was meticulous, yet decisive. It was obvious that he was coming with the sole purpose of destroying Lu Jinye.

Lu Jinye and Mu Zhi being half-siblings would be the biggest joke of the world.

Master Lu heaved a sigh. He put out the cigarette and looked up to the wall on the clock. It was five in the morning.

He walked out of the room and went downstairs, standing before the butler and Lu Yunxi, saying, "I... Have decided to issue an apology during the wedding today. I will reveal my preposterous past to the public and shoulder all the responsibilities on behalf of my children."

Finishing what he had to say, he slowly headed back upstairs.

The butler and Lu Yunxi gazed at him as he walked away, then simultaneously heaved a sigh.

Master Lu had changed with age. He became overly wary of his reputation.

He stopped Xiao Qingqing from marrying into the Lu Family because he cared about his reputation.

He told Lu Jinye to marry a doctor because he cared about his reputation.

However, the Master Lu right now was planning to tear his reputation apart with his own hands. Something that he cared about the most in the past years.

But rightfully so. What other options did he have?

It was four in the morning when Lu Jinye had settled with the ordeal revolving around Madam Liu at the police station.

After taking a quick look at the time, he hurriedly called Mu Zhi's number. But his call got cut off after a single beep tone.

He relented, figuring that it wasn't a good time to reach out to Mu Zhi.

Then, Lu Jinye hopped into his car and headed straight to the bar. He ordered a glass of wine and sat in the quietest corner of the bar, staring intently at the time on his watch.

Tick tock.

Tick tock.

Tick tock...

Time was ticking away rapidly. Every second passed was another instance drawn away from Lu Jinye's hands.

It was the first time he found himself at the bottleneck.

Because Mu Zhi was involved.

Lu Jinye didn't want to bring up the past grudges between mom and Mu Xue.

He was no fool, unlike Madam Liu. He was clear that it was Master Lu's fault all along.

Thus, he was remorseful towards Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi was a victim!

Like just him!

His beloved Mu Zhi was innocent.

Lu Jinye gazed at Mu Zhi's number on his phone screen for a long while.

Then, he gave Linda a call, telling her that the wedding will take place as planned and commanding her to cover up every criticism directed toward him and Mu Zhi at once!

He refused to let Mu Zhi live in regret, and he was willing to face the consequences of his actions in the future.

After making necessary arrangements, Lu Jinye sent a text message to Mu Zhi. 'We're getting married nonetheless.'

Mu Zhi was startled awake by a nightmare. She stared at the white walls surrounding her at a loss.

When her phone buzzes, she came back to her senses, reached out for it, and swiped to unlock it.

Upon reading what Lu Jinye had sent her, she instantly broke into tears uncontrollably.

Mu Zhi had truly loved Lu Jinye!

But ironically, she was adamant that they must never be together.

At least not in this lifetime!

Lu Jinye was not an ordinary folk. Every movement of his was presented under the spotlight.

Lu Jinye was the doted son of the gods. He had a dazzling glow to him.

Thus, Mu Zhi must not let her selfishness ruin him.