

Marry Me 251

CHAPTER 251

“Really?”

Su Ziyue looked at Qin Muchen calmly as she said, “But he doesn’t admit it.”

“There’s no need to worry too much about it. He’ll admit it sooner or later.”

There was an obvious determination in Qin Muchen’s dark eyes as he spoke.

Su Ziyue turned around and asked him casually, “Did he ask Gu Hanyan to stay in the villa?”

She stared at Qin Muchen intently because she wanted to know what he thought about it.

However, in the end, Qin Muchen replied, “Grandpa will return after celebrating Chinese New Year. By then, all of them will leave with him.”

As Qin Muchen spoke, he reached out to pull Su Ziyue’s hand to his lips and he kissed her gently as a gesture to comfort her. Su Ziyue drew back her hand and with a faint smile, she muttered, “Oh, I see.”

The way Qin Muchen and Qin Yuchuan got along didn’t look like they were in a close relationship. Instead, they looked like rivals competing with each other.

However, she could sense that Qin Muchen actually had deep feelings for Qin Yuchuan.

Since Qin Muchen knew that Qin Yuchuan would be dissatisfied no matter who he chose to be with, he probably had guessed Qin Yuchuan would move into the villa to stay with them.

However, he didn’t mention it to her before.

This is Qin Muchen’s villa so there’s nothing wrong if his grandfather wants to move in, but... As the female owner of the villa, I was the last person to find out. I wonder if Qin Muchen will ever think there is a need for me to know things.

Qin Yuchuan was a mixed-race child who grew up in Western countries. Then, he joined the Mogwin family after he married the most beloved daughter of the previous power holder and inherited the Mogwin family. It was obvious that even though Qin Yuchuan used his Chinese name after returning to China, he brought his lifestyle as a noble with him.

The family doctor, gardener, servants, housekeeper, bodyguards... All of them moved in together. With that, the villa that was originally occupied by only Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen suddenly became lively.

Su Ziyue stood on the second floor corridor and held the handrail with one hand as she looked down

and watched the servants come and go on the first floor.

Beef seemed to feel the liveliness too and it ran around the house while wagging its tail.

Is it really lively? Why do I feel even more lonely?

Qin Yuchuan was a particular man so he added a lot of other things to the villa.

Su Ziyue looked around and actually felt unfamiliar. She didn't really want to stay in the villa so she went downstairs and took Beef out for a walk.

Qin Muchen was handling official business in the study. However, after looking through a few pages, he couldn't stand it anymore.

At that moment, he was frustrated like never before. He knew that Su Ziyue was upset but he had to fulfil his grandfather's wishes.

Now that his grandfather was living with him, at least he would know what his grandfather was planning to do. No matter what tricks he was going to play, Qin Muchen would find out.

He found it hard to continue reading the documents so he simply decided to not look at it at all.

Then, Qin Muchen went downstairs and looked around but didn't see Su Ziyue anywhere, so he simply stopped a servant and asked, "Have you seen Mrs. Qin?"

These servants were all brought over by Qin Yuchuan. Even though Qin Yuchuan didn't give them instructions on how to address Su Ziyue, they all knew that Qin Yuchuan didn't like her.

Faced with Qin Muchen's question, the servant replied truthfully, "Miss Su went to take the dog for a walk not long ago."

When Qin Muchen heard the way she addressed Su Ziyue, he glared at her and the servant hurriedly lowered her head.

Qin Muchen coldly glanced at her and said, "I don't care what my grandfather told you but now that you're in my villa, you must listen to my orders."

"Understood."

The servant lowered her head in fear and didn't dare to look at Qin Muchen again.

Not long after Qin Muchen left, Qin Wu came over with the examination results.

She knocked on the door of the study but nobody opened the door. Just then, Gu Hanyan came over.

Gu Hanyan knew Qin Wu and was actually pretty close to her.

She walked over with a smile. "Dr. Qin?"

"Miss Gu." When Qin Wu turned around and saw that it was Gu Hanyan, there was a slight change in her expression. She seemed to be more friendly.

"Why are you looking for Qin Muchen? I heard the servants say that he went out."

Because of the news report last time, Qin Muchen basically treated her as air and completely ignored her. Which was why she wanted to show her presence in front of Qin Muchen whenever she had the chance. However, Qin Muchen had unexpectedly gone out to find Su Ziyue.

She knew that Qin Muchen would hate her even more if she chased after him so she could only temporarily hold back the urge.

"I'm here to hand Miss Su's examination results to Mr. Qin."

As Qin Wu spoke, she lowered her head to glance at the examination results in her hand.

Su Ziyue's examination results?

Gu Hanyan's eyes flickered and in a worried tone, she asked, "Is there anything wrong with her body? She doesn't look so good."

"Miss Su..." Qin Wu started speaking, but suddenly frowned and stopped talking.

Gu Hanyan felt her heart beating fast. What is Qin Wu reluctant to tell me? It can't be a terminal illness, right? If so...

"Miss Su is very healthy." It was obvious Qin Wu was hiding something.

Gu Hanyan was desperate to find out so naturally, she wouldn't let Qin Wu go so easily.

"Dr. Qin, you can be honest with me. After all, I've been a good friend to Muchen for so many years. No matter what, Miss Su's relationship with him is... special. Besides, don't you trust me?"

Gu Hanyan looked at Qin Wu with a bright smile on her face and her tone sounded worried. Qin Wu was an elderly who worked for Qin Yuchuan and Gu Hanyan often went to Qin Yuchuan's house to visit. That was how they met. In fact, she actually admired independent girls like Gu Hanyan. After giving it some thought, she felt that Gu Hanyan's words made sense.

She looked around before she whispered, "I did a HCG blood test on Miss Su. She might be pregnant."

“What?!”

Gu Hanyan was so shocked, even her tone changed a little.

However, seeing the confused look on Qin Wu’s face, she quickly calmed down.

“Are you sure she’s pregnant?” There was a strong reluctance that flashed across Gu Hanyan’s face but she was so good at hiding it, Qin Wu didn’t notice.

Qin Wu shook her head and said, “Chances of an error are really small.”

Gu Hanyan’s expression changed slightly. With a worried tone in her voice, she said, “You know grandpa’s attitude toward Miss Su. Even though Muchen and grandpa have always been competing, Muchen had never really disobeyed grandpa’s wishes. I’m sure he’ll obey him again this time.”

Qin Wu nodded in agreement. “Mr. Qin and the Earl have always been close.”

“I think it’s best that we don’t talk about this for the time being. Grandpa has just moved in. If Muchen found out, he might be confused and quarrel with grandpa again. I’ll find a chance to tell Muchen in the future.”

Gu Hanyan spoke sincerely, as if she really had Qin Muchen and Qin Yuchuan’s interest at heart. In the eyes of the others in the Qin family, Qin Muchen and Gu Hanyan had a very close relationship. Qin Wu thought about it for a while and felt that Gu Hanyan’s words made sense so she nodded in agreement.

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The servants of the Qin family were exceptionally proud and loyal and Qin Wu was not an exception. When Gu Hanyan mentioned that it was all for the sake of Qin Muchen and Qin Yuchuan, she believed everything she said and chatted a little more with her before leaving.

Gu Hanyan watched Qin Wu leave and once she was out of sight, her face turned malicious.

A woman with such a low status like Su Ziyue was not fit to carry Muchen’s baby!

Now, she needed to make sure that both Qin Muchen and Qin Yuchuan didn’t find out that Su Ziyue was pregnant.

Although she always felt that Qin Muchen must have been with Su Ziyue because he was muddle-headed, she had seen for herself how well he treated her.

As for Qin Yuchuan, he would definitely care a lot about his grandchildren because he was still half-Asian.

If Su Ziyue really gave birth to this child, her status might rise up just because of it...

As long as Gu Hanyan was still here, she would never allow such a thing to happen.

Su Ziyue walked very slowly as she held Beef's leash. When she reached the garden, she released the leash and allowed Beef to play by itself.

After running around the garden a couple of times, Beef ran up to her and pranced around her, asking for attention.

Petting its head, she told him softly, "You're so dirty from running around. I'm not picking you up."

Letting out a couple of howls, it seemed as if Beef could understand what she said and suddenly ran in another direction.

Startled, Su Ziyue was about to chase after it when she saw Qin Muchen striding over from not far off.

Beef stopped in front of him and wagged its tail. Then, it followed behind him obediently.

When it came back, it ran to the bench where she was sitting and stayed close to her, as if it was afraid she would be snatched away.

Su Ziyue couldn't help but laugh and reached out to hold it in her arms. She tapped on its nose a couple of times before lifting her head to look at Qin Muchen. "Why are you here?"

Her voice was light and calm the moment she spoke.

Qin Muchen pursed his lips and then said, "Didn't you say that you were feeling unwell? Why are you out in the cold wind now?"

"Yeah, I'm going back now," she said and put Beef to the ground so it could walk by itself.

When Beef was on the ground, it leaned against her legs rascally, as if it had no bones in its body.

Seeing that, Qin Muchen growled coldly, "Beef!"

Qin Muchen's warning sounded like a military command to Beef, and it immediately stood upright like a soldier and bolted for the villa energetically.

After a short distance, it turned back and saw that Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen didn't come after it. Tilting its head to the side, it watched them as they stood there motionless and decided to just sit down and wait for them on the spot.

Stuffing her hands into her coat pockets, Su Ziyue was about to walk away when Qin Muchen beat her by a second and pulled her into his embrace.

“Su Ziyue, tell me what you are thinking about.”

From the beginning, he felt that Su Ziyue was the one for him, so he never tried to hide her from anyone, nor did he try to stop Qin Yuchuan from investigating her.

Of course, there were some details which he had hidden intentionally and Qin Yuchuan could never find out about them.

In his opinion, everything went according to his plan and appropriately done, and nothing was wrong with it.

Just like any other elder in a family, Qin Yuchuan wanted to lay out a future for his grandchild, but ever since Qin Muchen was fourteen, he had chosen the most difficult and challenging path for himself. Over the years, he had been arguing with Qin Yuchuan about everything, and it was the same when it came to Su Ziyue.

He could take care of any trouble for Su Ziyue; it was only Qin Yuchuan whom he couldn't take care of because he was his grandfather.

Given his grandfather's personality, he chose to retreat in order to advance—everything was under his control.

However, he realized that Su Ziyue seemed to be getting more and more unhappy and she no longer argued with him.

In the morning, he could clearly feel that she could no longer control her temper anymore, but she didn't quarrel or fight with him. Instead, she went upstairs to rest.

And that made him anxious.

“I'm not thinking about anything.” Su Ziyue tried to gently break free from his embrace but realized that he was holding her so tight that she couldn't even move, so she stopped struggling.

Pursing his lips tightly together, a small glimmer of fury began to spread from his eyes but he suppressed it.

He even hoped that she would have a huge fight with him, because that way, at least he would know why she was unhappy.

“After the new year, my grandfather will return abroad. It will happen before you even realize it. You

must tell me if anything is making you unhappy,” he said softly after a long while.

His words moved her and she lifted her hands, which lay idle on her sides, but she still didn't lift them high enough to return his hug.

Women were born with natural maternal instincts as well as a magnanimous heart for men.

Indeed, she was unhappy.

It was said that a person would be complacent when they were comfortable.

And she was the complacent one who was so comfortable with the situation that she had forgotten about reality.

Gu Hanyan said that she would only give trouble to Qin Muchen.

That was true; ever since she knew him, he had cleaned up her mess more times than she could count.

And Qin Yuchuan's sudden appearance created a tiny fissure in her comfort zone.

He had relatives who were more important than her, which was why he could leave her alone in the hospital without even saying goodbye.

This was enough to prove that Qin Yuchuan was more important to him compared to her.

Even when he knew that Qin Yuchuan would come looking for her, he did not mention a single thing to her.

Didn't he know that she would be nervous and unsettled?

It was as if everything was under his control and by the time it came to her, everything was already a foregone conclusion.

Slowly, Su Ziyue pushed him aside and looked into his eyes, saying earnestly, “Don't you think that we still don't know each other well enough?”

“What else is there to know?” Qin Muchen retorted impatiently, unhappy about the empty space in his arms.

“Yeah,” she muttered. There was indeed nothing for him to know about her. After all, he already knew everything.

She tightened her coat around herself. “Let's go back,” she said and turned to walk ahead of him.

Staring at her slim back, he realized that she seemed to have lost a few pounds over the last few days and he couldn't help but hate himself for it.

He had been so busy attending to his grandfather the past few days that he didn't even pay more attention to her.

When the both of them returned to the villa one after the other, it was already dinner time.

The kitchen, which belonged solely to the both of them before, was now filled with upscale chefs.

Delicate dishes filled the dining table, but Su Ziyue had no appetite at all.

A server was pouring wine at the side and Gu Hanyan, who was seated across Su Ziyue, suddenly invited, "Ms. Su, let's have a drink together."

"She hasn't been feeling well so she can't take alcohol." Qin Muchen rejected on her behalf even before she could open her mouth.

Gu Hanyan appeared a little upset, but she recovered quickly and replied, "That's alright. I'll just have a drink by myself, then."

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The atmosphere surrounding the dinner table was inexplicably weird.

Since Qin Yuchuan was born and raised abroad, he preferred Western cuisine, and although Su Ziyue had stayed abroad during her studies, she still preferred Oriental dishes. On top of that, because she had been having a bad appetite, she was eating much less than usual.

But she was eating very slowly because there was an elder present, so she couldn't take her leave after simply taking a few bites. Thus, she ate at a very slow pace without speaking nor looking at anyone.

On the other hand, Gu Hanyan was drinking red wine with Qin Yuchuan and chatting in between.

Not long afterward, Qin Muchen, who was seated next to her, suddenly put down his cutlery and announced, "I'm done eating." Then, he turned to her and said, "Let's go."

What did he mean by "go"?

She gave him a confused look. They had barely started eating and now he was already done?

When he didn't get a reply from her, he grabbed her hand and left the table.

She had no choice but to follow behind him as they headed upstairs, thereafter she heard a loud bang behind her.

Turning back, she saw Gu Hanyan attentively saying something to Qin Yuchuan as if she was comforting him.

Gu Hanyan seemed to have sensed Su Ziyue's gaze on herself, so she turned and looked in her direction.

She gave her a look of disdain and then swiftly looked away again, which made Su Ziyue's heart sink deeper.

Qin Muchen dragged her all the way back to the bedroom. "Take a shower," he said, but did not release his grip on her hand.

Looking down at his hand which was still holding onto hers, she said, "Then let go of my hand first."

But his gaze was fixed on her and reflecting complicated emotions.

Su Ziyue was unable to fathom the look in his eyes, and after a while, she heard him say, "Let's move back to the apartment."

"Move back to the apartment?" she gasped in surprise, but her eyes were bright.

His eyes softened and his heart skipped a beat. "Yeah, if you're willing, then we'll move back."

He reached out and tucked a strand of her hair behind her ear. It was such a simple gesture, but it was enough to show how much he treasured her in his heart.

Being observant, he could read Su Ziyue like a book especially after spending so much time together.

At the dining table, he could already tell that she did not have much appetite, but she was forcing herself to sit there and eat.

His heart ached at the sight of this. As a person who couldn't bear to let her suffer in any way, how could he allow her to discommode herself for others?

Even if that person was his grandfather, it was not acceptable.

The glimmer in her eyes disappeared very quickly and she shook her head. "There's no need."

How could she move out with Qin Muchen when Qin Yuchuan had just moved in?

Wouldn't it appear as if they were going against Qin Yuchuan?

No matter what, he was still his grandfather.

It was normal for Qin Yuchuan to not like her and to keep finding faults with her, because sometimes, even she would have a sense of inferiority when facing Qin Muchen.

After surveying her for a while, he said calmly, "Then take a shower first."

"Okay." She nodded and beamed at him, knowing that he would make such a suggestion solely because he cared about how she felt.

Perhaps she was the one who was too greedy and selfish. Qin Muchen was already treating her well enough, but it seemed like she just kept asking for more.

The dull feeling in his heart faded away when he saw the smile on her face.

It had been a few days since he had last seen her smile like this.

He couldn't resist the urge to pull her into his arms and kissed her passionately before releasing her again silently.

After watching her escape into the bathroom, only then did he leave the room.

Not long after Qin Muchen entered the study, Qin Wu came.

"Mr. Qin," she greeted respectfully once she walked through the door.

Qin Muchen raised his head from a pile of documents and glanced at her. "Give me the report of the checkup."

Hearing that, she immediately passed the report, which she just re-printed, to him.

Qin Muchen took the report and went through it a couple of times, and the crease between his brows gradually unfolded.

However, they tightened again as he asked her, "Are you sure there's no mistake with this?"

Her heart skipped a beat when she recalled the conversation she had with Gu Hanyan earlier.

Although Qin Muchen rarely stayed at the Mogwin family's castle when he was abroad, he would visit Qin Yuchuan periodically.

And as she was a doctor who had always been by Qin Yuchuan's side, she was also very familiar with Qin Muchen. But she was inexplicably frightened when the mysterious and unreadable eyes of this man, who was a few decades younger than her, fell on her.

However, when she thought that the real checkup report might cause a huge conflict between Qin Muchen and Qin Yuchuan, she stood firm with her decision to hide the truth.

"Mr. Qin, I believe you asked me to do a checkup on Ms. Su because you trust my skills. Otherwise, you wouldn't have looked for me," she replied but didn't have the guts to look at him.

He returned his gaze to the report and didn't notice her reaction.

Servants from the Mogwin castle were all absolutely loyal, so he had complete trust in Qin Yuchuan's management skills. Therefore, he didn't suspect Qin Wu would do anything sneaky.

"You can leave now."

"Yes."

After she came out of the study, Qin Wu raised her hand to her chest and patted it gently twice. Mr. Qin was still able to pressure people easily, just as he had always been able to.

As she turned to go downstairs, she chanced upon Gu Hanyan who was coming up with a tray in her hands.

"Ms. Gu," she greeted.

"Did you show Muchen the report already?" she asked with a smile and came up to her. With her usual smile on, her voice was so low that only the both of them could hear it.

"Yes, Mr. Qin has just seen it." The mention of this matter always made her feel a little guilty. Even though she felt that she didn't do anything wrong, she was still unsettled.

A triumphant smile spread across Gu Hanyan's face, but she was able to mask it well. Soothingly, she said, "If Grandpa knew how considerate you are toward him and Muchen, he would be grateful."

No matter what, Su Ziyue should never give birth to this child. It would be best if this child could disappear without anyone knowing about it.

She wasn't a heartless person, but one could only blame this child's fate.

Her gut feeling told her that Su Ziyue herself probably didn't even know she was pregnant when she had tested her during dinner earlier.

Indeed, if it was just as she thought, it would make things easier.

As she thought about it, she bid goodbye to Qin Wu with a gentle smile and continued her way to Qin Muchen's study with the tray in her hands.

"Muchen, are you still busy?" she asked in a concerned voice when she saw that he was still working after she knocked and entered.

Qin Muchen raised his head and gave her a cold stare. "What do you want?"

She was already used to his indifference, but she still couldn't help gritting her teeth secretly.

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With a smile, Gu Hanyan placed down the tray in her hands and passed the glass of milk on it to him. "I brought you a glass of warm milk. You should rest early as your health is more important."

The virtuous way she was behaving in now was a big difference from how she was on-screen.

Still, Qin Muchen appeared uninterested and returned his attention to his document. Nonchalantly, he said, "You shouldn't do these things meant for the servants. Grandpa might think that I'm making things difficult for you on purpose."

Gu Hanyan was not such a fool that she didn't notice the disdain and threat in his stern tone of voice.

Back when they were abroad, even if he didn't show any interest in her, he wouldn't be this indifferent to her.

All this was because of Su Ziyue's appearance.

Her appearance had disrupted everything and made Qin Muchen's attitude toward her become worse.

But she was the one who knew Qin Muchen first!

With a smile, Gu Hanyan said, "You're right. I won't do this again."

As if he hadn't heard anything, Qin Muchen ignored her and she left the room by herself.

After showering, Su Ziyue saw that Qin Muchen was not in the room and she immediately knew that he must be in the study.

Not caring about it, she dried her hair slowly.

Suddenly, she remembered that Gu Hanyan was also living in this house and her heart tightened. Putting on some clothes, she wrapped herself up tightly and went to the study.

When she was a couple of steps away from the study, she ran into Gu Hanyan who was just coming out with a faint smile on her face. She appeared to be very happy.

Her hands which were hidden underneath her sleeves clenched into fists unconsciously.

Gu Hanyan turned and saw her, and the smile on her face deepened with a slight touch of embarrassment.

After closing the door behind her, Gu Hanyan glanced at her and asked, "What are you doing here?"

Just listen to this...

How was it any of Gu Hanyan's business that she came to the study to look for her husband?

Questioning her in such a matter-of-fact tone was simply annoying.

"Do I have to report to you about anything I do in my own house?" Su Ziyue asked instead, emphasizing on the last three words.

The smile on Gu Hanyan's fell a little and she crossed her arms as she surveyed her. "You're right. After all, Muchen's home is abroad."

As she spoke, she gradually leaned closer to Su Ziyue and her voice turned colder with every word. "You must have heard that the Mogwin family has always lived in a castle. A person like you will never have the chance to live in a place like that. So I can understand why you think that this villa is your home. After all, it's impossible that Muchen will bring you back to the Mogwin family!"

Her eyes turned incredibly sharp and was filled with hatred in an instant.

Su Ziyue's clenched fists hidden underneath her clothes tightened further and her face turned pale.

But she couldn't retreat or show any signs of weakness or worry in front of Gu Hanyan.

"Really? So a person like me will never have the chance to live in a place like that. Then what about you? Could a person like you live there?" Su Ziyue lifted her chin and said with a smile that didn't reach her eyes.

She recalled the last time when she had gone to see Qin Yuchuan, and he had mentioned that he had found a noble lady for Qin Muchen.

It seemed like the nobilities cared a lot about family status. If that was the case, then Qin Yuchuan would also look down on Gu Hanyan, despite how fond he was of her.

Gu Hanyan's face fell at her words but she quickly smiled gleefully again. "One is a stranger and another is a life savior. Do you think you're even qualified to be compared to me? Grandpa is not a fool, mind you."

Life savior?

Sue Ziyue's pupils shrank as she came to a realization.

So that was why Qin Yuchuan was so fond of Gu Hanyan.

Gu Hanyan had probably saved Qin Yuchuan more than a decade ago, and that was when she got to know Qin Muchen and Bai Jingshu.

If so, no matter how anyone looked at it, Gu Hanyan seemed to be much closer to Qin Yuchuan and Qin Muchen. Even if she didn't have a strong family background, just the title of a life savior was enough for her to trample over Su Ziyue.

Ever since Gu Hanyan entered showbiz in her early teens, everything had been going well for her, even up till now. She must have been getting Qin Yuchuan's help all along.

Compared to Gu Hanyan, she was really nothing.

"I've told you before that you should know your place, but you refused to listen. I can never understand a person like you who so desperately wants to put yourself into embarrassing situations," Gu Hanyan said in a superior way and sashayed away.

Su Ziyue stood rooted to the ground for a long time before regaining her senses. She lowered her head and stared at her toes with a desolate face.

The temperature in the villa was comfortable, but at this moment now, she felt unusually cold. Reaching the study, she raised her hand and dropped it gently before returning to the bedroom.

It was only after she went back to her bedroom and closed the door behind her did Gu Hanyan walk out from the side. She had pretended to walk away but was actually watching her from a corner.

Staring coldly in the direction of the bedroom, a triumphant look flashed across her face.

So what if she was getting all the attention from Qin Muchen?

Coming right down to it, she was merely a young girl in her early twenties. What could she possibly achieve?

Ultimately, she was the only one who could be Qin Muchen's wife!

By the time Qin Muchen returned to the bedroom, Su Ziyue was already laying in bed with the lights off and she did not make a sound when he opened the door.

Closing the door, Qin Muchen waited next to it for a moment while his eyes adjusted to the darkness.

He thought that she had fallen asleep so he didn't turn on the lights to avoid waking her up.

Quietly, he walked to his side of the bed and turned on the bedside lamp, then made his way to the other side to look at her.

With the blankets wrapped tightly around her, she seemed to be fast asleep and he could only see her fair forehead and messy black hair.

Seeing that, he chuckled and muttered, "You're just like a child."

Then, with very gentle movements, he brushed her hair away from her face and planted a soft kiss on her forehead before getting up and heading to the bathroom.

Once the bathroom door closed, Su Ziyue pulled down the blanket and opened her eyes.

With wide-opened eyes, she stared at the ceiling, more awake than ever.

She couldn't fall asleep.

Gu Hanyan's voice kept ringing in her ears.

Even if Qin Muchen didn't like Gu Hanyan, he had to show her some respect because she was Qin Yuchuan's life savior.

She could feel that Qin Muchen still loved her now, but what if Qin Yuchuan suddenly got to him one day?

There were many girls more outstanding than Gu Hanyan who would throw themselves at Qin Muchen without him having to lift a finger.

There was nothing special about her. She was not even comparable to Gu Hanyan, and following this train of thought, she plunged into a downward spiral of self-doubt and was unable to extricate herself.

The bathroom door opened with a click and she shut her eyes quickly.

Even she didn't know why she was pretending to be asleep. However, she knew that she couldn't tell Qin Muchen the thoughts and questions she had in her mind now.

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The moment Qin Muchen got into bed, he immediately pulled her into his arms.

Su Ziyue allowed him to do so, bent on pretending to be asleep until the end. However, she couldn't hold up her act after a while because he was starting to become restless. His wide hand had found the hem of her pajamas and slid under them as he started kissing her on her ear, before moving to other parts of her body...

She clenched her tiny fists and didn't dare to make a move, but she couldn't help letting out a moan.

"Are you awake?" Qin Muchen's voice was thick and hoarse as he turned her around, and they came face-to-face with each other in the dark. Stopping all his other movements, he put his forehead against hers and she could feel his hot breath on her face.

Her face turned hot from his breath and the heat passed through her skin and traveled all the way to her heart. Trembling, she tried to push him away while saying softly, "Stay away from me."

"No," he retorted indignantly like a child and with displeasure. Not only did she not manage to push him away, but he came even closer to her and closed the gap between them.

"I don't want to—mmph!" Her words afterward were muffled by his kiss and she found herself unable to resist his tender kisses. Seeing how she had slowly softened, Qin Muchen's nature took over and his moves began to become a little rough.

...

It was toward the end when Su Ziyue begged for mercy and he finally let her off in dismay. When everything calmed down, Qin Muchen wanted to carry her to the bathroom to freshen up but he saw that she had already fallen asleep after he switched on the light.

Judging from the exhausted look on her face, she did seem really tired. With a reluctant look, he lowered his head and kissed her again on the lips. He knew that she was not happy recently and couldn't sleep well at night. Seeing her in this state made him anxious, and it was not a good feeling at all. For a long while, he stared at her affectionately before coming to a decision and finally carried her into the bathroom.

...

The next day when Su Ziyue woke up, it was already close to noon. Was she so sleepy recently because

of the emotional roller-coaster she was going through? That's most probably the case, she thought to herself.

There was no one around her, but she could feel Qin Muchen's presence in the room. When she rolled to the side and got up, she saw a long figure standing in front of the window. With one hand in the pocket of his trousers, Qin Muchen held his phone to his ear with his other hand. "Send all the documents which need to be processed over here. Yeah, send—" He paused abruptly and looked behind. Fixing his eyes on her, he uttered some other instructions into the phone in a low voice before hanging up and striding over to her.

As she just woke up, her mind was still groggy and she was a little surprised that she could still see him in the room after waking up.

"You're awake?" He came over and sat on the bed. Reaching out to stroke her face, he was about to kiss her when she turned to the side and avoided his kiss after her sore body made her recall what happened last night.

Unwittingly, she realized that she was not in the bedroom at Cloud Bay when she saw the decorations and layout of the current room. Startled, her jaws dropped as she uttered, "Why are we—mmph." Of course, he wouldn't give up that easily after his attempt at a kiss was rejected earlier. So, he placed a hand behind her neck and another on her back, covering her lips with his the moment she turned her head. This was not a posture with any room for rejection so she could only accept it.

"Alright, now you can tell me what you want to say," he said after the kiss ended and pulled away from her without letting go of her hands.

Su Ziyue cast him a glare and scanned her surroundings, then realized that she was actually in her apartment from before. Her eyes were filled with shock, yet at the same time, she sounded delighted. "Why are we back here?"

Even though her reaction brought an unwitting grin to his face as he watched, he did not answer her question directly. "You must be hungry. Get up and eat something." He got up and left, giving her time to change and wash up.

Su Ziyue was still in a daze as she watched Qin Muchen walk into the open kitchen. How did she get here in her sleep? Did he move her here while she was asleep? The problem was, she hadn't felt a single thing!

...

When she was done washing up, Qin Muchen had already finished preparing the meal and laid them out on the dining table. She sat down at the table and stared as he returned to the kitchen to retrieve a soup spoon, giggling silently with her lips pursed. They shared many memories in this apartment. Although they had doubted each other in the beginning, to Su Ziyue, she lived happily during those days when she

still didn't know about Qin Muchen's identity.

Perhaps she felt more relieved after returning to the apartment, her mood became better and she regained her appetite. The crease between Qin Muchen's brows smoothed and his face lit up when he saw her eating well. So he did make the correct decision with this one. As he put more food into her bowl, he said, "Eat more."

It was then something else crossed her mind. "We moved out so abruptly. Will your grandfather..." Qin Yuchuan would definitely be upset, and he might even hate her more.

"Don't worry about him. He's getting older and likes to find trouble for no reason." Even though the old man was his grandfather and he was grateful that he had taken him under his wing after his mother passed away, he was surrounded by servants who were all trying their best to get in his favor. Unlike his young wife who grew up rough and didn't have many friends nor people who were kind to her. She was just a young girl, and if he hadn't barged into her life first, she wouldn't have been put in a difficult situation by his grandfather.

Even if it was at his disadvantage, he would still stand by Su Ziyue. But it was a difficult task to have the best of both worlds, so even if he stood by her, he still had to consider his grandfather's feelings. What a struggle... As a grandfather, it was normal that one would be picky about his granddaughter-in-law.

After a short moment of hesitation, Su Ziyue lowered her eyes and said in a sullen tone, "We should just move back to Cloud Bay." In an instant, she had lost all desire for the food in front of her and the room fell silent.

A few seconds later, he called her in a deep voice, "Su Ziyue."

"Yeah?" she answered, confused.

"Look into my eyes and tell me, do you really want to return?" His dark eyes were fixed on her and reflected a glimmer of cold light.

When he gazed at her like that, she couldn't find it in herself to lie so she muttered softly, "I don't want to." She didn't like that the place which used to belong solely to the both of them was now filled with so many servants and extra furniture.

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More than that, she hated to have Western cuisine all day.

Of course, she also didn't like that Gu Hanyan was staying at her home, but she couldn't tell any of these to Qin Muchen.

She felt that she had changed a lot now.

That wasn't how she used to be. Now, she would have second thoughts before telling him these things because she was worried that she would put Qin Muchen in a difficult position. She also wondered whether she was asking for too much.

Throw in Gu Hanyan and Qin Yuchuan to the mix, she felt overwhelmed and unlike herself.

"If you don't want to move back, why are you telling me otherwise?" He stared at her with a cold look as fury built up in his eyes, ready to overflow anytime.

Even when he would look at her coldly whenever he was unhappy, there was never once when it was as terrifying as now.

A shiver ran down her spine and she shifted her gaze away from his eyes.

But he was not about to let her off. They finally had the chance to speak about this, and if she didn't make herself clear now, he would not let her go.

"I was merely..." Su Ziyue stuttered, frightened by how stern he was.

"What is it?" he pressed on with narrowed eyes, emitting a dangerous look.

He then continued, "Do you think that I am that incapable to handle these situations that I have to let my woman suffer in silence in order to achieve peace?"

Although his tone was extremely stern, his words stunned her so much that she was paralyzed on the spot.

She could almost see smoke emitting from the top of his head and she somehow found him rather adorable in this state.

With her chopsticks, she pushed the rice around in her bowl and pouted, "I have never thought of it that way."

Why would she think that he was incapable?

To her, there was almost nothing he couldn't achieve.

"If you didn't have this thought, why are you not telling me directly what you really feel and saying that you want to move back instead?" His tone was aggressive and he appeared as if he wouldn't give up without getting an answer.

When he was in this state, she found it a little hard to handle. "I..."

She used to want to know Qin Muchen better, but when his relatives appeared, she came to realize just

how selfish she was as a person.

Even after knowing that he went to see Qin Yuchuan with Gu Hanyan, all she cared about was how he had left her so he could go and meet Qin Yuchuan.

Until now, this matter was still bothering her.

He had always treated Gu Hanyan coldly, but compared to that, his concern for Qin Yuchuan unsettled her even more.

A person's possessiveness was a terrifying trait, even if the other party was his relative.

Because she knew how much Qin Yuchuan mattered to Qin Muchen, she didn't want to put him in the middle and make things difficult for him. She had wanted to take this in stride.

Not knowing if she was the one who wasn't able to hide it well or simply because he was too smart, her act was exposed by him breezily.

Seeing her pitiful face that was close to tears, his heart softened but his tone remained stern as he said, "You shouldn't do this anymore or I'll teach you a lesson sooner or later!"

Huh?

Su Ziyue stared at him, flabbergasted.

What was this?

Without lifting his head, Qin Muchen continued eating and said slowly, "Stop staring or I'll teach you a lesson now."

She wasn't a child, and yet he was threatening her like one!

How childish!

Su Ziyue, who was no longer a child, obediently continued eating without staring at him after he said his piece.

Even after being threatened fiercely by Qin Muchen, Su Ziyue's mood suddenly lifted and she became happier.

However, happy days like these were not long-lived; what should come would come ultimately.

Early in the morning, Qin Muchen had to attend an important meeting at the company, so he left her alone at home.

Before leaving, he reminded her time and again to not leave the house. "Don't leave the house. If there's something urgent and you have to go out, just give me a call."

She didn't like it but still replied meekly, "Okay." She had the feeling that he was completely treating her like a child now.

Even though that was what she thought, she still stayed home as she was told.

Not long after, the doorbell rang.

Was he back already? Couldn't he open the door with his keys instead of using the doorbell?

This cunning businessman must be coming back to find out if she was staying home.

She pouted her lips and went to get the door. "Qin Muchen, you're so annoy-"

Her last word was stuck in her throat and she couldn't finish saying it when she saw the people standing outside the door.

Her gaze shifted from Qin Yuchuan to Gu Hanyan, who stood next to him, and she greeted him politely. "Old Mr. Qin."

"Hmph!" Qin Yuchuan snorted and glared at her coldly before walking straight in.

Gu Hanyan, who was beside him, shot her a look of disdain as she helped him into the house in a well-behaved and meek manner.

The bodyguards stood outside the door and waited until the both of them had entered before pulling the door close from the outside.

The addition of two more people made the small apartment look even more shabby than it already was.

The clothes on both of them were more expensive than the price of this apartment, and they looked out of place by just standing there.

The moment he stepped in, Qin Yuchuan frowned deeply to express his despise for the apartment. Gu Hanyan had the exact same expression as him.

Su Ziyue quietly went to prepare two glasses of water.

"Old Mr. Qin, please drink some water," she said as she placed a glass of water in front of each of them.

With an unreadable smile, Gu Hanyan picked up the glass and took a small sip. She was still smiling even when she was done.

The look on her face made Su Ziyue's heart tighten.

Qin Yuchuan lifted the glass in front of him but he didn't drink it. Instead, he moved it to the side and slammed it down on the coffee table with a loud bang, breaking the glass into pieces instantly.

What followed after was his furious howl. "You still have the cheek to greet me?"

Although Su Ziyue had been mentally prepared, she wasn't expecting him to smash the glass, and as she stared at the broken glass, her fists clenched unwittingly.

This was the reason she never addressed Qin Yuchuan as "Grandpa". She would be humiliating herself by calling an elder "Grandpa" when he never looked forward to having her as his granddaughter-in-law anyway.

Not only would it irk him, she wouldn't be happy to do it willingly, either.

"If you're looking for Qin Muchen, he's having a meeting at the office now." Lifting her gaze slightly to look at him, she ignored his question completely.

It would be better to pretend that she didn't hear it.

Qin Yuchuan's breathing was heavy from suppressing his fury. "I came here today to look for you."

"And may I ask what are you here for?" Calm and composed, she already knew he was here to look for her, but she had to ask him in order to lead him straight to the topic.

Sneering, he threw something onto the coffee table and her face changed when she took a glance at what it was.

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"At first, I thought your only weakness is being a girl who comes from a humble background, but I'm surprised to know that you're also a girl with an ugly past." Qin Yuchuan glowered at Su Ziyue with his face so icy as though it was covered with a layer of frost.

Su Ziyue took over the stack of papers which he had thrown onto the coffee table and flipped through it page by page.

As she looked, her hands tightly clenched around the papers without her realizing and her knuckles turned white.

The documents from Qin Yuchuan contained things related to her.

It laid out how she had been falsely alleged by Su Yige that she had gone through an abortion during their high school days, how she had been involved in Xu Youran's murder case and how she had once flung a mineral water bottle at a reporter during a press conference...

In fact, she was the innocent one as well as the victim in those incidents.

Also, she had been proved to be guiltless in the end for each and every case.

But now, Qin Yuchuan had dug up those incidents from her past to use it as a tool to throw mud at her.

Squinting his penetrating eyes, Qin Yuchuan's razor-like vision was focused on her as he challenged, "You have nothing left to say, haven't you?"

Su Ziyue put down the paper which had been crumpled up by her tightly clenched fists while she listened to Qin Yuchuan in silence.

It was only after he finished what he wanted to say did she look up at him with clear eyes. "Old Mr. Qin, is this the purpose of your visit today?"

"Miss Su, as Muchen's grandfather, I'm responsible to shape his future, and I have the greater obligation to bring him back if he has strayed from the right path. I hope you can understand what I'm doing," Qin Yuchuan said matter-of-factly and in the same tone he had spoken to her when they met for the first time.

But unlike the first time they talked, Su Ziyue was unable to understand him and accept what he had done.

"Old Mr. Qin, I'm very sorry but I'm afraid I can't understand your difficulty this time."

Iceiness flashed in her eyes. Throughout the past few days, she had avoided having interactions with him the best she could and she had tried hard to contain her temper.

But now, she could no longer tolerate him and suffer in silence.

"You're just a naive little girl who comes from a humble background. You're lucky that I'm the one you're dealing with, otherwise..." With his expression turning slightly sinister, Qin Yuchuan let out an icy snort instead of completing his sentence.

A hardly noticeable smile emerged on Su Ziyue's face.

"That's exactly what I'd like to say too. Luckily, I'm the one who's being treated so rudely by you because if others were in my shoes, they wouldn't be able to carry on the conversation with you with the same

patience and calmness.”

Qin Yuchuan’s expression changed drastically as soon as she finished speaking because he had never expected that she would speak in such a presumptuous tone.

Not bothered by his expression, Su Ziyue carried on, “Old Mr. Qin, since you had the means to uncover those things about me, I believe you know better than anyone else that I was actually the victim in all those incidents. But now, you’re confronting me with them and labelling them as the proof of my ugly past...”

“By doing so, what makes you any different to those who framed me? I really can’t figure out why you chose to be oblivious to the truth although you clearly know it. What’s more, can you be 100% sure that incidents of such a nature have never happened to someone in your noble and prestigious family?”

The use of unscrupulous means and dirty tricks in order to gain power and wealth was ubiquitous in such a family.

Everyone had an implicit understanding of the ugly truth but they just chose not to say it aloud.

Nine out of ten girls she had befriended during those years she studied abroad had mentioned the Mogwin Family—a true noble family, to her before.

As the only successor of the family who carried a different surname throughout history, Earl of Angus was indeed an admirable character.

“You...” Pointing at Su Ziyue with his face livid with rage, Qin Yuchuan was having difficulty to utter a complete sentence.

Looking unruffled, Su Ziyue poured him another glass of water.

“How dare you speak to me like that?! I’m Qin Muchen’s grandfather and his only family member! As long as I say no, he will never be in a relationship with you!” he roared almost hysterically.

He believed this must be the most embarrassing moment in his entire life.

His mother was an Asian while his father was a member of parliament in a western country. First, he had an uxori-local marriage with a girl from the Mogwin Family, then became the successor to the family and at last, was conferred an earlship by the Queen. From then on, he had been leading an extremely glorious life.

Never had he thought, not even in his dreams, that he would be left stumped and speechless because of what was said by a little girl who was at least forty to fifty years his junior.

It was because he knew what she said was true.

What he did, which made him a crook too, was very ungentlemanly and shameful.

Yet, he was duty-bound to bring Qin Muchen back to the Mogwin Family so that he could become its successor.

And the person who was in charge of running the Mogwin family must have a wife who also came from a respectable background and enjoyed a good reputation.

Once a man became selfish, all his inherent weaknesses would then be completely exposed.

Even Qin Yuchuan, who had been a gentleman for most of his life, was no exception.

"I felt an even more pressing need to make myself clear to you exactly because you're Qin Muchen's grandfather." Although Su Ziyue appeared composed outwardly, her heart couldn't help but sink.

Qin Yuchuan was Qin Muchen's only family member.

As long as he said no, Qin Muchen would not have a relationship with her.

"Hmph! You're indeed an ignorant girl!"

Obviously, Qin Yuchuan was still in a fit of rage, judging from his chest which was heaving up and down.

Su Ziyue did not dare to make any further comments in consideration of his health.

Although she was furious over what he had done, he was an old man after all, and he was Qin Muchen's grandfather.

Gu Hanyan immediately stepped forward to pat Qin Yuchuan's back to make his breathing stabler. She then whispered something in his ears while shooting several glances at Su Ziyue with a complicated expression before leaving Su Ziyue's unit with him.

It was only after they had gone did Su Ziyue slump down on the sofa as though all her energy had been sapped.

She started massaging her lower belly gently in an attempt to soothe the dull pain which was slowly attacking the area. Thinking that the pain was the result of her irregular menstruation, she was not too bothered by it and did not think it was a big deal.

Exhausted after having the confrontation with Qin Yuchuan, she dozed off shortly after lying down on the sofa...

...

When Gu Hanyan and Qin Yuchuan walked out of the unit, Li Jingqi, who stayed at the opposite unit, happened to come home.

Her eyes widened in shock at once at the sight of them. She could tell they were rich at one glance and she wondered why they were here at a condominium which was resided by the commoners.

Wait a minute, isn't that Gu Hanyan?

"Hi! Are you Gu Hanyan?" She was a huge celebrity!

Gu Hanyan looked up at her with astonishment on her face when she heard her. Flashing a subtle grin at Li Jingqi, she said to her, "What a surprise to bump into someone who recognizes me here."

"May I have your autograph, please? Could you sign here?" Immediately, Li Jingqi fished out a notepad which she usually used for bookkeeping and requested Gu Hanyan to leave her signature there.

Gu Hanyan shook her head and turned her down. "I'm sorry, I have to send my grandfather back home because he's feeling unwell. Why don't you give me your name card? I'll ask my assistant to give you a call once I have it ready."

"That's great!" Li Jingqi took out her name card hurriedly with her eyes filled with joy.

Goddess Yan was indeed different—she was very gentle and thoughtful.

Suddenly, Li Jingqi remembered that they had walked out of the opposite unit just now. Were they related to Su Ziyue in any way?

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Seeing that Gu Hanyan was anxious to leave, even though Li Jingqi was curious, she thought better of asking her more questions and instead watched them leave with all smiles.

While Gu Hanyan was holding Qin Yuchuan while he walked, she made a dubious comment, "Grandpa, don't take what Miss Su said too seriously. If you get too angry over it and your health is affected, Qin Muchen will be very worried..."

Even though what she said wasn't anything special, it carried a lot of information.

There is no doubt she was alluding to Su Ziyue when she mentioned Miss Su.

As the Second Young Lady of the Su Family, how did Su Ziyue get acquainted with Gu Hanyan?

On top of that, Gu Hanyan did not sound like she was close to Su Ziyue judging from her tone, and she even advised Qin Yuchuan not to take what Su Ziyue said seriously.

Watching the two of them step into the elevator, Li Jingqi's curiosity was piqued.

The feud she had with Su Ziyue in the past made her even more curious about Su Ziyue's stuff.

...

Su Ziyue was awakened by a hunger pang in her stomach.

She checked the time and found to her surprise that it was already two in the afternoon.

Sluggishly, she went to the kitchen to make something to eat, then watched television on the sofa to kill time.

In fact, her mind was chaotic.

By deciding to move out, Qin Muchen and her had made their intention to set themselves against Qin Yuchuan clear.

However, Qin Yuchuan was still their senior...

She should believe in Qin Muchen just like what he had told her.

Her phone started ringing as soon as she thought of him.

She took her phone over to find that he was calling her.

"Hello?" She picked up the call without hesitation.

"I'll have some food delivered to you later for dinner," said Qin Muchen.

When Su Ziyue heard him, she slowly sat up and tightened her hold around her phone. "What about you?"

"I have something to take care of," he answered succinctly.

Su Ziyue did not reply to him right away but he did not hang up on her immediately either.

After a moment, he added, "Enjoy the food. I'll be back later at night."

"Okay," Su Ziyue responded to him in a faint voice before ending the call.

...

Indeed, someone delivered food to her doorstep at night.

Su Ziyue took the food and placed them on the dining table. At one glance, she could tell they were from Lumiere Jade House.

After only taking a bite, the familiar nauseous feeling in her stomach seized her again.

She put down the chopsticks immediately and made a dash to the washroom, where she crouched down next to the toilet and started dry heaving.

Blaargh!

Yet, she did not vomit after aiming her mouth at the toilet bowl for a long while.

She looked like a mess with her face stained with tears and goo.

After washing her face, she walked out of the toilet but found she had lost all her appetite at the sight of the remaining food on the dining table.

She took some food from each plate and gathered them together before throwing them into the toilet bowl.

After flushing them away, she cleaned up the remaining oil stain around the toilet bowl before leaving.

This way, Qin Muchen would never be able to tell that she had actually skipped dinner no matter how brilliant he was.

...

Qin Muchen did not come home too late.

It was eight at night. After taking a shower, Su Ziyue leaned against the headboard where she leafed through a book in boredom.

Qin Muchen saw her as soon as he stepped into the room.

Under the ambient lighting, Su Ziyue was sitting up in bed. Her hair was still wet and her bare face looked gentle and soft, which was a rare sight.

Qin Muchen smoothened out the crease on his forehead which had been there along his way back before striding off in the direction of the bed.

“Have you eaten?”

Su Ziyue stopped flipping the book to look up at him. "Yes," she replied to him in a calm voice.

He bent down and gave her a peck on the forehead before heading to the dining hall.

Su Ziyue looked up in his direction to find him turning on the microwave to reheat the food.

He hasn't had dinner yet?

"Where did you go just now? Why didn't you have anything outside before coming back?" Su Ziyue draped a jacket over her shoulder and walked out of the bedroom to find him already sitting at the dining table.

His face froze in a hardly noticeable way for a moment before he answered her in a frigid tone, "I went back to Cloud Bay to visit Grandpa because he's feeling unwell."

Su Ziyue's hands, which were adjusting the jacket, froze for a second.

Had Qin Yuchuan become unwell after visiting her because he had been too offended by what she said earlier?

"Since he's feeling unwell, you should spend the night there."

Qin Muchen frowned at her as soon as he heard her.

An oversized jacket which was draped over her shoulder enveloped her slender body, and her long hair was a bit messy.

While she was keeping her eyes low, he saw a shadow beneath her eyes which was cast by her curly and fan-like eyelashes. Her face looked as fair as snow, her lips were rosy and her chin was pointed.

Even her bare face could easily make his heart flutter.

But... Why did she seem like she had lost some weight again?

Ignoring her question directly, he asked, "Do you want to have some more?"

Why was she so skinny despite having been sleeping and eating well recently?

"I'm going to sleep soon. I'm not eating to avoid adding more burden to my digestive system." Su Ziyue first flashed him a smile before returning to the bedroom and climbing into bed.

Qin Muchen, who looked slightly somber, suddenly lost his appetite.

...

Several days passed by.

Su Ziyue's appetite worsened and she often felt nauseous after having only one or two bites of food. Fortunately, Qin Muchen was rather occupied with work over the past few days to notice it.

Tons of work were waiting for Qin Muchen at the office, probably because the Chinese New Year holiday was around the corner. Therefore, he started getting back home later and later each day.

At the same time, Su Ziyue tended to wake up late in the morning. More often than not, she would wake up to find herself alone in the bedroom together with the breakfast prepared by Qin Muchen.

Although they were living together, they did not get to see each other much.

Staring at the breakfast on the dining table which was prepared by Qin Muchen with great effort, she only took a few bites before throwing them away.

Because she had been doing the same thing to every meal, Qin Muchen did not discover that she had not been having her meals properly.

At that juncture, her phone started ringing.

An Xia's energetic voice came from the other end as soon as she took the call. "Ziyue, let's go shopping. I'm going back to my hometown to celebrate Chinese New Year tomorrow."

"Are you on leave now?" Astonishment flashed across Su Ziyue's face when she heard An Xia.

In response to her question, An Xia replied with resignation, "Mrs. Qin, it's Chinese New Year's Eve two days later. Don't you know that?"

Su Ziyue was left speechless because she indeed did not notice it.

An Xia expected so, judging from her silence.

"Let's talk later. Meet me at the shopping street for the last shopping trip of the year, and you're not allowed to be late!"

She ended the call in a haste before her voice had even trailed off.

Su Ziyue, who chuckled at her excitement, left her place after freshening up.

...

By the time she reached the shopping street, An Xia was already waiting for her there.

Wearing a white down jacket with a fluffy hat on her head, she looked lively and refreshing.

Su Ziyue started giggling when her vision landed on her hat. "Wow, I can see you've been spending rather lavishly. Doesn't that cost more than a month's salary of yours?"

Cough...

Restlessly, An Xia coughed drily twice and came clean under Su Ziyue's teasing stare. "I didn't buy it with my own money. It was a gift Bai Jingshu. He initially bought it for another woman and he only decided to give it to me because that woman cheated on him!"

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After finishing her explanation, An Xia blinked her eyes at Su Ziyue, looking innocent. Su Ziyue glanced at her and retorted with a smile, "Do you think I'll believe that?"

"Why not? I wasn't surprised at all to hear that he got dumped for being such a philanderer!" An Xia snorted icily, disdain flickering on her face while she added, "Getting dumped is just a very mild punishment for him! For a jerk like him who's the common enemy of all women, his member might be cut off by a woman while he's sleeping one day!"

An Xia's sinister look gave Su Ziyue the creeps. Quickly, she hauled An Xia away to a corner of the street and stopped her from speaking further "How very bold of you to say that!"

An Xia shook her head and emphasized, "I'm serious and I meant what I said. From today onward, I'll pray for it to happen everyday at home..."

Su Ziyue facepalmed. How deep was An Xia's resentment toward Bai Jingshu to make her think that way? "Regardless, he's still your boss."

"Tsk, he's a philanderer and a big flirt!"

Looking amused, Su Ziyue asked, "What exactly did he do to you?"

"What're you talking about? Let's go shopping. I've plenty of things to buy." An Xia glared at her before dragging her inside the shopping mall.

...

An Xia's positive energy was infectious. Spending time with her got rid of all the depressed thoughts which had bottled up inside Su Ziyue over the past few days. Yet, she started feeling unwell as the mall became more and more crowded. With the heater on, the air circulation inside worsened.

Just as Su Ziyue was about to take a shirt for An Xia to try on, her stomach started feeling unwell again.

“I’m going to the washroom,” she hastily said to An Xia and made a dash toward the washroom after putting down the shirt.

Noticing her pale face, An Xia had no mood to shop for clothes anymore. After leaving aside the several garments she had chosen to try on, she then followed her to the washroom. Su Ziyue ran to the washroom and bent over the washbasin to vomit, but in the end, she did not manage to puke out anything. “Ziyue, how’re you feeling?”

An Xia too reached the washroom shortly later. Seeing how miserable Su Ziyue looked, she immediately offered her a bottle of water as well as some tissues.

“Thanks,” Su Ziyue said feebly after rinsing and wiping her mouth dry.

With a frown, An Xia eyed her with worry and asked, “What happened to you? I noticed that you’ve lost weight since the last time I saw you. Are you sick?”

“I started having gastric problems for some time before this.” Su Ziyue curled the corners of her lips upward into a weak smile.

“Didn’t you take medication?” An Xia asked.

Heaving a lengthy sigh, Su Ziyue leaned her body against the wash basin. “I didn’t eat any because I’m having my period.”

“Why didn’t you tell me earlier? If I had known that you were unwell, I wouldn’t have asked you out,” An Xia whined.

Su Ziyue patted her shoulder and said smilingly, “It’s not a big deal. I’m not that fragile. Let’s carry on.”

“Carry on? It’s time to have lunch now!” An Xia roared ferociously before snatching Su Ziyue’s handbag to help her carry it.

Maintaining a smile on her face without making any further comment, Su Ziyue understood that An Xia was worried about her.

...

They went to one of the restaurants to have lunch. When the dishes were served, Su Ziyue started feeling nauseous again after taking two bites, just like how she had been suffering before this. Because of that, she decided not to eat altogether.

An Xia stared at her contemplatively before asking, “Are you sure you’re only having gastric problems?” Why was her intuition telling her that Su Ziyue was pregnant? Was it because she had watched too many soap operas?

“Yes,” Su Ziyue reassured her in a frail voice while she leaned back against the sofa, her face pale due to the discomfort.

An Xia put down the chopsticks in her hands and looked at her with a solemn face. “Are you having regular periods?”

“Yes, they’re regular, but the strange thing is, I’m having very light flow.” In fact, it was less than a little because there were only tiny blots each time.

When An Xia heard her, her face looked doubtful. “Are you sure that’s from menstruation? I’ve a feeling that you’re... pregnant...”

“You sound like you’re very experienced in this.” Su Ziyue couldn’t help but chuckle.

“This is how pregnant women are always portrayed in dramas. They tend to vomit and suffer various discomforts. Are you really having light menstrual flow? From what I’ve heard, a pregnant lady might experience symptoms of miscarriage due to abnormal fetal position during the early phase of a pregnancy. Also, when you did it with Mr. Qin, did he wear... a condom?” An Xia prattled on for the most part, but she hesitated for a bit toward the end. Her eyes then looked past Su Ziyue to somewhere behind her.

Su Ziyue turned around to see what An Xia was looking at to find that she was gazing outside the french windows. Several familiar figures came into sight. It was Qin Muchen, Qin Yuchuan as well as Gu Hanyan.

“Why are they together?” An Xia pointed at them before looking back at Su Ziyue.

“That man is Qin Muchen’s grandfather and Gu Hanyan is his grandfather’s benefactor who saved his life before,” Su Ziyue introduced them to An Xia calmly with a nonchalant tone, which did not reveal much emotion.

“Damn! She saved his life before?” An Xia widened her eyes in shock as she filled the gaps of the story with her own imagination inside her head. Seeing how unperturbed Su Ziyue appeared, she asked with surprise, “Don’t you feel threatened at all?”

“Nope, there’s nothing to worry about because Qin Muchen doesn’t fancy her at all.” Worrying isn’t going to do me any good. She could only think of it that way.

“I can tell that Mr. Qin’s grandfather likes Gu Hanyan a lot. He won’t force Mr. Qin to date Gu Hanyan, will he?” An Xia felt as though she had just discovered something huge.

“I don’t think so.” After all, Qin Yuchuan’s ideal granddaughter-in-law was a girl from a distinguished family. Even Gu Hanyan was not up to par for him.

With a slight frown, An Xia probed further, "Is Mr. Qin close to his grandfather?"

"Not too bad."

An Xia nodded. If it was not too bad, they must have a very good relationship then.

"You should beware of Gu Hanyan. After all, love rivals who have regular interactions with the guy are the most dangerous kind. Also, you have to account for his grandfather's opinion which might be difficult to deal with... I think I should just marry a man without any family members in the future..." While An Xia was at it, she started going off-topic.

Su Ziyue's face turned slightly more somber as she stayed quiet. Of course she knew everything An Xia just pointed out. Yet, there was nothing much she could do other than wait for Qin Muchen to deal with his family and keep a firm stance every time Qin Yuchuan visited her.

...

Su Ziyue and An Xia only left the restaurant after nearly two hours. They happened to bump into Qin Muchen and the other two right after they stepped outside. She saw a trace of astonishment flicker in Qin Muchen's eyes. After taking only a glance at him, she quickly looked away.

"Old Mr. Qin," she greeted Qin Yuchuan first.

"Hmm," Qin Yuchuan responded to her with an aloof tone while he glanced at her. Then, he fixed his gaze on An Xia for a split second and asked, "Are you shopping with your friend?" It was obvious that he was desperate to find something to say.

Su Ziyue still vividly remembered what had taken place during his visit to her condominium unit that day. Despite being slightly astonished by the difference in Qin Yuchuan's attitude, Su Ziyue answered him without a change in her facial expression, "Yes."

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Qin Yuchuan nodded slightly at her before turning to look at Qin Muchen. "You make the decision on your own. I've got to go."

"Understood." There was nothing unusual about Qin Muchen's expression when he said that.

Then, Qin Yuchuan and Gu Hanyan left.

They left?

"Mr. Qin, it's nice to see you!" An Xia's voice pulled Su Ziyue's mind back to reality.

She turned around to look at An Xia and tried hard to hold back her smile at the sight of An Xia keeping her head low, looking as obedient and respectful as a primary student who had just bumped into her teacher.

Was Qin Muchen so scary that she actually had to behave so obediently and submissively in his presence?

“We’re going home. Do you need a lift?” The tone Qin Muchen used when he spoke to An Xia was much friendlier compared to when he talked to other people.

Yet, An Xia understood that his offer was not genuine because he was actually just trying to get rid of her.

“Uhm, I don’t need a ride because I still have something else to do. Since Ziyue isn’t feeling well, you should bring her home first.” With that, An Xia fled the scene.

Watching An Xia’s back as she left, Su Ziyue secretly glared at her with resentment.

“Let’s go.” Qin Muchen did not notice how fast An Xia had left because his full attention was on Su Ziyue.

After being shoved inside the car, Su Ziyue finally found the chance to ask him questions.

“Why did your grandfather suddenly treat me...” friendlier?

“Perhaps he has decided not to be so stubborn anymore.” Qin Muchen cast a glance at Su Ziyue, looking like he had something to say.

With her attractive eyes wide open, the confused look on Su Ziyue’s face made her look adorable. Qin Muchen used his free hand to pinch her cheek while he was starting the car engine and said to her, “You don’t have to overinterpret his reaction. We’ll move back to the mansion two days later.”

“Okay.” Su Ziyue thought the news was supposed to bring her joy, but for some reason, it did not cheer her up at all.

His voice came again, “Gu Hanyan will move out.”

“Seriously?” Su Ziyue stared at him with her eyes lit up with hope; even her tone sounded excited.

Qin Muchen laughed in a mysterious way. Su Ziyue looked away restlessly and stayed quiet with her lips pursed.

“Why are you laughing?” Su Ziyue turned around and glared at him.

As the smile on his face faded, he put on a serious look and answered her, "Because I'm happy."

Su Ziyue was speechless.

...

Qin Muchen stayed at home for the rest of the afternoon.

After making several calls, he switched off his phone and snuggled on the sofa together with Su Ziyue and watched television.

While she was channel surfing with the remote control, a commercial for baby formula happened to be playing.

The sight of the cute little baby with soft and tender skin on the television made her think of what An Xia had told her earlier.

Could she be pregnant?

They had indeed done it several times before without taking birth control measures...

The thought of the possibility sent chills down her spine.

If she was really pregnant, would her recent irregular meals and rest affect the baby adversely?

But, Qin Muchen had asked the family doctor to do a body check-up on her before this. If she was pregnant, why didn't the doctor realize it?

"Have you developed an interest in TV commercials recently?"

Qin Muchen's deep and icy voice pulled her mind back to reality. It was only then did she notice that the commercial featuring the little baby was over and another one was playing now.

She forgot to change the channel as she was lost in thought.

"Frankly, commercials are quite interesting too. Nowadays, commercials are produced like movies, and the scenes are beautifully shot..."

She was getting better and better at talking nonsense.

Qin Muchen looked at her. "Oh, are they?"

"I'm actually curious about one thing..." Thinking on her feet, she came up with a harmless question,

“Don’t you need to go to the office today?”

“Don’t you enjoy my company?” Qin Muchen, who seemed to think they were not sitting close enough to each other, pulled her into his arms.

He rested one of his huge palms on her waist and used his other hand to caress her face. “Miss An said you weren’t feeling well just now. Tell me where you’re feeling discomfort.”

“I’m okay...”

He cut her off with an icy voice, “I’ll bring you straight to the hospital if you don’t come clean.”

Su Ziyue made it sound trivial, “I just don’t have much appetite lately.”

“Why didn’t you tell me?” Qin Muchen’s voice obviously turned colder, making the atmosphere suffocating.

The change in his tone showed that he was currently in a foul mood.

Indeed, he was a man with mood swings. Not too long ago, he had just told her that he was happy in the car, but he was suddenly in a bad mood now.

His mood swings were even wilder than women.

“People with gastric problems all suffer the same thing...” Su Ziyue did not sound too sure either.

She started wondering whether she was really having gastric problems too, and she had probably been influenced by An Xia’s opinion just now.

In the next instant, Qin Muchen, who had his arms wrapped around her, suddenly rose to his feet. “Let’s go.”

“Where to?” Su Ziyue, who was forced to stand up too, asked him in confusion.

“To the hospital.”

“I don’t want to. It’s not serious enough to go to the hospital.”

Qin Muchen glared at her with an icy expression, obviously leaving her no room for negotiation.

“You finally have time to keep me company after being busy for the past few days. I don’t want to waste that time at the hospital...” Su Ziyue tugged at the sleeves of his shirt, her eyes filled with imploration.

Unable to resist her, Qin Muchen bent down and gave her a passionate kiss. Panting, he said, “You have

to go to the hospital if you don't have any appetite again later at night."

"Okay." Su Ziyue beamed at him.

Seeing the dazzling smile on her face, Qin Muchen's throat tightened. With an impassive face, he loosened his necktie and said coolly, "Let's continue watching TV."

...

Dinner was prepared by Qin Muchen. One could easily tell that he had put in a lot of effort judging from the fact that it had taken him nearly three hours to spruce up a few simple dishes.

Surprisingly, Su Ziyue had a good appetite, and she ate a good portion this time, perhaps because she was in a good mood or because the food prepared by Qin Muchen had some special magic.

Because of that, he did not mention bringing her to the hospital again.

He woke up very early the next morning.

By the time Su Ziyue woke up, he had already prepared breakfast.

"I can't have breakfast with you as I've got to go and attend to something." While he was talking, he served the food on the dining table at the same time.

He only left after repeatedly urging her to finish all the food.

Despite having a very full plate recently, Qin Muchen would always prepare food for her whenever he was free to do so. Therefore, she really wanted to enjoy the food because he always put in a lot of effort in the preparation.

But...

Barf...

As expected, she felt queasy before she even took a bite.

Instead of carrying on eating, she took out her phone and searched for pregnancy symptoms on the internet. The more she read about it, the more she thought she was pregnant.

Then, she immediately went out after getting changed, knowing there was a pharmacy nearby the condominium.

She had been reluctant to go to the hospital when Qin Muchen suggested bringing her there yesterday because she had never thought that she was really pregnant, assuming that she was merely suffering

from gastric issues which usually took a long time to recover.

Another reason was because the idea of going to the hospital was rather revolting to her after she had been left there alone by Qin Muchen last time.