

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 341-345

Chapter 341 Protection

In her heart, Mu Zhi kept reminding herself that her ultimate purpose is to understand Xie Xiu through work. She must blend in and be a good team player. Therefore, the first step was to learn to adapt at work.

Mu Zhi stood up and smiled at the coworkers. She said, "I will treat everyone at the KTV."

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Tian Xinran noticed Mu Zhi was getting exploited. She stood up for Mu Zhi and said righteously, "Ann just came to our company and it's unfair to let her pay for our itineraries. Why don't we just let Ann treat us to the KTV only? We will pay for our meal."

Tian Xinran was one of the veterans in the company, so the others felt obligated to say yes to her.

Following her well-intentioned suggestion, some of them were agreeable, "Sure. Then let's head to the nearest grill house and follow by the nearby KTV."

Everyone moved on from attempting to exploit Mu Zhi.

Luo Jiajia was delighted to see her sabotaging effort worked out against Mu Zhi. So, she stopped bothering her. In the evening, Tian Xinran bailed out on the gathering due to a household emergency.

Before she left the workplace, she reminded Mu Zhi to be careful and said nothing else after that.

And as planned, Mu Zhi joined the coworkers at the nearby grill house after work.

The dinner was pleasant. At the KTV, everyone ordered beer and started playing Truth or Dare, and that was when the atmosphere became discordant.

Then, Mu Zhi gradually noticed that she was being put to task and a target for sports.

In the first game of Truth or Dare, Mu Zhi unexpectedly lost, and she chose Truth as the penalty. Luo Jiajia looked at her and asked earnestly, "Have you ever intruded on someone else's marriage?"

This question was palpably inexplicable. Mu Zhi frowned slightly and said, "No."

In the subsequent rounds, Mu Zhi lost again. Although ridiculous questions imposed her, she still chose to answer them with honesty.

At first, everyone thought Luo Jiajia was pulling her mischief at Mu Zhi. But after several times of incessant prying, everyone began to suspect Mu Zhi was really an intruder and got busted somehow.

Later, Mu Zhi lost again, and she opted for Truth again. Everyone unanimously asked Mu Zhi to take a Dare instead since she wanted another way.

Surrounded by relentless urges from the crowd. Mu Zhi had no choice but to choose the Dare.

The crowd then dared Mu Zhi, "Call your husband and ask him to pick you up at KTV."

As soon as the Dare reeled in from the crowd, the rest of them hastened, and Mu Zhi was a little embarrassed.

If she called Xie Xiu now, he would find out where she works now.

Of course, she must not call him.

She must think of a way to get away from being exposed.

Mu Zhi thought for a while and bargained, "We recently got into a bicker. I am sure he will not want to pick up my call now. Let's move on to another Dare."

"No way. This Dare may be the de-facto reconciliation solution between the both of you."

At this point, Luo Jijia was intoxicated. She was behaving like a real rowdy by raising tension at picking on Mu Zhi.

Helpless and threatened, Mu Zhi reluctantly held up the glass and said, "I will fine myself three glasses of beer."

"How can three glasses be enough? You can only choose from taking on the Dare by calling your husband or drink three bottles of beer!"

One person booed at Mu Zhi.

He then changed course to chanting at Mu Zhi, "Three bottles! Three bottles! Three bottles!"

"Hey! I'll get you beer!"

"Come on, I have already removed the lid!"

Mu Zhi had not experienced such defeating situation before. When the people lined up three bottles of wine in front of Mu Zhi, she was startled and did not know what to do.

The crowd started chanting at her again and directly handed the bottle to her to coerce her into action.

Mu Zhi received the bottle rather awkwardly and drank up three bottles of wine before bottoming the bottles to evident sincerity.

They let her go but still bothering her to play games together after that.

...

Lu Jinye let Xu Se deal with the registration at the reception while he walked into the KTV lobby. With his knotted brows and prying eyes, he looked around, searching for Mu Zhi.

Before Lu Jinye left Mu Zhi's company in the morning, he had specifically asked the general manager to be kind to Mu Zhi and always report to him should there be any news about her.

The general manager told Lu Jinye that Mu Zhi was welcomed among the coworkers, and it was common to treat the coworkers to the KTV after work.

He told Lu Jinye the KTV location, and the latter was worried and decided to rush over.

While waiting for Xu Se to get done at the reception, Lu Jinye bumped into two men who happened to be Mu Zhi's coworkers. They walked out from the coach with a cigarette in their hands. One of them said, "Sigh, what a poor woman Ann is, Luo Jiajia is obviously picking on her."

"Are you feeling sorry for her? Well, if you do, you should speak up on behalf."

"Did you not see that Ann obviously cannot handle alcohol. Not sure if she could go home after drinking so much."

"What to do? Or you could go back in and help her finish up the beer?"

The two spoke to each other while smoking.

Lu Jinye stood in the corner with the burrowed forehead. They were obviously talking about Mu Zhi and her almost non-existent alcohol tolerance.

Unlike Mu Zhi, he was aware of the potential ugly sabotages and unhealthy competition that happened at the workplace.

Lu Jinye walked up to the two men without hesitation. He asked them in cold mannerism, "Which room are you in?"

"1908." The men were startled and answered immediately.

Lu Jinye immediately headed to room 1908 upon hearing from the two men.

At this juncture, Mu Zhi was already wasted, and she could not recall how much she had drunk. Her head was spinning and heavy.

"Come on! There is one last bottle. Drink up!"

She had no idea who handed her yet another bottle of beer but she obligated the handover of the beer bottle and downed the alcohol.

Without warning, Lu Jinye strode into their KTV coach.

His piercing gazes scanned around the surroundings, and everyone was scared. Even the alcohol pushers stopped pushing beer at Mu Zhi.

Chapter 342 What Did You Do To Me When I Was Drunk

Lu Jinye looked around and finally saw Mu Zhi. She was tipsy with her limbs sprawling on the sofa. She squinted her eyes with a beer bottle held in her hand as if she would drink some more.

Lu Jinye went up to Mu Zhi and lifted her horizontally. Mu Zhi could not see the person in front of her. Her body vacated and was losing balance, but she instinctively clasped her hands over Lu Jinye's neck.

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The situation would have been imaginative if Mu Zhi had not been deliberately spiked with excessive alcohol.

Lu Jinye carried Mu Zhi and walked out of the door. He stood at the door and said to the accompanying assistants, "Make sure they drink more than these since they love to drink so much."

The entourage knew Lu Jinye's meaning and immediately sent someone to bring in a dozen boxes of beer and had someone to watch them.

Although no one said a word in the process, Mu Zhi's coworkers knew in their hearts they had to finish the crates of wine before leaving.

Lu Jinye carried Mu Zhi into the car, but her hands were still hanging over Lu Jinye's neck.

Mu Zhi felt more at ease after Lu Jinye fed her some water. She saw a good-looking face tending to her.

Lu Jinye?? What is he doing here?

Mu Zhi frowned and stared at him.

Automatically she felt like pushing him away.

"Go away. Why are you standing so near to me?"

Mu Zhi was heard saying inaudibly.

"Stay away from me. I hate you! I do not want to see you ever again! Go go!"

Mu Zhi continued mumbling. He was the very reason why these people intoxicated her!

It was all started with Lu Jinye. He demanded the general manager to entrust her with an important task. That made her the subject of hate sports.

Lu Jinye was helpless. She said she wanted him to stay away from her, but her hands still stubbornly clinging on to him and would not let go of his neck. She was literally in front of him.

However, Lu Jinye indeed wanted to get close and intimate with Mu Zhi.

Suddenly, Mu Zhi sprung up and barfed.

Lu Jinye was too late to respond and Mu Zhi's vomit tainted his shirt.

"Sorry. I'll compensate you alright."

Mu Zhi was still in a daze, "But you deserve it, who asked you to stand so close to me..."

Seeing Mu Zhi was drunk, Lu Jinye was a little startled.

Sure enough, drunken women must not be messed with.

The drunken Mu Zhi was completely different from usual.

How he wished that she would instead say, "I will be with you."

Mu Zhi felt better after spitting out some more. She gradually fell asleep while Lu Jinye briefly settled her down before driving away.

In the KTV coach, everyone was still drinking. Xiao Qing was already a little unhappy holding the glass.

This morning, the relationship between Mu Zhi and Lu Jinye may seem ambiguous. But after what happened in the KTV coach, now everyone had a better clue.

If a man was willing to stand up for a woman like a hero coming to the beauty's rescue, they must have shared an extraordinary bond.

Xiao Qing looked at the photo she secretly took when Lu Jinye lifted Mu Zhi up in his arms.

Great. I will send this one.

She bullied Mu Zhi today, and she will definitely be discriminated in the future. She needed to find a backer.

Xiao Qingqing and Xiao Qing had not been on good terms. In fact, never.

Xiao Qingqing was born into a low-income family. She refused to acknowledge the poor relatives in her family. Xiao Qing was one of the poor relatives, so it was expected that Xiao Qing had been disapproved by Xiao Qingqing all these years.

But there was a chance this time around.

Xiao Qing picked out Lu Jinye and Mu Zhi's most dubious picture and sent it to Xiao Qingqing. It was taken in the faint lit coach where the duo was photographed having close body contact.

With a caption written on it: 'Isn't this your husband, my cousin?'

After Xiao Qing sent the photo, she waited for Xiao Qingqing's reply.

After a short while, Xiao Qingqing called Xiao Qing on the phone. In a hypocritical tone, she said, "Thanks to you, my dear cousin. This time the little vixen left me with evidence."

Xiao Qing instigated and flattered Xiao Qingqing by offering herself to help her cousin, "I knew this woman must be a coquettish slut when I saw her. I am here to help if you need me, my cousin."

"You have to help me and greet her well, my good cousin."

Xiao Qingqing gritted her teeth when she said the word 'greet'.

Xiao Qing understood, "Don't worry, I will teach her a lesson. But couz, remember to take me with you in the future and show me prospects."

"I have an invitation to a party soon, and I will bring you along." Xiao Qingqing said in a rather perfunctory manner.

"Appreciated that, cousin."

Xiao Qing hung up the phone gleefully after finished talking.

Xiao Qingqing was burning in fury after she hung up the phone. Her body was trembling in anger!

No way, she should calm down.

Now that Mu Zhi had lost her memory and the past with Lu Jinye as a whole. She could have a little peace of mind since Mu Zhi had gotten married to Xie Xiu. Perhaps she should instigate Xie Xiu to shatter Lu Jinye.

The more severe the outcome was, the merrier.

Only by instigating trouble among Lu Jinye and Xie Xiu, will she be given a chance to stay by Lu Jinye.

Xiao Qingqing had lost her mind for Lu Jinye.

She thought about sending the picture to Xie Xiu right away. But she decided not to after looking at the time of the night.

Not tonight. I will send it over to him tomorrow.

If she sent it now, Xie Xiu would head out looking for Mu Zhi. The state of the matter had not reached its most miserable and vulnerable stage.

Yes... The result would be more promising if she sends it tomorrow!

Xiao Qingqing's lips curled up while thinking about the auspicious possible outcome.

...

The next morning, Mu Zhi woke up to a pounding headache. She held her head in pain, battling the subduing hangover.

Suddenly, a cup of hot tea was handed to her. She naturally reached out to receive the cup and said thank you before she took a sip from the cup.

"Not at all."

This voice is so familiar!

It did not sound like Xie Xiu.

Mu Zhi raised her head and saw Lu Jinye was standing in front of her!

Mu Zhi startled and paused for a while. Then, she frantically looked around only to find out she was actually in Lu Jinye's room. Lying on Lu Jinye's bed!

She looked down and saw that her clothes had also been changed.

Mu Zhi panicked. She glared and resented at Lu Jinye, "What happened?!"

"Don't you remember what happened?"

Lu Jinye shivered just thinking about how wasted Mu Zhi was when he found her last night.

The culprits were trying to bully her. Why did she let them coerce her into drinking so much?

Did she naively think that those people would send her home after the intoxicated episode?

The thought of how Mu Zhi put herself in danger made Lu Jinye anxious.

Mu Zhi lashed out at Lu Jinye, "Did you do anything to me while I was drunk?"

Chapter 343 Just Doing What I'm Told

"Did I do anything? You can see it for yourself." Lu Jinye mumbled as a playful remark. That enraged Mu Zhi. She was fuming in this instance, and it was evident that her outfit had been changed.

"Why would you change my previous clothes into this one? Lu Jinye, don't you find yourself shameful and despicable?" "I didn't make you do it. You were the one who took the initiative."

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All Lu Jinye did was change Mu Zhi's outfit the prior night. He could now be certain that Mu Zhi, was the Mu Zhi who belonged to him. Moreover, he had seen pretty much every corner of her skin. To him, there was nothing wrong with seeing all of her.

Mu Zhi, on the other hand, was not impressed one bit. She glared at Lu Jinye with a scowl, "I initiated?"

It was apparent that she did not buy the idea.

But the truth of the matter was – she had made the first move.

After throwing up every strain of her dinner last night, Mu Zhi showed up at Lu Jinye's place with an overbearing attitude, forcing him to change for her.

She tried to undress herself but was too drunk to do so. Thus, she coquettishly pleaded with Lu Jinye to do it for her.

He complied without further ado.

"How dare you take advantage of me, you disgusting bastard..."

Mu Zhi muttered with her brows knitted together. She then hopped off the bed to look for her clothes, only to find them in the bin in the bathroom, with vomit stains.

At first glance, she was reminded that they had played Truth or Dare at the KTV. She was pressured into drinking too much alcohol and could faintly remember that Lu Jinye appeared to take her away.

"Why... Why didn't you bring me home?" She questioned.

But this time, her tone was seemingly much softer.

Lu Jinye retracted the teacup that had been stretched out towards her for a while now, then placed it aside. "You were as drunk as a skunk, aren't you afraid that you'd be misunderstood if I had sent you home?"

Oh, right... Mu Zhi figured that he had a valid point for a moment but quickly woke up from her trance, "Excuses! What misunderstanding? You kept me from going home and made me spend a night in your bed... Aren't YOU afraid that you'd be misunderstood?"

Mu Zhi glared at Lu Jinye furiously with gritted teeth, and her forehead scrunched up completely.

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye kept his poise.

"I'm happy to clear the air for you if you need. I will tell Xie Xiu all the details about how you were drunk last night, how I brought you away, why your clothes were changed, and how you ended up in my bed. I will make sure he knows that we didn't do anything intimate."

Lu Jinye smiled harmlessly.

Mu Zhi became even more furious. How on earth was she going to explain to Xie Xiu? It was too late. There was no way she could talk her way out of this.

“You...”

Mu Zhi was lost for words while pacing the room. Then, she anxiously checked the time and... Lo and behold, she was going to be late for work.

She didn't want to be late when she had just started the job.

She scrambled to fix her appearance, and before she left for work, she glared at Lu Jinye ferociously for one last time.

...

Xie Xiu had gone on an emergency business trip. He was not in City A and therefore was unaware that Mu Zhi had spent the night away from home. He was preparing to go to bed when he received a call from Xiao Qingqing.

She was utterly friendly on the phone, “Mr. Xie, how are you? Have you been doing well with madam lately?”

“Get straight to the point.”

Xie Xiu was hair-raisingly cold, clearly not wanting to engage in any small talk with Xiao Qingqing.

She had undoubtedly understood it tacitly but chose to ignore it. Instead, she responded with a kittenish tone, “My cousin sent me a photo yesterday, I found it pretty interesting and thought Mr. Xie would be interested to see it too. Okay, that's all I want to say.”

Amid their call, Xie Xiu felt his phone buzz with the incoming photo.

He had not opened the file before Xiao Qingqing swiftly hung up on him.

It didn't bother Xie Xiu. He opened the photo, which took longer than usual to download. The moment it popped up on his screen, Xie Xiu clasped his phone furiously and made a call to Mu Zhi.

Mu Zhi was scrambling to leave Lu Jinye's home at the time. She was refusing Lu Jinye's offer to drop her off at work when her phone rang.

As soon as she noticed Xie Xiu's name on the screen, Mu Zhi was startled. She cautiously accepted the call. “Hello?”

She was somewhat guilty while Xie Xiu sounded casual. He didn't let his emotions show, which made Mu Zhi even more concerned.

“What are you doing now?”

“Just finished my breakfast after washing up.”

Mu Zhi tried to sound as normal as she could.

“What are you planning to do today?”

Xie Xiu pressed on.

“Darling, why the questions all of a sudden? You’ve never cared about what I did in the past.”

Mu Zhi could sense that there was something different about Xie Xiu despite his seemingly nonchalant front.

She stared at Lu Jinye in confusion, but Lu Jinye was not prepared to keep a distance from Mu Zhi at all. He even took advantage of Mu Zhi when she was distracted by the call and dragged her into his car. Without giving her any room to escape, he had sat on the driver’s seat at this point.

Mu Zhi did not have the energy to deal with Lu Jinye. She allowed him to fasten her seatbelt while her limbs were powerless.

He had come so near that they were almost nose to nose, and they were not able to avoid contact.

Mu Zhi must not make a single sound. She was afraid that it would alert Xie Xiu. Thus, she could only say, “I am on my way to the spa. Gotta go now, you should get back to work, darling.”

Lu Jinye had shut his door and started the car engine.

Fortunately, Mu Zhi was able to hang up the call in time.

Otherwise, the noise from the exhaust and engine would give her away to Xie Xiu. Lu Jinye then stepped on the accelerator, and both of them set off.

“Lu Jinye, let me out.”

They had hardly covered any distance when Mu Zhi scowled at Lu Jinye, urging him helplessly.

However, Lu Jinye merely uttered with a listless expression, “No.”

“Let me out!”

Lu Jinye had arrived at her workplace entrance when Mu Zhi bellowed once more.

She gawked at Lu Jinye as the car steadily came to a halt.

It was the peak office hour. If she had boldly got out of Lu Jinye’s car by the entrance, it might’ve been too preposterous.

Mu Zhi wavered and pondered for a moment before saying meekly, "Drop me off at the end of the block, it might be a little too obvious to get off here."

Lu Jinye let out a smirk, "You told me to let you out, and I did what I was told."

Despite his witty remark, Lu Jinye brought Mu Zhi to an inconspicuous spot before letting her out.

Chapter 344 Refuse To Share an Office With an Enchantress

As inconspicuous as it may be, the spot was still around the company's building.

Since it was nearby the workplace, it was inevitable that some colleagues might see her. Mu Zhi thought she had been extra careful, but little did she expect that when she arrived at the office, a group of colleagues was chattering about her.

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The first words that she heard were, "Did you know? The chairman dropped Ann off just now. How exactly are they related?!"

"Holy smokes, the chairman looked so hot when he carried Ann away last night!"

Mu Zhi let out a helpless frown followed by a sigh. Despite the caution she practiced, she still got caught by her colleagues.

Not only that, but her colleagues also immediately touched on how Lu Jinye brought her away.

Wait a minute... She thought. Lu Jinye carried me away?!

Mu Zhi stood by the door with a scrunched forehead while listening to them chattering about her.

"Doesn't Mr. Lu have a wife? The distinguished Xiao Qingqing?"

"Does that mean we have the first-hand information of the newest gossip? Ann is the mistress, and she has interfered Mr. Lu and Xiao Qingqing's marriage."

Everyone took turns chiming in with their opinions.

"Hey, Xiao Qing, aren't you Xiao Qingqing's cousin? How close are you normally? Does she know about this?"

The flurry of questions brought all attention to Xiao Qing.

Xiao Qing wore a long dress, Spanish red, to match lipstick tone, giving her a charming ambiance.

She raised her head languidly from her seat and said, "My cousin knows everything. Just like any other random mistresses, this one doesn't deserve her attention."

She subtly referred to Mu Zhi as the mistress! One whom Xiao Qingqing acknowledged.

Full-time sugar babies were common but were largely frowned upon. Everyone in the company was exceptionally enraged to learn that there was a mistress among them.

Some of the staff started rebuking, "Gosh, I can't believe she's a mistress. Gross! I've always despised women like her!"

"No wonder she got a promotion when she has just started work. That's so unfair to people who are working for an honest living, like us!"

"Disgusting, filthy, sickening!"

Mu Zhi could not bear to hear another word of the discussion.

She was just a victim who got pressured into drinking too much beer the prior night. She had not done anything or said anything that was mildly suggestive. But to be 'crowned' as a paramour out of nowhere, she was exasperated.

Thus, she cleared her throat softly, alarming everyone in the room of her presence.

She hoped that it would stop the colleagues from talking about her. Then, she went to her workstation, pretending that nothing had just happened.

However, she had barely taken a few steps when someone blurted out, "Hey, isn't that the infamous mistress? How shameless can she be to insist on coming to work? To be Mr. Lu's mistress, wouldn't she get at least a hundred thousand each month as pocket money? Why does the mistress still need to work?"

"Who knows? Perhaps she's just pretending to be independent to impress Mr. Lu."

None of them held back on their tongues. Mu Zhi could not be bothered to lock horns with them. She turned on her computer and planned to start working when it was quieter. However, the crowd seemed to be deliberately surrounding her. While Mu Zhi did not drive them away, they pressed on further, mumbling, "Dang flabbit! The entire office smells of the enchantress."

At this point, Tian Xinran, who watched the ordeal unfold, could no longer hold it in.

She did not join the rest for KTV the previous night, so she was unaware of what had happened. She had no word to refute the other colleagues for alienating Mu Zhi earlier in the day, but as they continued to push their limits, she let her frustration get the best of her.

"If you don't want to stay in this office, then get out. Stop talking like you're the victims. Did Ann steal your husband? Stop judging her character before even getting to know her better!"

"Do you all think that Lu Jinye is your husband?!"

"Look yourselves in the mirror! Stop judging and alienating others!"

Seeing that Tian Xinran rose and spoke up for Mu Zhi, everyone turned to target her, "Mind your business. Are you hoping that Ann will introduce you to another big fish?"

"Pfft, I've just realized that you're quite nasty too. Birds of a feather flock together!"

Everyone became increasingly heated in their mockery.

Mu Zhi figured she could take their criticisms when they targeted her, but when they started jeering at Tian Xinran, Mu Zhi was having none of it. She shot out, "Stop it, everyone. I've made myself clear last night. I have a husband. There's no need for me to be Lu Jinye's mistress. My husband isn't lesser than him."

It was the first time Mu Zhi faced such a situation. She was clueless about what else she could do to earn others' trust, hence her anxious explanation.

Nobody bought into her words.

"To hell with it! You're just like a cancer in our office, please resign."

"Yeah, get lost, we don't want to work with an enchantress."

"Just get it done, give your position back to Xiao Qing."

Everyone continued to be relentless.

Meanwhile, Xiao Qing sat on her seat without uttering a word. She immensely enjoyed watching the ignorant colleagues who caused Mu Zhi troubles. Moreover, she recorded a short video of it and sent it to Xiao Qingqing to claim some credits.

Xiao Qingqing was delighted to see the video. She replied to Xiao Qing's text, 'Good work!' and told Xiao Qing to keep her posted.

Mu Zhi felt like she was cornered. She had no idea how else to convince the colleagues.

She surmounted countless adversities to land on the job. Thus, she was at a loss upon being coerced to quit in just her first week into work.

She even thought about giving Lu Jinye a call and asking him to clarify the situation for her.

While Mu Zhi was entranced in everyone's clamoring and sneering, a deep voice of a man sounded from the door and said, "There is no question that you must quit. A company like this doesn't deserve to have you."

In between his words, the man had stepped into the room.

Mu Zhi raised her head in confusion. Upon taking a clearer look at the man, she became dumbfounded!

“What are you doing here?”

She gawked at Xie Xiu. She didn't notice how sweet his words were at first. Instead, she was afraid that she had been caught red-handed by getting a job behind his back.

Xie Xiu approached Mu Zhi silently and then said, “If I don't come, how would I know that you're suffering?”

Chapter 345 Hopeful About the New Relationship

Their surroundings burst into a low buzz of murmuring as soon as Xie Xiu had finished his words. “Who is this man?”

“Who cares? He is a work of art...” “By the sound of it, it looks like he is here to protect Ann. Did Ann double-cross Lu Jinye and hooked up with another man?”

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“So envious... I want someone who would defend me overbearingly like this hottie too...”

“Quit dreaming.”

“It seems like the show has just started...”

Xie Xiu had his eyes locked on Mu Zhi while she was resenting the fact that he had caught her working behind his back. The both of them could not be bothered by the mumbling of the insignificant characters around them.

However, Xie Xiu could hear some of the words. He wheeled around and swept his gaze across the colleagues, then shook his head disappointingly.

“You could've done a better job at choosing your workplace. The quality of this company and its staff might've been a little underwhelming.”

Everyone exchanged glances at his remark and was red in the face.

Under Xie Xiu's overwhelming temperament, nobody dared utter a sound.

Finishing what he had to say, Xie Xiu took out his phone and gave his Accounting Team a call, telling them the name of the company before demanding, “Value this company at once and tell the Accounting Team to make their way here.”

After he was done with the call, Mu Zhi asked nervously, “What are you doing?”

“Acquiring the company.”

Xie Xiu put on an affectionate smile before casting a sideways glance at everyone.

He had heard everything they said at the door earlier. Thus, he had taken the most succinct approach to take care of the business, like he was accustomed to!

Mu Zhi was astonished. She woke up from her daze and promptly stopped Xie Xiu, "Don't. I just want to make an honest living here. How am I supposed to stay here if you do that?"

"This will be your company soon, you can do whatever you wish with it."

"I'm not..."

Xie Xiu cut her off and said, "Sorry, Ann, I can't bear to watch you suffer like this. This company doesn't deserve you, and these guys aren't even good enough to polish your shoes. Besides, they slander your name because of some baseless rumors..."

Xie Xiu added, "If you insist on working, you could work at your own company. I will send a team to scale this company's operation up and restructure its staff, then make you the director. It doesn't matter if you make a loss. I just want you to be happy."

Mu Zhi started to refuse when three people showed up at the door. They were Xie Xiu's Accounting Team and had brought dozens of documents with them.

Coming before Xie Xiu, the team lead reported, "Mr. Xie, this is the valuation of this company." Amid his words, he handed a document into Xie Xiu's hands.

"A preliminary evaluation tells us that the company's profit-making ability is below average. The management team is disarrayed, and the accounts are disordered. It isn't worth acquiring." A member of the Accounting Team elaborated.

Xie Xiu did not spare a glance at the report before tossing it back to them, "See to it. It doesn't matter if it makes money. I want Ann to be happy, and I don't want to see her being a target of bullies again."

Mu Zhi leaned into Xie Xiu and whispered, "Don't."

In this instance, she was left speechless, without an idea of how she should ease Xie Xiu's strong personality! But Xie Xiu would not relent.

He lowered his voice and snapped at the Accounting Team, "Haven't I made myself clear? Go!"

Every poor soul in the room stood rooted to the ground. None of them even dared to breathe aloud as they exchanged glances anxiously, waiting for Xie Xiu's next instruction.

The Accounting Team was about to act when Mu Zhi stopped them. "Go back to work, leave this for now."

With that, the Accounting Team froze, not knowing what to do.

Mu Zhi looked at Xie Xiu helplessly, mustered her courage, and grabbed her belongings before dashing out of the company.

Xie Xiu hastily followed suit.

When he caught up to her, Xie Xiu brought her into his car and explained, "I'm doing all these for your own good."

"I know that. You love me and couldn't bear to see me hurt. But love should be a mutual relationship. I love you too. I went to look for a job behind your back because I'd like to experience how it feels like to go to work and understand you a little better as a result."

"I appreciate you doing these for me. If you want to have work experience, you should've come straight to my company. There's no need to experience work at a useless company. Besides, it is littered with hopeless colleagues..."

Mu Zhi held up a hand saying, "Fine, enough. You've treated me very well, and you're overdoing it. I will never work at your company. I promise not to go to work anymore, happy?"

Xie Xiu let out an affectionate smile like he usually did, "Even better that you've given up on the idea of working."

He checked the time and then said, "I can't stay here any longer. I must return to the States, I have a meeting over there."

"You flew all the way here just to stop me from working?" Mu Zhi frowned curiously.

Xie Xiu glanced at Mu Zhi and elaborated his intentions, "Of course not, I'm just worried that something would happen to you, I just want to protect you."

"Then hurry up and go for your meeting."

The Mu Zhi now had no idea what she could do anymore. Her rhythm had been completely disrupted by Xie Xiu.

After watching him leave, Mu Zhi could only take a cab home dejectedly.

On the other hand, after he had left, Xie Xiu's secretary asked in the car, "Instead of coming here just to protect madam and leave, why didn't you try talking her out of the job?"

Xie Xiu turned to face the secretary with a grin, "Because... I don't like forcing someone to do what they don't want to do."

Then, he stopped explaining further.

Or rather, he couldn't explain it himself too.

He was not someone who would frequently express his affectionate feelings. But he had done many things even he could not comprehend for Mu Zhi by now, including the acquisition of the company.

He knew better that there was no need to fly into the country, but he did recklessly. Moreover, he also used the most reckless method to protect Mu Zhi.

In his head, he had struggled to work out why he'd done all these too.

Xie Xiu rubbed his temples to alleviate his headache, then heaved a sorrowful sigh. By the looks of it, instead of protecting Mu Zhi, he should just observe her.

For some reason, that made him more hopeful of their relationship.

Meanwhile, after bidding Xie Xiu farewell, Mu Zhi headed straight home.

The sudden loss of job caught Mu Zhi off guard. She knew that her hopes to get a job had been crushed by Xie Xiu.

Even though Xie Xiu might have relented from forcefully acquiring the company since her departure... She became perturbed at the thought of these troublesome interferences.

Xie Xiu was busy with meeting after meetings those few days. It must be for something significant.

Their calls had reduced to simple greetings for each other before Xie Xiu plunged back into work. They didn't have the time to discuss her previous job.

Mu Zhi had settled for a few days, but while she was jobless, her urge to work had gradually reignited.