

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 86

Chapter 86 Lu Jinye And I Are Divorced

Mu Zhi raised her head and looked at Lu Junnian. Her gaze calm and steady.

She stood up. There was still quite a large difference in height between her and Lu Junnian but standing made Mu Zhi feel more at ease.

She sighed and asked Lu Junnian, "Would you like to hear an explanation?"

Lu Junnian seemed to be quite calm and relaxed, but his bloodshot eyes gave him away. He had probably stayed up all night.

"If you would like to."

Mu Zhi could finally relax at his response.

She laughed bitterly and pointed to the couch.

"Let's sit down and talk."

Lu Junnian sat down on the couch and crossed his legs. He looked somewhat relaxed yet kept distance between them.

Mu Zhi sat and fidgeted with her pen. It was a habit she had whenever she was nervous... She was far from relaxed.

Lu Junnian understood her.

It was something she often did when they were in school and she had felt that she hadn't studied well.

"You don't have to explain if you don't want to. I don't mind."

There was a time stamp on the video, indicating the exact year, month, day and time. And during that time, Mu Zhi and Junnian were still together.

It also made it clear that that time, Mu Zhi had cheated on him with another man.

But let bygones be bygones.

Last night, when Lu Junnian had first seen the video, he was distraught. He did not sleep all night and had tried to get in touch with Mu Zhi and hear what she had to say.

He wanted to hear her explanation before deciding his next move.

All night he waited. But there was no explanation. He couldn't even get in touch with Mu Zhi.

Now... He was resolved.

No matter what had happened to Mu Zhi in the past, the Mu Zhi he knew was the Mu Zhi he knew.

She was the Mu Zhi he understood.

The Mu Zhi he loved!

Therefore, he resolved to love her, to protect her and commit to her.

"I want to explain myself."

Mu Zhi took a sip of water and settled her emotions before speaking firmly.

"Since it has come to this, I think you should know what happened."

"It happened on the day of your birthday. I drank too much and went to the wrong room. I thought he was you, but he wasn't."

Mu Zhi summarized what happened that night, cutting out Xu Changshu's part in this.

Lu Junnian's eyes became trouble after hearing this.

He stood up, disregarded Mu Zhi's protests, and held her.

He did not say a word but tightened his hold on her.

Mu Zhi was stunned by his response but did not push him away.

Because Lu Junnian kept apologizing to her, "I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry..."

"I did not protect you when we were together. I let you suffer so much pain. This is all because of me."

Mu Zhi did not know how to respond.

She did not need to say anything.

She allowed Lu Junnian to embrace her, but she did not embrace him back.

Because... She had long made her peace with it.

“Wow... I seem to be interrupting something.”

At that moment, a taunt came from the doorway.

Lu Junnian quickly let go of Mu Zhi and turned to see Xiao Qingqing wearing a plaid dress.

Mu Zhi set aside her sadness for now. She sat back down and glanced at Xiao Qingqing and saw the examination results in Xiao Qingqing's hand

“Is there anything I can do for you, Miss Xiao?”

“Nothing. I just came to receive my pregnancy results and thought to extend my greetings.”

Greetings...

More like flexing.

Mu Zhi raised an eyebrow at Miss Xiao.

“So, are you pregnant?”

Xiao Qingqing had come to deliberately announce her pregnancy to Mu Zhi. But was instead, embarrassed by Mu Zhi's straightforwardness.

She smiled and raised her eyebrows, nodding.

“Yes.”

Mu Zhi kept her expression neutral. But her hand still fidgeted with her pen before saying, “Congratulations, Miss Xiao.”

“I would like to extend my congratulations to you too, for finding true love.”

Xiao Qingqing's smile widened. She then turned and left.

There was no time for Mu Zhi's rebuttal.

Lu Junnian had witnessed Xiao Qingqing and Lu Jinye sharing the same bed... He clenched his fists angrily at her announcement then said, “Divorce him.”

“Are you going to let that woman flex at you like that?”

“I can provide for you the same way Lu Jinye has.”

Mu Zhi squeezed her eyes shut in sadness. After a while, she opened them.

When she opened them again, all the sadness and hurt she was feeling, disappeared.

She looked at Lu Junnian solemnly and exhaled, "Even if I divorce him, we cannot marry."

"We don't need to get married. I only wish for you happiness."

Mu Zhi did not expect him to say that.

With that one sentence, he slipped past her defense.

Mu Zhi stared at Lu Junnian and exhaled again. As if she had decided to tell him something important, "Lu Jinye and I divorced a long time ago."

She did not tell him that there was no love between her and Lu Jinye.

Lu Junnian looked like he was about to say something, but before he could, a nurse interrupted him.

She stood at the doorway, somewhat apologetic and looked to Lu Junnian, "Dr. Lu, the dean is looking for you."

Lu Junnian approached Mu Zhi. His eyes filled with love and care for her. "Wait for me, I'll be back," he said.

Mu Zhi nodded.

After Lu Junnian left the room, she slumped into her chair and rubbed her temples.

She had never had such a massive headache before. What a mess...

There were so many threads entangled, that she could possibly unravel them all.

...

Lu Jinye had a busy day. The moment he stepped into the office, there were meetings after meetings. He finally had a reprieve at noon. His secretary had ordered food to be brought to him. The meetings continued after he had finished lunch.

Which was why he did not know about the video on the internet.

Xiao Qingqing clutched the pregnancy report tightly in her hands as she waited outside the conference room. She kept glancing at it, checking for any mistakes.

Not too long after, Lu Jinye's secretary walked past. Xiao Qingqing hurried over and had her notify Lu Jinye that she was here.

The secretary nodded and did as she requested.

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 87

Chapter 87 Do We Announce Our Divorce to the Public?

Lu Jinye's secretary, Linda entered the meeting room upon getting Xiao Qingqing's request.

While she was topping up his cup of tea, she leaned in and whispered into Lu Jinye's ear, "Mr. Lu, Miss Xiao has been waiting for you, it might be urgent."

Lu Jinye did not even bat an eye. Drumming on the table with his slender fingers, he nodded lightly, saying, "We will proceed with the detailed data comparison of the current medical research trend on the market."

Linda heard him. She no longer dared to pester Lu Jinye and promptly left the room, shaking her head at Xiao Qingqing in dismay.

She brought a glass of juice for Xiao Qingqing while explaining, "Miss Xiao, you know that the chairman works like a workaholic when he gets busy. Why don't you go home and wait for now? I'll inform you as soon as the chairman is done with work."

Xiao Qingqing's beautiful eyes twitched in response. Clutching the glass of juice in her hands firmly, she replied, "It's fine, I'll wait, please carry on with your work, Linda, don't let me disturb you."

Linda looked at Xiao Qingqing with a troubled expression. She shook her head in the end, turned around, and left the reception room.

Lu Jinye continued listening to the executives' presentations in the meeting room. Since his proposal to change the investment strategy with a focus on the medical industry, the executives had been relentlessly working to conduct feasibility studies of medical investments and assessments of Shanze's current financial sustainability.

They had worked multiple nights to compile the documents and assign work in an organized way, confident that they were fully prepared for the meeting. However, Lu Jinye's queries instantly put each of them out of words.

The information that Lu Jinye had stored in his brain was far beyond their research.

The meeting was suffering for the pitiful souls.

Thus, earlier... When Linda told Lu Jinye that Xiao Qingqing was waiting for him outside, the executives considered Xiao Qingqing as their savior, hoping that she could hurriedly descend from her throne to their rescue.

However, disappointment was all they got in the end.

Lu Jinye had just started his remark when his phone went off out of the blue.

He lowered his head to look at the notification on the screen, while everyone else held their breath, anticipating for goodness to occur.

Only to see him hold the phone in his hand and said to the room, "One moment."

At this instance, almost everyone in the room heaved a simultaneous sigh.

Lu Jinye then followed by saying, "We'll take a break."

Afterward, he turned around and headed to the corridor to answer the call.

On the other end, Mu Zhi took multiple deep breaths before saying, "Jinye, there's something I'd like to discuss with you."

Lu Jinye responded in a listless tone, "Go ahead."

"Do we announce our divorce to the public?"

It sounded almost like a sincere question.

Meanwhile, Lu Jinye frowned lightly at what she had asked. He answered with another question, "Do you wish to announce it?"

It was a secret marriage.

Announcing their divorce was purely to give Master Lu an explanation.

That was how Lu Jinye saw it.

But, there was a long silence that followed on the phone. The silence was broken when Mu Zhi bit her lips and said reluctantly, "After we split, you've been bothered by all the scandalous expose. If you don't mind the rumors or don't feel like announcing our divorce, I won't insist."

Lu Jinye noticed something strange in Mu Zhi's tone, "What rumor?"

His men would unquestionably deal with the rumors by default.

Hence Lu Jinye's indifference towards the scandals.

However, before Mu Zhi could gather a response, a nurse's voice could be heard coming from the background, "Dr. Mu, the dean wishes to see you."

"I gotta go."

Mu Zhi hurriedly hung up the call and promptly followed the nurse towards the dean's office.

While Lu Jinye frowned at the tone of the beeping sound. He did not return to the meeting. Instead, he headed to his office and asked for Linda, "Linda, look into the rumors between me and Mu Zhi and give me a report, the more detailed the better."

After giving the order, he swiftly went back to the meeting room.

Xiao Qingqing was waiting in the reception room located next to Linda's secretary's office. She lifted her head only to spy Lu Jinye rushing past in a hurry. She quickly rose to her feet, walking towards Lu Jinye. However, she had barely approached Lu Jinye when he burst into the meeting room.

Xiao Qingqing was exasperated at this point.

She made her way to the secretary's office and looked at Linda with a stiff smile, "Secretary Linda... What did Jinye make you do just now?"

Linda was amid surfing the net to look for scandalous news Mu Zhi and Lu Jinye. She gulped at Xiao Qingqing's question.

Can... She let her know?

When Mu Zhi was the Chief Secretary, she was the boss in this room.

Linda was clear with the complicated and intricate relationship between Lu Jinye, Mu Zhi, and Xiao Qingqing.

Moreover! If she were to choose a side, she would certainly choose the kind, gentle and generous Secretary Mu Zhi!

"Umm... Nothing, Mr. Lu told me to send him a report. There's an error in the data."

Linda did not dare maintain eye contact with Xiao Qingqing. She had her eyes on the computer screen as she spoke.

While Xiao Qingqing could see everything on the screen.

She did not lash out. Instead, she said, "Then please get on with it, Secretary Linda, don't let me disturb Jinye's work."

Following that, she clanked her heels on the ground, heading towards Lu Jinye's direction furiously and anxiously.

Lu Jinye returned to the meeting room. Resuming the meeting, he spoke a few words and decided not to carry on.

Mu Zhi was a clever woman. According to his understanding of Mu Zhi... She was more than capable to handle issues. She would only reach out to him if there was a tricky situation.

Lu Jinye shut the file, stood to his feet, and said to the executives, "We'll come back to discuss the rest on another day, dismiss."

Finishing what he had to say, Lu Jinye turned around, preparing to leave.

The executives were instantly relieved.

They had to thank the goddess whom Mr. Lu greatly missed for saving them today.

Lu Jinye was on his way out when Xiao Qingqing came to the meeting room.

She did not even have the time to prepare herself before Lu Jinye uttered apathetically, "What's the matter?"

"Jinye... I..."

"We'll talk about it later, I need to go to the Junxin Hospital."

Xiao Qingqing swallowed all the words that were at the tip of her tongue.

She grasped the corner of her clothes firmly, causing it to wrinkle, but pretended to be caring, "Did something happen to Miss Mu?"

Lu Jinye did not see the need to hide the truth, "Yes."

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 88

Chapter 88 Crying Helplessly

Xiao Qingqing clenched her fists fiercely. Before her eyes, Lu Jinye seemed to have no intention to stop. He seized the car key and headed out the door.

Xiao Qingqing stood still. She stared at Lu Jinye as he walked away. She could tell that he was anxious and a little adamant from the view of his back. After a long while, Xiao Qingqing gritted her teeth and chased after him.

Lu Jinye had reached the basement car park when Xiao Qingqing hurried over. He was a little puzzled when he saw her. But Xiao Qingqing's intentions were clear. He did not bother stopping her, allowing Xiao Qingqing to follow him into the car.

...

The nurse left the dean's office when Mu Zhi came in.

The office had a vintage-styled decoration. Sitting in the office, the aging dean's demeanor was exceptionally dignified, but the smile on his face was rather friendly.

"Please take a seat, Dr. Mu."

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The dean invited Mu Zhi for a seat zealously. Mu Zhi hesitated briefly and obliged.

Then, the dean heaved a sigh and gradually rose to his feet, "Actually, I'd like to ask for a presumptuous favor. I'm even too embarrassed to say it."

Mu Zhi could sense the troubled tone coming from the dean. She raised her head to look at the dean solemnly, and said softly, "Dean, if there's anything you'd like to say, please go ahead."

Despite Mu Zhi's words, the dean was still hesitant.

With the same troubled look on his face, the dean threw his gaze behind her and said, "This hospital was established 50 years ago. At the time, my wife and I stepped up and founded the hospital because... We hoped to play a role in medical advancement. Private hospitals are common overseas, but that is not the case in the country."

"To provide a better service, our doctors are considered the most proficient in the country. As such, there are many hindrances that we need to overcome even at this point. The compensations we provide are specially for these experts of the field."

The dean continued to blabber, not allowing Mu Zhi to interrupt him.

But she could tell something was troubling the dean.

Thus, she hesitated for a while, then told him, "Sir, if there's something you'd like to say, don't afraid to let me know."

The dean frowned. The ridges of his wrinkles in between his brows told Mu Zhi that he was helpless.

"We spent a great deal of effort to poach Dr. Lu Junnian. And at the time, one of his conditions to join us was to get you onboard, Dr. Mu Zhi."

"Mhm."

Mu Zhi responded to the dean.

The dean then handed Mu Zhi a file along with a large sum of cash notes.

Mu Zhi glanced at the file reluctantly, wondering if it was a complete investigation into her history, especially the part where Xu Changshu framed her about falsifying medical research data.

The file and cash were stacked together when he handed them to her. Mu Zhi did not need further elaboration from the dean to understand what he was trying to convey.

"We cannot persuade Dr. Lu Junnian to make you leave, but... The hospital has always had a strict standard to maintain, apologies... Throughout your tenure at the hospital, you've been... Troubled by rumors."

The word 'rumors' was said in a deeply troubled manner.

Mu Zhi was seemingly considerate of the situation.

She stood up. Although she could not ignore the disappointment, she bowed at the dean. After all this while, the hospital was the only one that would allow her to practice as a doctor. She was thankful for that.

"I'll hand in my resignation and I will talk to Lu Junnian about it."

"Thank you for your understanding."

This time, the aging dean returned the favor by giving Mu Zhi a deep bow.

Mu Zhi thought it was inappropriate. She promptly stepped forward to help him up. The listlessness she displayed greatly conflicted with her emotions in this instance.

She bowed at the dean once again and bade farewell.

She did not return to her clinic. She refused to pack up and leave hastily. She was not bold enough to do that.

She needed time to adjust herself.

But she had no idea where she could go.

Leaving the hospital, Mu Zhi first circled a few rounds and ultimately decided to set off to the First Hospital to visit her mother.

In the Intensive Care Unit, Mu Zhi's mother was lying on the bed peacefully, showing no sign of life.

The only evidence of her being alive was the moving vitals on the monitor.

Staring the numbers on the screen and turning her eyes to her mother, tears started streaming down her face uncontrollably.

She clasped the document that the dean gave her earlier in her hand... She did not throw it away. Her dejection was indescribable.

"Mom, when are you going to wake up?"

Mu Zhi was starting to find herself hilarious. She was clearer than anyone that her mother could not hear her. And even if she could, she would not be able to respond to her. What did she expect from talking to her?

However, after letting it out, the dejection inside her did not lighten a bit.

On the contrary, Mu Zhi became even more distressed.

She had never seen her father since she was little. Her mother frequently went to the hospital as a candidate for drug trials in exchange for money to raise her.

The drug trials were those that had not been released to the market. Hospitals offered money to trial candidates to determine if it had any side effects.

As a little girl, Mu Zhi witnessed her mother being a subject of medication trial, hence her hate for hospitals. At the time, she told herself that she never wanted to be associated with the pharmaceutical world in any way.

But... One day when she returned from school and realized that her mother had not gotten home from a drug trial. She waited for a day but mother did not show up. When she arrived at the hospital, she found out that a hiccup had occurred during the trial. Someone prescribed the wrong drug. When mother was hurrying home after the trial,

she got into... A car accident. Most of her brain tissues were dead, but the miracle was that her heart was still beating.

Thus, she became vegetative.

Mu Zhi had never felt the despair she was currently having. During her mother's incident, paired with her pre-university examinations, she managed to keep her head up. She lasered in on becoming a doctor so she could save her mother.

However, the dreams of becoming a doctor had been shattered years ago.

And... It had happened again.

Could she not save her mother?

And herself?

Lu Jinye arrived at the Junxin Hospital. When he noticed that Mu Zhi was not around, he quickly left.

He was flustered and did not even realize that Xiao Qingqing had fallen behind.

In the car, Lu Jinye did not wait for a moment before giving his secretary a call, asking her to look into information related to Mu Zhi and her potential whereabouts.

In the end, he decided that the First Hospital was the way to go!

Lu Jinye almost did not hesitate before taking off to the First Hospital, asked for Mu Zhi's ward, and headed there.

Through the glass window, he could see Mu Zhi weeping helplessly!

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 89

Chapter 89 Are You Still In Love With Mu Zhi?

It was the first time he saw Mu Zhi in this state.

Lu Jinye stood outside the door, staring at Mu Zhi trembling all over as she cried.

Mu Zhi had always displayed her jovial side before Lu Jinye's eyes. She behaved like just a typical wealthy wife who fancied luxurious items, living a carefree life.

Lu Jinye almost believed that Mu Zhi was living a carefree life...

But... He did not know her at all.

Standing by the door, Lu Jinye was even hesitating to move his foot. He did not step forward, only stood still, peering at Mu Zhi, who was in the room.

Lu Jinye showed no emotion on his face, but he would not take his eyes off Mu Zhi for a split second.

His attention was only diverted when a doctor came next to him, hesitating to knock on the door.

“What is it?”

The doctor noticed it was Lu Jinye. The currently-ongoing rumors allowed the doctor to recognize the relationship between Lu Jinye and the crying woman in the room. He hesitated briefly before greeting Lu Jinye courteously.

“Mr. Lu, should I talk to the family member about this?”

Lu Jinye saw the notice in the doctor’s hand. He waved his hand at the doctor, gesturing him not to enter the room. He opened his thin lips, “You can talk to me, don’t disturb her.”

“Look, this is breakthrough research in the states. The technology hasn’t been introduced to our country so far. If you are financially viable, you can consider bringing the patient to the states for the treatment, there might be a higher chance of recovering.”

In between his words, the doctor handed a series of reports to Lu Jinye.

Lu Jinye frowned lightly as he flipped through the pages, scanning for key data.

The report stated that the risk of the treatment was relatively low while it was a forgiving surgical procedure. So, Lu Jinye turned to the doctor with doubts, “Then what else is there to discuss with Mu Zhi?”

“About money.”

“The total cost of the treatment in the United States comes to about 8000 million, I understand that the family member of the patient...”

The doctor was hesitant to continue.

Because he could not gauge the situation!

He was the doctor in charge of Mu Zhi’s mother’s treatment, so he was quite familiar with her condition. In the past, Mu Zhi could not even afford the basic patient’s ward for her mother.

Mu Zhi's situation became slightly more comfortable after a while. She managed to settle the medical bills on time, but the doctor could sense Mu Zhi's reluctance every time he proposed a new procedure or drug. She was seemingly still financially restricted.

However! Nobody expected that her husband was Lu Jinye!

Mu Zhi's calculative behavior did not make her look like the wife of a wealthy woman at all.

"Just proceed with the application, I will get my assistant to transfer the funds to the hospital account."

Lu Jinye looked at the doctor with listless eyes and gave the order.

"Sure, I will quickly book a bed at the hospital over there."

Finishing what he had to say, the doctor turned around and left. Lu Jinye's attention then returned to Mu Zhi in the Intensive Care Unit, engrossed in his thoughts.

At this moment, Mu Zhi had stopped crying, but the tear mark remained on her face. Her broken heart was visible from her expression. Lu Jinye stared for a while. He did not end up entering the ward. Turning around, he left the hospital, got into his car, and gave a call to his assistant, asking her to see that the arrangements were completed smoothly, and the funds were transferred to the account.

Then, he rang his property manager, ordering him to hurriedly ready the apartment that was located in the city center, two blocks away from Mu Xiaomu's kindergarten.

Lu Jinye had plenty of properties that he had no plan of staying in. He would purchase, renovate and furnish them, and stopped batting an eye at them.

After getting the house cleaned by the butler, Lu Jinye brought Linda along and visited the apartment. It was over 300 square meters with a magnificent view and exceptional ventilation. The interior fit-out was delicate, yet sumptuous. The marbled floor was almost glittering like a sea of stars.

There was enough space for both storage and activities.

There was even a miniature children's play area on top of it. Even Linda could not help but feel a tinge of jealousy for the woman who was about to move in.

In the end, Lu Jinye put on a scowl. He turned back and solemnly questioned Linda, "Don't you think the apartment is too small?"

"Huh... It's quite spacious already!"

Linda blurted out.

“How many of them are there?”

It was definitely enough for four generations to live in.

“Two women and a kid.”

“It’s more than enough!”

Linda assured that if the apartment was considered small, how were families of five supposed to squeeze in a sixty-square-meter house?

“Great, reach out to Jian Xiaoning.”

Then, Lu Jinye went back into the children’s room, assessing the room in case it needed anything else.

Twenty minutes later, Jian Xiaoning was brought to the apartment. She gulped involuntarily as soon as she stepped through the door.

Looking at the room... Put her in a trance.

When she was studying the area in astonishment, Lu Jinye walked out of the room insouciantly. He saw Jian Xiaoning and held his hand up, gesturing for an invitation to take a seat on the couch.

“Mr. Lu, what can I do for you?”

Jian Xiaoning stared at Lu Jinye, puzzled on the surface but secretly admiring the massive apartment that belonged to Lu Jinye.

“Are you pleased with this place?”

“Yes.”

Jian Xiaoning blurted out without hesitation.

Lu Jinye then tossed a set of keys towards her as he spoke, “Pack up, look for a moving services company and move your stuff in.”

“We are moving in?”

Jian Xiaoning became even more stupefied... It was obvious to her that Lu Jinye had no plan of taking her in as a mistress inviting her to move over.

He must have done it for Mu Zhi.

But Lu Jinye did not explain further. All he said was, "The house you're living in is too small."

Finishing what he had to say, he rose and headed out the door, not wanting to say anything else.

He left Jian Xiaoning, feet planted into the ground at a loss... So... Lu Jinye was telling them to stay in a bigger house.

"Wait up!"

Jian Xiaoning took a few strides as she called out for Lu Jinye, "Umm, Mr. Lu, why did you ask us to move in out of a sudden?"

"Are you still in love with Mu Zhi?"

Jian Xiaoning went straight to the point.

Lu Jinye turned around to look at Jian Xiaoning with a slight frown. He had no answer to her question.

So, he did not bother responding and left.

...

Upon leaving the Intensive Care Unit, the doctor passed by coincidentally and handed Mu Zhi an invoice.

The numbers on the invoice threw her off. What caught her eyes was the long series of digits on the price tag.

"What is this? Where does the money come from?"

Falling for the Contract Bride Chapter 90

Chapter 90 To Be the Gentlest Father

Mu Zhi looked at the numbers on the invoice over and over before she managed to count the zeroes.

Her jaw almost dropped to the ground when it hit her how many zeroes there were.

"Who paid for this?"

Who was the wealthy man...?

Just a few days ago when she was surfing a medical website, she found an article outlining the success of the technique on the market. But she did not dare to let her mother try.

Because it was too costly!

The doctor noticed that Mu Zhi was dumbfounded and recollected everything that occurred earlier. Listening to the doctor's recollection, Mu Zhi became even more thunderstruck.

So! It was Lu Jinye who paid for the bill!

"Ok, got it, thanks."

Mu Zhi promptly grabbed the invoice and left in a rush. She thought about giving Lu Jinye a call to clarify the situation.

There was no question that she could not afford the large sum of money.

But she had hardly stepped out of the hospital when she received a call from Jian Xiaoning, who sent her an address and told her to hurriedly make her way there.

Mu Zhi stared at the address in confusion. Thinking that something urgent had come up for Jian Xiaoning, she decided to delay the call to Lu Jinye for the moment and headed to the address Jian Xiaoning gave. In the end! She was even more staggered when she arrived at the place.

It was Jian Xiaoning who answered the door.

The apartment was boasted with a delicate and sumptuous interior fit-out. The dazzling reflection of the marbled floor could not escape her eyes. And was that a children's play area?

"Did you become someone else's mistress?"

It was the first thing Mu Zhi's intuition told her. Otherwise! How on earth did she get to stay in such a luxurious apartment?

Jian Xiaoning instantly gave Mu Zhi a friendly eye-roll, "You're the real mistress here. This is from Lu Jinye, I'm purely riding on your coattails."

"Ahh!" Mu Zhi was flabbergasted. She burst into the apartment and paced the area. It had such generous living space... Despite comparatively smaller than Lu Jinye's place, the apartment was worth at least over 100 million.

Upon thinking that she was stepping on top of millions of cash notes, Mu Zhi could feel the strength draining away from her legs.

She did not bother exchanging another word with Jian Xiaoning, turned around, and walked out the door.

Half an hour later, Mu Zhi showed up at Lu Jinye's office building and rapidly went upstairs.

She came to a halt at his office door.

Because... Lu Jinye's door was not fully shut. There was a tiny gap where she could peep through.

The tiny gap was merely big enough to show Xiao Qingqing in the middle of a conversation with Lu Jinye.

Xiao Qingqing had her arms around Lu Jinye in this instance. Lu Jinye was facing away from the door, so Mu Zhi could not catch glimpse of his expression.

All she could hear was Xiao Qingqing's soft voice laced with distress, "If you don't like the baby, I can abort it."

"We went through too many adversities to get together. I could sense that the baby came so we could bring our relationship further, giving us a chance to be better."

Mu Zhi started clenching her fists without her realizing it.

Xiao Qingqing had dropped the news of her pregnancy to Mu Zhi earlier at the hospital.

Now... Mu Zhi's existence... Suddenly felt a little redundant.

Why did she come here?!

Just to thank Lu Jinye.

The pair that was currently inside the room belonged to each other. She was not needed at all.

Mu Zhi squeezed her fingers one last time before gradually relaxing them. In the end, she reluctantly turned around and left.

Just as she left, Lu Jinye took Xiao Qingqing's arms off him. He turned around to face Xiao Qingqing with a solemn expression.

"I'll handle everything."

Finishing that, he promptly picked up the phone receiver and called Linda to see Xiao Qingqing off.

Xiao Qingqing did not pursue further despite... The hatred that was currently brewing in her heart.

....

Mu Zhi scurried away from Lu Jinye's office. Her footsteps were disarrayed. It almost looked like she was fleeing a scene. Standing on the center of the road, she had no idea what she was supposed to think.

In this instance, a car suddenly came to a halt before her. Its window was wound down to reveal a man's face.

The man was staring at Mu Zhi with a dash of a faint smile, "What is it, pretty lady? Scamming for a ride?"

Mu Zhi then came back to her senses and glanced at the person who spoke to her only to find a great-looking man who rocked an alluring demeanor that was not frequently seen among men.

However, Mu Zhi could not be bothered by him. She waved at the cab coming at her from afar, got in, and took off.

Mu Zhi took a long detour before getting off at a place near where she lived. She did not feel like going straight home.

She needed to walk a distance to clear her mind and sort out what she was after.

She thought she had concluded. But when she got off the cab and was heading towards her suburb, she espied a woman trying out a wedding gown inside a bridal shop located not far away. The woman's figure reminded her of Xiao Qingqing. At that thought, she found her emotions crumbling once again.

Thus, Mu Zhi brushed the thoughts of going upstairs.

She started wandering around at the park for a long while. The sun had sunk lower in the sky when she found herself in a calmer state and the ripples in her mind had finally subsided. That was when she was ready to go home.

However, as she came before her apartment entrance, she found Lu Jinye standing by her doorway!

Mu Zhi stared at him suspiciously. She could not believe her eyes.

“Get in the car.”

Lu Jinye did not elaborate on himself. He ordered Mu Zhi right away.

Mu Zhi obliged. She followed him into the car without saying a word. Lu Jinye turned the engine over when both of them had got in.

Mu Zhi wore her seatbelt. She let Lu Jinye take her on a casual stroll around the city area.

There was no exchange of words. The journey lasted for a while before the light of the day had gradually drained away. Mu Zhi finally turned to face Lu Jinye.

“Thank you for footing my mother’s medical bill, I’ll find a way to compensate you.”

Mu Zhi broke the silence.

Lu Jinye turned to face her too. He stared at her silently and parked the car by the road before saying, “Don’t worry about it.”

Mu Zhi did not know what to say in response.

Because... It was the first time they spoke like that. Like a pair of strangers who were familiar with each other.

It was at this moment when Lu Jinye’s phone rang. Mu Zhi noticed his eyes when he looked at the screen. They were rather tender.

He answered the call with a completely different temperament.

He was incredibly gentle.

“Take a good rest, I’ll hire a nutritionist to go to your place tomorrow and plan a meal for you.”

His words made it easy to guess who the person on the phone was. It must be Xiao Qingqing.

After all... When Lu Jinye said that he did not like children, he meant that he did not like children who belonged to someone else, someone whom he did not love.

If his loved one had conceived a baby for him, he would step down from his distinguished throne to be the gentlest father.