

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 286-290

Chapter 286 Does the Story Feel Familiar to You?

In the end, Mu Zhi decided to give the number a call. When the call was through, she heard Lu Jinye's voice, and she hung up immediately.

It turned out the calls were from Lu Jinye. Was he insane? Why had he called her so late at night? After discussing the next day's tour with the tour guide, Mu Zhi returned to her room and fell asleep.

The next morning, Eric was caught up with other matters, so he did not go to the hotel entrance with Mu Zhi. Mu Zhi would be joining the tour alone.

When Mu Zhi had met with Yan Shu, Yan Shu brought Mu Zhi to her car straightaway. She wanted to give Mu Zhi an overview of the city.

They drove around the city. Mu Zhi looked at the scenery from the car window. Huddles of buildings in the city center were surrounded by the mountains and the sea in a distance, forming a magnificent view.

Although the sea did not seem different from the other seas she had seen, and the mountains not distinctive, she couldn't explain why, but everything she saw here gave her an unusual feeling.

At this moment, Yan Shu turned to Mu Zhi and asked softly, "Mu Zhi, how did you and your husband meet?"

Mu Zhi considered for a moment before saying, "We were childhood sweethearts."

This was what Xie Xiu had answered her so naturally, she thought that it was how both of them had met.

"Since you and your husband were childhood sweethearts, there shouldn't be any turbulence in your relationship, isn't it?"

Mu Zhi did not know how to answer her question. Was there any turbulence?

She had lost her memory, so she could not live a normal married life with Xie Xiu.

However, this was not something she could tell others.

So, she could only answer, "I guess so."

Yan Shu did not ask further questions. She continued to drive the car along the city's outskirts, showing her the distant mountains and the sea. Finally at noon, the car slowly entered a villa compound.

Yan Shu explained to Mu Zhi as she drove, "Since our next destination is near my friend's house, we can have lunch there and then continue the tour in the afternoon."

As she was explaining, she parked her car in front of a villa.

This villa had a very different design from Xie Xiu's villa.

The design of Xie Xiu's villa could be described as orderly and imposing with impersonal decorations. The colors were limited to black, white, and grey.

Meanwhile, the villa before her was much larger than any other villas in the surrounding and its compound was well decorated to reflect the owner's good taste.

She followed Yan Shu into the compound and observed around her. There was a pavilion for tea drinking, a pond in the distance with fishes in them, and a back garden fully planted with roses.

"Alright, let's go in."

Yan Shu seemed to be very familiar with this place. She entered the password and entered. When Mu Zhi had entered the villa, she suddenly felt a sense of familiarity and sadness.

When she sat down with Yan Shu at the dining table, the feeling of sadness intensified.

At this moment, the servants placed a few dishes on the table and arranged them nicely before Mu Zhi and Yan Shu.

Yan Shu gave Mu Zhi a pair of chopsticks, "Alright, let's taste the food. Let me know if you like them."

Mu Zhi was frozen for a moment with the chopsticks in her hand.

Then she said to Yan Shu, "May I have a fork?"

Yan Shu didn't object and let someone bring it to her.

When she received the fork, Mu Zhi held it in her hand and looked at the dishes before her. She was unsure of where to start and how to eat them.

All the fish and meat were sliced into thin strips while the squirrel fish did not seem suitable to be eaten with a fork. At last, she aimed her fork at the moo shu pork. But when the fork touched the dish, she stopped suddenly. She turned to Yan Shu and asked, "Is your friend not here?"

"I think my friend does not want to dine with others. Nowadays, he is used to dining alone."

"Is he a recluse?"

Mu Zhi frowned, "Are we disturbing him by being here? Should I go and say hello?"

She was unsure of the custom here. She was considering whether she should have gone over to greet him.

“That’s not necessary. Let him be by himself in peace. He is probably in his wife’s room reminiscing about her.”

This was not the first time Yan Shu mentioned the wife.

So, Mu Zhi picked on it and asked, “What happened to his wife?”

At her question, a smile appeared on Yan Shu’s face as she said, “His wife was missing.”

“His wife was a doctor. When they met, a tragedy had struck her family, and she was in despair. Both of them stayed together for a few years and thought that it was just an act. Later, when they had decided to separate, they both realized that it was true love.”

“What happened after that?”

Mu Zhi asked curiously.

Yan Shu placed a piece of the squirrel fish in her place. She then demonstrated how to use the chopsticks to Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi had never tried to learn to use the chopsticks, but she heard that it was challenging to learn. Surprisingly, she knew how to use them after watching Yan Shu once and brought the slice of fish to her mouth.

The flesh was fluffy and melted in her mouth, while the crust was crispy with a sweet and sour taste. It was unexpectedly delicious.

The taste made her happy.

Yan Shu observed her reaction before continuing, “Later when they were in love, the woman went missing. She was kidnapped and had never come back after that. The man waited her for a long time, but she had never returned. However, just when he was about to give up, a woman who looked like her suddenly appeared in his life.”

Yan Shu had stopped what she was doing.

She looked at Mu Zhi closely for her reaction with bated breath.

“Chase her. Maybe the woman was her, if not perhaps fate had brought her to him,” Mu Zhi said excitedly

She was looking at Yan Shu earnestly as she spoke.

Yan Shu looked back at her and asked, “Have you heard this story before? Does it feel familiar to you?”

Mu Zhi froze at her question.

It felt familiar.

She felt grief as she was listening to the story.

But she did not know if it was because the story was sad or it was something else.

At this moment, there were sounds of footsteps from the staircase. It was a man descending the stairs slowly.

He was dressed casually, but the clothes could not hide the elegance and authority emanating from him.

Moreover, his eyes were focused entirely on her!

Chapter 287 The Familiar Strangers

Mu Zhi looked back hurriedly and her attention landed on Lu Jinye when she stumbled upon him. Lu Jinye's hands clenched uncontrollably and heartbeat raced instantaneously.

He gleaned at the woman sitting by the table, her face did not change a lot from back then but her demeanor gives away a boring monotonous vibe. Of course, that was not a pleasant description over someone you used to know.

The Mu Zhi he used to know was a genie with a pair of hopeful eyes, like a torch in the midnight. The light in her could penetrate the worldly darkness.

The Mu Zhi standing in front of him had lost the scintillating halo. Her gaze had turned dull and passionless. She looked like she was but another married woman living a lackluster life.

Judging at her well-dressed appearance and elegant mannerism, she must have married a well-to-do person. However, she was not the Mu Zhi he was once familiar with.

The Mu Zhi now looked at him as if he was a stranger.

Receiving her unfamiliar gazes, he could not help but think Mu Zhi must have forgotten who he was.

He slowly approached Mu Zhi and stood right in front of her.

Standing in the corner was Yan Shu, the busybody onlooker who helped made the reunion possible. She was reluctant to leave the scene and genuinely curious how their lives would move on following the reunion.

But she had previously promised Lu Jinye that she would leave them alone, and so she stealthily exited the scene, leaving both of them with each other.

Mu Zhi stared at Lu Jinye. She was cautioned of Yan Shu's absence and got a little nervous.

Still staring at Lu Jinye, her eyelashes flickered like a pair feathered wings as she blinked repetitively and involuntarily.

"Long time no see."

Lu Jinye stood next to Mu Zhi and said.

Mu Zhi responded with a rather puzzled expression.

Why did he say that? It was not that long ago since they saw each other.

“Do we know each other?”

Mu Zhi stared at Lu Jinye in a daze. She realized they have been referring her as the protagonist of the story.

Because she looked like this man’s wife?

But she was certain she was not his wife.

Her childhood sweetheart was Xie Xiu.

“Sorry, sir, I have heard of the story told by Yan Shu, but I am sure I am not the person you are looking for.”

The familiar voice... It’s Mu Zhi’s tone! She must be his Mu Zhi!

Lu Jinye was even more excited.

Lu Jinye did not say anything but stepping forward and grabbed Mu Zhi’s hands. He rolled up her sleeve and exposed the crescent scar on her wrist.

The incident happened on a random night when Mu Zhi was walking in the dark. She accidentally knocked on the dial of the watch Lu Jinye was wearing. They had no idea how did it happen but from then on, Lu Jinye had stopped wearing that watch and Mu Zhi had worn that crescent scar ever since.

Now, seeing Mu Zhi’s scar, Lu Jinye was confident that she was Mu Zhi! His Mu Zhi!

Mu Zhi felt violated. She quickly pulled her hand back and gave Lu Jinye a fierce look, saying, “Mister! Please behave yourself!”

She did not even know who this man was.

She could only address him as ‘Mister’.

She did not want to stay at this place. She turned around and left, hoping to stay away from Lu Jinye.

Lu Jinye noticed her intention. He quickly came in front of her and blocked her from leaving. He grabbed Mu Zhi by her wrists and pulled her into his arms and bawled, “Mu Zhi, don’t go!”

He hugged Mu Zhi tightly in his mighty strong arms preventing her from escaping.

Mu Zhi was taken aback. She looked at Lu Jinye and did not know what to do. She tried to break free from his embrace but her resistance only prompted him to tighten his arms even more, trapping her within his embrace.

She could feel the warmth of his body through the thin clothing on his body.

Just then, his heart was racing and beating wildly.

She stared at Lu Jinye in a daze. She attempted to push Lu Jinye away, but was held tighter by Lu Jinye yet again.

“Let go of me!”

When Mu Zhi shouted at him, he took the opportunity to come down on Mu Zhi’s lips. With his tongue, he forced open her lips and teeth.

Mu Zhi was caught off guard. She did not expect Lu Jinye would violate her with such brute force.

Lu Jinye’s tongue slithered in like a snake before Mu Zhi could force a seal to her lips. And before she realized, his skillful tongue dove deeper and deeper, invading the every part of her mouth.

He chased and she dodged. It was a hunting game!

Her fluttering body was enveloped in his uniquely domineering energy.

She was terrified. However for some reasons, her body opposed conscience and was otherwise responding to his touch. Apparently, her sub-conscience enjoyed his sensual touch.

The nuanced sensual excitement was foreign and shocking to her. She was torn between following her heart or mind. She did not dare to pursue the budding emotions.

Mu Zhi was afraid that she will drown in uncharted waters unleashed by this stranger.

With the last bit of conscientious drive in her, she frantically pushed Lu Jinye away. She kept pushing him away, trying so hard not to avoid the threat.

Unfortunately, Lu Jinye grasped her in the wrists imperviously while letting in his tongue to explore and seduce her again and again.

Mu Zhi knew that she was gradually falling for his seductive advance. Her resisting flapping eyes too finally gave in. And finally, she submitted and reciprocated to his lead with her eyes closed.

It was not until her mobile phone rang that alarmed her back to reality. She quickly pushed Lu Jinye away and fled to the side before answering the phone.

Because of the disruption from the ringing phone, she did not even have time to see who was calling her.

In a gasping and panting voice she answered the phone, "Hello?"

"Ann, where are you?"

It was Xie Xiu who called. He sounded concerned and worried.

"I... I am still at the tour."

Mu Zhi bit her lips and answered hastily.

"Where? You sound like you are out of breath."

Xie Xiu was suspicious at her unusual behavior so he pried on.

"Must be because I ran laps trying to get pretty photographs but the result is disappointing." Mu Zhi had never lied to Xie Xiu so this was a first.

"I thought of introducing you to my friend who lives in City A later. Till then, I'll be waiting for you at home."

"Sure, I'll head home right away."

She hung up after clarifying on her whereabouts.

She picked up her jacket and fled the scene immediately.

Lu Jinye saw Mu Zhi was leaving the place so suddenly. He leaped forward trying to stop her.

"Where are you going?"

"Go away and leave me alone!"

Mu Zhi bawled at Lu Jinye.

She left his villa without hesitation after that.

Chapter 288 The Familiar Intimacy

It was not until after getting in the car that Mu Zhi let out deep gasps. With eyes closed and body sank into the seat, her mind was all about the man and his intimidating advances, touches and how he made her feel when his lips and tongue entering hers.

Her pair of sweaty palms was the telltale of the shocking instances. She could barely fathom what just happened. She tried to shut her mind from thinking of that man but failed miserably.

How did that happen!? She had attempted intimacy with Xie Xiu for countless times but every time she just could not do it. Even holding his hands were difficult for her to begin with.

For the record, she had never refused Xie Xiu's touches on purpose nor did she mean to push Xie Xiu away. Yet, every time she just could not keep on.

Whenever Xie Xiu got close to her, she would go berserk involuntarily.

And now...

She caved in with a stranger in a sensualizing realm – a man she had not acquainted prior to this.

Why did she succumb to a stranger's kiss and respond to his embrace and playful tongue?

Mu Zhi shook her head trying to rid of the thoughts.

This is not right, she can't be like this!

She can no longer let her mind just think about these things. She opened the window of the car, let in the cold breeze, and forced herself to pay attention at the fleeting scenery, but the figure of the man would still linger in her mind.

She did not know why. He just seemed familiar.

She could feel in her bones that they had known each other for centuries.

This is unacceptable, absolutely intolerable!

Contrary to her usual self, Mu Zhi took the initiative to call Xie Xiu on the phone. When Xie Xiu picked up the phone, she immediately said to him, "Can you come fetch me, honey? I am walking in the direction of Sakura Road trying to get hold of a cab. Let's enable our real-time position so that we could anticipate each other. I cannot wait to see you."

Before the incident a moment ago, Mu Zhi had never greeted Xie Xiu by 'honey'. She felt embarrassed to even say that.

But this time, she called Xie Xiu with such passion and sweet nickname. These were all her effort at avoiding the fact she had just committed emotional infidelity against Xie Xiu.

Xie Xiu obliged and without further fuss, he followed through the navigation system and drove in the direction where Mu Zhi was coming from.

Mu Zhi stared at the real-time device screen rather obsessively in order to distract herself from ruminating the sensual scene from a minute ago.

The distance between them was drawing closer.

Yet, the physical distance shared between them could not chase away the man who preoccupied her mind. She summoned the cab driver to stop the car when she saw Xie Xiu's car in a walking distance.

She paid the cab driver quickly, jumped out of the car, and walked towards him. She slowly came beside Xie Xiu and reached out to hug Xie Xiu, actively trying to shorten the void in her heart by initiating intimacy with him.

Even so, she was hesitant when she thought of stretching out her hands surrounding him.

She couldn't. She just couldn't.

There was a nuanced hesitation in her gut that took her aback.

Xie Xiu walked towards her while pretending to be oblivious at her outward hesitation, gently stroked her cascading hair by the face, and asked her, "Why are you in such a hurry to see me?"

"I guess it is because you make me feel safe especially in this unfamiliar city."

Xie Xiu's smiled upon hearing Mu Zhi's sudden confession.

"Come, let's go and meet your friend."

Mu Zhi turned around and walked up to his car and sat by the driver's seat.

Just then, Xie Xiu could tell Mu Zhi was behaving unusually but he did not probe on but chose to get into the car following after Mu Zhi.

Sitting in the driver's seat, Xie Xiu blurted a question at her, "How did it go? Have you had fun today?"

Mu Zhi winced a little, "I don't think there's anything nostalgic about this city, the only difference is that the decoration style is more oriental. To be honest, the surrounding scenery is not particularly different from ours."

"The reason why I wanted to come is because you moved your business to this city. I want to know more about this city and hoping to know you more too."

Mu Zhi had always been reserved with Xie Xiu and barely articulated her mind at him, but this time she was bold in expressing herself. It seemed that this was the only way she could hide her anxiety and fill the void and feelings she had for Xie Xiu.

"What do you usually do in City A?"

Mu Zhi looked at Xie Xiu and asked seriously.

The latter tilted his head seemingly contemplating, answering, "I have no life in City A. I spend most of my time working, meeting clients, learning and thinking."

"Isn't that exhausting?"

It seemed that while chatting with Xie Xiu, Mu Zhi could preoccupy her mind on Xie Xiu alone and that made her feel better.

That was the reason why she kept chatting up Xie Xiu.

Xie Xiu said to Mu Zhi, "Not really. I take some time for leisure too."

"Oh? What is your pastime then?"

Mu Zhi appeared to be very interested in learning more about him.

Xie Xiu did not respond to her. He was waiting for Mu Zhi to guess.

And Mu Zhi attempted a few wild guesses at Xie Xiu over watching movie, going to the gym, rock climbing and few more. Finally, Xie Xiu shook his head and said, "Talking with you on the phone."

Mu Zhi was touched, Xie Xiu's answer instantaneously warmed up her heart.

This was an affirmation and confession shared between Xie Xiu and her.

She smiled shyly and did not dare to look Xie Xiu in the eyes.

She deliberately digressed, "Which friend of yours are we seeing later?"

"It's a friend I am working with. If you feel tired, you can choose to stay back and rest."

These were the people who were usually present at the meet-and-greet or work functions, like bankers and corporate bosses.

But taking Mu Zhi to meet a friend was rhetoric.

This was his attempt at gaining control over Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi thought for a while and said, "I shall go, I want to go."

Mu Zhi wanted to be involved in Xie Xiu's life and in turn learn more about him. She was certain that if she had known Xie Xiu better, she would not have fallen for another flirtatious man.

They may have been too busy for each other over the years. Spending too little time together should be the main reason why she did not love him enough.

Xie Xiu drove Mu Zhi to a grooming studio to get dolled up before taking her to the suburbs where the banker's villa was.

The gathering was a merely place for the opportunists to exchange interests.

The attendees present at the gathering were busy making acquaintances and sharing business prospects. Mu Zhi was there purely as a partner, and she was seen casually following Xie Xiu around.

Just then situated at the center court, there was a commotion going around in the crowd.

The host of the cocktail party smiled ostensibly and said, "The most awaited of the hour is here..."

Chapter 289 She Is with Xie Xiu

After the host's announcement, Mu Zhi cast her gaze at the commotion only to see a woman, decked up in a dazzling Spanish red dress, walking up to her.

She rocked a dark, smokey makeup, but it did not overshadow her glowing charms. Her appearance seemed to have instantly caught the eyes of every man in attendance.

While everyone was admiring her beauty, the cocktail host introduced with a chuckle, "Ever since Miss Xiao is married to the chairman, Lu Jinye, we could hardly see Miss Xiao gracing different banquets with her presence. Coincidentally, I had the pleasure of running into her during a press conference today."

"Lu Jinye and Xiao Qingqing were known to show up in public in pairs. But interestingly, Mr. Lu wasn't around. I informed Xiao Qingqing of the cocktail party, and she agreed to come."

At the sound of Xiao Qingqing's name, Xie Xiu managed to maintain his poise, but he had reached out for Mu Zhi's hand and gradually brought it towards him.

Then, he approached the host to say, "I've just remembered that I have something to attend to, please excuse me."

"Miss Xiao will be performing a song tonight, it's a rare opportunity, do you think..."

Before the host could finish his words, Xie Xiu had left, bringing Mu Zhi along.

Mu Zhi was following closely behind him as she asked, "Who is this Xiao Qingqing lady? Is she a superstar? Otherwise, why is it difficult to invite her?"

"With every man fixing their eyes at her, she must be a stunning character. Honey, don't you want to stay for her performance?"

"In my eyes, nobody is as stunning as you."

Xie Xiu responded with a stern face.

However, as soon as he finished those words, the voice of a woman arose, "Mu Zhi?"

The voice sounded familiar to Mu Zhi, but she did not recognize the name. Thus, she did not turn back.

Then, the woman started walking up to her in a series of anxious footsteps.

She seized Mu Zhi's hands and said delightfully, "You're still alive, that's great!"

Before Mu Zhi could work out what had just happened, the woman reached in for a deep hug.

Mu Zhi was startled. When she was released from the hug, she asked the woman in confusion, "Do we know each other? Did you get the wrong person?"

The woman had a petite figure to go with a lively character.

"Me? I'm Jian Xiaoning. I understand that I'm dolled up tonight, but it shouldn't make me unrecognizable, right?!"

Jian Xiaoning threw a doubtful look at Mu Zhi, while Mu Zhi was astonished.

It had just occurred to her that the man in the morning might have sent the woman, similar to how he had somehow bribed the tour guide.

Mu Zhi instantly let out a discontented expression and muttered at the strange woman, "Sorry, you got the wrong person."

Finishing what she had to say, Mu Zhi turned around to leave.

Xiao Qingqing was in the middle of the limelight when she saw a familiar figure from afar. Just as she was planning to walk up to Xie Xiu to greet him, she was shocked to see an even more familiar figure of a woman.

Who is it?

Xiao Qingqing peered at the woman in an attempt to make out who she was. Upon matching the woman's figure to who she had in mind, she instantly became disgruntled.

Mu Zhi!

She! Is with! Xie Xiu!

She knew that Mu Zhi couldn't be dead.

Walking up to the stage as though she had not seen anything out of the ordinary, Xiao Qingqing looked down at the audience with a beaming smile. On the other hand, Xie Xiu had set off from the banquet in the car.

While they were in the car, Xie Xiu suddenly turned to face Mu Zhi, asking, "Do you find that woman familiar?" The dull light shone on him revealed half of his face.

Mu Zhi pondered. When she realized that Xie Xiu was referring to Jian Xiaoning, she subconsciously shook her head, saying, "Not really."

She had no memory of Jian Xiaoning whatsoever.

Xie Xiu studied Mu Zhi's expression as he pressed on, "Did any of your memories come to your mind during this trip to City A?"

Mu Zhi was stupefied. She answered with a question, "Honey, did we have a past in City A?"

A gleam of gloominess came over Xie Xiu's eyes. He contemplated before saying casually, "We came here for holidays before. I introduced you to some of my business partners too."

Mu Zhi shook her head with a troubled expression, "Doesn't ring a bell."

Xie Xiu was emotionless throughout the word exchange.

He stared at Mu Zhi quietly before breaking the silence with a serious note, "If anyone tries to get close to you during this period, telling you that you look like someone they know, don't believe them."

"The businessmen in this city tend to take advantage of personal relationships. So, many of them try to fawn over me with this approach."

"Expect more to come!"

Xie Xiu emphasized with a solemn tone, "You've lost your memories because you were kidnapped. The abductors tried to coerce me with you as their hostage. I don't want to see history repeat."

At this point, Xie Xiu cupped Mu Zhi's delicate hand in his palm, clutching her hand firmly.

While Mu Zhi gazed at Xie Xiu, overwhelmed by emotions.

"Don't worry, I'll take care of myself."

With that, she surmised that all the strange people she met today were people who were trying to use her as a tool to connect with Xie Xiu.

Mu Zhi's antipathy for these guys grew even deeper at that thought.

She had always believed that businessmen should possess an honorable personality instead of taking shortcuts to advance in the ladder.

...

During nightfall, there were only a few lighted rooms in Lu Jinye's office building.

Sitting in his office on the 28th floor, Lu Jinye was diligently going through the company's list of inventories.

A door-knock sounded out of the blue.

He knew that it did not come from an adult at once due to the soft sound.

The knock ceased after a few times.

Lu Jinye was familiar with the knocking pattern of everyone who usually turned up at his office.

And it was evident to him that the rhythm was different.

Lu Jinye frowned and asked at the door, "Who is it?"

"Hello, Mr. Lu, this is Eric."

A little boy's voice sounded, "They say that you love working overtime, so I come hoping to learn a thing or two from you."

With furrowed brows, Lu Jinye figured that the name 'Eric' sounded familiar. He then commanded, "Come in."

Eric was carrying a small bag pack. He slowly entered Lu Jinye's office and nodded at Lu Jinye as a form of courtesy.

"Mr. Lu, I've solved the first problem you gave me. So, I'm here to discuss the solution."

Amid his words, he put down his bag, preparing to retrieve his laptop.

On the other hand, Lu Jinye set his gaze on Eric. He did not turn his eyes away for even a fraction of a second.

Chapter 290 Mom, Do You Know Lu Jinye?

The boy was wearing a baseball top. Despite his young age, he was extraordinarily poised to face adults. Lu Jinye threw his gaze behind the little boy, only to notice that he came without adult supervision. It was evident that he came alone.

Lu Jinye found it difficult to believe. He had to take a second look to make sure he wasn't mistaken. Eric interrupted him out of the blue by saying, "There's nothing to see. I came alone, my family doesn't know this."

If his family found out about what he was doing behind their backs, they would never let him come.

Eric brought up his laptop and gestured to show it to Lu Jinye. His screen showed a well-organized program to the first step of Lu Jinye's problem, and it was spot on.

Along with the blinking blue indicator's light, rows of codes swept across the screen like a foreign language. They were incomprehensible to the common eye and looked like a string of digits and alphabets thrown together to form a file.

Lu Jinye could tell that Eric was troubled by the second layer of the firewall. But his abilities as a five-year-old were astounding enough to Lu Jinye.

"So, what would you like to ask?"

Lu Jinye sized up Eric with an impressed frown.

The kid had similar features as him when he was younger, except the boy had a few dashes of elegance and composure as opposed to his cool distance aura.

“Over here, I used almost a hundred different types of computation methods. Why do I always miss the solution by a decimal place?”

Eric steered the laptop to face Lu Jinye.

Lu Jinye barely took a glance before pointing at a line of the code. Then it instantly dawned on the little boy. He reiterated his solutions with a different approach, but to no avail.

The boy became annoyed.

“You’re not sincere at all.”

“What do I receive by teaching you?”

Lu Jinye looked at the boy, thinking to himself that the boy’s resilience towards looking for a solution was commendable.

“Why don’t you tell me?” Eric raised his head to look at Lu Jinye. Instead of addressing the question, Eric threw the question back at him.

Lu Jinye then glimpsed at Eric. Although the boy was negotiating with him strong-headedly, Lu Jinye could not help but feel a type of familiar admiration for him. Thus, he took out a photo and handed it to Eric, saying, “Find me this woman. I want all information you know about her. It should be a piece of cake for you.”

Eric was not in a hurry to receive the photo. He did not bat an eye at the aforementioned woman as he asked, “Looking for a person is indeed an easy task for me, but it should be even easier for you. Why don’t you do it yourself?”

Eric was carefully observing the expression on Lu Jinye’s face, hoping to get some information from him.

“I never waste my time on easy tasks. The reward shall be the solution to my firewall. What do you say?”

Lu Jinye smiled across his face and into his eyes. He continued to size up the boy to spot any changes in his expression.

The boy was seemingly troubled at first. He just need to run her photo in the facial recognition software to find the woman, then hack into her personal account and key profiles to extract information about her.

This was an easy task for Eric.

Lu Jinye was smart in that he used something that Eric truly cared about as a reward.

Eric contemplated for some moment before saying, "Okay, sure. Deal."

Upon finishing his words, he stretched out his hand to receive the photo from Lu Jinye.

However, as soon as he touched the photo, he suddenly stunned...

Because... Because the woman he was supposed to look for – was his mommy.

Eric managed to bring himself back to his senses to hide the astonishment and did not show any emotion on his face.

All he did was frown adorably and pretended to be troubled. "Although it's an easy task, I need some time to get it done. Please let me bring it home."

Lu Jinye was unaware of Eric's relationship with the woman in the photo. Thus, he did not notice what the implications were behind Eric's remark and nodded artlessly.

"You may go. You can come and see me anytime."

"I'll be back for sure."

Eric packed up his belongings and scuttled out of Lu Jinye's office. He could still feel the lingering bewilderment in him and forgot to ask Lu Jinye who the woman was to him.

What does he want to do with mommy?

He thought to himself as he hurriedly left.

When he arrived at home, Eric returned to his room, staring at Mu Zhi's photo for a long while but he could not work out the pieces. Why does the man want mommy's information?

Do they know each other? What is their relationship?

However, he knew clearly that he shouldn't call Lu Jinye to clear the flurry of questions he had. Eric was afraid that he would unintentionally reveal his identity.

After all, Lu Jinye was too intelligent. He could feel himself losing courage when he spoke to Lu Jinye.

So... He decided to talk to mom first.

At night, Eric finally went to knock on Mu Zhi's door.

Mu Zhi answered the door only to see the little boy tilting his head upwards, looking at her with his watery eyes. She immediately invited Eric into the room and then asked, "What's the matter?"

She realized the flash of uncertainty in Eric's eyes.

"Mom, I'd like to ask you something."

Eric spoke softly in his little boy's voice.

But he was calm and collected.

It was rare of Eric to be hesitant to ask her anything. He was a genius and would never care to consult Mu Zhi if he ran into any issues.

Mu Zhi responded light-heartedly, "Sure."

She brought Eric to her bed and sat him down before handing him a bottle of Yakult.

"Mom, do you know someone who goes by Lu Jinye?"

Eric asked as he held the Yakult in his hand without drinking it.

The name sounded unfamiliar to Mu Zhi. She pondered for a moment but did not ring a bell, so she surmised that she didn't know him.

"Lu Jinye? Who is that?"

She could not help but frown.

Eric promptly took out his phone and searched for his photo, then handed it to Mu Zhi, "He looks like this."

Mu Zhi nonchalantly glanced at the photo Eric handed her and instantly froze.

Then, Mu Zhi tried to suppress her emotions, not allowing her anxiousness to show.

"I don't know him, how do get to know this man?"

Mu Zhi asked as she was worried that Eric would have too much interaction with the man.

"I'm just asking."

Eric responded casually without realizing Mu Zhi's abnormally.

However, Mu Zhi's anxiousness continued to whip violently in her heart.

She hesitated briefly, then said all of a sudden, "Eric, let's go back to the States tomorrow, alright?"