

Marry Me 171

CHAPTER 171

The policeman looked at Su Ziyue with eyes full of scrutiny and said in a serious tone, “We have checked the surveillance, and you were the last person Xu Youran saw before her death.”

Su Ziyue didn’t speak another word and took a look at the photo. When she saw the girl’s face clearly, her eyes suddenly widened. “Her name is Xu Youran?” When she saw this girl named Xu Youran last night, Xu Youran still looked fine; she didn’t look like she was about to commit suicide at all.

“At five o’clock in the morning today, someone found her body in the staff dormitory.” The police looked at Su Ziyue with a sharp look. It was obvious that Su Ziyue had been listed as a key suspect.

An Xia, who was sitting on the other side of Su Ziyue, picked up Xu Youran’s photo and took a look at it. She also recognized Xu Youran as the girl who broke into the elevator yesterday. She didn’t take a closer look at that time, but when she looked at her photo now, she actually felt that she looked a little familiar.

A thought flashed across Su Ziyue’s eyes as she said, “I will cooperate with your investigation.”

Qin Muchen was obviously dissatisfied when he heard her words. Su Ziyue held his hand and got up as she decided to leave with the police. An Xia was still holding the picture of Xu Youran in her hand. Suddenly, something popped into her mind as she thought of something. She stood up anxiously, took Su Ziyue’s hand and whispered, “Ziyue, can’t you recognize Xu Youran?”

“How would I know her?” She didn’t understand what An Xia was trying to say. She had thought about it many times yesterday, and she was certain that she didn’t know Xu Youran.

Seeing the confused look on Su Ziyue’s face, An Xia raised the photo to her face. “Look carefully—don’t you find her familiar? She is the girl who produced the evidence to help Su Yige accuse you of abortion!”

“What?” Su Ziyue snatched the photo from her and looked at it carefully. She finally saw the familiarity in Xu Youran’s photo. No wonder Xu Youran acted like she knew her last night. It had been four years, and Xu Youran had changed a lot between the age of eighteen to twenty-two.

She vaguely remembered the girl who produced evidence to help Su Yige frame her at the time. She was a very introverted girl with a very long fringe that almost covered her entire face. She always bowed her head, looking like she didn’t want to attract anyone’s attention. She was completely different from the beautiful Xu Youran she saw yesterday.

“Are you done talking? Can we go now?” the police urged her impatiently.

Su Ziyue put down the photo, turned around and left with the police. Before leaving, she turned her head to look at Qin Muchen, giving him a look that asked him to calm down.

The icy look on Qin Muchen's face finally melted slightly; he pursed his lips, still showing no expression. Su Ziyue smiled at this and left with the police briskly. Then, Qin Muchen turned his head and frowned. She is the one involved in the homicide case, yet she's asking me to calm down? I'm very calm now, okay?

Seeing Qin Muchen's gloomy face, Nan Chuan couldn't help but ask, "Boss, do we have to do something about it?"

"She's not the murderer, so what can you do?" Qin Muchen gave Nan Chuan a cold look, feeling very dissatisfied. Why should I be anxious when Su Ziyue is not anxious herself? Although he thought so in his heart, he still turned his head and looked at An Xia. "Tell me in detail about what happened back then."

"Umm..." An Xia didn't know if Su Ziyue had told Qin Muchen about it, but she didn't dare not say anything when she looked into the eyes of Mr. Qin. Moreover, based on the mighty Mr. Qin's connections, it would be easy for him to find out about the abortion even if she refused to tell him. Thinking about it this way, An Xia was relieved and told him what happened back then. After that, An Xia repeatedly emphasized, "I give you my word of honor that Ziyue is the most beautiful and virtuous girl I have ever seen."

"Alright." Although he felt that An Xia's words were unnecessary, he still responded to her seeing that she was a good friend of Su Ziyue. After all, he knew this kind of thing better than An Xia. Qin Muchen frowned and said again, "In other words, Xu Youran produced the abortion certificate which was finally confirmed to be genuine."

"Yes." An Xia nodded her head and added, "Xu Youran had just transferred to our class at that time. She was not talkative and very introverted; I didn't expect that she would help others to frame Ziyue."

Qin Muchen's focus was on another matter instead. "Is that abortion certificate genuine?"

...

Because of the sudden incident, as well as its location in the suburbs and its new opening, the hot spring spa actively cooperated with the police and even provided the police a room for them to work. It was precisely because of this that the police agreed to conduct a low-key investigation for the spa owner's sake. The guests who were being investigated did not actually know that there had been a murder; after all, this kind of thing had a great impact on the opening of a new store.

"Su Ziyue, please answer our questions truthfully." The policemen sat down in front of her; their uniforms spoke of integrity.

"Alright." Su Ziyue straightened slightly and sat upright.

"Your name, gender, age, occupation, and ethnicity."

“Su Ziyue, female, 22 years old, director of the project department at Su Group, Han Chinese.”

“What is your relationship with the victim, Xu Youran?”

“We used to be classmates, but it was only for a short period.”

“Do you usually contact each other?”

Although she knew that the police were only conducting routine interrogations, Su Ziyue still inevitably felt annoyed. “No.”

Probably sensing Su Ziyue’s impatience, the police went straight to the point and asked, “When was the last time you two met?”

“Last night—we were in the courtyard in front of the spa.”

“What did you two talk about?”

“We only exchanged greetings.”

“Where were you when the murder happened? In other words, where were you all night last night?”

“I was sleeping with my husband in our room.”

The police raised their eyebrows and said sharply, “In other words, there is no other evidence to prove that you were not at the crime scene except your husband. There is a possibility of covering-up between husband and wife, so he cannot be regarded as an absolute alibi.”

Su Ziyue said nothing. The police then continued, “We will verify and investigate what you’ve just said afterward. So far, you are the most likely suspect among all the suspects. We reserve the right to detain you pre-trial.” As he finished speaking, he stood up.

Su Ziyue was slightly startled when she heard his words. She was innocent, but she didn’t expect to be treated like this. “So far, there is no circumstantial evidence proving that I killed her, let alone a direct piece of evidence. Therefore, you have no right to restrict my personal freedom!”

Su Ziyue felt that she might have been too cooperative, so the police made such an unreasonable demand. Moreover, why are they naming me as the biggest suspect?! All of this is completely unsubstantiated!

CHAPTER 172

“Are you unhappy with my decision?” The police officer stopped in his tracks right away after listening to her comment, looking stern.

Undaunted, Su Ziyue snapped, "Sir, it's my obligation as a citizen to cooperate with your investigation while your obligation as a police is to enforce the law in a fair way."

Embarrassment flashed across the police officer's face when he heard her. Currently, they had no direct or circumstantial evidence to prove Su Yiyue was the murderer. According to the rule of law that everyone was innocent until proven guilty, they had no right to detain her. Yet, they still had no clues so far after interrogating several suspects. Therefore, they thought of detaining Su Ziyue at the police station for 48 hours to see whether they could get any breakthrough during that period of time.

"Sir, you may contact me again if you have any more questions for me. Now, may I go?" Judging from the expression of the police officer, Si Ziyue knew they indeed did not have the absolute right to detain her.

After listening to what she said, the police officer walked out of the room. His silence represented his admission to what she had alleged earlier. Just as Su Ziyue was ready to leave, the police officer suddenly called her name to stop her from going, albeit in a milder tone. "Miss Su."

"Anything else?" Su Ziyue turned around to face him.

"Please don't share the details of this case to anyone else for the time being because the investigation is currently done confidentially." The police officer sounded more sincere than before.

After giving it a thought, enlightenment flickered in her eyes. "I got it."

...

By the time Su Ziyue went back to her room, everyone was there. As soon as she stepped into the room, she found Qin Muchen sitting on the sofa and taking a puff. Although he was expressionless, Si Ziyue could still detect the anxiety in him.

The sound of the door being opened startled everyone inside; Beef was the first one to make a dash for her. Once the puppy reached the door, it immediately tried its best to land its front paws on her. Su Ziyue bent down and stroked its head before walking into the room.

As soon as Qin Muchen saw her, he immediately stubbed out the cigarette in his hand. He then snatched the one in Bai Jingshu's hands away before stubbing it out too the moment he found him still holding it. Bai Jingshu eyed him puzzledly so Qin Muchen explained himself with a slight frown on his forehead. "It smells."

His answer caused Bai Jingshu to tilt his head behind and roll his eyes, thinking Qin Muchen shouldn't have smoked just now too if he thought the cigarette smell was too strong.

An Xia walked over to Su Ziyue as soon as she saw her coming in. "Ziyue, how was the interrogation?"

“It went fine. They only asked me some regular questions.” Su Ziyue shook her head and decided not to reveal that she had nearly been detained by the police.

Seeing that Su Ziyue had returned unscathed, the rest of them then went back to their respective rooms to pack up before they returned to the city.

Everyone at the hot spring resort had been forbidden to leave the place since early morning. The management was afraid that the guests would panic if the restriction was in place for too long, so the ban was lifted as soon as Su Ziyue was released by the police.

Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen did not have anything else left to do because they had already packed up their belongings. Hence, she walked over and took a seat beside him before edging closer to him to take a sniff. “I saw very clearly that you were smoking just now but why can't I smell anything now?”

“Do you feel like smelling it?” Qin Muchen moved his hands to pull her closer toward him.

Su Ziyue blinked and said, “I seem to be able to smell it now... Wait, no, stop that...” The remaining part of her sentence was muffled the moment her lips came into contact with his.

It was only after some time did Qin Muchen move slightly away from her. “Can you smell it now?” he asked as he rested his forehead on hers.

Embarrassed, Su Ziyue pushed him away and snapped, “You're so childish.”

...

After they finished packing things up, all of them headed downstairs together. Many were leaving the resort because it was already Sunday afternoon. With one hand pulling the suitcase, Qin Muchen wrapped his other hand around Su Ziyue to keep her protected from the crowd who came and went in a haste with his tall and muscular body. When they reached the main entrance, they happened to bump into the people from Su Group again.

“Ziyue.” This time, Zhou Lingyu took the initiative to greet her. If something uncommon happened, there must be something fishy.

Su Ziyue flashed her a smile with her lips pursed. “Mrs. Su.”

Zhou Lingyu, who just cottoned up to Su Ziyue, looked somewhat embarrassed because of the formal way she had addressed her. “I was very worried about you getting involved in criminal cases when I saw you being taken away by the police just now. Now, I can finally relax as you've turned out to be fine.”

Zhou Lingyu's words were full of concern but anyone who took a closer look at her eyes which lingered on Su Ziyue's face would realize that she was in fact sizing her up.

"Mrs. Su, what do you mean by that? I've only lost something which was not very valuable and the police needed me to provide them some details. So, there isn't any case to begin with." Su Ziyue purposely raised her voice while saying the last sentence when she caught sight of the police officer who had interrogated her before.

Obviously, the police officer caught what she said as he quickly turned to look in her direction. As Zhou Lingyu's back was facing the police, she did not notice them.

"I was just making sure that you were fine. Remember to come back and visit us whenever you're free. We'll only feel at ease if you're well," Zhou Lingyu said.

As soon as she finished speaking, a stern voice came from behind. "Ahem, Mrs. Su? Please come with us." The police officer showed his badge before he said, "I hope you can cooperate with our investigation."

Having no idea at all when the police had arrived, Zhou Lingyu's face turned grim in an instant. Yet, she could not refuse to cooperate with the police because it would be inappropriate to do so in front of so many people but if she did not reject it, some ugly rumors might start spreading soon. She had no choice but to turn around and look at Su Yuanming, who frowned first before getting ready to approach her.

Of course, Su Ziyue would not give him the chance to come to his wife's rescue. Hence, she turned around and told the police officer with a smile, "My aunt is a very kind-hearted person and I'm sure she'll be willing to cooperate with your investigation."

The police officer nodded as soon as she finished talking. "Thanks for your cooperation."

"You're welcome..." Zhou Lingyu, who had been holding her breath before this, suddenly let it all out at once.

Su Ziyue, who was in a buoyant mood, hummed along her way back to their car. While Qin Muchen tousled her hair, he asked, "How did you know she was guilty?"

"Who is guilty?" Su Ziyue failed to understand his question.

Slightly stunned by her reaction, Qin Muchen then slowly added, "That woman whom you just addressed as your aunt."

"Huh?" Su Ziyue widened her eyes with puzzlement. Just now, it had merely been an impromptu decision of hers to cause trouble for Zhou Lingyu and she had no idea she was guilty at all. One glance at her facial expression was enough to make Qin Muchen realize what was in her mind. To his surprise, she did not suspect Zhou Lingyu at all. Yet, the way she widened her eyes in bewilderment was... rather adorable.

Qin Muchen stuck out a finger and flicked it lightly on her forehead. "Just wait and see and you'll know the outcome within the following week." He let out a mysterious chuckle after that.

"Do you mean... Zhou Lingyu is related to Xu Youran's death?" This time, Su Ziyue did not widen her eyes but instead, she frowned. "But what was her motive?"

Qin Muchen refused to reveal it to her no matter how hard she tried to figure it out. Su Ziyue was still thinking about the matter even until they returned to Cloud Bay where Qin Muchen went straight to his office hurriedly after taking a call.

CHAPTER 173

No matter how hard Su Ziyue tried to convince Qin Muchen to reveal the answer to her, he still refused to say a thing.

Having no other choice, Su Ziyue could only wait for his assurance that she would get to know the outcome within the following week to come true.

Yet, before Qin Muchen realized his promise, another ground-breaking news came first.

...

While Su Ziyue was giving her sore neck a massage after she finished reading the last document of the day, her phone rang.

She took it over and found it was from Qin Muchen.

Although she had completed her job today in advance, she still had one hour to go before she was allowed to clock out. As a head of her department who did not enjoy a very superior status in the company, it did not seem right for her to leave early as it would set a bad example to her subordinates.

Despite having such thoughts, she still decided to pick up his call. Perhaps, he was calling about stuff other than informing her that he would be coming to pick her up.

"Hey, what's up?" With one hand clutching her phone, Su Ziyue leaned on her chair and tilted her head up to gaze at the ceiling.

The posture could help soothe the pain in her neck which she was suffering due to having read too many documents today.

Speaking in his usual tone, Qin Muchen demanded, "Head downstairs now."

"But it's not yet time for me to clock out." She sounded like she was in a quandary.

"Come down now and I'll tell you what's fishy about Zhou Lingyu."

“Serious...” ly?! He hung up on her before she could complete her sentence.

What a jerk Qin Muchen was! He was obviously luring her out.

She decided to stop caring and just leave early. Fortunately, she was at least the head of a department and there was still a difference between her and the rest of the staff, who would have their salary deducted in case they clocked out early.

Just as she was about to leave her room after keeping away her stuff, An Xia barged into her room and scurried over to her agitatedly. “Something huge happened!”

“What is it?” Su Ziyue, who had long gotten used to her theatrics, remained unstirred.

Annoyed by how nonchalant she looked, An Xia emphasized, “Gong Zeyang has unilaterally called off his engagement with Su Yige!”

“Oh.” It was only after Su Ziyue acknowledged it calmly did she register the news. “What did you just say?”

“Gong Zeyang has dumped that b*tch! How delightful is that news?” With excitement written all over her face, An Xia continued, “It serves her right to be dumped for being so arrogant and cocky but pretending to be innocent at the same time!” An Xia guffawed with delight right after she said that.

After shooting her a glance, Su Ziyue went to make sure the door was locked with an expressionless face so that no one would enter her room suddenly and chance upon An Xia’s hearty laugh.

It was only when An Xia finished laughing did she find Su Ziyue’s expression abnormal.

“Aren’t you happy to learn about Su Yige getting dumped? Come on, show me a smile.” An Xia gave her shoulder a nudge.

However, Su Ziyue was not in the mood to joke with her. “Qin Muchen just called me, saying that he’s coming to pick me up.”

“And?” An Xia was puzzled. Did it have anything to do with Gong Zeyang dumping Su Yige? The two matters had no relation at all.

“I suspect that he’s only coming to pick me up earlier than usual because he has received the news. I don’t want to face him.” Having a blank look on her face, Su Ziyue sat down on the sofa.

Although Qin Muchen had asked her whether she wanted to know more about Zhou Lingyu, she had a feeling that it was just a bait to lure her into his trap.

An Xia too took a seat beside her and pressed on, "So? I still don't see the link between these two things. Why don't you just enlighten me about any indirect relation between them?"

"Qin Muchen once had a misunderstanding about my relationship with Gong Zeyang and because of that, he was cold to me and he ignored basically everything I said as though he was a different person. Now that Gong Zeyang has unilaterally called off his engagement with Su Yige, would he assume it was me who encouraged Gong Zeyang to make that decision?"

As soon as she said that, she almost exclaimed in shock because she remembered that she had indeed said something of that nature to Gong Zeyang before.

Gosh, she had merely made that remark in an attempt to win the argument at the time and it had never occurred to her that he would really do as she said.

...

After grumbling about it with An Xia for a long while, Su Ziyue took her bag at last and went downstairs gallantly to look for Qin Muchen.

He saw her walking out of Su Tower in her three inch heels when he just finished his second cigarette.

Her long, curly hair draped over her shoulder. She was wearing a black suit with a brown coat hung over her arms which he had asked her to bring with her earlier that morning before they went out.

Walking in the direction of his car at a brisk pace, her curly hair blowed madly in the wind; the black formal suit she was wearing made her look even more slender and tall. In Qin Muchen's eyes, she was as beautiful as wild roses which gave out a pleasant and intense scent.

Compared to normal roses which appeared luxurious and elegant, wild roses, which also grew amidst brambles, had its own charm by appearing more reserved and humbler.

So, there would always be other men who wanted to snatch Su Ziyue away from him.

The 'wild rose' then reached his car.

"How long have you been waiting?"

Su Ziyue opened the door and got in the car before turning to face him with a smile.

Her heart gave a lurch when she found him deep in thought. Was he really here because Gong Zeyang had cancelled his engagement with Su Yige?

Sounding calm, Qin Muchen answered her, "I didn't wait long."

Then, he drove off. It was only after a while did Su Ziyue discover he was not heading in the direction of home.

“Where are we going?”

“To have dinner.”

They were keeping their exchanges short and sweet.

After a moment of silence, she probed, “The thing about Zhou Lingyu...”

He intercepted her directly, “We’ll talk about that after dinner.”

...

He brought her to Lumiere Jade House.

Su Ziyue assumed they would be having dinner in one of the private rooms there as usual but to her surprise, she was brought all the way to the top floor where she had never been to.

They arrived at a luxurious presidential suite which came with huge french windows, through which the cityscape under the setting sun could be seen. There was a table where red wine and western cuisine were already served and the room was decorated with... wild roses?

Standing by the door in a daze, she turned around to face Qin Muchen, who was standing behind her after unlocking the door. “What is all this?”

Qin Muchen broke into a smile which smoothed out both his eyes and eyebrows. His smile was dazzling and warm but far away at the same time, like the sun that was shining bright above a snow mountain.

Holding her hands, he led her into the room after he closed the door. Then, he took her deeper into the room and stopped at the rectangular dining table placed before the huge french windows.

With a smile, he asked, “Do you like this place?”

“It’s... I love it.” Su Ziyue gave a cursory glance at the wild roses that filled up the entire room in silence. She did appreciate romantic gestures but she found the idea of using wild roses as decoration puzzling.

Her strained tone irritated Qin Muchen greatly.

The smile on his face went out of sight immediately and it was replaced by his usual calmness. Yet, his voice sounded somewhat icy and rigid due to his subdued annoyance when he asked, “Is that all? Do you have anything else you want to say?”

Under his icy and penetrating gaze, Su Ziyue gulped.

Thinking that she had to face the music sooner or later, she concluded it might be better if she took the initiative to bring up the matter. After all, she indeed had nothing to do with the cancellation of the engagement between Gong Zeyang and Su Yige.

After making up her mind, she bit her lips before speaking up, "I have nothing to do with Gong Zeyang's decision to call off his engagement with Su Yige!"

Looking puzzled, Qin Muchen asked, "What did you just say?"

Su Ziyue blinked her eyes in confusion. Did he not know about it yet?

CHAPTER 174

Su Yiyue first blinked her eyes then acted dumb by saying, "I've said nothing."

It was obvious from Qin Muchen's expression that he had zero idea about it. Because of that, she silently made a prayer, hoping that he had not caught whatever she just said.

Yet, her prayer was not answered because he did hear her very clearly.

"Gong Zeyang has called off the engagement?" Qin Muchen's pleasant voice sounded unusually cold and deep while he approached her slowly.

Sensing his icy aura which was aiming directly at her, Su Ziyue felt as though her ears were on the verge of becoming frozen.

She took half a step back away from him and leaned against the side of the rectangular dining table. The posture made her waist hurt but she couldn't care less now.

With her lips pursed, she wisely decided to keep quiet and give up defending herself.

Qin Muchen sneered, "You really do know the time of day, don't you?"

There was something about his tone...

Holding her head low, she tugged his sleeves with her hands and looked up at him with a miserable face. "It was An Xia who told me about it. I don't even care about what is new in his life."

An Xia, God bless you.

He lowered his head to glance at her slender fingers which were pulling at his sleeves with his eyes tinged with a layer of malice.

He didn't shake off her hands and only stared at her with his brows raised. "Was that the case?"

"Yes!" she answered very swiftly as she was keen to prove her innocence.

"Okay," he responded calmly before speaking again, "Let's have dinner first."

"Great, I happen to be hungry now." After moving her hands away from his sleeves, she grinned so widely that her eyes crinkled, assuming that he would not get to the bottom of the matter. For Qin Muchen, it was a very alluring sight.

Noticing that he was not moving, Su Ziyue walked over to his side to pull out the chair very attentively. "You should enjoy the food first!" she said invitingly.

He walked over to the chair and stared at her thoughtfully as he echoed, "I should enjoy the food first?"

"Yes..." For some reason, Su Ziyue thought that he was implying something else.

Women were always highly intuitive.

The next second, she was lifted up by him and put onto the dining table before he started loosening his tie. "In that case, I'll help myself then."

Su Ziyue was speechless.

Watching him remove his tie and suit jacket in a daze before he came forward to remove her shirt, she lifted her hand to stop him. "Wait a minute!"

Qin Muchen ignored her and grabbed her soft and slender hands, then made use of the opportunity to squeeze himself into the space between her thighs. He then hooked his finger over the first button of her shirt and yanked downward, causing the small white buttons on the shirt to pop off and fall to the floor one after another.

Then, he let go of her hands and placed his hands on her shirt collar instead. Before she could come to her senses, his hand had travelled along her soft and tender skin and pushed her shirt down from both sides.

Su Ziyue, who was left dumbfounded by the speed he had removed her shirt, was not given a single chance to resist. By the time she managed to register what he had done, she was already naked.

Keeping her in his embrace while she sat on the dining table, Qin Muchen took advantage of his height and his position to go inside her directly.

"Argh..." Su Ziyue let out a yelp; she could feel nothing except pain and anxiety.

With one hand holding her bottom, Qin Muchen combed through her soft and silky hair with his other hand.

“Be... gentler...” Su Ziyue’s body was quivering slightly as she leaned feebly on his shoulder.

She was unsure whether he had heard her request but his movement indeed became gentler before he started moving back and forth vigorously again.

...

Soon, she felt the discomfort lessen as they were very familiar with each other’s body. Yet, she could still sense a trace of pain amidst the numbing sensation.

As Qin Muchen was leading their movement, she had no choice but to accept whatever he gave her.

After some time, the man who had invaded her body finally stopped moving.

But then...

Su Ziyue, whose forehead was filled with beads of sweat, questioned in a soft voice, “Why did you do it inside...”

“Why can’t I do it inside?” Keeping her in his arms, Qin Muchen gave a light peck on her sweaty forehead. “Eh?” “I might get pregnant because of that.” She squinted, her head felt heavy and even her voice still sounded steamy.

Yet, what Qin Muchen said next made her jump out of her skin.

“We’ll just keep the baby if you’re pregnant.” He sounded so unruffled as though he was just telling her that dinner was ready.

“What do you mean by that?” Su Ziyue stared at him with her eyes widened.

Looking very calm, Qin Muchen’s gaze fell on the red marks on her thighs. Frowning slightly at the sight, he carried her toward the bedroom and said along the way, “Are you confused because we had too much s*x? Can’t you even understand human language now? I said we’ll just raise the baby if you get pregnant. I have plenty of money to provide our kids a comfortable living. It all depends on how many kids you want.”

It was rare for Qin Muchen to say so many things at one time and the anticipation hidden in his tone when he patiently explained himself to Su Ziyue was easily noticeable.

Su Ziyue was left in a trance, causing her to forget about the need to respond. It was only when she was

placed on the bed by him did she speak in an uncertain tone, "But I think we're..."

Her instinct told her that now was not the right timing for them to have kids. Hence, she was mulling over how to express her opinion next.

Qin Muchen then hauled the blanket over her and made sure she was comfortable while she sat on the bed.

As for himself, he squatted down in front of her and held her hands. With his eyes looking solemn, he completed her unfinished sentence, "I think now is a great time for us to have babies in terms of the condition of our health and our stamina."

Instinctively, Su Ziyue felt the urge to extract her hands from his hold but decided not to do it when she saw how serious he looked. She only held her head low and countered in a hushed tone, "But I don't think it's the right time."

Instead of getting angry like how he would usually react, he asked her very patiently, "Why do you think so?"

Su Ziyue eagerly offered her reason, "Perhaps, the current condition of my body is not suitable for pregnancy? We should have a body checkup done first to make sure both of us are healthy. What's more, you've been very busy with your work recently, and we..."

"Su Ziyue." Qin Muchen suddenly uttered her name to cut her off before he snapped, "Just tell me you don't feel like having kids yet right now. You don't have to look for excuses."

"I..." She was left panic-stricken because of his remark. "That's not true. I really don't think it's the right time for us to have kids now..."

There were too many things she did not know about him and she was with him purely because she liked him. No matter what was going to happen in the future, it would just involve the two of them.

However, if she were to be pregnant with a child, it would then be a matter involving the two of them as well as the baby.

The newborn should not be implicated by the things between them and it should only be born at the most appropriate timing.

"I'll give you two hours to think about it." Qin Muchen rose to his feet and it was hard for one to gauge the emotion beneath his dark eyes.

Su Ziyue, who panicked after seeing his reaction, immediately called his name, "Qin Muchen!"

“Is two hours not enough for you?”

Qin Muchen looked up at her grimly and made another offer, “In that case, I’ll give you three hours and nothing more.”

“I’d like to talk it out with you.” Su Ziyue held her head up, her face looking solemn.

After gazing at her expression for a split second, he spoke, “Go on and take a shower first then come out to have dinner. I don’t want to talk about the matter within the next three hours.” He turned around and left the bedroom after saying that.

Then, the door was banged shut.

In fact, she could detect the anger in him. After spending so much time with each other, she could sense his emotion although he had always kept it hidden.

She also had a feeling that he was resolved to have children because otherwise, he would not have forced her into making a decision within three hours.

Yet, her answer would only remain the same be it now or three hours later—she did not think it was the right time yet.

She really thought so and it was not a mere excuse.

...

After sitting on the bed in a daze for several minutes, she dragged her sore body toward the bathroom.

Then, she made her way to the dining hall in a bathrobe after taking a shower. Looking at the dining hall which had obviously been cleaned, her face flushed while she walked over to take a seat opposite of Qin Muchen silently.

Not daring to look up at him, she sat obediently with her entire body tensed up.

She could tell that Qin Muchen had already taken a shower too but he was still wearing a suit.

As soon as he saw her coming over, he immediately put his phone down and glanced at her. She was wearing a clean and white bathrobe which did not fit because it was one size larger.

The collar was let loose to reveal a large area around her neck and she just managed to keep the sleeves at her upper arms by rolling a big part of them upward. Her slightly moistened long hair was hanging over her shoulder and her face still looked slightly blushed, probably because of the heat from the hot shower she had just taken.

The sight of her looking meek and soft melted Qin Muchen's heart.

After cutting the steak on the plate in front of him into pieces silently, he pushed it over to her before taking the untouched one that lay in front of her.

He did not say a word throughout the entire process.

Su Ziyue only eyed him with astonishment without moving.

On the next second came his voice which lacked warmth, "Aren't you hungry?"

Before she could reply to him, he added, "You have to have something even though you aren't hungry."

Su Ziyue dug in as she was in fact slightly hungry.

Meanwhile, Qin Muchen was cutting the steak in front of him gracefully and he did not speak to her again throughout the entire dinner.

Su Ziyue ate her food slowly and when she finished her portion, she looked up only to find him staring right at her unflinchingly.

Slightly taken aback by his stare, she felt like saying something but nothing seemed appropriate now.

"Drink it." Suddenly, Qin Muchen fetched a ladleful of soup and offered it to her.

While Su Ziyue was gawking at him in bewilderment, he urged impatiently, "Do it now."

It seemed like he tended to be bad-tempered everytime he was unhappy.

Not wanting to worsen his foul mood, she lowered her head to drink the soup from the ladle.

The moment she did so, she felt something solid in her mouth.

With her eyes widened, she watched him as he returned to his seat nonchalantly while she reached out to extract the thing from her mouth.

She realized it was actually a ring after taking a closer look.

Su Ziyue, whose heart skipped a beat, stuttered, "This..."

Every woman understood what a ring represented.

"Do you want it?" His somewhat insouciant voice came.

Su Ziyue asked in a confused tone, "Did you buy this?"

Despite just having a row with each other over the baby issue earlier, he was giving her a ring now.

Then, he asked her whether she wanted it.

"Isn't the ring meant for me?" Su Ziyue fixed her eyes on the diamond ring, which she believed must have cost a lot despite not having a modern design.

He might not have spent much effort in picking the ring but she was sure he must have spent a great fortune on it.

"I'll put it on your finger." Not only did he not answer her question, but he also did not explain the reason why he had asked her whether she wanted the ring or not.

In a straightforward manner, he grabbed the diamond ring back and wiped it clean before holding her hand to put the ring on her ring finger very domineeringly.

She retrieved her hand and glimpsed at the extremely shiny diamond ring.

The diamond ring must have been prepared by him beforehand.

If she had not said no to the baby issue earlier, tonight would have been perfect.

Nonetheless, it seemed to have been ruined by her.

With her lips tightly pursed, Su Ziyue looked both depressed and bitter.

Qin Muchen only cast her a glance before leaving the dining hall.

Su Ziyue sat alone at the dining table for a long while up until Qin Muchen made his entrance again.

"Time's up."

He took the seat across her and kept his eyes on her with an indifferent look as though they were going to talk business.

Su Ziyue felt extremely awful.

After taking a deep breath, she said everything at one go, "I've told you earlier that now is not the right time for us to have kids. I'm not unwilling to have kids but I just don't think the right time has come. At least..."

Looking at Qin Muchen whose expression had taken a drastic change, she slowly trailed off until she

could not go on at all.

His expression looked so gloomy that it sent chills down her spine.

Keeping her lips tightly pursed, she clenched both hands tightly as though by doing that, the fear deep down inside her could be effectively contained.

Yet, her effort turned out to be futile.

Just one look from him was enough to deter her from behaving as wilful as how she had always been when she was with him.

After gazing at her grimly for several seconds, Qin Muchen said icily, "Give me a reason."

Obviously, he was not pleased with the reason she had provided.

With a frown, she bit her lips and said in a somewhat adulatory tone, "Can't we only have kids some time later? You'll have the right to decide whether we have boys or girls and how many you want."

Qin Muchen let out an icy snort before he countered, "I can't decide the gender of our babies but I can decide whether we have them now or later. You just have to tell me whether you're willing to have babies now or not."

Su Ziyue, who was slightly annoyed by his stubbornness, answered him straightforwardly, "I can't do it now."

"Very well." Suddenly, he chuckled and confronted her, "Do you know how many women out there are waiting eagerly to have my babies? Su Ziyue, do you assume I'll just tolerate whatever you do just because I tend to indulge in you?"

Su Ziyue questioned in a tone imbued with traces of disbelief, "What did you just say?"

Right now, she did not feel like she knew him at all.

Of course she knew there were plenty of women out there who couldn't wait to have his babies and she too understood how well he had been treating her.

Yet, she was left baffled to hear it from him.

Ignoring her question, Qin Muchen continued, "It seems like I have to adopt a different attitude to get along with you."

After voicing his decision out loud, Qin Muchen made his way over to her.

While Su Ziyue was still trying to fathom what he had just said, she saw him approaching her with a grim face. "What are you going to do now?"

"The same thing we've done earlier."

After he said that, she was lifted off from the ground and carried away by him.

"Let me down. I don't feel like doing it with you now." As their discussion had turned ugly, she had no mood to do that kind of thing with him at the moment.

What was more, Qin Muchen was not himself now.

She could sense danger from him at the moment.

Real danger.

"It's not up to you." Qin Muchen kept her in a firm hold while he took her back to the bedroom, allowing her to flail in his arms.

Then, he thrust her onto the bed in a movement which was not at all gentle.

The rough landing on the bed hurt. Before she could sit upright from the bed, Qin Muchen had already pressed his body on her and removed the belt of her bathrobe to tie her hands with it.

Su Ziyue could only try to kick him away as she could no longer use her hands.

"Qin Muchen, let me go! I don't feel like doing it now!"

"I've said it's not up to you."

Using one hand to grab hold of one of her legs and lift it up, he then buried himself into her.

Su Ziyue's body was rigid because she was nervous and resisting him. As soon as he went inside her, he let out a muffled groan and his dark eyes turned even more gloomy and profound.

Without him realizing, he started exerting more force on his hold on her ankle.

Su Ziyue, who was totally immobile under his weight, gritted her teeth and glared at him resentfully. "Qin Muchen... what you're doing now is no different to rape!"

Her comment caused him to pause, and he squinted his eyes slightly in which traces of eeriness could be seen surfacing.

He moved his hands to grab her chin forcefully and threatened, "Rape? Ha! In that case, you might as well behave or you might have to suffer later!"

With that, he let go of her chin and wrapped his arms around her waist. Other than the parts of their bodies which had come together, he did not touch the rest of her body again.

...

Su Ziyue woke up early the next morning.

The room was filled with the smell of lust.

She could hear the sound of water running in the bathroom and it made her groggy mind clearer at once. Her face, which was red after staying in bed for the entire night, turned as pale as a sheet in an instant.

Last night, Qin Muchen had had it for a very long time; his movement was rough and without affection.

In the very beginning, she had tried to resist him but she gradually submitted in the end.

That was because behaving would spare her from suffering.

Lying on the bed, she did not move even though the door of the bathroom was opened from which the man walked out.

She did not dare to move because it would cause her pain.

Knowing well who was walking out of the bathroom, she buried her head underneath the blanket and closed her eyes to continue her slumber.

Yet, she found herself unable to fall asleep even after shutting her eyes because her ears couldn't resist trying to catch the stir outside.

However, she did not hear anything even after a long wait.

Is Qin Muchen gone? With the thought in mind, she removed the blanket from her head.

She was lying flat on the bed with her head tilted to one side. Therefore, as soon as she pulled the blanket away, she was greeted by the sight of a man, who was wearing a bathrobe and standing immobile in front of the bed like a wandering soul.

"Ahh!!!"

Su Ziyue, who clearly had not seen that coming, was so frightened that she let out a shrill scream. When she saw that it was Qin Muchen, she became alarmed at once even though she had just calmed down.

He was watching her with a gloomy expression on his face. Clutching the blanket tightly, Su Ziyue did not dare to move around or pull the blanket back over her.

In the end, Qin Muchen only stared at her for several seconds before turning around and leaving the room.

The sound of the door being closed gave her another fright before she let out a sigh of relief.

Just now, she was really worried that Qin Muchen might do to her the same thing he had done the previous night.

She was traumatized by that incident and she found herself suddenly dreading the idea of having s*x.

It was only when she was totally sure that Qin Muchen had gone out, judging by the complete silence in the room, did she get out of the bed with much effort.

She then went to the bathroom to fill up the bathtub and allowed herself to immerse in the water for quite some time with her eyes closed. She only left the bathroom when she finally felt better.

Noticing a paper bag placed on the bed, she took it and found some clothes including underwear inside.

No doubt, it was Qin Muchen who had it sent over.

At the sight of the paper bag, Su Ziyue couldn't help but think of the first night she had spent with Qin Muchen. He had had a complete set of clothing including underwear prepared for her on the following morning too.

After changing into them with no expression on her face, she opened the door and walked out of the room.

...

Her pace came to a halt when she saw Qin Muchen walking toward her as soon as she stepped out of the room.

Wearing a premium customized black suit, he looked as handsome, distinguished and elegant as usual.

Yet, there was still something different about him now.

Qin Muchen, who was eyeing her icily, said something which sent a searing pain to her heart. "I thought you were trying to kill yourself in the bathroom just now."

With her face turning pale, she clenched her fists tightly without making a sound.

He turned around and made his way toward the restaurant. "You'd better come over and have breakfast now because I'm losing my patience."

After what had taken place last night, Su Ziyue was extremely scared of him.

She did not feel like having breakfast at the same table with him at all.

Yet, she still went along with him at last because she had already gotten so used to following his instruction and also because she thought she was in enough luck to prevent having more unpleasant interactions with him.

By the time she arrived at the restaurant, Qin Muchen had already started having breakfast.

Although she did not have much of an appetite, she still grabbed a few bites to fill up her stomach.

After finishing his food, Qin Muchen cast a glance at her plate and frowned in a hardly noticeable manner when he saw the amount of food left on the plate.

He commented shortly after that, "It seems like what happened last night didn't wear you out completely."

It might be just a flirtatious remark if it was made any other day.

Yet, after experiencing the incident last night, she only felt iciness penetrating and spreading all over her body as though she was inside an icehouse after hearing such a remark from him.

She could not put a stop to the iciness which was surging through her body.

Thinking that whatever she said was not going to make any impact, she decided to just stay silent.

To her horror, it seemed like her reticence had somehow triggered one of the switches to his anger again as he suddenly swept everything on the dining table off to the floor and roared, "Go now if you don't feel like eating. You don't have to pull a long face here. Get out!"

Su Ziyue rose to her feet and stomped out of the restaurant the moment he uttered his last word.

She was worried that she might break into tears if she stayed one second longer.

Tears were only an effective tool when you cried in front of the person who loved you.

His reaction puzzled her because she had merely refused to have kids for the time being, having

considered more things in her decision making process.

Yet, the way Qin Muchen had treated her made her feel like she had committed an unpardonable sin.

In fact, she did not think she had done anything wrong.

Because her mother had died of obstructed labour when she gave birth to her, she had an innate fear for childbirth.

But she had never thought of not having kids despite her fear.

She loved kids and hoped her kids would grow up in a healthy and blissful family.

Yet, not only was Qin Muchen not interested to listen to all these, but he also thought she had committed a heinous sin by refusing to have kids now.

CHAPTER 177

Bang!

Qin Muchen could hear the sound of the door being closed from the inside of the restaurant when Si Ziyue left, and he sat before the dining table with his face livid with rage.

After some time, he swepted everything on the table off to the floor.

The place was left at sixes and sevens with plates as well as unfinished food strewn all over.

With his gaze turning cold, his hands, which were resting on the edge of the table, slowly clenched into fists.

Several minutes later, he withdrew his hands from the table in an unhurried movement before heading to the exit with his phone in his hands. When he was on his way out, he made a call to someone and said, "Reveal some clues about how Su Yige went through drug rehabilitation overseas to the Gong Family."

...

As soon as Su Ziyue walked out of Lumiere Jade House, she hailed a taxi and left but she had no idea where to go.

The taxi driver turned around and questioned, "Miss, where would you like to go?"

After pondering it over and checking the time on her phone, she said, "Su Tower, please."

Fortunately, she could still go to work.

When she got out of the taxi in front of the entrance of Su Tower, she spotted Gong Zeyang.

He was standing by his car, wearing a black suit. He seemed to have shedded some weight but it just made him look all the more distinguished and noble, a type of aura which was exclusive to young masters of wealthy families.

When Su Ziyue noticed him, her vision glided past him without lingering for even one second but she was stunned for a moment when she spotted the black Rolls-Royce parked behind him.

Then, she made her way toward Su Tower in large strides.

Gong Zeyang had been waiting for her since early morning. Now that he finally saw her, it went without saying that he would not let her go so easily.

He caught up with her and grabbed hold of her hands in a quick and accurate movement.

Looking annoyed, Su Ziyue turned around and demanded, "Gong Zeyang, let me go!"

As Qin Muchen had worn her out last night, she did not look well today. Instead of loosening his hold on her hands as per her request, Gong Zeyang asked her, "I suppose you haven't had your breakfast yet. Come, let's grab a bite."

Not having the energy to deal with people, Su Ziyue found his badgering vexatious.

It was with much effort did she manage to wrestle her arm out of Gong Zeyang's hold.

"Please behave yourself. I'm a married woman and I don't want to be seen jostling with men other than my husband. You might not care about your image but I do."

After she finished making the statement with an icy look, she was ready to go.

Fortunately, it was not the peak hour during which people would be rushing to get to work. Otherwise, she wouldn't know how to explain herself if she was seen jostling with Gong Zeyang.

Although she was not worried because her conscience was clear, she did not want to bring unnecessary trouble upon herself.

"Su Ziyue!"

A woman's voice which sounded familiar to her was heard. Su Ziyue, who stopped walking forward, turned around only to find herself being slapped by Su Yige.

"I knew Zeyang wouldn't call off the engagement with me for no reason at all. You're already a married

woman, so why are you still pestering him?"

Although Su Yige was wearing branded goods from head to toe, anyone who knew her well enough could tell that she had not made an effort to doll up herself today.

"You might see him as treasure but to me, he's nothing. So, you only have yourself to blame for not being able to keep your own man. My..." man is better than him by all means.

Yet, she could no longer utter such a comment now which she could have done easily any other day after what took place last night.

Su Yige, who was not interested to listen to the latter part of her sentence, sneered while she turned around to face Gong Zeyang. "Did you hear that? Although you're trying so hard to please her, you're nothing to her."

"Shut up!"

Gong Zeyang's face already looked sullen when he heard the comment from Su Ziyue just now. Now that Su Yige had spelled it out again, he could only yell at her out of embarrassment.

He strongly believed that Su Ziyue still had feelings for him.

Over the past few days, Su Yige had been feeling tired both physically and mentally over Gong Zeyang's decision to call off his engagement with her. It was a huge blow to her because only she knew how deeply in love she was with him.

She did not even bother to put up the pretence she usually did.

"Even if I keep quiet, it will do nothing to hide the fact that Su Ziyue is not interested in you because she's one ambitious girl. Do you know why she turns her nose up even at your identity as Young Master Gong? It's because she's long hooked up with the president of LK Group, who is so successful that you might not be able to surpass even after working hard for your entire life!"

It was hard to relate the woman who was speaking so bitterly and sarcastically now to the woman who was once the Young Lady of the Su Family.

Although Gong Zeyang wanted to call off his engagement with her, he had intended to do it in a peaceful manner at first.

Yet, he had accidentally blurted out his decision during a dinner several days ago after having too many drinks. Just like that, his decision had quickly spread and became the talk of the town.

In the end, the news had become so widespread that some of the unscrupulous media companies had directly reported it in order to attract more readers.

Although this was not how Gong Zeyang had wanted to do it, he did not ask the media companies to withdraw the articles.

Later on, more and more companies had been sharp enough to catch the juicy news and because of that, news articles regarding him calling off his engagement with Su Yige mushroomed.

Therefore, he had been feeling bad for Su Yige at first because of the way he had allowed his decision to be made known to the public. But now, he no longer felt remorseful after seeing how bitter Su Yige was behaving now.

Su Ziyue jeered, "I'm capable of hooking up with the president of LK Group but can you do the same?"

She did not care about what exactly Gong Zeyang and Su Yige wanted and she did not care how acrimonious their dispute was going to be. But now, they had involved her in their mess.

As she was too in a foul mood, she was not about to say any nice things.

Yet, what she said was also a huge blow to Gong Zeyang.

Is she really in a relationship with the president of LK Group?

"Ziyue, is what you just said true?" Gong Zeyang, who couldn't be bothered by Su Yige, walked over and grabbed hold of Su Ziyue's shoulder while he gaped at her in disbelief.

Su Ziyue found it really difficult to understand men because both Qin Muchen and Gong Zeyang behaved in the same way.

She remembered that she had made her disinterest or even detestation clear toward Gong Zeyang every time he visited her. But now, he was reacting as though he had just learnt his wife was being unfaithful to him, which was something puzzling to Su Ziyue.

"Watch your man's behavior or I'll get the security guards over here immediately." Su Ziyue glanced at Gong Zeyang first before turning to look at Su Yige.

With her face looking slightly distorted with rage, Su Yige walked over in silence to pull Gong Zeyang away from Su Ziyue. "Let's have a talk."

Perhaps Gong Zeyang was trying to spare himself from more embarrassment, he allowed himself to be pulled away without resisting her.

After tidying up her clothes with an expressionless face, Su Ziyue looked up and cast a glance at Su Yige and Gong Zeyang who were both looking extremely glum.

As Su Yige was just about to walk away together with Gong Zeyang, Su Ziyue said, "Hold on."

"What more do you want from us?" Su Yige roared after she turned around.

Su Yige was not bothered to act pleasant anymore perhaps because they already had a fallout.

With a sneer, Su Ziyue strutted over, lifted her hand and slapped her across her face. "This is payback for what you did just now."

CHAPTER 178

Su Yige let out a shrill shriek while she clutched her face. "Su Ziyue!" she exclaimed.

Su Ziyue only let out an icy snort before turning around and entering Su Tower.

After she reached her room, she sat down and lay on the table. She stayed like that for a long while as though all the energy in her had been sapped.

She remained that way until An Xia stepped into her room and noticed her condition. "Ziyue, what's going on?" she asked.

"I'm fine. I just didn't sleep well last night." In response to An Xia's question, Su Ziyue looked up at her and hid the part of her face which had been slapped by Su Yige just now with her hair before flashing her a smile.

Yet, that smile seemed too strained to be convincing.

An Xia was not worried by her condition but instead, her curiosity was piqued.

Edging nearer to her, she asked in a crafty tone, "You didn't sleep well?"

"Yes." Su Ziyue nodded but she did not elaborate on the reason because after all, the incident last night was too embarrassing for her to share even with her best friend.

An Xia, who thought of what Su Ziyue had told her the previous day, speculated, "Why did Mr. Qin pick you up so early yesterday? Did he confront you about Gong Zeyang's decision to call off the engagement and did he punish you for that in bed?"

If it was any other day, Su Ziyue would not hold back from complimenting An Xia for being an astute observer.

After taking a deep breath, she stared at An Xia with her head tilted to one side and countered, "I think you desperately need a man to punish you in bed after staying single for too long. In my opinion, Nan Chuan is a good choice."

She knew An Xia had always had a thing for Nan Chuan.

There was no doubt Nan Chuan was an excellent man because he was trusted by Qin Muchen a great deal.

Su Ziyue was stunned slightly by her own thought. Why would she think of Qin Muchen when she just randomly mentioned someone else?

Without noticing the abnormality of her reaction, An Xia said awkwardly, "You're being ridiculous... I've got to attend to my work now..."

It was only after An Xia had left her room did Su Ziyue drop all pretense.

Looking expressionless, she started working.

...

Everyone in the branch office of LK Group were on tenterhooks throughout the entire day.

It was because the president of the company, who had always been bad-tempered, was having an even worse temper than usual today.

Not only had he rejected every proposal submitted to him during the meeting, but he had also given basically everyone a piece of his mind.

On top of that, he had managed to make his criticisms on solid grounds. The senior management of the company, who looked dejected after getting reprimanded by him, found themselves longing for the previous president to be back.

Even his secretary, who was very confident with her tolerance level after having more than ten years' worth of experience in the field, had tears in her eyes after she was scolded by him.

Inside the president's office, Qin Muchen was rifling through a document with an impassive expression on his face.

The secretary's heart jolted with every page he turned.

Suddenly, Qin Muchen started flipping through the document at a much more rapid rate, a sight that gave the secretary a bad premonition.

As expected, he thrust the document at her the next second and confronted her with a cold face, "From what I've heard, you're the most competent secretary in the entire company."

The secretary silently wiped away the sweat from her forehead and shook her head vigorously in denial.

“Nothing of that sort. They’re only flattering me.”

Qin Muchen sneered, “It’s a good thing to have self-awareness. Now, redo this document for me in half an hour or I’ll show you the exit.”

“Yes.”

Although completing the task within half an hour was near impossible, the secretary did not dare to haggle.

“Get out.”

When the door was closed, Qin Muchen lifted his wrist to check the time on his watch out of habit.

It was half an hour before five, which was the time Su Ziyue clocked out of work.

Slightly relaxing the tension in his face muscles, his other hand had already reached for his suit jacket which was draped over the back of the chair habitually. He suddenly stopped as something struck him.

He remained in that posture in a daze. After several seconds, he withdrew his hands and continued dealing with work as if nothing had happened.

But three minutes later, he rose to his feet again and made his way out after taking his suit jacket from the chair.

...

As it was time to get off work, Su Ziyue walked out of Su Tower with her handbag. Immediately, she was seized by a penetrating coldness from a surge of icy wind which came blowing her way.

She shrank into herself and sniffled before continuing to walk.

While she was on her way out, she fished out her phone only to find that it was switched off because the battery had gone flat.

Slightly stunned, she looked up and gave her surroundings a thoughtful glance. After making sure the familiar Bentley was nowhere in sight, she put her phone back into her bag before hailing a taxi by the road.

When the taxi was driven away, a black Bentley slowly followed behind.

“Girl, where ya goin’?” the driver, who looked like he was in his forties, spoke with a northern accent; his robust voice sounded exceptionally amiable.

Suddenly, Su Ziyue's throat felt dry, causing her to gulp as she turned to take a glance at the cityscape outside. It was after several seconds did she speak, "To the nearest pharmacy please."

Last night, Qin Muchen had done it with her several rounds without wearing a condom. How bitter things had turned between them just provided her more reason to make sure she did not get pregnant this time.

"Girl, do you wanna get some medication for yourself? You gotta go to the hospital if you're sick because treating yourself with random medication is not the way to go..." The driver's tone was filled with concern.

In response to his words, Su Ziyue laughed dryly and explained, "It's nothing serious. I'll be fine after having the medication."

The driver pulled up in front of a huge pharmacy before turning around to tell her, "My daughter always caught the flu when she was little and this was where I always got medicine for her. The pharmacists here are trustworthy and professional."

"Thanks." After thanking the driver, Su Ziyue paid him the fare and alighted from the car in a haste.

Then, the taxi drove away. With her head held low, she felt a lump in her throat as she was seized by a sudden longing for her father.

Yet, she had no idea where he was kept up until now.

When she stepped into the pharmacy, she was approached by a female pharmacist who asked her, "Miss, what are you looking for?"

Su Ziyue found herself at a loss of expressing herself although she already had the words ready in her mind. Saying out loud what she wanted made her feel like she was sharing her sexual life with outsiders.

Women in general tended to be intuitive, let alone a woman who was also a pharmacist.

The pharmacist, who noticed her hesitation, posed her another question, "Are you feeling unwell?"

Staring at her, Su Ziyue stammered, "I would like some contraceptive pills..."

With a look of enlightenment, the pharmacist went to fetch her the pills and advised her while she was at it, "These pills are bad for your health. Next time, ask your boyfriend to take the necessary precaution himself as we girls should treat ourselves better."

Prior to this, she had no need to take care of stuff like this because Qin Muchen would always take precaution.

But things were different now.

Without replying to the pharmacist, she paid for the pills and stuffed it into her bag before walking away.

The pharmacist shook her head while she was watching Su Ziyue's back. No matter how beautiful a girl was, she needed to find a man who loved her and treated her well.

While she was entertaining the thought in her mind, a man dressed in a black suit suddenly approached her with a look so icy that it was scary to look at. "What did she buy just now?" he asked.

"What?" Soon, the pharmacist realized that he was referring to the beautiful girl who had just left. Apologetically, she said, "Sorry, I can't share private information of our customers with you."

CHAPTER 179

Without changing the expression on his face, Qin Muchen threatened, "I can have this shop destroyed right now and only offer compensation later. But if that were to happen, I'm afraid no other pharmacy in Yunzhou City would dare to hire you."

He was exuding an intimidating aura which was cultivated from years of fighting in the battlefield of the commercial world. Although his threat was unrealistic and illogical, it sounded reasonable just because it came from him.

Despite the comfortable surrounding temperature in the pharmacy, the pharmacist still felt chills travelling up her back after listening to his threat. For some reason, she believed that he would execute his threat.

Therefore, she told him in a shaky voice, "She was here to buy contraceptive pills."

When she was still saying the last word of her sentence, the man, who was still posing threats in front of her a second ago, had already dashed out like the wind.

It had taken him less than three minutes to go into the shop and then make it back to his car.

Driving his car along the road, he soon spotted Su Ziyue who was walking at a snail's pace on the curb.

With one hand holding her bag, she was looking listless. Her head was held low and her eyes were covered by her long hair.

No one knew whether she was actually paying attention to the road ahead.

Qin Muchen slowed down the speed of his car to follow her and stopped by the road when he saw her walking into a restaurant.

Just as he was getting ready to get out of the car, his phone rang.

He took the call distractedly while keeping his eyes on the entrance of the restaurant.

...

The restaurant was not too crowded as there was still some time before the peak hour of dinnertime.

Su Ziyue found a seat next to the window and took it. After flipping through the menu and ordering her food, she looked out of the window.

The moment she caught sight of the Bentley parked by the roadside, her pupils shrank at once and her expression changed slightly.

Prior to this, she already had the feeling that she was being followed but she had found no one every time she turned around to check.

The car belonged to Qin Muchen. Had he followed her here?

Before long, she dismissed the wishful thinking because she saw Gu Hanyan.

The waiter happened to serve her order at that moment. "Miss, this is your order."

Su Ziyue withdrew her hands from the table to make space for the waiter to put the plate down. Yet, her eyes kept on wandering toward the black Bentley at the same time as if it had a mind of its own.

The door of the car was opened after Gu Hanyan knocked on it. Qin Muchen's tall and slender body came into her sight the next second.

As the sky had already turned dark and the area was badly illuminated, Su Ziyue could not see the expression on his face.

It was only when she saw them coming toward the restaurant amidst lively conversation did she hastily look away.

She lost her appetite completely although the food in front of her looked exquisite.

After taking two mouthfuls of the food, she paid for the bill and was ready to leave after visiting the washroom.

The moment she walked out of the washroom, she bumped into Gu Hanyan.

Indeed, enemies were just bound to meet each other no matter how much they didn't want to.

“What a coincidence.” Gu Hanyan removed the sunglasses from her face and stared at Su Ziyue.

Her spirited look was a stark contrast to Su Ziyue’s pale face.

Without saying a thing, Su Ziyue brushed past her and was ready to go but to her surprise, one of her arms was grabbed by Gu Hanyan. “What’s the rush? Muchen and I are having dinner here too. Don’t you want to join us?”

Needless to say, the provocation in her words was apparent.

Slowly, Su Ziyue clenched her fingers and pursed her lips. When she turned around to face Gu Hanyan again, her eyes were tinged with a layer of disdain. “No wonder you’re said to have a low EQ by some of the netizens. I don’t have to make use of the little free time he has to pester him because I only need to go back home and wait for him to be back.”

Before this, Su Ziyue had read some of the news articles written about Gu Hanyan on the internet. Even without relationship rumors or scandals, she was still a favorite of the keyboard warriors.

In fact, Gu Hanyan did not have a low EQ.

“I’m sure you have a very high EQ, but...” Gu Hanyan continued with the same expression, “That doesn’t mean you can capture the heart of your man.”

Gu Hanyan turned around and walked away after ending her comment with an icy snort.

It had just been a spontaneous decision of hers to call Qin Muchen and ask him out for dinner but to her surprise, he had actually accepted her invitation.

On top of that, Su Ziyue was at the same restaurant too.

Her intuition told her that they were having problems with their relationship.

Otherwise, judging from how cold Qin Muchen had always treated her, he would not have accepted to have dinner with her.

Now, it was proved that her refusal to give up on him was the right decision. Although it only produced little effect, at least it was something positive.

Watching as Gu Hanyan strutted away triumphantly like a queen, Su Ziyue took a deep breath before returning to the wash basin to wash her arm slowly and meticulously.

That arm was dirty because it had been held by Gu Hanyan just now.

...

Inside the private room, Qin Muchen was sipping water indifferently and didn't look at Gu Hanyan at all.

Gu Hanyan didn't seem to be bothered by his nonchalance. "Muchen, Chinese New Year is just around the corner. When are you going to visit my grandfather?"

At the mention of her grandfather, the expression on Qin Muchen's face finally changed a little. "There's still quite some time before Chinese New Year."

He was implying his disinterest to talk about her grandfather with her.

Changing her expression slightly, Gu Hanyan lowered her head and stopped talking.

After he finished drinking the glass of water, Qin Muchen started smoking and every now and then, he would look at his watch.

Just as Gu Hanyan was about to say something after sensing his preoccupation, he suddenly stubbed out his cigarette and stood up to make his way to the door. "I've got to go."

Without waiting for Gu Hanyan's response, he directly walked out of the private room.

...

He went to the seat where Su Ziyue was sitting earlier after leaving the private room only to find some strangers sitting there.

Immediately, a crease formed on his forehead. Knowing how long it usually took her to finish a meal, he had estimated the time before he walked out of the private room but to his surprise, she was already gone.

It seemed like everything he thought he knew about her was wrong.

And the gravest mistake went to his underestimation of her feelings toward him.

...

After leaving the restaurant, Su Ziyue went to the supermarket but she ended up buying nothing because she merely wanted to be around people.

She felt as though she was now homeless after being abandoned by her family.

The pedestrians were seen hurrying because they all had a destination, something she seemed to have lost all of a sudden.

She did not feel like going back to Cloud Bay.

No wonder it was commonly said that men tended to change their minds fast. When they loved you, they would treat you with all the gentleness and affection they had, but when they had a fallout with you...

Su Ziyue chuckled in a self-mocking way.

He said he had been tolerating her all this while and he had told her that he would adopt a new way to get along with her.

Those did not sound like something spoken in a fit of rage at all because they were purely excuses used to conceal the fact that he had stopped loving her.

She had never said things like that to him no matter how angry she had been. Perhaps, he was finally tired of her personality which was not likeable.

Otherwise, nothing else could explain his sudden outburst of anger.

Su Ziyue shook her head to stop herself from dwelling on the problem.

At that juncture, a bus happened to pull up in front of her. After giving it a brief consideration, she boarded the bus without caring where it was heading to.

By the time she reached the apartment after taking several buses aimlessly, it was already eleven at night.

She opened the door and stepped into the unit. Before she could even switch on the lights, a man's gloomy and deep voice came from the darkness, "Finally, you're back."

CHAPTER 180

The man's voice which sounded bleak started spreading in the cold and dark room. Su Ziyue couldn't help but shudder because of its unusual eeriness.

Her hand was grabbing the keys tightly which she had inserted into the keyhole of the door because her movement had gone frozen while she was getting ready to take it out.

Stunned for a moment, she soon calmed herself down and extracted the key before switching on the lights.

"Why are you here?"

Wasn't he having dinner with Gu Hanyan just now?

Qin Muchen was sitting on the sofa with his back facing her; his back was kept straightened in a way that made his posture look somewhat rigid.

Was it because he had been maintaining that posture for too long a time or was it because he was nervous?

As soon as that thought emerged in her mind, the corners of her lips were curled upward into a scornful smile.

“Do I need to have a reason to be at my wife’s place?” Qin Muchen turned around to face her and said after slowly getting to his feet.

His face looked as stern and icy as his voice.

“Nope, you don’t need to have any reason for anything you want to do.” Standing by the door without moving, the grip on her handbag tightened.

At that juncture, some footsteps could be heard from behind. A woman’s voice which sounded familiar rang before Su Ziyue could even turn around. “Hey, aren’t you the Second Young Lady of the Su family?” the woman asked.

Su Ziyue spun around to find her neighbour who she used to have some interactions with but whose name she did not know.

Li Jingqi stared at her with both arms crossed in front of her chest. Many things had taken place since Su Ziyue moved out of the place. Although she no longer stayed at the condominium, Li Jingqi still managed to discover the identity of Su Ziyue, who used to stay in the unit opposite to hers, through the news on TV and the people around her.

She considered selling the tip to the media to fetch some money.

Smiling triumphantly, Li Jingqi questioned, “What’s going on? Are you moving back here because you were finally dumped by your husband?”

She then tilted her head and tried to look inside Su Ziyue’s unit. Yet, she did not manage to spot Qin Muchen inside because Su Ziyue was blocking her view by standing at the door.

This only cemented her assumption that Su Ziyue was moving back alone.

Yet, Qin Muchen was seen walking out of the unit the next instant. “Seems like Miss Li does have a bad memory.”

The sight of Qin Muchen sent Li Jingqi’s eyes widening as astonishment flashed across her face. “You...”

Only an icy glance from Qin Muchen was enough to send Li Jingqi making a panicked return to her own unit. When she was trying to unlock the door, she only managed to insert it into the keyhole after several attempts.

Su Ziyue was slightly taken aback by Li Jingqi's reaction. From what she remembered, that neighbour of hers had only met Qin Muchen not more than five times. Why was she so afraid of him?

Thump!

The sound of Qin Muchen banging the door shut pulled her back to reality with a start. He used one of his arms to snatch the bag from Su Ziyue's hands, unzipped it and turned it upside down to empty it.

Following a clattering sound, everything inside the bag was strewn all over the floor.

"What are you doing?" Su Ziyue extended her hand to snatch her bag back from him.

Seeing that everything inside the bag had already fallen out, Qin Muchen loosened his hold to allow her to take the bag back.

He was not interested in the bag but the stuff inside.

Taking the empty bag, Su Ziyue stared in confusion at Qin Muchen, who seemed to be searching for something with his head held low. "What on earth are you doing?!"

Ignoring her completely, Qin Muchen lowered his head to scan the little pieces of items scattered on the floor.

He found a mirror, lipstick, and her phone...

Although he did not go through the stuff with his hands, his vision was sharp enough. After examining the pile of stuff on the floor twice because he refused to give up, he still failed to locate his target.

Suddenly, he looked up with his eyes dark and spooky and extended his hands to grab Su Ziyue's chin. "Where are the pills?" he confronted in an icy voice.

Her chin felt painful because his fingers felt like metal pliers which were exerting enormous force on her chin.

Nonetheless, she gritted her teeth to cope with the pain. "What pills?"

Fury could be detected in his voice when he thundered, "Contraceptive pills!"

Su Ziyue was stunned by what he said. "You..."

How did he know she had bought the pills?

Had he been following her earlier that day? The emergence of that thought in her mind caused some strange changes to her heart.

Noticing her shock, Qin Muchen's expression changed slightly before removing his hands from her chin. "Don't overthink. I just happened to pass by that area when I saw you walking into the pharmacy."

Su Ziyue, whose face had turned pale, could not process the excuse he just gave her.

She started feeling chilly because the heater in the living room was not on.

After giving the stuff on the floor a scan, she confirmed that the pills she had bought earlier were not there. Perhaps she had accidentally dropped it when she was trying to look for change in the bag to pay for the bus fare.

She took a step back and leaned against the icy wall, then shuddered before she told him, "I ate it."

As soon as she said that, the living room sank into deadly silence.

Seconds felt like years for Su Ziyue.

After some time, Qin Muchen said with a slightly raucous voice, "Are you really that reluctant to have kids with me?"

Su Ziyue could not gauge his emotion from his words but for some reason, her heart softened.

There was a moment where she thought that since she would need to have kids with Qin Muchen either way, she might not mind having them earlier if he really was that eager.

Yet, Qin Muchen's voice rang once again before she could even speak, "Do you know how long the effect of the contraceptive pills lasts?"

Puzzled by his sudden question, Su Ziyue asked him back reflexively, "How long?"

"72 hours after consumption."

As soon as his voice trailed off, Su Ziyue felt a floating sensation as she was lifted off her feet by Qin Muchen.

Her heart sank as she could sense the motive of his action with her intuition. With her voice imbued with intense fear, she yelled, "Qin Muchen, let me down now!"

Suddenly, his voice turned unusually gentle as he said, "Why are you still so shy even after doing it so

many times?”

With that, he tossed her onto the bed.

Su Ziyue was thrust onto the blanket forcefully. Because she had landed on her head, she experienced a temporary dizziness.

By the time his heavy and stout body pressed against her body, Su Ziyue couldn't help but shudder and she had even forgotten to put up a fight.

Qin Muchen's slender fingers then traced her face and travelled downward past her neck and collarbones...

His movement was sensuous and gentle.

While he was caressing her, her body tensed up and she did not dare to move. In a faint voice, she proposed, “Qin Muchen, can we talk?”

Her voice was slightly shaky, and a layer of moisture had formed in her attractive eyes. Her eyelashes fluttered as she stared at him both imploringly and somewhat stubbornly, and she looked pitiful and weak with her black hair around her head on the blanket.

Qin Muchen stopped what he was doing and saw his reflection in her watery eyes as soon as he looked up.

Feeling a throbbing pain in his heart for some reason, he squinted his eyes and retorted without changing his expression, “Talk?”