

Marry Me 191

CHAPTER 191

Qin Muchen was only wearing a thin black shirt with three buttons undone. His handsome face was expressionless, and there was a drowsy look in his dark eyes which made him look both pure and sexy.

Su Ziyue, who was behind the people sitting at the dining table in the middle, was stunned looking at him.

The two had been together for so long, and yet she was still attracted to Qin Muchen's face. Whenever she looked at him, she still found him especially good-looking.

Seeing Qin Muchen keeping mum, the fat man thought that he was acquiescing to his words. Lustful thoughts immediately came into his mind as he pulled Su Ziyue's hand tightly before trying to touch her face.

"Hottie, let's go to the toilet. We..."

Su Ziyue tilted her head to avoid his fat hands. "Please take your hands off me. I am a guest here as well. I just came to the wrong private room."

Su Ziyue's voice was cold, just like her heart.

She shouldn't have listened to Nan Chuan.

Back then, Qin Muchen would even get jealous of Beef. Yet, he looked so indifferent now although the fat man was holding her wrist while she was standing here.

What did this show?

Everything was clear to Su Ziyue.

Meanwhile, the fat man was slightly shaken for a few seconds by the cold expression on Su Ziyue's face.

However, he quickly came to his senses and grinned ear to ear without letting go of her wrist. "What does it matter? We can become friends and get to know each other, right...?"

With that, he reached out to touch her hand.

Feeling disgusted, Su Ziyue used her other free hand to forcefully slap his hand which was grabbing her wrist, causing the fat man to let go of her hand in pain.

Su Ziyue gave him a cold look then turned to leave.

At this time, the people in the private room, who were watching them, began to kick up a fuss. "How can you call yourself a man if you can't even handle a young girl like her?"

This group of people were all businessmen in their thirties and forties, so Su Ziyue was particularly young to them.

Agitated by their words, the fat man dragged Su Ziyue back. "Hottie, please don't go. I really want to be friends with you."

"But I don't want to be friends with a fat pig." Su Ziyue looked at him with a sneer, ridicule overflowing in her eyes.

No man would be able to stand being ridiculed by a woman like this. Infuriated, the fat man raised his hand to hit Su Ziyue.

Su Ziyue could have avoided his slap, but when her gaze swept past the people sitting in the private room and fell on Qin Muchen, she just stood there and took the slap.

A crisp slap sounded, thereafter half of Su Ziyue's face immediately swelled up.

The fat man was in a fit of rage and he had used all his strength in his slap. Thus, the beaten side of Su Ziyue's face was in so much pain that it turned numb.

Someone inside the room started making a fuss again. "Hey, she's so gorgeous. How could you have had the heart to hit her...?"

Su Ziyue reached out and tucked the hair that had fallen down behind her ears before turning to look at Qin Muchen.

Everyone seated at the table were rich businessmen, and they all wore branded clothes. There were some who wore clothes of the same brand as Qin Muchen, but no one was as good-looking as him.

He just sat there quietly, yet he attracted the gazes of others.

However, he just ignored her.

Su Ziyue wasn't paying attention to what the fat man, who had hit her just now, was saying. Instead, she counted silently in her heart.

One, two, three...

Yet, Qin Muchen did not move even though she had counted to ten.

The light in Su Ziyue's eyes slowly faded as she touched her face before raising her eyes and glancing at

the fat man who was about to come and grab her hand. She dodged sideways and slapped him in return.

"No woman would like an uncultured and vulgar man like you." Su Ziyue's voice was freezing cold.

Stunned by her insults, the fat man was dumbfounded.

At this moment, Feng Xingyan, who was looking for Su Ziyue, suddenly entered the room.

"Miss Su."

When Su Ziyue looked back and saw Feng Xingyan, she was stunned. She had almost forgotten about Feng Xingyan after she was brought over here by Nan Chuan.

"Mr. Feng, sorry, I..."

Su Ziyue was at a loss for words, but fortunately, Feng Xingyan didn't ask for an explanation. He just smiled gently and asked her, "Can we leave now? I'll take you home."

"Alright. Thank you." Qin Muchen's indifference made her feel that it had been a wrong decision for her to follow Nan Chuan here.

He didn't even care when someone hit her just now. Did she still need to persuade him not to drink?

Why should she embarrass herself?

Although she consoled herself, Su Ziyue still felt suffocated as if her heart had been stuffed with cotton.

Meanwhile, Feng Xingyan didn't pay too much attention to her. He walked up to the fat man and politely handed out a business card. "This lady is my friend. If there are still any misunderstandings between you and her, I don't mind being the middle person and solving it."

The fat man initially just glanced at him disdainfully, but when he saw the name on the card, his eyes widened suddenly. Then, he tremblingly took the card from him, and he looked at Feng Xingyan in fear.

Su Ziyue was immersed in her emotions, so she did not notice the fat man's expression.

When she was taken out of Lumiere Jade House by Feng Xingyan, she apologized and said to him, "Thank you."

"I didn't do much." Feng Xingyan smiled faintly and walked to the parking lot.

"Mr. Feng," Su Ziyue called to him anxiously. "I've troubled you too much today. I can go back by myself."

She knew that Feng Xingyan was probably busy, and she could go home by herself.

Feng Xingyan was concentrating hard and looked as if he was pondering Su Ziyue's words. After a while, he nodded gently. "Alright, I will send you the invoice and account number later."

Su Ziyue didn't expect that he would say this with such a serious tone after thinking for so long.

She laughed a little. "Okay. Thank you, Mr. Feng."

"You don't have to thank me. We are already even. You treated me to a meal because I took you to the hospital, and you're also going to compensate me for hitting my car."

Su Ziyue was a little stunned by Feng Xingyan's words, but she agreed with what he said. It was best that they did not owe each other and were even with each other.

"Remember to apply ice on your face after you go back. Appearances are very important to a girl after all." Feng Xingyan's eyes fell on Su Ziyue's face.

Su Ziyue felt that there was a dazed look on Feng Xingyan's face as he looked at her, as if he was looking at another person through her. However, she did not know if she was just imagining it.

After saying goodbye to Feng Xingyan, Su Ziyue went across the road to take a taxi home.

Meanwhile, in the private room—

The fat man held the business card that Feng Xingyan had given him and fell silent for a long time with a solemn expression.

The other people in the private room laughed at him. "Just how powerful is that person? He just handed his business card to you, and yet you're scared witless."

The fat man just shook his head and said nothing.

Qin Muchen, who had been sitting quietly, suddenly said, "Which hand did you use to hit her just now?"

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Everyone in the private room fell silent when they heard Qin Muchen's sudden words. Someone asked, "Mr. Qin, what are you talking about? Who did he slap?"

Was it the woman just now? Everyone shifted their gazes to the fat man involuntarily. However, the fat man didn't care at all. "Mr. Qin, what are you trying to say?"

Was he trying to stand up for the girl just now? That was not right. If the woman just now really had a romantic relationship with Qin Muchen, why would Qin Muchen still let him harass her like that?

"Which hand did you slap her with?" Qin Muchen put down the glass in his hand, leaned back and repeated himself again.

"President Qin, what do you mean? That girl just now—ahhh!" The fat man had flown across the room before he could even complete his sentence.

Qin Muchen straightened his clothes blankly, walked up to him, and stepped on his right hand. "Since you refuse to say which hand you used to slap her, then I'll just assume that it was the right hand."

"What are you trying to do?! I have a contract with Yunteng! Don't you want to cooperate with me? Are you not afraid that your boss will hold you accountable?!" The fat man was trembling with fear when he saw Qin Muchen's darkened expression. He rarely interacted with Qin Muchen, but he knew that Qin Muchen was very capable and was Yunteng's pillar. However, he did not expect Qin Muchen to have such a strong aura.

Qin Muchen interrupted him coldly, "You talk too much." Then, he lifted his foot that was stepping on his hand before he forcefully stepped on his wrist next. The high-end leather soles handmade in Italy were very hard. When his foot stepped on his wrist, a crack could be heard. It was the sound of broken bones.

"My hand... You b*stard! I'll kill you!" The fat man wailed as he rolled around on the ground.

Qin Muchen turned around and looked at the other frightened people in the private room before saying calmly, "You all can leave now. No one is allowed to call an ambulance for him, otherwise, I have many means to make you all regret it."

In fact, when everyone exchanged glances with each other, they all saw fear in each other's eyes. Qin Muchen was younger than them, and his current status was just the vice president of a small company. Yet, he still managed to intimidate those old crooks of the business world. Thus, they all went out one after another by tacit agreement.

When everyone was gone, Qin Muchen turned around and took his coat before walking out casually. Then, he asked the staff to lock the private room to prevent the fat man from going out. If the fat man missed the best time for the treatment of his fractures, it was uncertain whether the bones could be reconnected later.

Qin Muchen deliberately wanted to destroy the fat man's hand. He then went all the way back to the office with his coat in hand. As soon as he entered, he saw Nan Chuan looking for something.

Nan Chuan heard the door opening and turned around to see Qin Muchen, thereafter surprise flashed across his face. "Boss, you..." finally came out! He knew that he had made the right decision to find Miss Su.

Meanwhile, Qin Muchen raised his eyes and glanced at him. "Go and check the identity of the man who came to Lumiere Jade House with Su Ziyue today."

Nan Chuan was surprised. "Man?" Miss Su actually came to have a meal with a man today? And President Qin even found out about this? He had a hunch that something terrible might have happened again.

"Go investigate him." Qin Muchen ignored Nan Chuan's question and glanced at him coldly before he threw his coat aside and sat behind the desk. Then, he closed his eyes and stayed still. His eyebrows were slightly furrowed and he looked a little tired.

Nan Chuan wanted to persuade him not to act so recklessly, but he knew that Qin Muchen wouldn't listen to him no matter what he said. Forget it.

After Nan Chuan left, Qin Muchen slowly opened his eyes, and a trace of confusion flashed in his dark eyes before disappearing quickly. When he saw Su Ziyue appear at the door just now, he was naturally overjoyed. He thought she had come to look for him. However, she had said that she just came to their private room by mistake. That meant that she had not been looking for him...

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When Su Ziyue finally returned to the apartment, she was thoroughly drenched. She took a quick shower and lay down on the bed, then aimlessly browsed the web on her phone for a while before switching off the lights. However, she could not sleep.

Whenever she closed her eyes, she would remember the indifferent look on Qin Muchen's face as he sat quietly in the private room. She turned over and wrapped herself in the quilt. After a long time, she finally started feeling drowsy. Half awake, she heard the sound of the door opening.

Could it be Qin Muchen? Su Ziyue thought in a daze and suddenly came to her senses. She opened her eyes in the dark room, and it took a while before her eyes adjusted to the darkness. She then pricked up her ears to listen to the movements in the room, but she couldn't hear anything at all. Sure enough, she was probably just imagining things. No one would open the door, let alone Qin Muchen.

When Su Ziyue closed her eyes and was starting to feel sleepy again, she heard soft footsteps in the room. The footsteps were so soft that she wouldn't have been able to hear them if she wasn't holding her breath. Wait. Is there really someone in the room?

Su Ziyue was about to get up to turn on the bedside lamp, but she could feel that the person had reached the bedside. She froze and dared not move. Only Qin Muchen would come in at this time. However...

She couldn't sense Qin Muchen's aura in the room at all. Although sensing a person's aura was not a reliable method to identify a person, she could feel that the person who entered was not Qin Muchen.

Who could it be if it isn't Qin Muchen?

As soon as this thought came into her mind, Su Ziyue felt a chill creeping up her spine and she was at a loss. She continued lying on the bed stiffly, too afraid to move. The man stood in front of the bed for a while before he finally moved. After an unknown period of time, she heard tinkling noises.

Su Ziyue remembered that her wallet was on the bedside. Could it be a thief? With her breath held, beads of cold sweat started rolling off her forehead as her heart raced.

After some time, she seemed to have heard the door close, though she couldn't be too sure. She just lay still on the bed until her body became stiff, thereafter she got up and quickly turned on the light. She then put on her clothes and got out of bed. She opened her wallet which was by the bed and found that the cash in it had disappeared. Luckily, there were only a few thousand in the wallet.

She searched the room carefully, and after making sure that there was no one else in the room, she breathed a sigh of relief. However, she still felt uneasy. So, she went to the kitchen and held the knife in her arms before sitting on the sofa, not daring to sleep.

Just when she was starting to feel drowsy from the exhaustion, there was some noise from the door again. Su Ziyue woke up at once and held the kitchen knife in her hand tightly as she stared at the door motionlessly.

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Su Ziyue's heart skipped a beat as she stared straight at the door, not daring to move even an inch.

The next moment, the door of the room was opened, and the tall figure of Qin Muchen appeared at the door.

When Qin Muchen pushed the door and came in to see Su Ziyue sitting on the sofa holding a kitchen knife, his brows furrowed as he instantly sobered up.

He strode forward and quickly walked to Su Ziyue with a cold expression. "What happened?"

He had been tipsy when he came here. When he reached downstairs, he saw that no lights were on in her apartment, so he thought she had slept.

He had just wanted to come and see her, but he didn't expect to see such a scene after entering.

Su Ziyue was stunned for a moment before she asked him quietly, "Why are you here?"

However, Qin Muchen just kept mum as he stared down at her. Then he reached out and took the kitchen knife away from her hand before putting it on the coffee table at the side.

When the kitchen knife knocked against the coffee table, it made a crisp sound, causing Su Ziyue to

come back to her senses.

Why did Qin Muchen come here so late at night?

Feeling uncomfortable under his gaze, she got up and stood aside. Holding her arms, she asked him again, "Why are you here?"

Still, her anxious emotions due to the break in just now suddenly calmed down.

"What happened?" Qin Muchen's gaze fell on the swollen half of her face, and he tensed his hand that hung by his side while thinking, That fat man got off easy. I just stepped on him once.

"Nothing." Su Ziyue chose to tell the truth under his deep gaze.

Just now, she almost couldn't hold herself back from rushing into Qin Muchen's arms.

Fortunately, she suddenly remembered what had happened at the Lumiere Jade House that night and stopped herself in time.

He had just stood by and watched others hit her. Did she really expect him to feel sorry for her if she told him about the break in?

Qin Muchen looked at her carefully with an intense gaze.

Of course he knew that Su Ziyue was lying; she always loved to lie.

The two stood beside the sofa silently.

She wasn't sure why Qin Muchen had come to her place in the middle of the night, but she knew that it was definitely not because he was bored.

The two people, who had lived together for nearly half a year, suddenly became speechless around each other.

"If that's all you have to say, I'm going to bed now. I have to go to work tomorrow." She couldn't just have drinking parties at the Lumiere Jade House as she wished like him when she wasn't working.

She had to work well in the Su Group and look for opportunities to get Su Yuanming to tell her about her father's whereabouts.

Thinking of this, she suddenly remembered that Qin Muchen had said he would help her look into her father's affairs. But in the end, he told her that he had found nothing.

Now that she thought about it, it sounded like an excuse.

Su Yuanming was not that bright. Where would he hide her father? How was it possible that even Qin Muchen couldn't find any clues about his whereabouts?

Who was Qin Muchen? There was no way he wouldn't be able to find even a single clue if he put his heart into the investigation.

Obviously, he didn't investigate seriously. She hadn't thought about such a simple reason at that time.

He had told her that it was difficult to check as a long time had passed, and she had believed it.

She just believed what he said.

She was so stupid.

Meanwhile, Qin Muchen just kept silent as Su Ziyue walked around him and lay back on the bed.

Perhaps because there was an extra person in the room, Su Ziyue suddenly felt less scared and soon fell asleep after lying on the bed.

The next morning, when the alarm clock went off, Su Ziyue was still very sleepy, so she didn't want to get up at all.

However, she had no choice but to get up from bed.

Then, she subconsciously looked toward the sofa and found that it was empty.

Qin Muchen must have left in the middle of last night.

Su Ziyue took a deep breath and went to the bathroom exhaustedly, thereafter she went directly to the company.

When she arrived at the Su Group, Su Ziyue went into her office and started working.

Not long after, An Xia suddenly said mysteriously, "Do you know? Neither the chairman nor the vice president came to the company today."

Su Ziyue looked up suspiciously and asked her, "What happened?"

An Xia's eyes flashed with excitement. "I don't know, but I heard that something happened at their home. I heard someone say that someone from the Su family stirred up some trouble, and the police went to look for them early this morning."

She had heard about this rumor early in the morning, and she had been waiting for Su Ziyue to come to

share the news with her.

Hearing this, Su Ziyue remembered what had happened at the hot spring before.

He had said that he would handle the matter within a week.

But a week had already passed, and apart from the news of the annulment of Su Yige and Gong Zeyang's engagement, there was no more update regarding Xu Youran's case.

Could it be that the police came to look for them today because of what had happened at the hot spring?

If not, she couldn't think of any other reason why the police would be looking for them.

Su Youcheng and Su Yuanming did not come to the company all morning.

At noon, the police came to the Su Group to look for Su Ziyue.

"Miss Su, please come with us. We have made new progress in Xu Youran's case and we need your cooperation."

Then, Su Ziyue went to the police station with them.

Su Ziyue knew that the police went to the Su Residence because of Xu Youran's case.

When she arrived at the police station, as she expected, she saw a group of people from the Su family.

Everyone from the Su family had a sour expression on their faces.

As soon as Su Yige saw Su Ziyue, she strode toward her. "Su Ziyue, come at me alone if you hold any grudges toward me. Why did you have to kill innocent people and frame my mother?!"

Su Ziyue glanced at Su Yige coldly. "Frame? Isn't that what you're best at?"

"What nonsense are you talking about?!"

"You should know yourself best whether I'm talking nonsense. Plus, please mind your words. I have never killed nor framed anyone."

Then, Su Ziyue was taken away by the police before Su Yige even had the chance to react.

In the interrogation room—

Su Ziyue sat opposite the police officer with a calm expression.

The police asked her, "Back then, you and Xu Youran had some conflict when you were classmates, right?"

Su Ziyue glanced at the policeman on the opposite of her. This policeman was the one who had interrogated her last time, so he was no stranger to her.

Su Ziyue went straight to the point and asked, "Are you trying to say that I killed her when I met her again because I held a grudge against her since Xu Youran was the one who spread the rumours of my abortion when we were at school?"

The policeman raised his eyebrows. Seeing how straightforward Su Ziyue was, he said bluntly, "We aren't ruling out that possibility."

Although he spoke with a flat tone, he wasn't necessarily harsh toward her.

Therefore, Su Ziyue was sure that they must have gotten hold of some important evidence, and they brought her here only because a certain part of the investigation required her cooperation.

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Naturally, Su Ziyue wouldn't ask them what they had found. Even if she asked, they definitely wouldn't tell her anything.

"The truth is, I've never thought of killing her, regardless of when that incident happened that year or when I met Xu Youran again at the hot spring."

In fact, if An Xia hadn't mentioned it, she had almost forgotten that it was Xu Youran who had exposed her news that year. That year, she did resent her when she was drowned in everyone's contemptuous gazes. However, Su Yige was the one she truly resented because she knew that Su Yige was the primary culprit. She couldn't even remember what Xu Youran looked like. After all, they were talking about a person's life. No matter why Xu Youran had helped Su Yige to frame her back then, she didn't deserve to die.

The policeman looked at her expressionlessly, seemingly pondering if she was telling the truth. After thinking for a while, Su Ziyue added, "When you were investigating Xu Youran, you must have come across her photos of when she was in high school, where she looks completely different from now. If my friend hadn't mentioned her, I wouldn't even be able to recognize Xu Youran."

The policeman pursed his lips while nodding without commenting on what Su Ziyue said. Instead, he asked her, "You're not on friendly terms with your aunt, Zhou Lingyu, and your cousin, Su Yige?"

Narrowing her eyes, Su Ziyue looked at the policeman. Then, she suddenly smiled and asked him, "Is this question related to this case too?"

The policeman looked at Su Ziyue's mesmerizing eyes for two seconds before he abruptly turned his head to a side. "Of course."

"Yes, I'm not on good terms with them. May I know if you have any other questions, sir?" Su Ziyue smiled. "Did you all find out something else?"

The policeman stood up. "There are no other questions. You may go back now. However, you're still a suspect."

Su Ziyue nodded and stood up to leave. When she got out, the Su family was gone, and she didn't see Zhou Lingyu either. Perhaps she had been seized since there was firm evidence that she was the killer.

The young policeman, who had interrogated Su Ziyue earlier, stared at her leaving figure, in a daze. The new intern, whom he mentored, hurried over. "Sir, I heard that Miss Su came. How does she look? Is she really pretty?"

The young policeman turned back to look at him. "Work harder, and talk less." With that, he turned to head toward his office.

The intern smiled abashedly. Following his mentor, the intern couldn't hold it in in the end and blurted, "These wealthy people are just like what the dramas show, scheming and conspiring..."

The young policeman turned back to give him a glance. "Psychotic killers like in the movies have appeared in real life before too."

The intern was rendered speechless.

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Walking out from the police station, Su Ziyue realized that it was still early, so she decided to return to the office, thinking that she should at least make an appearance. After all, everyone in the office knew that she had been brought away by the police. However, before returning to the office, she signed up for an account on Twitter using her phone.

She knew a famous paparazzo who specialized in digging up breaking news. Besides, that paparazzo's identity was extremely mysterious, and he was still able to live safely after exposing countless news of famous people.

Although paparazzi generally only focused on celebrities' news, shocking news from great families like the Su family would not be inferior to the celebrities and would attract enormous click counts as well. Besides, it was Su Yige's mother who was involved in the murder case, and it had not been long since Su Yige called off her engagement. This was probably an ideal example of hitting a man when he was down. A mother involved in a murder case and her daughter who had just called off an engagement; this news would be a hit. Therefore, the reporter definitely wouldn't give up this opportunity.

Su Ziyue found the account of that reporter and sent the person a private message. After sending the message, she kept her phone and went back to the office by car. When she reached the office, she signed in to that account again to check.

That reporter replied to her with an 'okay' emoji and said that if that was true, she would pay her.

Su Ziyue replied, 'It's definitely true.' Then, she signed out.

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Everyone in the LK branch had been living in an oppressive atmosphere for more than a week. As the creator of that oppressive atmosphere, Qin Muchen became even worse. When he returned to his president's office after the meeting, Nan Chuan called him. "Mr. Qin, I found the person you told me to find. How would you like to deal with him?"

Qin Muchen rubbed his temples and replied, "Leave it to me." After that, he added, "You've been slacking off recently." He had instructed Nan Chuan to find that person last night, but the latter only found him now.

On the other side, Nan Chuan silently wiped away the cold sweat that seeped out of his forehead. He received the call at midnight and was instructed to investigate a thief. There was no information given on the stolen item, the thief's appearance, nor his features. Other than strangely instructing him to find a thief, he was given other tasks too. Yet, he couldn't do two tasks at the same time. Although he felt aggrieved, he could only bear it and speak nothing about it.

After hanging up the call, Qin Muchen sank into deep thought. The housing estate that Su Ziyue lived in had outrageously poor security, so he couldn't let her stay there any longer. Thinking of that, he called Nan Chuan again and gave him a few orders before ending the call.

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When Su Ziyue returned to Su Group, Su Youcheng was there too. As soon as she stepped into the office, Su Youcheng's secretary came to seek her out. "Director Su, the Chairman wants to meet you."

"Alright, I've got it. I'll go over there now." After thinking for a bit, Su Ziyue stood up and headed toward Su Youcheng's office to meet him. Previously, when she met the Su family at the police station, they were talking with the police, so they didn't have the time to bother about her. Of course, Su Yige was an exception.

"Grandpa." When Su Ziyue went in, she realized that Su Youcheng was smoking. He was frowning, looking depressed.

After Su Ziyue came in, Su Youcheng stubbed out the cigarette in his hand and turned to carefully look

Su Ziyue up and down before saying, "Have a seat."

Upon hearing that, Su Ziyue sat on the opposite side of Su Youcheng.

"How much do you know about this case, and are you related to it?" Strangely, Su Youcheng's tone was not as stern as usual. Instead, he sounded helpless.

Su Ziyue replied honestly, "I'm not related to it. I just met the deceased a few times."

Upon hearing that, Su Youcheng surprisingly looked relieved. "That's a relief." He shook his head. "Carry on with your work. For the time being, please pay more attention to the matters of the company." It was rare that he sounded so gentle.

Su Yiyue looked suspiciously at Su Youcheng and probed, "Grandpa, what are you worrying about? Is Auntie really related to this case?" Although she wasn't sure what Zhou Lingyu's motive was, there was a possibility of her murdering Xu Youran if she really had a conflict with her. Besides, Qin Muchen mentioned before that Zhou Lingyu was indeed related to this whole case.

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Sigh!

For the first time ever, Su Youcheng let out a long sigh.

Then, he leaned back, looking worn out. He had lived out half of his life and thrived in the business world for years.

Although he couldn't say that he had succeeded in everything, he still sailed through life smoothly. Of course, his effort and hard work were not to be ignored.

However, he did not expect that his family would be such a disappointment.

His eldest son, whom he had great expectations of, was jailed because he killed someone. Now, his daughter-in-law was involved in a murder case too.

When Su Youcheng was young, he was also spirited and dignified. But he did not expect that he would lose his virtues in old age.

Having a disappointing son and an evil daughter-in-law, he couldn't imagine how he would be denounced by the public in the future.

Compared to these, Su Ziyue's issues seemed forgivable.

His family getting involved in a murder case and getting jailed were destroying Su Youcheng's pride.

Thinking of that, Su Youcheng sighed emotionally. "How disappointing!"

"Auntie isn't that kind of person. Grandpa, could there be some misunderstanding?" Su Ziyue weighed her words and asked in a soft voice.

"The police have made it very clear to me. What misunderstanding can there be? I'm so embarrassed!"

After finishing his sentence, Su Youcheng glared straight ahead with widened eyes, his face turning pale with rage.

Upon hearing that, Su Ziyue could only lower her eyes and save her questions.

It seemed like Zhou Lingyu was indeed involved in the murder.

What could be Zhou Lingyu's motive?

Su Ziyue couldn't figure out this point.

That time, the police had said that Xu Youran was found in the staff dorm, which meant that she was a staff member of the hot spring.

What kind of connection could there be between a woman, who worked at a hot spring, and a wealthy woman?

Suddenly, an idea hit Su Ziyue. She managed to grasp a vague notion, but she was unable to form a coherent thought at the moment. Therefore, her brain felt like a muddled mess.

She had to straighten her thoughts.

"Grandpa, don't be too angry. Health is your priority, and you still have to preside over the company. If there's anything I can help with, please tell me. I'll try my best to help."

After saying a few more pleasant sentences to comfort Su Youcheng, Su Ziyue finally went out.

After she went back to her office, only then did she start to try to make heads or tails out of this matter.

Xu Youran and Zhou Lingyu obviously didn't share a direct mutually beneficial relationship.

From what Su Ziyue knew, the reason they were connected dated back to four years ago, when Xu Youran exposed Su Ziyue's abortion.

The abortion certificate that she showed was real, and she even had real photos where Su Ziyue visited the gynecology department.

The photo was real because she had indeed gone to a gynecologist. That year, her menstrual cycle wasn't regular, so she went to get a check up. Unexpectedly, someone took a photo of her and even exploited it.

However, she could understand that because Su Yige had already begun plotting and scheming against her at that time.

Back then, Xu Youran had just transferred to their class, and she only sat quietly in the corner, keeping an extremely low profile.

It was also because Xu Youran, who was always taciturn, was the one who exposed that incident, even providing photos and the abortion certificate, and that was why everyone was convinced.

Besides, Su Ziyue was the prettiest girl in the school, so many girls were jealous of her.

Public clamor could obscure the truth.

It was actually a rumor that was yet to be verified, but it became more and more convincing through the mouths of the public.

In the end, everyone believed it, and she would be discussed wherever she went.

At last, Su Youcheng's disdain of her grew, so he gave her a card before sending her overseas. He had never cared for her since then.

Until four years later, she came back, holding on to her resentment.

Su Ziyue rubbed her temple while she recalled Xu Youran's expression when she bumped into her at the hot spring.

Back then, she didn't realize that she was Xu Youran.

For some reason, Xu Youran seemed delighted when she thought that Su Ziyue knew her.

Su Ziyue couldn't understand that.

Right at that moment, An Xia came in.

As soon as An Xia entered, she asked her, "You went to the police station again? Is everything fine?"

Su Ziyue shook her head. "I'm fine."

After staying silent for a while, she asked An Xia, "Oh, how much do you know about Xu Youran?"

“About her?” Hearing Su Ziyue’s question, An Xia sank into her memories.

After recalling the past for a short while, she shook her head. “I don’t know much about her either. I only know that she dropped out of school before attending the college entrance exam.”

Su Ziyue looked surprised. “Why? I remember that she did well in her studies that time, and she always ranked top in the grade.”

With such outstanding results, why would Xu Youran give up the college entrance exam?

“No one knows why. After all, no one in the class was close to her back then.” Speaking about that, An Xia smiled. “But many of them believed her when she framed you.”

An Xia sneered after saying that. “I bet all of them were just jealous of you.”

Su Ziyue lifted her head to look at An Xia and realized that after knowing her for years, she hadn’t changed much.

Even until now, Su Ziyue couldn’t understand why Su Yige hated her so deeply.

Since they were young, Su Yige received more attention than her and was more outstanding than her.

However, Su Yige was determined to cross her in everything. Su Yige even stopped her from bidding farewell to An Xia before she left.

She remembered Su Yige’s arrogant look back then. “Get out of this country now, and never come back in this life. You were just bestowed with the surname ‘Su’, so don’t dream of getting anything from the Su family. You want to contact your friend, don’t you? I’m really curious how someone like you can have friends. But you’d better not contact her, or else I can’t guarantee what I’ll do to her...”

How deeply did Su Yige hate her? She left no place for Su Ziyue to stand in the Su family and had even forbidden her from contacting her only friend, An Xia.

She just wanted Su Ziyue to lose everything she had.

Whenever Su Ziyue thought of it, she would feel astounded. How jealous did she make Su Yige feel, to the point that Su Yige had to crush her with all means?

Coming back to reality from the past, Su Ziyue smiled and said, “Why would they be jealous of me? I’m just a person with a bad reputation.”

“You’re pretty.” Sitting on the opposite of Su Ziyue, An Xia rested her chin on her hand while looking at her.

Upon hearing that, Su Ziyue raised her eyes to look at An Xia while reaching out to pinch her face. "You're pretty too. Otherwise, why would Bai Jingshu want to date you?"

"What nonsense are you talking about?" An Xia swatted Su Ziyue's hand away and turned her head to the other side, feeling extremely awkward.

Smiling, Su Ziyue remained silent. Bai Jingshu treated An Xia very differently. As an outsider, she noticed it, but she wasn't sure if An Xia realized it too.

Anyway, as a friend, she shouldn't meddle in their business. It was An Xia's own choice to make.

Therefore, Su Ziyue shook her head, pretending that she hadn't said that last sentence while saying solemnly, "It's not nonsense. You're very pretty."

Then, she added, "Bai Jingshu has good taste."

"Su Ziyue!"

"Well, it's time to get off work."

CHAPTER 196

After packing their things, both of them went down to the lobby of the branch office.

As soon as they reached the platform, the bus that An Xia usually waited for arrived, so she waved at Su Ziyue and hopped onto the bus.

After the bus drove off, Su Ziyue decided to go home in a taxi.

When she was about to hail a taxi, a familiar Rolls-Royce stopped in front of her.

Nan Chuan stuck his head out and asked warmly, "Just got off work, Miss Su?"

Su Ziyue was slightly stunned, surprised to see Nan Chuan here.

"What a coincidence!"

It seemed that Nan Chuan had expected what she would say, so he smiled and replied, "It's not a coincidence. Mr. Qin told me to come fetch you."

Qin Muchen told Nan Chuan to come fetch her?

Su Ziyue remained unperturbed on the outside while she squinted as she asked Nan Chuan, "Is there something he needs me for?"

Nan Chuan secretly sighed in his heart and exclaimed inwardly, Mr. Qin predicts things like a prophet. Then, he grinned while replying, "Yes, it's regarding the case that happened at the hot spring."

With that, he got out of the car and opened the car door for Su Ziyue.

Once Su Ziyue heard that it was about the case, she got into the car with Nan Chuan.

She thought Qin Muchen would definitely meet her at Lumiere Jade House for this discussion. Unexpectedly, Nan Chuan drove her directly to Cloud Bay.

As soon as Su Ziyue alighted the car after they reached the entrance of the hilltop villa, Nan Chuan directly left after saying goodbye to her.

Su Ziyue turned back to take a glance, feeling perplexed as to why he rushed to leave.

It had been more than ten days since she last returned to this villa. Standing in front of the main door, Su Ziyue had complicated emotions.

She took out the key to open the door. Once she stepped in, Beef appeared out of nowhere and pounced on Su Ziyue.

"Hi Beef." Su Ziyue crouched to pet its head.

"Woof!"

Beef nuzzled against Su Ziyue's head while barking repeatedly, seemingly expressing its overflowing happiness.

Su Ziyue hugged and stroked its head while looking up to glance across the hall. Although she knew that Beef couldn't understand her, she still asked, "Tell me, is your father here?"

Beef blinked while staring at her, looking confused yet cute.

Smiling, Su Ziyue closed the door and walked up the stairs.

There was no one in the study, so Qin Muchen was probably not home yet.

Entering the study, Su Ziyue walked to the window and spotted a car driving in this direction from a short distance away.

When the car approached, she realized that it was Qin Muchen's car.

At that moment, Su Ziyue had a subtle weird feeling.

She turned to go downstairs, only to bump into Qin Muchen, who had opened the main door and was walking in, looking hasty.

When he looked up and saw Su Ziyue, who was standing at the staircase, he was stunned for a second before he said, "You're here."

"Yeah." Su Ziyue replied flatly.

Then, silence permeated the air.

Qin Muchen went to the kitchen and poured two glasses of water. Then, he walked to the sofa to sit down, holding a glass of water for himself while pushing the other glass to the opposite of him.

Su Ziyue instinctively sat across from him, but she didn't take that glass of water, causing Qin Muchen's eyes to become dim.

"I—"

"You—"

Both of them didn't expect that they would speak at the same time, so they were startled after hearing each other's voices.

After pondering, Su Ziyue said, "You go first."

Upon hearing that, Qin Muchen said, "Sit here for now. Half an hour later, dinner will be ready."

With that, he got up and headed to the kitchen.

Surprised, Su Ziyue quickly called him, "Qin Muchen."

Qin Muchen turned back to look at her after hearing her calls, but he didn't speak.

Opening her mouth, Su Ziyue wanted to ask him about what he wanted to discuss with her, but she found that the question was stuck in her throat.

The way he looked at her made it impossible for her to say such words of rejection.

Half an hour later, three dishes and one bowl of soup were placed on the table.

There were two vegetable dishes and one meat dish, all looking delectable and mouth-watering.

Looking at the dishes on the table, Su Ziyue bowed her head and started to eat in silence.

Ever since that day at Lumiere Jade House, after what he did to her because of the child, she hadn't returned to the villa at Cloud Bay nor eaten the food he cooked.

Now that she was sitting at the same table with him again, she felt strange as if it had been a long time since they did this.

Noticing that Su Ziyue was reluctant to move her chopsticks, Qin Muchen asked gloomily, "Is the food not to your preference?"

"No, I'm not hungry. I'm already full, so after you finish your food, we'll discuss matters." With that, Su Ziyue put down her chopsticks, waiting to discuss matters with him.

Anger appeared in Qin Muchen's eyes when he saw how she couldn't wait to get their discussion over with. Clenching his chopsticks, he swallowed his words in the end.

He slowly munched on his food. Sitting across from him, Su Ziyue felt awkward to just sit and watch as he ate, so she took out her phone to scroll.

However, a headline jumped into her sight when she turned on her phone and surfed the internet.

"Wealthy mistress involved in a murder case!"

Upon reading this title, Su Ziyue was intrigued so she tapped into it. As expected, it was about Zhou Lingyu.

Although the article didn't clearly state the name, the readers could easily figure out that it was Zhou Lingyu through the description.

There was already a group of 'truth lords' in the comment section.

"No wonder her daughter's engagement was canceled!"

"Could it be that it's because the young girl seduced her husband?"

"Wealthy families are indeed full of disputes. Fortunately, I'm poor."

The commenters were randomly guessing, and all of their guesses seemed unbelievable.

After reading two pages of comments, Su Ziyue felt that none of them were even close to the truth.

In fact, she didn't know why Zhou Lingyu murdered Xu Youran either.

She looked at the time that the news was released and realized that it was less than 20 minutes ago. Nevertheless, the Su family must already know about this.

As expected, her phone vibrated when that thought crossed her mind.

It was a call from Su Yige.

After pondering, she muted her phone and put it aside, deciding not to answer the call.

Then, she met Qin Muchen's dark eyes when she raised her head. "Who called you? Why didn't you answer it?"

He asked as if he was interrogating her, making her feel uncomfortable.

"I don't feel like answering it." Su Ziyue turned her head to the side, averting her gaze.

Without uttering a word, Qin Muchen cleaned the table and turned to walk up the stairs.

Having no choice, Su Ziyue could only follow him into the study.

Qin Muchen walked behind the table and took out a booklet before handing it to Su Ziyue.

"What's this?" Su Ziyue asked curiously while reaching out to take it.

"It's Xu Youran's diary." While speaking, Qin Muchen took out a cigarette and lit it.

After the lighter was ignited, he put it down with a frown. He then crumpled the cigarette and threw it into the trash can.

Meanwhile, Su Ziyue sat at a side and quickly read through Xu Youran's diary.

The diary had turned yellow, and the first few pages were just about trivial girlish thoughts. Nothing special.

But she knew that there must be something important in this diary since Qin Muchen gave it to her.

After pondering, Su Ziyue rapidly flipped through the pages and stopped at the days four years ago, when Xu Youran had framed her.

CHAPTER 197

Fortunately, Xu Youran had the same habit as everyone else—writing dates for every diary entry.

Soon, Su Ziyue found her entries dated four years back.

Four years ago, Xu Youran had just transferred to their school when she framed Su Ziyue for abortion.

Therefore, Su Ziyue directly started reading from the days when she just got transferred.

However, she couldn't remember the specific date when Xu Youran transferred to their school. But luckily, she roughly remembered the time frame.

Unexpectedly, Su Ziyue was attracted to a page with extremely messy writing when she randomly flipped through the pages

Xu Youran wrote in a regular small script on the previous pages, and her writing was neat. However, this page seemed different.

As she continued to read, her eyes stopped at two words—'I'm pregnant'.

She was utterly shocked.

Four years ago. Pregnant. Xu Youran.

"Is this really Xu Youran's diary?" Su Ziyue raised her head to ask Qin Muchen.

It was not that she didn't believe Qin Muchen, but in her impression, Xu Youran didn't seem like someone who would secretly mess around and have sex before marriage.

Qin Muchen didn't reply to her and just hinted for her to continue reading.

So, Su Ziyue bowed her head and continued reading.

After she put down the diary, she remained silent for quite a while.

"That's what actually happened." Qin Muchen suddenly spoke up and explained systematically, "That year, Xu Youran transferred to your school after she got pregnant. Then, Su Yige got hold of her secret and blackmailed her."

All of that was mentioned in Xu Youran's diary.

Xu Youran came from a poor family, but that didn't stop a girl from falling in love during puberty.

In her diary, she said that she had been raised by her sister, and her sister had always hoped that she would be successful. When her sister found out that she was pregnant, she quickly arranged to transfer her to another school.

Undeniably, Xu Youran's sister was a wise woman.

However, she shouldn't have transferred Xu Youran to Su Ziyue's high school, because she was targeted by Su Yige. In the end, Xu Youran, who should have been a top student, didn't attend the college

entrance exam due to the unbearable psychological pressure from the guilt she felt and the constant blackmailing from Su Yige.

Although Su Ziyue couldn't help sighing in her heart, she didn't feel any other emotions.

It had been four years since that incident happened, and she only hated Xu Youran at the very beginning because she knew that it was all Su Yige's plan.

"But why did Zhou Lingyu murder Xu Youran?" Su Ziyue couldn't understand this point.

Qin Muchen leaned back, and his eyes looked profound. "At the hot spring back then, you didn't just meet Xu Youran once."

After a pause, Qin Muchen continued, "In the beginning, perhaps Zhou Lingyu didn't intend to murder Xu Youran."

Hearing Qin Muchen's reminder, Su Ziyue suddenly saw the light.

She looked at Qin Muchen while speaking in an uncertain tone, "Zhou Lingyu was actually the mastermind behind that incident that year. Xu Youran's abortion and that abortion certificate was actually provided by Zhou Lingyu. Therefore, when she met Xu Youran at the hot spring, she recognized her, and perhaps, Xu Youran wanted to tell me the truth of the past..."

Speaking about that, Su Ziyue lowered her head to look at the diary in her hands again.

Perhaps, Xu Youran not only wanted to tell her the truth, she also wanted to clear up any misunderstandings.

Because at the end of the diary, Xu Youran mentioned the classmate reunion.

On the last page, she had written, 'I received the invitation for my high school classmates reunion. In the past, I was young and did wrong. Once a mistake is made, forever the mistake will continue on. If I attend the reunion, will I meet her? Even if she doesn't attend, some mistakes shouldn't be unremedied.'

Su Ziyue recalled the astonishment and happiness in Xu Youran's eyes as well as her hesitation and reluctance to speak when she bumped into her back at the hot spring.

After circling back to square one, she seemed to still be entangled with Xu Youran's death.

"Just because Xu Youran planned to clarify the incident with me, Zhou Lingyu went to seek her out. Even if Zhou Lingyu didn't intend to kill her in the beginning, I'm still related to this matter."

Su Ziyue lowered her eyelids, looking desolate.

Qin Muchen glanced at her while his voice was as indifferent as usual. "Everything happens for a reason."

Su Ziyue didn't reply to him, and the study sank into silence.

After a while, Su Ziyue broke the silence. "Thank you. It's getting late, so I should get going."

Thank you?

Qin Muchen's eyes were covered in dark mist while his voice became colder than before. "Su Ziyue, are you planning to live apart from me for the long term?"

Su Ziyue had never thought of living apart from him for the long term. The only thing she knew was that she refused to stay under the same roof with Qin Muchen now.

She could clearly sense Qin Muchen's indifference and coldness during this period of time. With that attitude, she just didn't know how to stay with Qin Muchen in the same house.

Perhaps his initial impression was too deeply rooted in her mind, so the current Qin Muchen always frightened her without her realizing.

Since Su Ziyue didn't say anything, Qin Muchen just took it as her silently admitting it. Knitting his eyebrows, he recalled the man that had brought her away from Lumiere Jade House yesterday and her house that was broken in by thieves. As the flame of rage couldn't be put out in his heart, his words became even more harsh.

"Thank me? You know that I don't accept words of gratitude, and I'm sure you know how you can thank me."

Upon hearing that, Su Ziyue's face turned pale at once.

She understood his underlying meaning.

Noticing that her face became pale, Qin Muchen's heart wrenched.

He regretted it too after that, but he was too angry at that moment to the point that he had lost his senses.

In his life, no matter how strong his opponents were, he had never been defeated. But facing her, he was completely defeated.

He wasn't sure if he was angry at himself or her.

He wasn't a gentle person in nature. Only he knew how many disgraceful things he had done to get to where he was today.

Therefore, when he couldn't control his emotions, he would lose control and do things that would hurt her.

He was angry and upset. He also wanted to ask why wouldn't she bear a child for him, but he was afraid that her answer wouldn't be the one he hoped to hear.

Thinking of that, he felt rather ridiculous. After all, he had never feared anything in the past.

"I..."

Upon hearing her voice, Qin Muchen was afraid that she would agree. At the same time, he was also afraid that she would reject him.

Therefore, he cut her off without showing any expression. "You can sleep in the guest room."

With that, he got up and left.

Su Ziyue hastily turned back to look at him, only to see his figure vanish after he slammed the door. It seemed like he was enraged again.

She really couldn't understand what he was thinking.

After what had happened yesterday, she no longer intended to try to talk to him.

She had lost her courage.

After all, he could just watch as she got beaten up by another man. If she swallowed her pride and proactively went to talk to him again, it would be no different than humiliating herself.

Su Ziyue spent a night in the guest room, but she had a peaceful sleep.

The next morning, she woke up and washed up. When she went downstairs, she couldn't find Qin Muchen, so she went directly to the office.

CHAPTER 198

On the way to the company, she received a call from the public security bureau.

She thought it was regarding the murder case and they needed her cooperation. However, she was wrong.

"Is this Miss Su Ziyue? I'm calling from the public security bureau."

“Hi, yes I am.”

“We’ve recovered the full amount of the cash that you lost, and the thief has been caught too…”

Su Ziyue didn’t pay attention to what the policeman said after that.

She didn’t make a report, but why did they tell her that her cash had been recovered?

On the other side, the police asked her after not hearing from her for a while, “Are you listening?”

“Yes, I’m listening. Thank you very much. However, the report was made by my neighbor at that time. Do you have his contact number? I don’t have his number but I would like to thank him.”

Su Ziyue casually made up a lie. Actually, she knew that it was none other than Qin Muchen.

Upon hearing her words, the police just gave her a perfunctory explanation, saying that he didn’t have the number either before hanging up the call.

Su Ziyue knew that this was Qin Muchen’s doing.

After all, she had been alone in the apartment last night when Qin Muchen suddenly came later on.

Because of this call from the police, Su Ziyue’s concentration was scattered when she reached Su Group.

Therefore, when Su Yige suddenly appeared and pulled her outside, she just followed her out of reflex.

“Su Ziyue, it must be you. You tipped off the reporters, didn’t you?” once Su Yige dragged her to a deserted place, she questioned her loudly.

Su Ziyue came back to her senses and looked at Su Yige’s ferocious face. She didn’t answer her question and just carefully looked at her for a few seconds. “Su Yige, you look extremely ugly now.”

Su Yige glared at her with her wide eyes. “You!”

“It must be hard for you, and you even have the mood to seek me out at this moment.” Su Ziyue would never admit that she had indeed informed the reporters. Su Yige might be recording their conversation so that she could replay it to Su Yucheng.

At that thought, she felt that she had to be cautious.

“It seems like you won’t be agreeing to the deal I offered earlier.” Suddenly, Su Yige changed her expression, and her eyes became frosty.

“Did you really think that I’d consider that deal?” Su Ziyue scoffed, her face full of sarcasm. “Why didn’t your wisdom grow with your age?”

Upon hearing that, Su Yige shouted at her angrily, “Shut up!”

Since they were young, she had been jealous of Su Ziyue’s beauty, and she was even more jealous of the fact that Gong Zeyang liked Su Ziyue.

Now, Su Yige’s engagement had been canceled, and her mother might be a murderer. Most importantly, these news had been leaked.

She was currently in a desperate situation, and she couldn’t withstand any taunts.

Therefore, she raised her hand to hit Su Ziyue.

Su Ziyue had been keeping an eye on Su Yige’s actions.

Noticing that Su Yige had raised her hand to hit her, Su Ziyue nimbly blocked her hand. “No one can have things go their way forever. And it applies to you and your father.”

She had heard that Su Yuanming had been performing poorly recently. He had negotiated many business deals, but all of them either failed or were intercepted right before the deal was clinched.

Although this kind of mentality wasn’t good, she was still thrilled.

Su Yige smiled amidst her extreme anger. “Hmph! Do you think that a person, who has always been miserable, will suddenly have a smooth life?”

After she said that, she tried to pull her hand back, but she realized that her hand was tightly grabbed by Su Ziyue. After a few attempts, her hand remained still.

With a scornful snort, a malicious smile appeared in Su Ziyue’s eyes while she kept Su Yige’s hand locked in her grip. “Since you’ve come to the company, why don’t you take a walk inside? Everyone in the company likes you. You haven’t been working much here since you returned to the country, so everyone must miss you.”

With that, Su Ziyue dragged Su Yige’s hand and headed into the Su Group building.

Once they walked through the door, they were showered with waves of weird looks.

They were mostly curious and observing gazes.

“Miss Yige, Director Su!”

When the workers saw them as they passed by, they still greeted them.

Su Ziyue looked contentedly at Su Yige as she forced out a smile while replying to all the greetings despite her changing expression. After all, she was the gentle and friendly Young Lady of the Su family.

At that moment, Su Yige almost died from frustration and exasperation.

In front of everyone else, she couldn't shake off Su Ziyue's hand that was tightly holding her hand. Neither could she push Su Ziyue away nor pull off an act.

Moreover, how these people addressed her made her uncomfortable.

In the past, she was Director Su.

But now, this position belonged to Su Ziyue, and she was just Miss Yige.

After walking around the company and receiving tons of gazes while listening to people say how close the two of them were, Su Ziyue finally let Su Yige go.

Without her engagement with Gong Zeyang and the protection of the Su family, Su Yige's predicament seemed to be comparable to hers.

"Su Ziyue, don't be too smug!" Su Yige was smiling on the outside while speaking viciously with Su Ziyue, using a low voice that only both of them could hear.

Su Ziyue listened with a bright smile. Then, she replied, "I've never felt smug. It's you who's always overbearing."

"You don't deserve to be in the Su family in the first place, let alone receive Zeyang's favor." Su Yige trembled with anger.

Hearing her mentioning Gong Zeyang again, Su Ziyue started to feel annoyed.

"How many times do I have to tell you? Gong Zeyang is nothing to me. Why do you have to hang onto it for so long?" Su Ziyue felt that she was ridiculous, and she couldn't understand what was so great about Gong Zeyang.

Perhaps both Gong Zeyang and Su Yige were annoying, so that was why Su Yige loved him deeply.

There was something wrong with Gong Zeyang's mind too. Otherwise, why would he keep thinking that Su Ziyue still had feelings for him?

"Su Ziyue, let's see who will be the last one standing!"

Su Yige shot Su Ziyue a vicious glare. She had loved Gong Zeyang for so many years, but in the end, he still couldn't forget Su Ziyue.

Yet, Su Ziyue wouldn't even spare the man she loved a thought!

That made her even angrier.

After hurling that venomous statement at her, Su Yige left.

Su Ziyue let out a long breath of relief. Then, she turned to go back to her office.

Su Yige had been busy with Zhou Lingyu's matters these few days, so she hadn't been working at the company.

After leaving Su Group and going back to her car, she punched the steering wheel with all her might, and her eyes were filled with blood-thirsty hatred. "Su Ziyue!"

She would never yield, and this wasn't the end between her and Su Ziyue.

Lately, things hadn't been going her way. She had to find a solution and prevent Su Ziyue from living such a happy life.

Suddenly, she thought of Mu Ninghui. Since his leg was crippled after getting beaten up, she hadn't heard from him since. What a coward.

After pondering for a while, a plan formed in Su Yige's head, so she took out her phone to call Mu Ninghui.

CHAPTER 199

At noon, Su Ziyue went to the police station to collect her cash.

She made use of the opportunity to glean some more information, but the police officer only offered her an ambiguous answer, which cemented her opinion that it was Qin Muchen who had helped her.

She glanced down at her purse to find the cash that she had previously lost inside.

It baffled her as to what exactly Qin Muchen was thinking.

...

At the end of the day, she had still yet to make up her mind on whether she should seek Qin Muchen out to ask him about the matter.

As she happened to have some unfinished work, she decided to work overtime for another hour.

By the time she left Su Tower, the sky was already dark, and all the street lights were already lit.

The sky always turned dark unusually early during winter.

Clutching her jacket closer to herself while she was on her way out, she looked up ahead and spotted a man who was smoking, his body leaning against the head of his car.

Under the illumination of the street lights, she could see little puffs of smoke coming out from his mouth before it dissipated in the air.

She halted, and her eyes landed on the man who had caused her to be preoccupied all day long.

Why was he here?

Qin Muchen, who seemed to have noticed that he was being stared at, turned around, and his eyes landed on Su Ziyue.

The next instant, he stubbed out the cigarette in his hand before approaching her with large strides.

While he was walking, he removed the scarf which was wrapped around his neck before placing it around hers when he reached her side.

The texture of the scarf, which came with his unique scent, felt comfy.

Su Ziyue was stunned for a moment by his actions, and her heart somewhat melted.

She moved her hand to feel the cold scarf around its edges and looked up at him with her lips pursed. At last, she decided to voice her doubt. "How come you're here?"

Because of what had happened at noon, deep down inside, she couldn't help but look forward to meeting him.

Did he make this trip over here just to pick her up?

Her speculation was not groundless, because based on his cold scarf, he had been standing there for some time already.

Qin Muchen said in a relaxed voice, "I need a female companion for a dinner I'm attending later."

His voice was monotonous. Su Ziyue couldn't see his expression clearly because he was standing against the light.

Disappointment started spreading in her heart.

“Oh, do you?” So, was he here to pick her up just because he needed a female companion?

Qin Muchen frowned slightly at her airy tone, but he did not explain to her that the dinner was actually hosted by Bai Jingshu.

He had planned to bring Su Ziyue along, knowing that Bai Jingshu would invite Gu Hanyan to the dinner.

Feeling dejected, Su Ziyue held her head low and fixed her gaze on the ground without saying anything else.

Qin Muchen, who could sense her slightly downcast mood, only said calmly, “Get in the car.”

He turned around to get into the car and pushed open the door to the front passenger seat.

...

The inside of the car was so quiet that it felt slightly dreary as it was moving along the vast highway.

Brushing her hands against the scarf which was slowly losing its coldness, Su Ziyue turned to look out of the window.

Suddenly, she lost the urge to ask Qin Muchen about why she had been asked to go and collect her cash by the police.

Qin Muchen seemed to be focused on the road ahead, but in fact, part of his attention was on her.

A deep crease formed on his forehead when he noticed that she was leaning on the window, looking glum. Was she really that reluctant to spend time with him?

“You...” can go home if you don’t feel like going.

Before he could utter the remaining part of his sentence, his car was suddenly encircled by several cars which had charged in his direction out of nowhere.

Just now, he had slowed down his car because he had to divert his attention to Su Ziyue to talk to her. When he noticed the cars which were surrounding him, the first thing he thought about was the fact that Su Ziyue was inside his car, and he had no choice but to stop because he could not fight his way out.

Qin Muchen did not make it too far from Su Tower and the area was mostly occupied by office buildings. Because it was nighttime, few pedestrians could be seen roaming around the area and few cars were on the road.

On top of that, the menacing look of these people would just further deter anyone who happened to pass by from concerning themselves with the matter.

Su Ziyue came back to her senses as the car suddenly screeched to a halt. "What's going on?"

There were three cars surrounding them. At that moment, the people in the car had already alighted, and there were more than ten people.

Ignoring Su Ziyue's question, Qin Muchen's eyes turned pensive. He then tossed his phone to her, looking utterly calm and composed. "After I get out of the car, lock the doors and stay inside."

Without giving time for Su Ziyue to respond, he pushed open the car door and got out.

After that, he swiftly closed the door and confronted the men with a frigid voice, "Who sent you guys?"

Despite asking the question, he already had several suspects in his mind.

Every single one of them was wearing full black attire, a long stick in their hands. One of them stepped forward and retorted, "Don't you know who you offended? Is it even necessary to ask?"

Right after his question was heard, some of the bunch started sniggering.

Staring at the bunch of guys with an icy look, Qin Muchen's hands, which were resting on both sides of his body, slowly clenched. Once again, he cast a glance back at the car with concern.

He could not see Su Ziyue clearly, but she could see him from the inside.

She obediently locked the car as per his instructions right after he left.

The opposing party was made up of more than ten guys, each holding heavy wooden sticks in their hands. As she knew nothing about fighting, she was sure that not only would she be beaten up as soon as she got out of the car, she would be a burden to Qin Muchen too.

Feeling slightly anxious, she was unsure how good a fighter Qin Muchen was too because she had never seen him in action before.

Although she could not hear their voices, they seemed like they were about to start fighting soon.

She kept telling herself to stay calm.

Yes, she needed to call the police during this kind of situation.

She dialed 999 on her phone but soon realized her decision was foolish before she actually called the number.

Under such circumstances, the police would not be able to reach them in time.

She took Qin Muchen's phone and dialed Bai Jingshu's number, which was the first number she came across in his phone, but he did not answer after a long wait.

Therefore, she ended the call and called Nan Chuan instead, who picked up the call very quickly. "Mr. Qin, how can I help you?"

Sounding anxious and urgent, Su Ziyue told him, "Nan Chuan, it's me. A bunch of guys surrounded Qin Muchen and I when we just made it out of Su Tower. They have more than ten men..."

Nan Chuan cut her off before she could complete her sentence by saying nonchalantly, "Do they? No problem, Miss Su. Please don't worry. I'll bring our men over there now."

"You have to act fast because they have more than ten people..." Su Ziyue emphasized.

"Miss Su, please don't worry. Mr. Qin isn't as amateur a fighter as you might think." Nan Chuan hung up on her after that.

Amateur?

She had never thought that someone who could not beat up ten guys all by himself was amateurish.

She knew that the odds were stacked against a man who was outnumbered.

Yet, she realized that Nan Chuan was right ten minutes later.

After everyone of the bunch was knocked out by Qin Muchen, Su Ziyue quickly opened the car door and urged, "Get in the car now."

Qin Muchen turned around to glance at her and instructed icily, "Stay in the car."

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Qin Muchen seized the collar of a man who was lying on the ground. "Tell me, who sent you guys here?"

Just as Su Ziyue was about to get back into the car, she suddenly noticed the glint of something silvery out of the corner of her eye.

The shine had come from somewhere on the body of the man who was grabbed by Qin Muchen.

After taking a closer look at him, her eyes widened as she realized the glint came from a knife!

She pushed the door open to get out of the car, but before she could warn Qin Muchen, that man had

already lifted the knife and was about to stab Qin Muchen.

Having no time to consider her options, Su Ziyue lunged toward Qin Muchen.

Qin Muchen had noticed her when she was getting out of the car just now. Just as he was about to turn around to check on her, he saw her diving in his direction, and he instinctively extended his arm to catch her.

In the next instant, the sound of a knife piercing through fabric and stabbing into flesh was heard.

As a man who was usually calm and composed, Qin Muchen's voice quivered when he shouted the moment he saw the knife in her back. "Su Ziyue!"

A trace of triumphant joy flickered in the eyes of the man who had stabbed Su Ziyue when he saw that he had managed to stab someone with his knife. Then, he endured the pain in his body and got to his feet.

Staring at Su Ziyue dazedly, Qin Muchen placed his hands on her back, not daring to touch the knife in her back.

She was in so much pain that she could not even utter a word, and all color drained from her face in an instant. Tightly, she clutched Qin Muchen's body as she looked up at him. "Are... you alright..." she spoke laboriously because of the intense pain.

"Stop talking... Let's head to the hospital..." Qin Muchen's hoarse voice sounded like he was muttering to himself because it was barely audible.

He maintained the same posture to keep her in his arms, his body tense, but he did not dare to relax his muscles.

A few guys who had been knocked out by Qin Muchen just now had already gotten back to their feet at the moment. Noticing that Qin Muchen was sitting immobile on the ground with Su Ziyue in his arms, they thought it was their chance to hurt him.

Just as they were about to launch another attack, several cars suddenly pulled up, and a bunch of guys came out.

As it was obvious that those guys who were advancing on them were Qin Muchen's men, they had no choice but to dismiss the idea of attacking Qin Muchen again and started dragging their injured buddies back to their cars.

They had indeed been paid to punish Qin Muchen, but their employer had not informed them of how well their target was physically trained. They came as a group of more than ten, but now, only a few of them were left standing.

When Nan Chuan alighted his car and saw the bunch of guys who were slumped on the ground, he was secretly impressed by how skilful his boss still was at fighting.

Yet, when he got closer and saw Qin Muchen sitting dazedly on the ground with Su Ziyue, whose back had been stabbed by a knife, in his arms, his expression changed drastically.

He turned around and yelled at his men, "Beat them to death and leave one, and make sure he still can speak!"

He grew up as an orphan and had befriended Qin Muchen when he was very young. Both of them were no pushovers because they had had plenty of experience getting involved in fights during their teenage years.

After giving out his instructions, Nan Chuan then dashed over to his boss and called him, "Mr. Qin?"

It was only then did Qin Muchen come back to his senses. He turned around to glance at Nan Chuan before he carefully lifted Su Ziyue and carried her back to the car.

Nan Chuan followed behind him, and he was sensible enough to take the driver's seat without being told to do so.

As he had been working for Qin Muchen for a very long time, he had built a good rapport with his boss.

After carrying Su Ziyue into the car, Qin Muchen carefully held her in his arms and gently stroked her hair.

"Qin Muchen..." she called out his name in a haze, extreme pain coursing through her body. She lay in his arms, her front facing him.

"I'm here," he responded to her with a soft voice, his hand still stroking her hair.

As soon as Su Ziyue heard him, her voice turned croaky as she moaned, "It hurts..." The pain was so unbearable that she did not even feel like opening her eyes, and her voice was feeble.

Qin Muchen's body jerked immediately after he heard her complaint, and he started exuding a dark and icy aura.

He then thundered at Nan Chuan, who was driving in the front seat, "Didn't you hear her? Drive faster!"

Shuddering, Nan Chuan quickly adjusted his posture and accelerated.

Su Ziyue, who was still hanging on to her very last bit of consciousness, knew that Qin Muchen was yelling at Nan Chuan again.

In her eyes, Nan Chuan was a very dedicated employee because he had not taken a single day off for the past three years.

She mumbled, "Don't... yell at... Nan..."

Although she was speaking in bits and pieces, Qin Muchen still understood what she was saying.

He used an extremely mellow and gentle voice when he talked to Su Ziyue, a stark contrast compared to his roar at Nan Chuan. "Okay, I'm not yelling at him. I'll do everything you say."

Feeling panic-stricken deep down inside, he grabbed her hands and pulled them to his lips to give them a peck. "Don't be scared. We'll reach the hospital soon."

"I'm not scared..." Su Ziyue said in a soft voice. Curling the corners of her lips upward with much effort, she added with a slight trace of joy in her voice, "I know that you won't let anything happen to me."

She had no idea where her confidence came from, but she just knew it for some reason.

Qin Muchen seemed to have answered her, but she could not hear him clearly. She twitched her fingers in an attempt to hold his hands. "Why are your hands shaking..."

And she lost consciousness right after saying that.

Startled, Qin Muchen denied, "I'm not shaking."

Yet, she was not responding to him.

His hands started trembling even more vigorously after that.

After a second of silence, he howled at Nan Chuan, "Drive faster!"

Feeling his chest tighten after being yelled at by Qin Muchen, Nan Chuan was forced to bring up the speed of the car again.

It was when he finally reached the hospital after exceeding the speed limit throughout the entire journey did he remember that he had actually examined Su Ziyue's wound earlier, and it was not that serious.

In the end, he was turned into a bundle of nerves for no reason at all because of his boss.

...

While Su Ziyue was in the surgery room, Nan Chuan accompanied Qin Muchen to wait outside.

Sitting on the bench, he shook his head at the sight of Qin Muchen pacing back and forth. Then, he fished out a pack of cigarettes and offered it to him. “Mr. Qin, do you want to take a puff?”

He knew that Qin Muchen was in fact a heavy smoker, but he had cut down ever since he married Su Ziyue.

Yet, he would still smoke whenever something was bothering him.

Also, Nan Chuan knew that everytime Qin Muchen felt troubled, it was related to Su Ziyue, because nothing work-related was challenging enough to make him feel that way.

Prior to this, he had always seen Qin Muchen as an invincible presence who had no weakness.

Yet, looking at how flustered his boss appeared now, Nan Chuan suddenly realized he was just a normal human too.

Qin Muchen took the packet of cigarettes from him and only managed to calm down slightly after smoking three in a row.

Just as he was about to take the fourth, he threw it away when he thought of Su Ziyue.

Wiping his face roughly with his hands to wake himself up, his handsome face still looked slightly shaken, but his voice had already returned to its usual calmness. “Do this yourself—check who hired those guys and tell me as soon as you find something.”

In response to Qin Muchen’s instruction, Nan Chuan put on a somber look and responded, “I’ll do it now.”