

Marry Me 131

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Right then, Su Yuanming suddenly spoke up, having been silent all this while. "Everyone quiet down. If you have questions, can you ask them separately? With the way you all are right now, it is difficult for us to hear what exactly you're trying to ask."

Su Ziyue whipped her head around to look at him. Su Yuanming shot a smile at her. To others, it looked like a senior placating a junior with a smile. To Su Ziyue, however, it completely wasn't that at all, because while Su Yuanming's words silenced the reporters for a short while, they began to fire questions her way, and they were questioning her as intensely as they were before.

Su Ziyue had already calmed down by now. Her expression was a little frosty. "We are here today to discuss the matter of Miss Gu Hanyan's injury. If you have any other questions, we can answer them later."

She would have to settle each matter one by one. Right now, the most important thing was to clarify Gu Hanyan's injury clearly.

She would also have to face the event that happened four years ago sooner or later, and she would need to find a way to resolve it. She hadn't thought of evading it, nor had she thought of giving in just like that.

She had just finished speaking when a reporter impatiently asked her, "Miss Su, did you say that because we've touched a nerve? Are you afraid that your past will be dug up for everyone to know?"

"You even went abroad and hid for four years because of this matter..."

"Miss Su, have you contacted the father of that child since your return?"

"Will old passions ignite again?"

Questions were coming in one after another. Su Ziyue was not given the chance to answer at all. Her hand unconsciously squeezed the bottle of water she was holding tightly. She pressed her lips together as she stared at these reporters' faces. However, her heart was growing calmer by the second.

Some of these reporters were tabloid reporters, while some of them were from business papers. Regardless of the kind of reporter they were, reporters were all a nosy bunch. They were all extraordinarily fascinated with information that hasn't been dug up yet, and they all wanted to be the first one to break the news.

One of the people here was the second oldest young mistress of the Su family, one of Yunzhou City's three major families, and the other was an international movie star who had just returned from abroad. Even if the reporters didn't deliberately fan the flames, these two were already very much a hot topic,

and as one would know, news that were of gossip in nature were the favorites of the public.

“Today, the Su Family invited everyone here primarily to explain the matter of Miss Gu’s injury. I hope that everyone will cooperate... We will now return to the main topic at hand.” Su Yuanming spoke up in a timely manner, attracting everyone’s attention again.

“Please excuse me, Mr. Su. As Miss Su’s relative, what are your thoughts about Miss Su’s actions from years ago?” One of the reporters directly pointed a microphone at Su Yuanming.

Su Yuanming turned his head to glance at Su Ziyue. He then frowned, clearly displeased. “Miss, it is not that I absolutely have to answer your question, but my point is, no matter what Ziyue did, it is all in the past. Who hasn’t made a mistake before?”

His words indirectly answered their question—Su Ziyue had indeed gone through an abortion in the past.

The moment those words left him, the reporters were whipped into a frenzy.

“They are both from the Su Family, but why is it that Miss Su Yige is all the different?”

“Is it because Miss Su Ziyue has a father who’s a convict?”

Su Ziyue, who couldn’t find an opportunity to cut in all this while, whipped her head up to look at that reporter upon hearing those words. That reporter looked aggressive, and when he saw Su Ziyue raise her head to look at him, he hastily whirled his microphone over to her. “Miss Su, did you do that because of your father’s influence...”

Thump!

The questioning reporter gave a sharp squeal, nearly losing his grip on his microphone.

The bottle of water that Su Ziyue had just hurled at him was already on the floor. Her throw was powerful, and it landed squarely on that reporter's forehead. The edges of the bottle were rounded, so the reporter didn't suffer any scratches, but he did feel a good bit of pain.

Upon seeing this, expressions of shock made their way onto everyone's faces.

When reporters carried out interviews, they would normally ask questions which were on the more pointed side precisely because they know that these famous people and celebrities would not throw a fit in public. That was why the reporters had the guts to do so. None of them expected Su Ziyue to hit someone with a bottle right there and then. While she hadn't injured that reporter, that action still wasn't a good one.

Su Ziyue's expression was frosty as she narrowed her eyes at that reporter. "Continue."

"You..." That reporter looked visibly flustered.

He had quite a name within the industry, and he got that bit of fame because he was more daring with his questions. However, he never thought that Su Ziyue would ignore appearance and fling a bottle at him right on the spot. That was something he hadn't accounted for.

He gave a cold chuckle. He hadn't experienced such an incident despite being in this industry for a while now. In addition to that, the person who flung the bottle at him was a woman, a woman with a bad reputation. At any rate, someone had already asked a favor of him. He should ask all the loaded questions he could.

"Miss Su, are you flustered because I was right?" A cold light gleam shone in the reporter's eyes.

The other reporters suddenly quietened down after witnessing this incident, silently waiting for this reporter to question her.

"Of course I am." Su Ziyue was taller than the reporter. When she looked at him, her gaze was angled downward, like she was looking at him disdainfully. "My father is a kind and honest man. Someone like you is unworthy of bringing him up." Su Ziyue fixed a cold stare at the reporter, the expression on her face growing even more chilly.

It was like the reporter had just heard an especially hilarious joke, for he laughed out loud. "All of Yunzhou City knows why the eldest son of the Su Family's patriarch is in prison, and yet you still call your father a kind and honest man?"

Su Ziyue clenched her fists tightly, her pretty eyes narrowing slightly. It seemed as though they were emitting frostiness. "Why wouldn't I?"

The reporter forgot how to speak, perhaps because her expression was too even as she gazed at him.

Su Yuanming frowned as he glanced at Su Ziyue, a cold gleam flashing across his eyes. His niece was very much like his older brother, so similar that he felt fearful. He was more than familiar with that past incident, but as he watched Su Ziyue's calm expression, he began to wonder.

Still, the press conference had to follow the pre-arranged schedule.

Everything else proceeded smoothly after that, perhaps because Su Ziyue's bottle-chucking incident was already enough material for the reporters, or for some other reason.

With such a commotion that had unexpectedly occurred, the press conference seemed to have already lost its original intended purpose.

Once the press conference was over, An Xia slunk over out of nowhere. "Ziyue, let's sneak out through the backdoor. I just took a look and the main entrance is teeming with reporters. You'll be swarmed if you go out there, never mind leaving the place."

At that, Su Ziyue furrowed her brows. It seemed that this incident would not end so easily.

Su Yuanming approached her. "Ziyue, don't take today's events to heart. The past cannot affect your future. We have to look forward."

Upon hearing that, Su Ziyue coldly chuckled. "The past has already badly affected my current life. I cannot look toward the future. So, what I want to do now is get to the bottom of that past incident."

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Su Yuanming did not immediately reply after she finished speaking. An Xia knowingly turned around, but she still heard their words clearly.

Su Yuanming calmly looked at Su Ziyue. A pause later, he finally nodded and smiled. "Alright!"

Su Ziyue glanced at him before turning to leave with An Xia. Once the two of them had left, Su Yuanming turned to the assistant behind him and ordered, "Get those reporters to wait by the backdoor."

"Understood." The assistant then left.

Su Yuanming's expression darkened as he looked in the direction the pair had left in, a cold light flashing across his eyes.

Su Ziyue left through the back entrance of the conference hall. Neither of them dared to take the elevator, so they walked down the stairs instead.

"They're here!"

The two of them had only just gone two floors down when they heard voices from below. Su Ziyue and

An Xia shared a look before turning back as one. A few steps later, Su Ziyue simply peeled her high heels off and ran bare-foot upstairs. They charged up one more floor and opened the door to the corridor there.

The corridor was very deserted; there were no others here. Su Ziyue put her heels back on when she felt An Xia shoving her.

“What is it?” Su Ziyue turned her head to look at An Xia. An Xia then gestured for her to look ahead.

Su Ziyue followed An Xia’s gaze to see Qin Muchen hurrying over from the other end of the corridor. He didn’t have a coat on; he was simply dressed in his usual black shirt and pants. While his steps were brisk, his expression was very calm and composed.

Su Ziyue walked toward him. “Why are you here?”

As Qin Muchen neared her, he adjusted his breaths and swept his gaze over her. He then calmly said, “I’m here to see you.”

With that, his gaze darted to look behind Su Ziyue.

“Mr. Qin.” A smile split An Xia’s face as she greeted Qin Muchen.

Qin Muchen nodded at her before returning his gaze to Su Ziyue. “Let’s go back first.”

Qin Muchen had probably settled things beforehand, which was why they had a smooth exit when they followed Qin Muchen out.

They had just gone through the side door when Su Ziyue caught sight of Nan Chuan.

“Miss Su,” Nan Chuan greeted her while giving a light nod and smile when he saw her looking at him.

Since Su Ziyue forbade him from calling her ‘Mrs. Qin’, he still called Su Ziyue ‘Miss Su’.

Before Su Ziyue could speak, Qin Muchen instructed, “Send Miss An back.”

Nan Chuan replied, “Alright.”

Qin Muchen then turned to Su Ziyue. “Now that Nan Chuan will escort Miss An back, you should not worry anymore. Let’s go home.”

“Yeah.” Su Ziyue smiled and nodded. She took his hand of her own accord before turning to look at An Xia. An Xia waved at her, having already turned to get into Nan Chuan’s car.

After seeing Nan Chuan leave with An Xia, Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen got into their own car together. The moment she was in there, Su Ziyue pulled out her phone to look at the news.

There were many articles about Gu Hanyan’s interviews, as well as articles about the Su Group’s scandal and the like. News of these matters were plastered everywhere as every news outlet fought to report them at the same time.

Su Ziyue’s forehead was tightly screwed up as she waded through them. Suddenly, Qin Muchen leaned toward her, his clean scent wafting over to her. Su Ziyue lifted her head to meet his gorgeous eyes. There wasn’t any discernible emotion in them.

Qin Muchen put a hand onto her seat while his other hand searched for the safety belt. Once he had

carefully fastened her seatbelt for her, he lifted his head to look at her.

Su Ziyue looked at him, stunned. After blinking a few times, she said, "Thank you."

This extremely rare expression of gratitude made Qin Muchen's brows furrowed. It was like his eyes, which were originally unreadable, suddenly had a snowstorm swirling in them. A look at his eyes would cause people fear.

Qin Muchen stared at Su Ziyue for a few seconds before turning back to focus on driving, as though he was merely looking at her when he did so earlier.

Su Ziyue's entire mind still remained on the press conference from earlier, as well as the words that Su Yuanming said toward the end.

The past cannot affect your future. We have to look forward.

They were words with an implicit meaning behind them—a threat, and a reminder as well.

What was he trying to remind her about?

Was it about her father's imprisonment, or her being wrongfully accused?

Perhaps it was both.

Su Yuanming was threatening her more than reminding her. There shouldn't have been any disturbances during the press conference. The reporters and the media had all been notified beforehand and shouldn't have asked questions that shouldn't be asked. The press conference should have gone without a hitch. The Su Group was even more powerful than they were back then. If no one had permitted it, then no one would have dared to blatantly bring up the past again, especially during such a time of turmoil. Besides, the news came out when the press conference was just starting, catching Su Ziyue off-guard and unprepared.

Clearly, someone didn't want her to resolve this incident so easily and wanted to take advantage of the situation.

She had only just gained her footing in Su Group after much difficulty. Naturally, she was a roadblock in Su Yuanming's path. Of course they would do anything to stop her, even if it meant ruining the Su Group's reputation first.

Oh, that isn't right. The only thing being ruined here was my father's reputation. There wasn't much damage to Su Yuanming's name.

Without Su Ziyue standing in his way, the Su Group would undoubtedly be in Su Yuanming's hands sooner or later.

Even so, Su Ziyue still couldn't understand. While she did have an idea about it, how could Su Youcheng possibly allow her to inherit the Su Group?

Su Ziyue kept thinking throughout the journey. By the time she returned to her senses, the car had already stopped right outside of the entrance to the manor.

Qin Muchen did not get out of the car, his large hands still on the steering wheel. He tapped away on it with his pointer finger without much rhythm, his body leaning back slightly as he stared at the distance with a blank face. She had no idea what he was thinking.

"Qin Muchen?" Su Ziyue called his name experimentally.

At her words, Qin Muchen turned to look at her. Su Ziyue asked him, "What's wrong?"

She was clearly the one who got into a bind and she didn't think it was some big matter, so why was Qin Muchen the one with a forehead that was tightly wound up with creases?

"Let's get out."

Qin Muchen simply said those words before directly opening the door and getting out.

Su Ziyue quickly followed him and entered the manor.

One they entered, Qin Muchen headed straight for the kitchen. She thought Qin Muchen's response was a little odd. Was he not going to at least ask about her current feelings? No matter how she looked at it, not only did the matter remain unsettled, 'old wounds' had been reopened as well. It was completely one disaster after another.

And yet, Qin Muchen wouldn't ask about it?

Su Ziyue couldn't figure out what he was thinking, and besides, she had already long since decided that she had to settle this herself, so she simply turned and headed for the study upstairs. She switched on the computer and began to read the news.

According to the timeline, the first thing she should watch would be Gu Hanyan's interview videos.

She clicked on that video and leaned backward with her arms folded before beginning to watch the video with her full attention.

The Gu Hanyan in the video still had bandages wrapped around her head and with a stark white complexion, but she was still very photogenic. It seemed like the interview took place by the hospital's entrance.

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The reporter asked, "Miss Gu, what are your thoughts about the person-in-charge, Miss Su?"

Gu Hanyan ruminated on this for a bit before saying, "She's a pretty woman, and she's careful in her work."

Her tone was serious, and she even laughed once she was done speaking, looking very gentle and warm.

The reporter asked her again. "Judging from your words, it's clear that you don't know about Miss Su's past. Do you know that she..."

The rest of the reporter's spiel was about Su Ziyue's father's imprisonment, her bad grades, her abortion, her home-wrecking and the like.

A look of surprise flashed across Gu Hanyan's face, followed quickly by a look of understanding with some disappointment mixed in. She looked reluctant to continue speaking. "I'm sorry, but can we leave this interview here today? I'm a little tired..."

She looked at the reporter as she spoke in an apologetic tone, looking weary as though she never thought that Su Ziyue would be that kind of person. She looked somewhat helpless.

While she never said anything bad about Su Ziyue or agreed with the reporter's words, her response was enough to answer several questions.

This interview was from the previous day, and the reporter must have had an ulterior motive if he decided to release this video on this morning before reporting about that incident from years ago and disrupting the whole press conference.

Gu Hanyan was an easy person to figure out. She definitely didn't want Su Ziyue to get her own way. That was undeniable.

However, Su Ziyue didn't know whether it was a coincidence that Gu Hanyan accepted the interview earlier and Su Yuanming got someone to report those incidents, or whether it was...

The sound of knocking suddenly rang out. Su Ziyue whipped her head up to see Qin Muchen opening the door and stepping in.

"You can eat now." Qin Muchen's tone was even. His sleeves were rolled up, and despite the fact that it was the middle of autumn, there was a fine sheen of sweat on his forehead. Su Ziyue hastily switched the computer off and approached him.

Upon seeing the fine beads of sweat lining his forehead, Su Ziyue reached out to wipe them for him. "Is it that hot?"

Qin Muchen didn't speak. He caught her hand, his gaze landing on her face, as though he was

ascertaining whether she had been affected by the day's events. After observing her for a few seconds, he pulled her outside while saying nonchalantly, "Jingshu and the others have come."

The others?

Su Ziyue pressed her lips together into a smile. Gu Hanyan must have come as well.

She followed Qin Muchen down to the dining hall. As expected, she saw Gu Hanyan and Bai Jingshu sitting by the dining table.

On this day, Gu Hanyan wore a white one-piece dress. Her head was still wrapped in bandages, and her complexion was ghastly pale. She looked unusually weak.

Upon seeing Su Ziyue descend from the stairs, she immediately got up and called, "Ziyue."

"Miss Gu, are you alright? Why are you out of hospital? Didn't the doctors say that you have to stay there one more week for observation?" Su Ziyue looked up to stare at Gu Hanyan, condescension flashing across her crystalline eyes.

Gu Hanyan was the kind of person who could behave as though things had nothing to do with her even after she clearly misled the reporters.

Indeed, she hadn't said anything. All those slanderous words and guesses came from the mouths of others. It was all reported by the media.

“Ziyue, you don’t have to have to worry about me. I’m alright, but you on the other hand...” She trailed off there, her expression shifting to something secretive, as though she was holding her tongue on something that she couldn’t speak about.

Su Ziyue laughed coldly on the inside, but she didn’t show it externally. Qin Muchen pulled out a chair for her, and she slid onto the seat naturally, her movements graceful. “What about me?” she asked back, her expression natural, making Gu Hanyan’s actions look a little more obvious as posturing.

Gu Hanyan pulled the corners of her lips up into a forced smile. Bai Jingshu immediately cut in to diffuse the tension, “Come, come, let’s all eat up first. Muchen made quite a spread today.”

Su Ziyue turned to glance at Bai Jingshu before averting her gaze and beginning to dig in. Throughout the whole meal, Qin Muchen never spared Gu Hanyan an extra glance, his attention fixed on the meal itself. From time to time, he would pass some food to Su Ziyue. This cheered Su Ziyue up a lot.

What kind of woman wouldn’t be secretly delighted when she saw her husband ignore other women, especially when the other woman in question was a stunning one?

While Su Ziyue was focused on her meal, she kept an eye on Gu Hanyan’s actions.

Once she finished, she noticed that Gu Hanyan was about to stand up. Before Gu Hanyan could actually get up, Su Ziyue stood up with a ‘whoosh’ before slowly beginning to gather up the dishes. As she did so, she said, “You all can chat first. I’ll be back with some fruits.”

With that, she pressed her lips into a smile and brought the dishes back to the kitchen. She looked so gentle and virtuous doing that.

Qin Muchen looked back to glance at her. He balled his fists discreetly, a smile fighting for a place on his lips as he held back the joy coming from his heart. He had never seen his wife acting so responsibly before.

Yes, my wife seemed... even more adorable when she’s jealous.

Gu Hanyan accurately picked up on Qin Muchen’s feelings. Her hands under the table were now clenched tightly together, her long, pretty manicured nails digging into the soft flesh of her palm until the skin broke. However, it was like she didn’t feel any of the pain at all, her face maintaining a look of indifference all this while.

Su Ziyue brought the dishes into the kitchen and placed them into the dishwasher. As she set the dishwasher, she kept an ear out for the dining room, but she didn’t hear anything at all. All Su Ziyue could do was hurriedly do the dishes and then bring out a plate of cut fruits while putting on an act. When she exited the kitchen, the dining room was already empty. She walked further, but all she could see was Beef chasing its own tail in the living room.

When she got to the door, she finally heard the sound of talking.

She knowingly made her footsteps lighter as she approached them.

“Muchen, can you please wake up a little? No family with any dignity will accept a woman such as her!” Gu Hanyan’s tone was pitiful and pained.

“You do not have to worry about this. Please go. Don’t let Jingshu wait for too long.” Qin Muchen’s voice was as clear and pleasing as ever, but Su Ziyue could still pick up on the irritation in his tone.

Gu Hanyan’s voice was reluctant. “Muchen!”

Qin Muchen’s tone chilled a few notches. “This is my own business. And, if you wish to carve a path for yourself in this country, you best behave yourself.”

While the first half of his reply was said emotionlessly, the threat in the second half was clear.

Su Ziyue could practically imagine Gu Hanyan’s expression right now, but her emotions were still somber.

No family with dignity will accept her!

Su Ziyue was certain that the ‘her’ that Gu Hanyan was referring to was Su Ziyue herself. Su Ziyue was very self-aware about this.

A family with dignity... Could that be referring to Qin Muchen’s family?

Gu Hanyan continued to blather on a bit, flustered, but Su Ziyue couldn’t be bothered to continue listening, so she carefully retreated to the dining room. She sat by the dining table, toying with a piece of fruit on the platter. Her mind kept replaying Gu Hanyan’s words while she wondered just how much Qin Muchen’s family focused on dignity.

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Qin Muchen watched as Gu Hanyan walked out of the manor’s main entrance and got into Bai Jingshu’s car. Even after the car left, Qin Muchen still did not avert his eyes. If anyone were to take a closer look, they would realize that he wasn’t sending Gu Hanyan off with his gaze; he was distracted instead.

At the thought of Gu Hanyan’s earlier words, Qin Muchen’s black eyes darkened even more.

When people had been too content with their life, they would unconsciously forget about hidden possible dangers.

He was now exactly like that.

Meanwhile, Su Ziyue still didn't see Qin Muchen come into the dining hall even after waiting for a while. She pursed her lips and wondered why he had to send Gu Hanyan off.

Even though he knew that Gu Hanyan was interested in him, he still had to send her off.

When that thought flashed across her mind, Su Ziyue felt that she was overthinking things and that she was being overbearing. The two of them had known each other for over ten years. Even if Qin Muchen avoided her and even if there was nothing romantic between them, he still had certain feelings for her.

Everyone had a sense of possessiveness. They all hoped that their beloved would only have eyes for them and wouldn't allow anyone else into their hearts. They would even become sensitive to this and even think that it would be best that the other wouldn't have any friends of the opposite gender at all.

Women were naturally suspicious when it came to matters of the heart. This was something that could not be controlled.

Hold on, what did I just think of? Beloved?

Someone I love?

Love?

She realized that she loved Qin Muchen.

Su Ziyue turned red in embarrassment from her own thoughts.

She always felt that she merely liked Qin Muchen, and she also yearned for him to treat her nicely, but she had never thought that her feelings toward him would be upgraded to 'love'.

This is... probably love...

"What's wrong?" The moment Qin Muchen entered the room and saw her flushed face, he thought that she was feeling unwell. He frowned lightly, a look of worry flashing across his face as he walked over to press a hand to her forehead. He then pressed a hand to his own forehead. Once he realized that they were both the same temperature, his expression finally loosened up.

Su Ziyue's thoughts were interrupted by him. His caring actions were unwittingly an arrow to her heart.

Every woman would at times want to be spoiled and be thought of as precious as others, and Qin Muchen had practically given her all the fantasies that a woman could have for a romantic partner. He was tall, handsome, wealthy, a good cook, and caring to boot. Other than his temper, he was practically perfect, and this near-perfect man was her husband. She could legally enjoy his pampering any time.

This made Su Ziyue feel a little as though she was dreaming.

Qin Muchen lowered his gaze to see Su Ziyue craning her neck to look at him, a red flush still on her little face. While he couldn't discern her thoughts, he could still clearly see the adoration in her eyes. His heart fluttered and he reached out to pinch her face. Other than the light in his eyes, his face was still icy and devoid of emotion. However, the words that left his mouth still had a different kind of emotion to them. "If you continue to look, I'll eat you up."

His voice was low, and even had a sensually raspy quality to it. His eyes were so bright that they were shocking.

Instantly, Su Ziyue felt her heart race as though there was a rabbit kicking at it, making her heart beat frantically.

"I... What... You..." Su Ziyue fumbled with her words as she looked at him before simply sticking her chin up and saying, "Come eat me then. Just eat me however you want."

Qin Muchen could not hold himself back anymore and broke into a fit of laughter. The smile on his face grew wider and wider, making Su Ziyue's face redden even more.

Why is he being like that? Shouldn't he be throwing himself at me after I said that? Why is he laughing? What was so funny about this? Am I unable to arouse his libido now?

Speaking of that, it seemed that she and Qin Muchen hadn't done it for a few days now...

Urgh! What am I thinking? It's better that we don't do it. Every time we do it, I would always be left aching and sore...

"What are you laughing at?" Su Ziyue smacked his hand away and hardened her crystalline gaze to look at him. She reached out to kick his shin. "Out of my way. I want to go out."

When he pinched her face, he had placed his other hand on her chair. She had also been sitting rather close to the table. If he did not move away to allow her to pull the chair out, she wouldn't be able to leave.

Upon hearing her words, Qin Muchen actually backed away.

Su Ziyue thought that he was going to let her go, so she got up and pulled the chair out, ready to walk around Qin Muchen to leave. She had only just pulled her chair out after getting up when she felt a pair of large hands on her waist, hoisting her up into the air.

She cried out in surprise. When she finally snapped back to her senses, Qin Muchen had already lifted her onto the dining table.

The dining table reached Qin Muchen's thighs, but he was a tall man. Even when Su Ziyue sat on the table and looked right at him, she still couldn't meet him eye-to-eye. She was still shorter than him.

When Qin Muchen lifted her up, he had already parted her closely-clenched legs. He now stood between her legs. The skirt she wore on this day was a high-quality bespoke one. It was a nice skirt, and the style was very pretty. It happened to just reach her knees, and it was stretchy as well, so naturally Qin Muchen managed to take advantage of her. This pose was also very suggestive, and was also enough to close the distance between them.

Also, this position certainly enabled him to do certain unspeakable things.

Su Ziyue uncomfortably retreated and puffed her cheeks out to look at him. "Out of my way!"

“You’re the one who said that I can eat you however I want.” Qin Muchen lowered his head, his large palm caressing the back of her neck. His voice was raspy as he said, “How can I eat you if I don’t place you on the dining table?”

Su Ziyue felt the back of her neck where his palm brushed against her go numb. She shuddered lightly, twisting her body around to avoid him.

Qin Muchen caught this little action of hers. The hand caressing her neck stopped and instead locked her in place tightly, forcing her closer to him. He didn’t give Su Ziyue any chance to protest; the next moment, he lowered his head and straightaway took her lips with his.

With their lips and teeth clashed together, their breaths mingled with each other. Su Ziyue could hear Qin Muchen push her skirt up, while his long fingers caused chaos throughout her body according to the whims of the fingers’ owner.

Qin Muchen had always been a force to be reckoned with when it came to this, and he never allowed her to reject this. She was soon tormented until she could no longer rebel against him, pliant for him to do as he wished.

Qin Muchen held her hand, guiding her by placing her soft little hand on the buckle of his leather belt. He slowly told her, “Undo it.”

Su Ziyue bit her lip, eyes squinting slightly as she lowered her head to glance at the buckle. She quickly averted her gaze, her actions frantic as she undid his belt.

Qin Muchen held her slender wrists and, panting heavily, kissed her again.

Perhaps it was because she was too nervous, but Su Ziyue still wasn’t able to undo his belt after a while.

Qin Muchen grew impatient from waiting. He reached out a large hand and with a few simple motions, he successfully pulled the belt away. Then, like an invader who had successfully conquered a land that he had coveted for a long time, he eagerly dove to make his mark on his new conquest.

Qin Muchen’s actions couldn’t be called gentle.

He had always been like this. At first, his actions were a little rough and Su Ziyue couldn’t adjust to them, but it wasn’t too uncomfortable.

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The phone by the head of the bed buzzed.

Su Ziyue shifted and burrowed herself into Qin Muchen’s embrace, covering up her ears. Clearly, she didn’t want to be disturbed by the phone. Qin Muchen stroked her hair, pulling the covers over her before reaching out a long arm to pick up the phone on the bedside cabinet.

Su Ziyue's phone was buzzing.

Qin Muchen took the phone, his eyes narrowing after a single glance, because there was a single name displayed on the screen: Shichu. Qin Muchen tapped at the screen a few times before accepting the call. Before Lu Shichu could speak, Qin Muchen beat him to the punch. "She's sleeping."

Qin Muchen had lowered his voice because his wife was still lying asleep in his embrace, but his words still audibly made it to Lu Shichu's ears.

The hand around Lu Shichu's phone tightened momentarily before loosening. His voice was icier than it typically was as he said, "Sorry for the disturbance."

He then hung up.

He looked at the screen of his phone. It was three in the afternoon. This hour was more for tea time, not for afternoon naps. Lu Shichu easily understood the implied meaning radiating from Qin Muchen's mention of 'she is sleeping'.

He put down his phone and shifted his gaze to the computer monitor before him. When he refreshed the page, Lu Shichu saw an interview from a business channel. The guest this time was the general manager of LK's Yunzhou City branch. He was a solemn middle-aged man.

Lu Shichu quickly clicked on the video and heard the manager say, "What made a deep impression on me was Miss Su of the Su Group. She is humble and eager to learn, a very fine young woman."

Qin Muchen had practically hung up at the same time as Lu Shichu. He half-leaned against the headboard of the bed and placed her phone back before lowering his head to observe Su Ziyue, who was sleeping against his chest.

Her little face was slightly reddened from being smothered by the heat under the covers, her crimson lips gently parting and closing. She had a hand on his waist, while her other hand was pressed under her own body. She looked unguarded, like a child.

She was younger than him by a whole five years. When he could begin to remember his childhood, she was still an infant who didn't know anything at all.

The corners of Qin Muchen's lips quirked up. He pulled out her trapped arm and shifted her to a more comfortable position, letting her sleep to the side of the bed. He then got up and put on his clothes before returning to the bed to bend down and kiss her. After he put her phone on silent, he took his own phone and left.

When he walked out of the bedroom, the tenderness on his face slowly faded. As he continued to walk out, he dialed a number. By the time he reached the company, the others were already there waiting for

him.

The moment he entered the meeting room, the higher-ups all quietened down immediately, having been eyeing each other before this.

Qin Muchen stepped in with a cold aura radiating from him. He sat in the head seat, and after a moment of silence, he asked, "I am sure you all know of Su Yuanming of the Su Group?"

"Yes..." The rest of the higher-ups nodded.

Qin Muchen grunted in satisfaction before continuing, "I do not really wish to see Su Yuanming take on any projects."

The moment those words left him, everyone's heart skipped a beat. Someone then tentatively asked Qin Muchen, "What you mean to say, Chairman, is that we have to snatch any contract that Su Yuanming wants to get?"

Qin Muchen raised an eyebrow. "You could say that."

At any rate, he just needed to make sure that Su Yuanming wouldn't be able to conduct his business and get his hands on any project.

Another higher-up said in disagreement, "Chairman, isn't this a little too underhanded?"

"You can also choose to do this in a more open manner." Qin Muchen leaned back, his face devoid of emotion as his eyes grew darker.

As long as he reached his goal, the methods to do so were unimportant to him.

Whenever someone crossed his bottom line, the cruelty and viciousness hidden within him would make a clear appearance of its own accord. For example, injecting Su Yige with drugs and retaliating with violence was never something that was right. However, he couldn't possibly pay Su Yige back in a roundabout fashion after seeing how much Su Ziyue was suffering.

So, he chose the most direct and effective way.

He had never been a kind person. Being able to make it through the business world for over ten years with his current status, he had done several things that regular people would never be able to understand.

It was already evening when Su Ziyue woke up.

The rays of light in the room were dim, and the temperature was just right, making Su Ziyue feel like falling asleep once again. She reached out to grope at the space next to her, only to realize that the person there had left already. It was only then that she sat up abruptly.

When she picked up her phone, she saw that it was nearly five.

She felt a little chilly, and lowered her head to find that she didn't have any clothes on. She quickly pulled the covers up, the events in the dining room rushing into her mind. Su Ziyue blushed. Once she had ascertained that she was the only one left in the room, she got up to the changing room to put on her clothes. Once she was dressed, she went to the study and found that Qin Muchen wasn't there.

"Qin Muchen." She called his name, and realized that there still wasn't anyone there.

Right then, a sound came from the kitchen. She headed toward the source of the sound and found Beef. The moment Beef caught sight of Su Ziyue, he dashed over and rubbed himself all over her, before circling her while hopping and barking. Su Ziyue suddenly remembered that border collies were very active dogs. Beef probably wanted her to take him for a walk.

“I’ll bring you out soon.” Su Ziyue placated Beef gently with her foot, pressing the dog to the ground so that his legs were up in the air. He quickly leaped up and ran out as though he understood her.

Su Ziyue followed after him. When she passed the dining room, her gaze couldn’t help but land on the dining table. She took a few more steps forward before retreating to look for a towel and wiping away the suspicious stains on the table. She didn’t dare to look at the table throughout the entire process. She would probably never be able to look directly at the dining table from now on.

She looked for Beef’s leash and hooked it onto him. As she led him out, she dialed Qin Muchen’s number. The phone had only rang twice when he picked up her call.

Qin Muchen’s voice was low and pleasant. “You’re awake?”

“Where did you go?” Su Ziyue heard some noise from his end and could vaguely guess his whereabouts. She asked him, “At the market?”

“Yes,” Qin Muchen replied noncommitedly. Then, he quickly added, “I’ll be back soon.”

Su Ziyue’s mind quickly conjured a picture of Qin Muchen buying groceries at the market while in his suit, and she pressed her lips together into a smile.

After she hung up, she took Beef out of the house.

The moment they left the door, Beef charged madly like a patient that had just been released from a mental hospital, his ears flapping up from the wind. Su Ziyue was afraid that a car would come, and she was also afraid of Beef running off, so she held his leash and ran after him.

Without being aware of it, she and Beef had run a fair distance. Beef suddenly stopped as though he was finally tired, sitting motionless on the spot.

Su Ziyue sat down in front of the dog and poked him. “Just keep running! Go on if you can! Goodness, I’m so tired.”

Beef looked at her innocently and licked her hand in a friendly manner. Su Ziyue was stunned by Beef’s cuteness, and she giggled while stroking its head.

Honk!

A car stopped by the side. Su Ziyue lifted her head to see Qin Muchen getting out of the car.

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Su Ziyue did not get up from the floor. Instead, she merely took a glance at him smilingly while she gave Beef another gentle rubbing with the hand that she had on its head.

Then, she said while looking at Beef, "Your Daddy's here."

With its head tilted, Beef cast a glance at her and then directly ran toward Qin Muchen.

Although Su Ziyue was still holding its leash, her grip was loose, so Beef just ran away while dragging the leash along with it.

When it reached Qin Muchen, it jumped to put its front paws on the legs of his pants, then it slid down again.

As though being dissatisfied with this, it tried again, but it still slid down in the end. Hence, it gave up and just sat aside obediently, looking up at Qin Muchen as it gave him two short barks.

For some reason, Su Ziyue felt that its bark was to call Qin Muchen 'Daddy'.

Qin Muchen furrowed his brows and glanced at Beef, then he walked toward Su Ziyue. "Why are you sitting on the floor?"

"I'm tired from running around with your son." Su Ziyue laughed and pointed at Beef.

Beef seemed to understand her words as it had run back, sitting beside Su Ziyue and facing Qin Muchen and gave another two short barks.

Its expression looked as though it was saying, 'Look! It's me!'

Su Ziyue was rendered speechless.

With a poker face, Qin Muchen pulled Su Ziyue up, opened the car door and pushed her into it. Then, he quickly closed the door.

When he got into the car from the other side, Su Ziyue peeked at Beef who was looking at her pathetically at the roadside and then turned her confused gaze to Qin Muchen. "Beef is still out there..."

Qin Muchen gave it a sidelong glance and said indifferently, "Oh."

Oh?

He asked her back, "Doesn't it love running around?"

So, Qin Muchen intends to let Beef run after our car?

When Su Ziyue turned her head to look at the innocent Beef and was going to open the door to bring it in, Qin Muchen had begun driving the car away.

Su Ziyue turned her gaze to him. "You..."

Qin Muchen ignored her but drove slower.

Beef finally caught up when the car stopped before the villa. However, it collapsed upon reaching the car's trunk.

With its tongue stuck out, Beef was sprawled on the floor and panting heavily. However, it still fixed its bright gaze on Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue.

Feeling funny yet pitiful at the scene, Su Ziyue walked over and stroked its tummy, making it feel so comfortable that it shook its head.

"Bring this in first." Qin Muchen handed Su Ziyue a bag of vegetables to send her away.

After Su Ziyue had walked away, Beef cast a glance at Qin Muchen and then turned over on its side, not looking at him.

Since the Border Collie was the smartest pet dog, it could definitely sense a person's kindness or malice.

Qin Muchen arched his brow upon seeing its reaction. Then, he stretched out his arms to hold its legs and turned its furry body over.

Qin Muchen fixed his gaze on it and said seriously, "Although you're also smart, beautiful and short-tempered just like her, she's my wife. No matter what, you can never bully her. Do you understand?"

Beef seemed to have sensed Qin Muchen's hostility as it did not dare to move and remained lying on its back.

Qin Muchen furrowed his brows. "You didn't understand me?"

Dogs and humans were different after all; it would have been weird if Beef understood him.

Beef was walking around the dining table when dinner time was approaching.

Since dogs needed dinner too, Su Ziyue kindly took out its bowl and put it beside the dining table.

She only sat at the dining table for her meal after giving Beef its dried food and washing her hands.

Beef had always enjoyed its dried food, but it walked away after giving it a sniff. Then, it started walking around the dining table again.

After a while, it sat down and fixed its innocent gaze on the couple who was having their dinner.

As Su Ziyue had taken a piece of braised beef at that moment, she said after taking a glance at Beef, "Do you want this?"

The moment she said that, Beef tilted its head from left to right.

Taking the hint, Su Ziyue threw the piece of beef into its bowl, upon which Beef swiftly picked it up and ate it.

After swallowing it down, it sat down obediently and looked at Su Ziyue again as though it was a student in class.

Nevertheless, it was not recommended to feed Beef anything other than dried dog food at its young age. Other than the fact that Beef should not be fed too much meat, there were other added ingredients in the braised beef, which might not be suitable for Beef's diet.

Hence, Su Ziyue could only ignore its expectant gaze.

After staring at Su Ziyue for a while, Beef seemed to realize that its female owner had no plans to give it another piece of meat. Lowering its head, it nudged its bowl with its mouth and then looked at Su Ziyue.

At this moment, Qin Muchen, who had been quiet, suddenly called out, "Beef."

Upon hearing someone calling its name, Beef turned to look at Qin Muchen.

Qin Muchen looked at it expressionlessly. "Eat what's in your bowl." He sounded threatening.

In response, Beef gave a short bark and then went to eat its dried food somewhat reluctantly.

Before sleeping, Su Ziyue was reading the news on her phone while lying on the bed.

The top news was about the incident between her, the Su Group and Gu Hanyan.

When she scrolled on, she saw headlines that read, "Top Management Team From the LK Group Praises Director Su for Her Humbleness and Eagerness of Learning..."

After clicking on the news, she saw the photo of Mr. Sun, the man whom she had negotiated a partnership with before. He seemed to be on a finance show in the photo.

Su Ziyue still remembered Mr. Sun. Although he was a serious and rigid man, she really learned a lot of things from him.

However, at this critical moment, the motive behind his praise was self-evident.

Su Ziyue scrolled on again and realized that several mainstream news media had begun to refute the news in the morning.

These news articles seemed to help Su Ziyue prove her innocence.

Not only were the phrases used cautiously chosen, but the articles were also guiding the public opinion.

After reading through a few news articles attentively, Su Ziyue was able to guess the person behind this.

When Qin Muchen walked out from the bathroom, he saw Su Ziyue being deep in her thoughts with her head tilted.

He kissed her forehead and asked, "What's on your mind?"

"Did you pay the media to clear my name?" Su Ziyue turned her gaze to him and touched his forehead with her finger.

Qin Muchen grabbed her hand and seemed indifferent. "You're clean anyways."

Being rendered speechless, Su Ziyue could not help but be reminded of a child actor's line from a parenting program. We're clean!

On Monday, Su Ziyue went to Su Group early in the morning.

Everyone in the company already knew about the incident during the press conference on the previous day.

Hence, Su Ziyue could feel that everyone was treating her slightly differently than usual upon reaching the company.

They were not as passionate as before, but neither were they acting in a distant manner with her.

Su Ziyue pursed her lips and her smile faded away, making her look somewhat aloof.

Instead of going back to her office, she directly headed to Su Youcheng's office.

After waiting for half an hour, Su Youcheng finally arrived.

When Su Youcheng entered his office and saw Su Ziyue, he frowned and threw a copy of the newspaper before her, then he said sternly, "Is this the so-called 'taking full responsibility' that you've told me?"

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Throughout the whole time when Su Youcheng walked into the room while speaking, Su Ziyue remained cool and calm. She even picked up the newspaper curiously after seeing it being thrown before her. Her last time reading the news was last night, because she was not free this morning.

The headlines read, 'Breaking News! A Company's Female Senior Manager Is Suspected to Be in an Affair With a Tycoon.'

Su Ziyue briefly read through the content. 'A female senior manager from Yunzhou City's leading company...' Why didn't they just write my name? I could have just sued them if they dared to write my name. The ignorant are truly fearless, I suppose. How I wish I could give them a slap to the face by showing them the certificate of marriage between Qin Muchen and I.

When Su Youcheng saw Su Ziyue simply reading the newspaper seriously and quietly without giving him an explanation, he became more furious. "How can you still have the mood to read the newspaper now?!" Su Youcheng was so angry that he just threw his briefcase onto his table.

However, Su Ziyue did not pay attention to his anger and remained as calm as ever. She even looked innocent when she looked up at Su Youcheng. "So, this newspaper that you've brought here isn't for me to read it? I won't read it then." While speaking, Su Ziyue put the newspaper aside and sat up properly to look at Su Youcheng.

Upon seeing her impenitent expression, Su Youcheng was boiling with anger. "Su Ziyue, are you not planning to explain about the incident yesterday?"

"The other person involved isn't here yet. How can I explain about it alone?" Su Ziyue was referring to Su Yuanming. "At that time, Grandpa, you said by yourself that General Manager Su's assistance was required in order to prevent faults from happening. Hence, Grandpa, you can't push all the blame to me now that something really went wrong." Lowering her gaze to look at her hands, Su Ziyue added casually, "Besides, General Manager Su told me that he would help me to settle this perfectly at that time." Although Su Ziyue addressed him respectfully, she did not sound humble; she sounded aggressive instead.

Unfortunately, Su Youcheng was unable to refute after listening to her words. At that time, he had indeed sent Su Yuanming to help Su Ziyue because he believed that she was incapable of settling this matter. However, everything had turned worse in the end.

"If you hadn't done something so embarrassing, how would the media have found the opportunity to attack?" Su Youcheng had no doubts of the incident that year.

There was a glint of coldness in Su Ziyue's eyes when she cast her glance up at Su Youcheng. "Grandpa,

now that the medical skills are so advanced, do you think that I can check whether I've had an abortion or not at the hospital?"

Su Youcheng frowned because he did not really understand what Su Ziyue meant now. Moreover, her gaze was piercingly cold and a bit sardonic. Not only was her gaze on him not as friendly as Su Yige's gaze on him, but she also looked unusually distant and indifferent. Indeed, she looked as though she was facing a stranger now.

This made Su Youcheng's frown grow even deeper. In his opinion, Su Ziyue was always the one at fault as she had brought disgrace to the Su Family. Nevertheless, Su Ziyue just spoke as though she had a clear conscience.

Turning around, Su Youcheng walked to his table and sat down, then he waved his hand dismissively. "Never mind. About the subsequent work, I'll let other people settle it. You just need to be disciplined and don't cause me any more trouble."

Recently, his health was deteriorating, and he would even think about his imprisoned eldest son, Su Yizi sometimes. As for his youngest son, Su Yuanming, who was going to take over the business, he was undeniably less capable than his elder brother. Moreover, Su Youcheng was actually more satisfied with Su Ziyue's working style.

Su Ziyue arched her brow discreetly as she felt Su Youcheng's sudden soft-heartedness strange. However, she would not let Su Yuanming, who had just framed her, off easily. What's that saying again? A beggar can never be bankrupt.

Since she had never expected to take over the Su Group, it was interesting to see Su Yuanming—the

official successor—kept being on guard against her. “Grandpa, you must be aware of everything that I’ve done since returning to Yunzhou City. I’ve really turned over a new leaf and I wish to accomplish something to make you happy. Since the Su Family is an influential family in Yunzhou City, why would the media suddenly report this news without someone playing a part?”

Su Ziyue kept an eye on Su Youcheng’s expression while speaking. She had made her meaning clear without going straight to the point, since she could sense how distrustful Su Youcheng was toward Su Yuanming. The older, the wiser; whenever Su Yuanming plotted something, Su Youcheng would definitely learn about it no matter how sneakily it was done.

Let me just plant a seed of doubt in Grandpa’s mind first. By that time, it’ll be great if I get to see this pair of father and son turning against one another. Thinking about this, Su Ziyue could not help but let out a sigh of relief.

Since Su Youcheng was more satisfied with Su Ziyue, he would naturally take in her advice. Hence, Su Ziyue’s words had sent him deep in thought without realizing it himself.

When Su Ziyue saw his reaction, she knew that she had achieved her aim. Standing up, her attitude was now less hostile as before, and she even said softly, “Grandpa, I’ll leave now. About what happened this time, I have my own faults too. I’ll work harder in the future.”

“Okay.” Upon hearing her words, Su Youcheng just waved at her distractedly as his mind was already occupied with something else.

After taking another glance at him, Su Ziyue turned around and left. When the office door was closed, Su Youcheng took out his phone to give Su Yuanming a call.

“Dad,” Su Yuanming said, sounding somewhat breathless.

Su Youcheng knew that he was still walking by listening to his voice. This angered him at once. “What time is it now? Why aren’t you at the company yet?” As Su Youcheng had the habit of reaching the company half an hour early, he disliked seeing his employees being late, not to mention that he was currently in an angered state.

Su Yuanming was rendered speechless by his question. Knowing that Su Youcheng was angry, he could only swallow his excuse. Then, he said in an attempt to appease Su Youcheng, “I’ll reach soon. I’m already at the company’s entrance.”

Upon listening to this, Su Youcheng finally simmered down a bit. Nonetheless, he did not say anything else but just hung up the call.

When Su Yuanming reached the office, Su Youcheng had already read through some documents. With his brows furrowed, he raised his head to glance at Su Yuanming and then resumed reading the documents without saying a word.

“Dad?” Su Yuanming could not really gauge his father’s mood, and he only said after thinking for a while, “About the press conference yesterday, it was my fault...”

This time, Su Youcheng put down the documents in his hands and looked him in the eyes. “It’s good that you know it’s your fault. Now, I’m giving you a chance to correct your mistakes. Go and settle this issue.”

Su Yuanming nodded and said sincerely, “Sure.”

“Also, now that Ziyue is the company’s director and has an outstanding performance, her reputation can’t be tainted. Even if it is, think of a way to prove her innocence.” Su Youcheng leaned backward, his expression unfathomable.

Su Yuanming was startled after hearing this. “But everything is true...”

“I only want the results.” Su Youcheng fixed his gaze on him and then said tersely, “Besides, go and find out who’s the person behind this. I’m curious to know who’s daring enough to go against the Su Family.”

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As Su Youcheng’s tone gave people no room for doubt, Su Yuanming was unable to come up with an excuse and could only agree with him. “Sure, I understand.”

Su Youcheng cast his glance up at him. “Go and do your work. I believe that such a minor issue won’t cost you much time. It’s almost year end and the company still needs you for a lot of stuff.”

Upon hearing this, Su Yuanming clenched his fists quietly as he understood what the meaning behind Su Youcheng’s words was. He knew that Su Youcheng would not let him participate in any of the company affairs until he settled this issue.

Although he felt that this was unfair for him, he could only suppress this feeling in his heart, because Su Youcheng had always been the most authoritative person in the Su Family.

However, he was certain that Su Youcheng had become suspicious of him.

This lesson would make him more cautious in the future too.

Su Ziyue threw herself into her work after returning to her office.

Despite being able to guess that Su Youcheng would definitely put Su Yuanming down, she only learned about the fact that Su Yuanming had been sent to deal with the press conference’s subsequent work after talking with other senior executives.

When Su Ziyue heard about this, she could not help but feel pleased at his misfortune.

The core reason behind Su Yuanming disrupting the press conference with all means was actually to give Su Youcheng the impression that Su Ziyue's bad records had brought the Su Group losses again. His plan was to drive Su Ziyue out of the Su Group forever.

Nevertheless, life was not a bed of roses; if Su Yuanming was able to succeed in everything he planned, it would have been unusual.

He shall just have a taste of his own medicine.

In the afternoon, Su Ziyue was having lunch with An Xia in a restaurant.

While waiting for their meals to be served, Su Ziyue took out her phone to read the news.

On the headlines, Gu Hanyan's photo appeared with a title written, 'Gu Hanyan, the Flawless Goddess has Confirmed to Act in the New Movie 'The Longest Summer' ...'

There was a short video when Su Ziyue clicked on the news.

Gu Hanyan's head was still in bandages, but she looked beautiful and elegant when answering the questions smilingly.

Then, Su Ziyue scrolled on and saw a recommended news, which was an interview with Gu Hanyan too. With her brow arched, she clicked on the link.

"Miss Gu, will you still be that app's spokesperson after getting healed from your injuries?"

The reporter was referring to the application of the company that Su Group had worked on with.

"Of course, I will. Our partner company is great, especially the person-in-charge. She has a great personality and strong capabilities too. I understand that there are some negative comments about her on the Internet recently, but the Miss Su that I've communicated with is a really nice person..." When she was done saying that, she gave the camera a wide smile.

The video was short and ended after another two questions from the reporter.

Su Ziyue put down her phone. Why did Gu Hanyan take my side? she thought to herself.

It was not because she had a gloomy outlook on life, but she really felt that Gu Hanyan was not such a kind person.

Undoubtedly, Gu Hanyan was an intelligent woman; there must have been other purposes behind everything an intelligent person said or did.

In addition, Gu Hanyan was a beautiful woman who had been eyeing Su Ziyue's husband greedily.

An Xia, who was sitting opposite her, also saw the news and she said in surprise, "The Longest Summer'? What kind of weird name is this? Gu Hanyan is such a reputable actress, but why did she agree to act in this kind of movie?"

Due to the previous incident, An Xia did not call Gu Hanyan as 'Goddess Yan' anymore.

Su Ziyue asked, "What do you mean?"

“‘The Longest Summer’ is a low-budget film, and the directors aren’t well-known as well. Besides, the plot looks old fashioned and I don’t think the script is good.” An Xia continued reading and added, “The male lead and female lead knew each other during a summer and secretly developed feelings toward each other. After being friends for more than ten years, the male lead however married someone else. Nonetheless, he ended up with the female lead in the end...”

Su Ziyue furrowed her brows as the plot sounded familiar.

After pondering for a while, she could not help but pigeonhole herself in it.

Gu Hanyan has known Qin Muchen for more than ten years, but Qin Muchen is married to me now...

Not being aware of Su Ziyue’s expression, An Xia still continued complaining, “What a terrible plot this is! If they really love each other, why would they still need to wait for each other for more than ten years?”

Su Ziyue said smilingly, “I think so too.”

Gu Hanyan really has a rich imagination. She must have resonated with the female lead so much that she even agreed to act in this movie. And the plot even involves them secretly developing feelings for each other? What nonsense. If Qin Muchen really has feelings toward Gu Hanyan, how can I still be his wife?

After their lunch, Su Ziyue and An Xia walked back to the company together.

They met Su Yuanming on their way.

“General Manager Su.” Su Ziyue stopped walking and looked at him with a smile.

Although Su Yuanming seemed to be in a foul mood, he still plastered a smile on his face, because the street was bustling and most of the passersby were Su Group’s employees. He said, “Ziyue.”

“About the press conference yesterday, I’m sorry too.” Su Ziyue lifted her chin slightly and did not look apologetic at all.

Her words made Su Yuanming’s smile freeze. Before he could reply, Su Ziyue fixed her gaze on him and continued saying, “Life is just a mixture of good and bad times, but disappointment is the norm. It’s actually bad if everything just goes smoothly, just like what happened to me in the past. Fortunately, Grandpa is willing to trust me now.”

Although everyone in the Su Family kept scheming and plotting to kick her out of the family, she still remained in Su Group and had even gotten his father’s shares back.

When Su Yuanming heard that, he could no longer control his emotions and just walked away angrily.

His reaction made Su Ziyue snort. You can't even endure this? It seems like you've met too little difficulties in your life.

However, Su Ziyue could not help but think about her father whenever the incident during the press conference popped into her mind.

She always believed that her father was an honest and kind man.

Despite having lost his wife for almost ten years, this man still focused on raising his daughter and working instead of remarrying or getting into a new relationship. Hence, how could such a man have committed a crime?

Su Yuanming's action this time gave Su Ziyue a feeling that her father might have been framed by someone who felt threatened by his existence.

If this assumption was confirmed, only someone from the Su Family would frame her father.

For a moment, Su Ziyue felt a chill running down her spine.

Even though Daddy doesn't share the same mother with Su Yuanming, they're still blood-related. Besides... Raising her head slightly, Su Ziyue let out a deep sigh, suppressing the suffocating feeling and the lump in her throat. If the Su Family is really the culprit, I'll never let them off.

There was a glint of determination in Su Ziyue's eyes. She only returned to the company after pulling herself together.

When she was getting off work, An Xia suddenly came to her sneakily. "Ziyue, our class has planned a gathering in the chat group."

Su Ziyue was startled and she only spoke after a while. "High school classmates?"

"Yes..." An Xia looked hesitant because she knew that Su Ziyue did not have great memories toward the end of her high school life.

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When An Xia saw Su Ziyue being lost in her thought, she was worried that she had touched Su Ziyue's sore spot. This made her say hurriedly, "I think they're just too bored. This class gathering is an annual event, but I've never attended it as well."

If she were being honest, she would have said that she had attended once, but she was bombarded with questions of Su Ziyue's situation in the end, and everyone there spoke unkindly and meanly, so she chose to say that she had never attended it as well. Their words threw An Xia into an awkward and

lonely situation no matter how much she wanted to defend Su Ziyue. This was why she no longer attended it and would only scroll on the chat group once in a while.

Rumors about Su Ziyue's abortion spread during the last month of their senior year. Before that, Su Ziyue had always been a girl whom everyone admired.

As An Xia knew Su Ziyue well by being her best friend for years, she knew that Su Ziyue was a responsible person, no matter she had premarital sex or not.

At present, not only had Su Ziyue returned to Su Group, but she even had such an outstanding man as Mr. Qin as her husband. What a great opportunity to give those people a slap in the face! she thought.

An Xia felt pity toward those people just by thinking about it.

Su Ziyue raised her head and fixed her gaze on An Xia. Despite it being only a few seconds, her piercing gaze nearly overwhelmed An Xia and made her speak the truth. However, Su Ziyue opened up before her. "Let me consider for a while."

An Xia asked, "You would like to go?"

If Su Ziyue did not wish to go, she would just decline the offer straightaway, but since she said she would consider it, there was a high chance that she would attend.

"Let's talk about it later," Su Ziyue said while packing her things. "It's time to get off work. Let me drive you back as it's raining out there."

"There's no need..."

"It's okay. I'm giving you a ride only because it's raining. I won't even care about you otherwise." Su Ziyue ignored An Xia's refusal and just pulled her along with her before pushing her into the car.

Su Ziyue only started her journey to the Cloud Bay after sending An Xia home.

However, she received Qin Muchen's call shortly.

His cool voice still sounded unusually attractive. "Where are you?"

Normally, she would have reached home at this hour, but on this day, she was not back yet even though he had already reached home for half an hour.

Su Ziyue stopped her car at the roadside. "I just gave An Xia a ride and I'm on my way home now. I'll reach soon."

Why is there a need to call when I'm just half an hour later than usual? I'm not a child anymore, she

thought to herself.

When she reached home and walked to the living room, she saw Beef sitting by the door and looking at rain in a depressed way.

Su Ziyue understood its thoughts easily. She knew that Beef was feeling depressed over the fact that it was raining, so it couldn't go out to play.

"Beef," Su Ziyue said smilingly and stroked it.

Beef cast her a glance lazily. All of a sudden, it turned around and ran inside, then it ran back out with a toy bone in its mouth.

While carrying the bone in its mouth, it jumped and put its front paws on Su Ziyue, signaling her to take the toy bone.

However, it tightened its grip after Su Ziyue had reached out to take the bone. Then, it started shaking fervently until Su Ziyue's grip loosened. Feeling pleased, Beef gave two short barks and put its front paws on her again.

"Haha." Su Ziyue snorted and threw it a cold glance, then she bypassed it and walked inside.

Beef followed behind her relentlessly.

When Su Ziyue walked further in, she could hear noises from the kitchen. Hence, she turned around and smiled wryly at Beef. "I have a husband. You can just go play by yourself, you single dog."

With that, she tossed her bag onto the sofa and walked stealthily toward the kitchen.

Meanwhile, Beef put down the toy bone in its mouth and sat on the floor. It looked sadder than before as it had precisely felt how humans could be so unkind sometimes.

With stealthy footsteps, Su Ziyue reached the kitchen and sneakily looked inside.

Qin Muchen had already changed into a dark grey loungewear. With his back facing her, he was now cutting something on the chopping board. There was a pot of soup boiling on the stove and its nice smell had wafted into Su Ziyue's nose.

Cautiously, she tiptoed and started walking to his back, planning to surprise him with a hug.

However, he suddenly took a step aside when she had just reached behind him. As Su Ziyue could not hug him as expected, she looked blank for a moment.

During this brief distracted moment of hers, Qin Muchen, who had taken a step aside, turned his head and gave her a peck on the lips.

Although it was just a light kiss, it was so captivating that Su Ziyue felt dizzy.

Before she could come back to her senses, Qin Muchen had flicked her lightly on the forehead. "Come back to earth."

Miraculously, Su Ziyue immediately gathered her wits together and looked at him with a pair of wide-opened eyes. "How could you see me just now?"

Qin Muchen arched his brow and popped a piece of carrot into her mouth. Although his voice was deep and cool, a glimmer of amusement could be heard when he said, "Guess it yourself. If you can't figure it out, you'll only have carrots for your dinner today."

Si Ziyue was rendered speechless. I should have just played with Beef instead of coming to look for him.

Immediately, Su Ziyue spat the piece of carrot in her mouth onto her palm. However, she quickly put it back again when Qin Muchen turned to look at her expressionlessly.

Surprise flashed across Qin Muchen's face. "That's disgusting. Why did you eat it?"

"You..." If it had not been because of your intimidating expression, why would I have eaten it again?

There was a glint of amusement in Qin Muchen's eyes when he saw her indignant expression. Then, he turned his gaze away from her.

Su Ziyue swallowed the carrot and then sat behind him. After looking at his figure for a while, she said loudly, "It was because you'd seen my shadow!"

"Mmh." Qin Muchen sounded distracted, which made Su Ziyue feel that she had been looked down on.

This sense of grief and indignation gave Su Ziyue the urge to eat more; she looked somewhat like a ravenous beast when she ate her dinner.

Beside her, Beef even paused from eating its dried dog food and sat down to look up at Su Ziyue instead.

Meanwhile, Qin Muchen simply cast a glance at Su Ziyue, then he threw a piece of braised pork into Beef's bowl after rinsing it in the soup. Then, he said indifferently, "Don't learn from your mother. It's unhealthy to eat like her."

Su Ziyue was rendered speechless.

Su Ziyue ended up overeating as a result of her indignation.

Letting her lie in his arms, Qin Muchen rubbed on her stomach gently and rhythmically. There was even a hint of resignation in his usual cool voice as he said, "Do you still want to throw tantrums in the future?"

As Su Ziyue was feeling better than before, she refuted, "I didn't throw a tantrum just now. I just had a good appetite."

Covering his mouth with his hand, Qin Muchen coughed and decided not to expose his wife's little lie.

However, Su Ziyue suddenly remembered that Qin Muchen had previously told her that he would help her investigate her father's incident.

Su Ziyue reached out to hold Qin Muchen's hand, then she asked, "Previously, you've said that you'll help me to investigate my father's issues. Do you have any news about it?"

As though being cast a spell, Qin Muchen froze in place after hearing her question.

After a while, Su Ziyue finally heard him say in a somewhat chilly tone, "There's still no news about it because it happened a long time ago."

CHAPTER 140

Su Ziyue was sharp; she sensed Qin Muchen's oddness. Hence, she took his hand away from her to leave his embrace and sat up.

When she sat across Qin Muchen, she looked him in the eyes. "There's no news at all?"

Although Qin Muchen did not avoid her gaze, he frowned, and his emotion was hard to gauge. "It happened over a decade ago and some of the officers who had dealt with your father's case were already retired."

"Oh..." Su Ziyue could obviously feel that Qin Muchen was upset.

He seems to feel troubled by my question. Or perhaps I am just overthinking things?

"I'm taking a shower first." Qin Muchen stroked her head and walked to the bathroom.

After closing the bathroom door, Qin Muchen turned on the shower and switched it to cold water.

After taking a cold shower in such cool weather, Qin Muchen unfortunately caught a flu and a fever, despite his usual general health.

In the next morning, Su Ziyue was awakened by the scorching figure beside her.

After crawling out of Qin Muchen's arms habitually, she reached out for her phone to check the time.

4 a.m. It's still early.

Just when she was about to curl up for some more sleep, she sensed that something was wrong with Qin

Muchen.

“Qin Muchen?”

After feeling his unusually warm body, Su Ziyue hurriedly reached out to touch his forehead. As expected, it was shockingly hot.

She nudged him again and called, “Qin Muchen! Wake up.”

“Don’t make a fuss. Let’s sleep a little longer... It’s still early...” Qin Muchen reluctantly opened his eyes, which were filled with tears of sleepiness.

While speaking, he stretched his long arms to the other side of the bed, but he failed to pull the woman into his arms. This made him frown in discontent and open his eyes wider. When he managed to see clearer than before, he just pulled Su Ziyue into his arms and then lay back satisfactorily.

He said hoarsely, “It’s okay. Let’s sleep a little bit more.” Then, he even patted on her back gently.

Su Ziyue pursed her lips. How can he still want to sleep when he already has a high fever! Qin Muchen usually doesn’t behave as such.

It took Su Ziyue great effort to get out of his arms again. She put on her slippers and went downstairs to take an ice bag before quickly running back. Then, she applied it on his forehead.

As it had been raining since the previous day and the heating downstairs was not turned on, the temperature there was freezing. This made Su Ziyue, who had just come back from downstairs, feel that her hands and feet were frozen.

While pressing the ice bag with a hand, Su Ziyue got back into the bed with some difficulty.

Since she had brought in the cold air with her, Qin Muchen, who was on a high fever, felt comfortable upon feeling her cold body.

When he took her into his arms, he let out a sigh of relief, he still said somewhat grudgingly, "Where have you been? You're so cold."

His words made Su Ziyue frown and she pressed the ice bag in her hand harder on him. "Are you aware that you're having a fever now?"

"Mmh." Qin Muchen squinted at her and closed his eyes soon.

Qin Muchen did not talk much when he was sick. After a short while, he fell asleep again.

Throughout the whole time, Su Ziyue was applying the ice bag on his forehead. Her hands were numb when the ice finally melted completely.

At this moment, the sun had already risen, and it was her usual time to get up. After washing up, she went to feel the temperature of Qin Muchen's forehead again.

It's still so hot. He really needs a doctor.

Su Ziyue went downstairs to pour him a cup of water. After feeding him some, she gave Lu Shichu a call.

"Ziyue?" Lu Shichu sounded fully awake. He was probably still at home or even at the hospital already because the other end of the phone was quiet.

As Su Ziyue was worried about Qin Muchen, she went straight to the point. "Shichu, Qin Muchen is on a fever now. Can you come here and take a look at him?"

Upon saying that, she felt bad about it and was going to say that she could bring Qin Muchen to the hospital, but she heard Lu Shichu telling her, "I'll be there shortly."

Lu Shichu reached soon.

"Is he still conscious? Has the fever gone down?" Lu Shichu asked about Qin Muchen's condition upon walking in.

Su Ziyue did not look well because she had woken up too early. She was visibly anxious as she said, "I tried bringing his fever down by applying an ice bag on his forehead, his body still feels quite hot."

Lu Shichu noticed the anxiety in her eyes, so he quietly followed her to the bedroom.

When the duo entered the room, they saw Qin Muchen sitting on the bed. His usual expressionless face was now flushed due to the fever; his eyes looked teary, showing that he was obviously sick as he sat there looking like a lost puppy.

Su Ziyue quickly walked toward him upon seeing him sitting there in his thin pajamas. "Why did you sit up?"

"Where were you?" Fixing his gaze on her, Qin Muchen sounded and looked stubborn despite letting her cover him with the blanket without resistance.

"You're sick, so I've gone to find you a doctor." Su Ziyue kept an eye on Qin Muchen's face and his lost expression made her certain that his mind was already fuzzy due to the fever.

When the couple was speaking, Lu Shichu had already put his medical kit aside and took out a thermometer. Then, he walked to Qin Muchen and said, "Hold it in your mouth."

Qin Muchen turned his gaze to Lu Shichu and furrowed his attractive brows at once. "Why are you here?"

"Didn't I tell you just now? I've gone to find a doctor and Shichu is here to treat you."

“Shichu?” Qin Muchen arched his brow and then cast a glance at Lu Shichu. “Let him leave, or else my condition will worsen.”

Why does he sound so moody?

Lu Shichu looked at Qin Muchen expressionlessly, “If it hadn’t been Ziyue who called me, do you think that I would have been here to treat you?”

By looking at Qin Muchen’s heavy eyelids, Lu Shichu could obviously tell that the former’s energy was drained. However, Qin Muchen still said hostilely, “You can leave if you don’t wish to be here.”

Lu Shichu narrowed his eyes at him. “Why do I need to listen to whatever you say?”

“You can leave if you don’t wish to listen to me!”

Su Ziyue was rendered speechless.

Why do I have a feeling that Qin Muchen is a couple with Lu Shichu instead of me? Besides, she found herself in an entirely new world when facing the sick Qin Muchen; she had never expected Qin Muchen to be this stubborn when he was ill.

Lu Shichu handed the thermometer to Su Ziyue. “Place this under his tongue to take his temperature.”

“Okay.” Su Ziyue turned around and brought it to Qin Muchen’s lips. “Here, let’s take your temperature.”

However, Qin Muchen just turned his head away. He had no wish to hold the thermometer in his mouth because it looked stupid. Moreover, his potential love rival was standing before him now.

Throwing the blanket off himself, he dragged himself out of the bed and looked at Lu Shichu. “I’ll be fine after taking some fever medication.”

Lu Shichu said without looking up, “Your temperature needs to be taken before taking the medicine.”

“There’s no need for that,” Qin Muchen retorted with a serious expression, as though he was the doctor instead of Lu Shichu.

Lu Shichu looked at him in bafflement. Just when he was going to say something else, Su Ziyue cut him short.

Being quick-witted, Su Ziyue said, “Before you recover, we’ll sleep in separate rooms. I believe that you don’t want to infect me too, right?”

Upon hearing her words, Qin Muchen's initially blank gaze became piercingly cold at once. This made Su Ziyue shudder out of fear. "A-Actually, we can just go without taking your temperature..."