

Marry Me 291

CHAPTER 291

Nan Chuan pursed his lips before walking over with a look of helplessness on his face.

“It’s me, boss.”

Qin Muchen slowly shifted his sight over.

After two seconds, his vision finally refocused. After seeing that it was indeed Nan Chuan standing in front of him, he withdrew his gaze.

Qin Muchen lowered his head before reaching over to grab a box of cigarettes from the table in front of him. “What’s the matter?” asked Qin Muchen.

He opened up the cigarette box to find it empty. Similarly, the other box was empty as well.

He did not get mad at all. Instead, Qin Muchen looked toward Nan Chuan. “Cigarette.”

Nan Chuan hesitated for a while after seeing his depressed look. It was obvious that he was in an extremely bad mood.

He did not dare to offend Qin Muchen, so he could only take out the cigarette which he had on him and gave it to his boss.

As he handed over the cigarette to Qin Muchen, Nan Chuan said, “Boss, the doctor has asked you not to smoke and drink too much—it’d be better if you can quit them. You’re currently...”

Qin Muchen lit up a cigarette and took a puff. His voice was slightly slurred as he said, “Leave if there’s nothing important.”

Qin Muchen slothfully leaned against the sofa. The black suit that he was wearing was creased; he seemed rather depressed in this form. Even so, Nan Chuan did not dare to disobey the orders from Qin Muchen.

Nan Chuan was helpless and could only leave the room.

He was still worried. Thus, he turned around to take a glance at the private room’s door. He felt like he could not let Qin Muchen carry on like this.

Moreover, there were urgent matters in the company that needed to be taken care of. If he continued in such a way, his body would collapse.

Nan Chuan pondered for a while before giving An Xia a call.

An Xia was tidying up her belongings because she was about to get off from work.

She blurted out with doubt when she saw Nan Chuan calling her. "Nan Chuan?"

"Yes, it's me. Are you busy?"

"I'm just about to get off from work. What's the matter?" It was unusual for Nan Chuan to give her any calls. Something must have happened if Nan Chuan had called her on purpose.

"It's just that..." Nan Chuan was so irritated that he started pulling his hair. It would be better if he just put things straight. "Can you give me Miss Su's phone number?"

An Xia immediately became alert when she heard Nan Chuan asking for Su Ziyue's phone number.

"What do you want to do?" She did not believe that Nan Chuan would want to give Su Ziyue a call for no reason. He might have been ordered by Qin Muchen to do so.

Qin Muchen had had a fiancé, but he still wanted to pester Su Ziyue. He really was annoying!

Nan Chuan considered the matter before answering her, "I'm looking for her due to some personal affairs."

What Nan Chuan heard first was Qin Muchen's voice instead. "What sort of personal affairs do you have with her?"

He immediately turned his head over to find Qin Muchen standing at a distance that was only two steps away from him.

Nan Chuan's face darkened instantly.

Nonetheless, Qin Muchen did not give him any chance to explain himself. In fact, he simply snatched away the phone after he had walked up to him.

Qin Muchen then happened to hear An Xia saying, "Personal affairs? What kind of personal affairs can you have with her? On behalf of our friendship, tell me the truth. Is it related to your boss? It's not that I want to judge him, but your boss really is a scumbag. He has a fiancé but still wants to pester Ziyue. This kind of..."

Qin Muchen spoke up before An Xia could finish her sentence. "A scumbag?"

An Xia was startled after she heard him. "Nan Chuan, why has your voice changed all of a sudden? You sound like your boss..."

Qin Muchen squinted his eyes before he said faintly, "I am Qin Muchen."

An Xia felt as though she was suffering from an ear disease.

However, relying on her experiences from the last two years where she was suppressed by Bai Jingshu for being his secretary, she had the capability to face such situations with courage.

She immediately gave a response and sounded exceptionally calm. "What did you say? I can't hear you. It must be a bad signal. I'll hang up then—let's talk some other day."

An Xia's calmness immediately collapsed right after she had hung up the phone.

What had she done? The one who had answered the phone was Qin Muchen!

He had heard everything that she said!

That was unwise!

Even if it was Nan Chuan, she should not judge Qin Muchen like that in front of him as well.

She regretted it immensely.

An Xia did not notice when Bai Jingshu had walked over. He slantingly leaned against the door frame, looking at An Xia who was anxiously walking around while biting her fingers.

Fed up with it, Bai Jingshu finally spoke up. "Why do I not know that there's a signal failure in the company?"

"Don't talk to me—I'm so done."

Apart from condemning Mr. Qin, Qin Muchen himself had even heard it.

What could she do now?

"How are you done? Did you leak any classified information about the company?" Bai Jingshu did not take it seriously.

An Xia was actually very serious when it came to her work. However, she could be very insensitive in her daily lives.

An Xia pondered for a moment before turning her head over to look at Bai Jingshu. "Have you scolded Mr. Qin before?"

Bai Jingshu was good at drawing inferences. He immediately questioned her back. "You scolded him?"

“No... Not really. I only said that he’s a scumbag...” An Xia laughed awkwardly.

What Nan Chuan heard first was Qin Muchen’s voice instead. “What sort of personal affairs do you have with her?”

After all, she did not mean it.

“Your courage is commendable. Call me ‘Boss’ and I might just bless your life.” Bai Jingshu burst into laughter as he tried to show off.

An Xia then rolled her eyes toward him. “Bless me? You should wait till you die.”

Bai Jingshu did not get angry. Instead, this matter had developed his interest. “What makes you think that Qin Muchen is a scumbag?” Bai Jingshu asked.

“Back then, when he was on a live broadcast with Gu Hanyan, I gave Ziyue a call. He was the one who had answered it. Afterward, Ziyue did not call back at all. He must have kept it from her and did not tell her that I called. Then, the news about the engagement between him and Gu Hanyan spread out. Since then, I wasn’t able to get into contact with Ziyue and she vanished for two years!”

An Xia twitched her mouth. “At that moment, Qin Muchen told me that it was their personal affair and that I shouldn’t rub my nose in it. I assumed he was worried that I would tell Ziyue something about him. I suppose Ziyue did not know anything about him and Gu Hanyan being on a live broadcast at all; isn’t this enough to prove that he’s a scumbag? He tried to cover up the fact that he was on a live broadcast with another woman, but he got engaged to her the very next moment. That was why Ziyue had left for two years!”

Bai Jingshu seemed calm after listening to her.

After a while, he then said, “At that time, Muchen’s grandfather was seriously ill. Muchen and Hanyan...”

“Both Gu Hanyan and Qin Muchen are your friends. Thus, you wouldn’t think that it was them being at fault! Should Ziyue really be concealed from knowing the truth? Why couldn’t he make things clear? Moreover, for someone like Qin Muchen, it’s impossible to force him to do something unless it’s on his own accord! I believe you would know this better than I do!”

An Xia only realized that she had said too much after finishing her sentence; she should not have gotten angry at Bai Jingshu.

Even though it normally happened, where An Xia and Bai Jingshu would always joke and play around without him getting angry. After all, the gap between them both was obvious.

“I’m sorry. It’s just unfair to Ziyue.”

Right after she was done speaking, An Xia picked up her bag before saying, "I'll head home first." With that, she left immediately.

Bai Jingshu was the only person left in the office. He had gotten into a huff as he touched his forehead.

He did not know why things had ended up this unpleasant.

Initially, it was only the matter between Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue. Now, he was involved in this matter as well.

He hadn't had a relationship with any woman for two years; he thought he was about to get into this one with his hard work...

What now? He might have just annoyed An Xia too.

Woman, your name should be 'Mrs. Unreasonable'!

CHAPTER 292

Su Ziyue never saw Qin Muchen again over the next week.

Even though she did not see him in person, there were lots of news reports about him. Whenever he appeared in these news reports, he always carried a series of awe-inspiring titles, such as 'The man of the year,' 'The heir of the Mogwin Family,' and 'The most successful entrepreneur'...

She even suspected if she had actually lived with him for half a year, for he seemed too unfamiliar and aloof this way. On the contrary, Lu Shichu seemed to have lots of spare time, for he would ask her out for dinner whenever he was free.

...

It wasn't until Su Ziyue had read through more than half of the documents in her hand about the new project when she realized it was already noon.

Li Qingluo called Su Ziyue on her extension and asked, "Director Su, would you like to order takeout or go to the canteen for lunch?"

Su Ziyue answered after a moment's thought, "Please order takeout for me, thank you."

"Alright!"

Su Ziyue hung up the phone. She wondered if she had gotten the wrong impression, but she had a feeling that Li Qingluo's attitude toward her had improved recently.

Then, she recalled what Li Qingluo had previously said after misunderstanding her relationship with Qin Muchen...

Li Qingluo probably behaved like that because of the rumors circulating in the company that she and Lu Shichu were dating. After all, Li Qingluo was a fan of Gu Hanyan, and Qin Muchen was Gu Hanyan's fiancé.

Su Ziyue felt another headache coming on again as she thought of the matters related to Qin Muchen.

She frowned and was ready to continue reading the documents in her hand when Lu Shichu called her on time. "Ziyue, are you still busy?"

Su Ziyue answered wearily, "Yeah. My company is going to start a new project soon, so I'll be very busy."

She had a detailed discussion with Feng Xingyan before she came; the company had a public welfare project this year besides the joint projects with other companies in the industry... In short, she had lots of stuff to attend to.

"You have to eat no matter how busy you are, am I right?" Lu Shichu seemed like he was still in his office, for Su Ziyue heard the sound of a printer at his end of the line.

"That's why I had my assistant order takeout for me. So, I'll be keeping on with my stuff, Doctor Lu. I might not be able to eat and drink everywhere with you for a long time ahead."

Su Ziyue stood up before walking up to the French window. She was on the 20th floor, so she felt dizzy when she looked down at the ground.

She immediately turned around and found a place to sit down.

Nobody knew that she now suffered from severe acrophobia after what had happened two years ago.

Lu Shichu seemed to have chuckled. "Take good care of yourself then. I'll visit you when I'm free."

Su Ziyue couldn't help but laugh, for what Lu Shichu said sounded like she had made him worried about her.

...

Not long after that, Li Qingluo took the takeout inside to give it to Su Ziyue.

Su Ziyue took a few bites from it and was about to continue reading her documents when the President's secretary personally came to inform her that the representative of the new project's investor had come to the company.

“Why would the investor’s representative come at such a time?” Su Ziyue closed the document in her hand with a puzzled look on her face.

The company’s current President was a hired professional manager who did not have much power in decision-making. However, the manager’s contract had not expired yet, so Su Ziyue joined the company as a director.

The President’s secretary replied apologetically, “I’m also not clear about the specific details.”

Su Ziyue took a glance at the documents on her desk which she had not finished reading. Then, she took a deep breath and asked, “Has the representative arrived at the company?”

“Yes.” The President’s secretary seemed to recall something as she explained warily, “The investor is a large company, so the President has gone to meet the representative. He said that you could meet the representative first if that’s convenient for you. If not, you can meet the representative after a while...”

Everyone in the company knew that Su Ziyue was related to Feng Xingyan. Therefore, the secretary spoke in a very cautious tone.

“I got it. I’ll be right there.” Su Ziyue couldn’t be bothered to listen to the secretary’s circuitous explanation, so she put away the stuff on her desk and went out.

As she walked, she said to the President’s secretary, “Tell me about the investing company.”

Not only did the investing company volunteer to invest in the new project, but the President had also received its representative personally. Su Ziyue wasn’t that clear about the company; she had just started going through the documents, so she had not come across this information yet.

The President’s secretary sounded a little surprised. “Director Su, don’t you know that LK Group is the investor?”

“LK Group?” Su Ziyue jerked to a halt and looked at the President’s secretary suspiciously.

The President’s secretary was startled for a moment as well. Isn’t it a good thing that LK Group volunteered to invest in this new project? Why would Director Su wear a sullen look on her face?

“It’s alright; you don’t have to come with me anymore. Go ahead and attend to your stuff.” Su Ziyue waved her hand and walked toward the reception room.

Lu Shichu seemed to have chuckled. “Take good care of yourself then. I’ll visit you when I’m free.”

LK Group! she thought to herself.

...

When Su Ziyue arrived at the door to the reception room, she was still guessing in her mind that Qin Muchen probably did not come personally.

However, when she heard the familiar voice again, she knew she had put too much faith in luck, for Qin Muchen had indeed come in person.

As she entered the room, Yanyue Media's President immediately stood up and introduced her to Qin Muchen. "She's Su Ziyue, our company director," he said.

Qin Muchen still wore a pure black suit, and his smooth, clean, short haircut made him appear more dignified. But for some reason, Su Ziyue felt that he looked very haggard.

Qin Muchen shifted his gaze to Su Ziyue before taking an earnest and polite glance at her. Then, he stood up and extended his hand toward her, saying, "Nice to meet you, Miss Su."

Does he want to pretend as if he doesn't know me in person? thought Su Ziyue to herself. She extended her hand toward him and said with a smile, "I have heard a lot about you, Mr. Qin."

Qin Muchen held her slim hand with his large hand for merely a second before letting go of it.

Su Ziyue's eyes flickered, for it seemed that Qin Muchen really wanted to pretend like he did not know her in person.

Su Ziyue dropped her gaze and sat down at one side. Since Qin Muchen pretended like he did not know her, she would just let it be.

After that, Qin Muchen did not take another glance at Su Ziyue until...

"Even though I've collaborated with a lot of entertainment companies before, I seldom meet a company director who is as young and beautiful as Miss Su."

What Qin Muchen said sounded very formal, not to mention that he looked quite serious when he said it with a dignified air.

It was inconvenient for Yanyue Media's President to answer such words, so he could only turn to look at Su Ziyue.

Su Ziyue did not understand what Qin Muchen was trying to do, so she merely replied with a faint smile, "I'll take it as a compliment from you, Mr. Qin. Even so, there are still many things that I need to learn, so your advice and comments will be much appreciated."

Qin Muchen smiled slyly, but if one looked closely, he or she would notice that his lower jaw was tensed

up, for he was trying to be patient.

God knows how hard he had been restraining himself while they conversed under the pretext of collaborating partners as though they were strangers. However, this was the only way he could get closer to Su Ziyue and make her interact with him willingly right now.

Qin Muchen kept smiling as he said, "I'll surely teach you everything I know if you have any questions, Miss Su."

CHAPTER 293

Upon hearing Qin Muchen's words, Su Ziyue forced a smile and said, "In that case, I shall thank you in advance for your kindness, Mr. Qin."

In reality, the scene right now was very familiar to her, for she also knew him as LK Group's President when she first discovered his identity back then. Moreover, they were also at loggerheads at that time.

This time, though, there was still something different, for their conflicts were now the least of the problems between them.

Qin Muchen smiled as well, but his smile gave no clue about his sincerity and emotions. "You're welcome, Miss Su. Since we know each other, we can be friends."

His words rendered Su Ziyue speechless.

...

Su Ziyue and Yanyue Media's President saw Qin Muchen to the company's ground floor together before returning to their respective offices.

As they were inside the elevator, Yanyue Media's President said with a sigh, "Mr. Qin is so young and promising."

"Yeah," answered Su Ziyue flatly as she wasn't in the right mood.

The President glanced at her with a look of hesitation before he finally asked, "I heard before that you're close friends with Mr. Qin's fiancée, aren't you?"

Su Ziyue's uninterested look was instantly replaced by a darkened expression when she heard the President's words.

Just then, the elevator door happened to open.

The President's office was a floor above Su Ziyue's. She pressed the elevator buttons when they entered

the elevator, so the elevator was stopping on the 21st floor at that moment.

Su Ziyue looked at the President with a smile as if she did not hear what he had said. "You have arrived, President."

Not only couldn't she answer his question, but she also did not want to answer it.

Gu Hanyan was Qin Muchen's fiancée and her love rival in the past. She wasn't good at lying about these matters, so she might as well not say anything.

The President could also tell that Su Ziyue was unwilling to answer his question. He was somewhat displeased, for he felt that Su Ziyue thought too highly of herself. However, he said nothing further upon thinking about her connections.

Su Ziyue waited until the President left the elevator to press the elevator button to the 20th floor, heading back to her own office.

...

Meanwhile, Qin Muchen did not go back to his office or his home right away. Instead, he went to Lumiere Jade Palace.

Watching as Qin Muchen entered his office, Nan Chuan craned his neck to look over the former's shoulder, yet he did not see anything.

He made a cup of coffee himself and took it inside to serve Qin Muchen. After placing the cup of coffee in front of him, he then asked, "Didn't you ask Miss Su out, Mr. Qin?"

"Yeah, I didn't." Qin Muchen looked dejected as he took a sip of the coffee. Then, he continued, "She'll come to me."

Nan Chuan went out silently while holding the serving tray.

Mr. Qin has put a great deal of effort into dating and soothing his wife, he thought to himself. I don't think there's a big problem between Mr. Qin and Miss Su, but I wonder why their relationship has come to such a point.

...

Su Ziyue worked overtime in her office until it was very late at night, and the rain was pattering when she left.

Springtime was a damp season.

She stretched out her hand to catch a few raindrops. Luckily, the rain wasn't heavy, so she could walk to the parking lot.

By the time she drove out of the parking lot, the rain had gotten heavier.

Su Ziyue drove very slowly. When she recalled what had happened that afternoon when Qin Muchen went to the company, she felt agitated again; she felt that something was wrong no matter what she thought.

Was there a necessity for Qin Muchen to invest in Yanyue Media on his initiative right now? Of course not.

Yanyue Media's predecessor was an entertainment company who could no longer run its business due to its owner's poor management. Because of that, Feng Xingyan bought out the company at a low price.

After two years had passed, Yanyue Media's business improved a little, and the company had begun rising to prominence in Yunzhou City.

Even though Yanyue Media had some reputation in the industry, it wasn't renowned to the extent that a large company like LK Group would offer to collaborate with it.

Subconsciously, she still thought that Qin Muchen must be doing it on purpose.

Her mind wandered as she thought along the journey. Before she came to her senses, she had driven to Cloud Bay.

Habits are such a terrifying thing, she thought to herself.

She stopped in front of the entrance to the villa.

The entire villa was brightly lit, which meant that Qin Muchen was home. After thinking for a moment, Su Ziyue opened the car door and got out of the car.

The ice-cold rain fell on her eyelids, making her squint.

Just then, a shaking silhouette rushed toward her.

Woof! It was Beef.

Su Ziyue panicked at once. Right after that, she heard Qin Muchen's voice from behind. "Beef."

Qin Muchen's figure came into Su Ziyue's sight before she could get into the car. Even though all she could see was the shape of his face, she still felt an uncontrollable urge to hide.

“You’re here.” Qin Muchen stopped three steps away from her.

Su Ziyue had no idea what made her come to this place as well. It would seem unnecessary if she left at this moment, so she straightened her back and said slowly, “There’s something that I would like to talk to you about face-to-face.”

Nan Chuan went out silently while holding the serving tray.

“What a coincidence; I also have something to talk to you about. Come in,” said Qin Muchen before he walked into the villa.

Su Ziyue followed him, whereas Beef circled around her and was unwilling to leave even after she entered the living room.

Qin Muchen poured her a glass of water and asked her, “Have you had dinner?”

“Yes,” Su Ziyue lied without turning a hair.

Qin Muchen tilted his head to one side with a faint smile. “In that case, would you mind having some food with me?”

Qin Muchen seldom behaved like this; he was neither overbearing nor indifferent, which left her at a loss for what to do.

“I’ll take it as a yes from you,” said Qin Muchen before his gaze fell on Beef, who was sitting next to Su Ziyue.

Upon sensing Qin Muchen’s gaze, Beef pricked its ears up and straightened its back like an elementary schooler.

Then, Qin Muchen added, “Please look after Beef for a while on my behalf. Thank you.”

With that, he went into the kitchen before Su Ziyue could say anything else.

Su Ziyue opened her mouth, but seeing that Qin Muchen had entered the kitchen without looking back, she could only bow her head to look at Beef.

Beef tilted its head to one side while staring at her with its watery eyes.

After Su Ziyue rubbed Beef’s head, Beef leaned on her affectionately as though it was boneless.

Su Ziyue understood what Beef meant by doing so. She flicked its ear and said, “Now that you have grown to such a big size, how could you ask me to lift you up?”

Nobody knew if Beef understood what she said, for it still leaned on her with all its might. In the end, she could only lift it up.

Then, she looked around the villa's furnishings.

This was the second time she had entered the villa since she returned to Yunzhou City.

She had been brought into the villa by Qin Muchen after getting drunk last time, so she did not take a closer look when she left. This time, she realized that the villa's furnishings had changed back to the time when she had just moved in.

The things Qin Yuchuan had brought inside back then were already gone, making the villa seem quiet and desolate.

It looked as though Gu Hanyan did not stay here. At the very least, she did not stay in the same room with Qin Muchen, for Su Ziyue had discovered last time that her previous clothes were still there.

So what? Memories are always a thing of the past, Su Ziyue thought to herself.

Su Ziyue put Beef down after hugging it for a while.

As soon as Beef returned to the floor, it barked and ran toward the door.

"Beef!" Su Ziyue called as she went after it.

As soon as she walked to the front door, she ran into Gu Hanyan, who was coming in from the outside.

CHAPTER 294

Both of them were stunned. A look of surprise flashed across Gu Hanyan's eyes as she asked in a questioning tone, "Why are you here?"

Su Ziyue pressed her lips together. Instead of answering Gu Hanyan first, she side-eyed Beef and said, "Beef, come over and go back to your room."

Beef reluctantly snorted twice while blocking the door, but it eventually moved away under Su Ziyue's stern gaze. Gu Hanyan glanced into the house first, but she did not see Qin Muchen. After that, she asked impatiently, "Didn't you hear my question?"

"Am I obliged to answer your questions? You don't seem to have such power," said Su Ziyue with a cold snort before she turned around and went inside. The scene right now was undoubtedly embarrassing, but even she couldn't explain what had brought her here.

"Su Ziyue!" Gu Hanyan called Su Ziyue's name with an audibly threatening tone in her voice as she

followed Su Ziyue closely.

Qin Muchen happened to walk out of the kitchen at that very moment. His gaze fell upon Su Ziyue first before he saw Gu Hanyan, who was walking behind her.

“Muchen,” said Gu Hanyan as she strode past Su Ziyue to Qin Muchen’s side. Then, she said with a smile, “I’m here at such a late hour because I was tied up until now.” Her voice was neither loud nor soft; it was just audible enough for Su Ziyue to hear.

Did Qin Muchen have a prior engagement with Gu Hanyan? In that case, why would he ask me to stay for dinner? Su Ziyue thought to herself.

“You don’t have to come over if you’re so busy,” said Qin Muchen impatiently. Then, he took a step toward Su Ziyue and said, “Dinner is ready. Come and have it.”

Gu Hanyan’s face fell in an instant.

“You may leave first if you don’t have any business with me—I still have things to do.” Qin Muchen glanced back at Gu Hanyan before dragging Su Ziyue toward the dining room.

Before Su Ziyue could withdraw her hand from his, they heard Gu Hanyan asking, “I visited Grandpa several days ago, and he was talking about you. When will you go back to visit him?”

Gu Hanyan did not believe that Qin Muchen would still be indifferent to her at the mention of Qin Yuchuan. Upon hearing Gu Hanyan mentioning Qin Yuchuan, Su Ziyue immediately withdrew her hand, and the air around her turned cold at once. Qin Muchen frowned slightly as his face darkened a little.

He looked at Gu Hanyan and said, “It’s my Grandpa that you are talking about; when I go back to visit him is none of your concern, for that is naturally within my plan.”

Even though Qin Muchen had always been indifferent to Gu Hanyan, the latter could no longer keep her composure when he made her lose face in Su Ziyue’s presence at that very moment. “Muchen, in any case, we’re engaged to each other; you’re my fiancé by name. I know that you like playing around, but there must be a limit to it...”

Before Gu Hanyan could finish her sentence, Qin Muchen interrupted her with a look of disgust as he said, “Su Ziyue is my wife.” As soon as he uttered the sentence, the entire living hall fell into a strange silence.

Su Ziyue turned to look at Qin Muchen with mixed feelings inside her. Qin Muchen might’ve had other reasons for getting engaged to Gu Hanyan back then, but what difference did it make?

“Just how many people know that Su Ziyue is your wife? Everyone knows that you’re my fiancé.” Gu Hanyan tucked the hair behind her ears as she slowly continued, “You know that I’m being followed by

countless paparazzi every day. They want to photograph some unusual stories, so if they take pictures of you and Su Ziyue together, everyone will have a preconceived idea that she is the other woman in our relationship no matter how hard you and I try to get the facts straight.”

Qin Muchen’s face turned as black as thunder after listening to Gu Hanyan’s words.

Adding fuel to the fire, Gu Hanyan added, “Don’t forget that you were the one who proposed that we get engaged back then.”

Su Ziyue immediately turned to look at Qin Muchen. She knew that she was right from the very beginning; Qin Muchen wasn’t driven to a point where he had no other choice. Instead, when he could make choices, he chose to get engaged to Gu Hanyan to solve his predicament back then. Even though the idea of reconciling with Qin Muchen had emerged in her mind, that idea went up in smoke at that very moment. She was a person whom he could abandon anytime. Other than that, she meant nothing else to him.

Qin Muchen, of course, also knew that Gu Hanyan’s words were ambiguous, but what she had said was true. He then said with a straight face, “That’s enough. Get out of here!”

“Since you don’t welcome me, I’ll be leaving right now. I feel sorry for Grandpa, though. I wonder how mad he will be if he finds out that you’re still entangled with this woman,” said Gu Hanyan with a triumphant smirk. Even though she had no idea why Qin Yuchuan suddenly hated Su Ziyue so much, she thought she had to let Su Ziyue know how much Qin Yuchuan hated her. With that, she turned and left before Qin Muchen lashed out again.

Even though Qin Muchen had always been indifferent to Gu Hanyan, the latter could no longer keep her composure when he made her lose face in Su Ziyue’s presence at that very moment. “Muchen, in any case, we’re engaged to each other; you’re my fiancé by name. I know that you like playing around, but there must be a limit to it...”

...

Gu Hanyan had left, whereas Beef was in its room, leaving only Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue in the spacious living hall. Qin Muchen turned to look at Su Ziyue, whose heels weren’t very high as she wore them to work. She would only reach his lips if she stood together with him. Even though she was standing right in front of him, he had a feeling that they were growing infinitely further and further apart. After what seemed like an eternity, Qin Muchen spoke first in a hoarse voice, “Say something, Su Ziyue.”

“You’re the one who asked me to say something, so don’t be mad at what I’m going to say.” Su Ziyue took a step back before looking up at Qin Muchen frostily. “I just want to know what do you think of your double identity? You keep putting off our divorce while getting engaged with Gu Hanyan at the same time.” She looked at Qin Muchen with a sneer and a look of disgust in her eyes.

Qin Muchen’s tense face did not relax at all. Instead, it tensed up even further after he listened to her

words. He said in a low voice, "Give me some time, and I'll deal with these matters."

"Let's get a divorce, Qin Muchen. Stop pestering me; it's both meandering and meaningless to do this." Su Ziyue took a deep breath as if she had made an important decision. Then, she slowly continued, "If you had really wanted to deal with these things, wasn't two years enough for you? Do you know how disgusting and off-putting you look right now?" Su Ziyue was close to tears as she smiled. "Let's save face for each other and stop putting things off. Otherwise, do you really want things to end up the way Gu Hanyan said? One day, someone might take pictures of us, and I'll be accused of being the other woman."

Compared to her and Qin Muchen, a relationship between him and Gu Hanyan was more acceptable to the public. If the relationship between the three of them were really exposed one day, she would be in the worst predicament. Qin Muchen was backed by Qin Yuchuan, the Mogwin Family, and LK Group. He and Gu Hanyan had appeared in a live interview together, and everyone knew they were a well-matched couple who had known each other for over ten years...

CHAPTER 295

Qin Muchen had a lot of things he wanted to explain to her.

He wanted to tell her that things were not as what she thought they were, and that he could settle everything perfectly.

However, it would sound like he was finding excuses for himself if he explained his reasons to her right now. With that, his face turned pale.

He wasn't very good at talking since young; when he was a kid, his mother thought that he had autism. In reality, he just didn't like to talk. When he was fourteen years old, his mother passed away and he ventured into entrepreneurship. Whether it was a business meeting or persuading his customers, everything seemed very easy to him.

However, he couldn't bring himself to open his mouth right now; it was as if his lips were being sewn together. Moreover, he was unable to say those words either.

Su Ziyue's heart sank gradually as he remained silent.

Su Ziyue said calmly, "I'll take it as a yes if you don't say anything. Besides, you're not a child anymore. Even though the company is yours and you can do whatever you want with it, you have to look after the staff in your company. Plus, your behavior will bring unnecessary trouble to me as well; it might even cause misunderstandings among other people." Su Ziyue lowered her eyes and looked outside the window before she continued, "Moreover, I'm not sure how many parties will keep a close eye on you since you've taken the initiative to invest in Yanyue Media this time. I suppose I'll be very busy for the following days; let's continue with our divorce procedure after we settle everything else. I hope this will be the last time we discuss this matter."

The expression on Qin Muchen's face looked quite gloomy. One couldn't tell what he was thinking about.

He didn't reply to Su Ziyue directly and changed the subject instead. "The dishes are getting cold."

"Alright then, let's eat first."

As she finished, Su Ziyue took several steps and strode toward the dining room.

She shouldn't have stayed for the meal today. Still, she thought she would do so to fulfill her last selfish wish—she missed the dishes Qin Muchen made.

...

After she left the villa, Gu Hanyan could no longer conceal her anger and let it show on her face. She got into her car furiously, stepped on the gas and sped all the way back.

Su Ziyue! Whether it was two years before or after, Su Ziyue had ruined all her plans!

She couldn't wrap her mind around what was so good about Su Ziyue that Qin Muchen was willing to wait for her for two years.

Two years ago, she once thought that if she was given a chance for Qin Muchen to know her, she was certain that he would notice the goodness in her.

However, she seldom had the chance to meet Qin Muchen in the past two years. If it wasn't for Qin Yuchuan, whose illness kept relapsing unpredictably, Qin Muchen would have annulled their engagement a long time ago.

No, I have been waiting for years before I finally got engaged to Qin Muchen. I can't give up just like that. Supposedly I'd have more chances if... Su Ziyue disappears?

She could no longer differentiate whether her feelings toward Qin Muchen was love or habit. She only knew that she wanted to be Mrs. Qin and the President of LK Group's wife.

If this was how it should be, Su Ziyue could not blame her for being ruthless and cold-hearted.

Honk! Suddenly, a deafening honk of a car could be heard. Gu Hanyan raised her head immediately as a ray of blinding light shone on her face. She steered the steering quickly with all her might and narrowly missed the oncoming car. Still, her car crashed into a guardrail beside the road.

She wasn't injured, but her heart pounded rapidly.

She had been thinking about Su Ziyue just now; it caused her to lose focus and almost got her involved

in a car accident.

While she was in shock after narrowly escaping a car accident, a person came to mind.

She took out a cell phone from the compartment in the car. After hiding the phone number and activating the voice changer, she dialed a number.

Her call was answered after ringing for a long time.

“Who is this?”

“Su Ziyue is back. Did you know that, Young Mistress Gong?”

Gu Hanyan disconnected the call immediately after saying that.

...

The duo had their dinner at a steady pace without being too fast nor too slow. For some unknown reason, it gave them both a sad feeling of separation, which reminded Su Ziyue of the last supper.

She laughed at herself in a self-deprecating manner as she stuffed another two mouthfuls of rice into her mouth, finishing all the dishes and rice in her bowl before putting her chopsticks down. “I’m full.”

Qin Muchen raised his head and looked at her when she said that.

“I’ll leave first.” As she finished, she rose, took her handbag and walked outside.

The way she walked out was determined and didn’t seem like she was reluctant to leave the house at all.

Qin Muchen remained seated at the dining table without moving an inch for a very long time.

He stared at the spot where Su Ziyue had been just now. Complicated feelings flickered in his dark eyes.

He thought he could persuade Su Ziyue to come back to him again using his old ways.

However, the sudden appearance of Gu Hanyan today ruined everything.

Nonetheless, he would never let things go just like that. He couldn’t bring himself to do so.

...

Early next morning, Su Ziyue woke up at the crack of dawn as usual.

She looked at herself in the mirror to find two huge dark circles around her eyes. Su Ziyue felt a little helpless. Much to her surprise, she suffered from insomnia.

However, she didn't allow herself much time to sigh over this. She went straight to the office after making herself look presentable.

No, I have been waiting for years before I finally got engaged to Qin Muchen. I can't give up just like that. Supposedly I'd have more chances if... Su Ziyue disappears?

She came across Gu Hanyan's news recommended by the search engine again when she switched on her computer and checked the news.

'Famous movie star, Gu Hanyan, involved in a car accident last night...'

It was such an attention-grabbing and interesting title. She wasn't sure about what others thought of it, but Su Ziyue couldn't resist the temptation to check out the news as soon as she saw the title.

However, when she clicked into the article, she realized it was just clickbait designed to attract reader's attention without much content.

The article roughly reported on Gu Hanyan's minor car accident last night. However, she wasn't injured. According to the official announcement published by her agency in response to the accident, Gu Hanyan had a car accident because she was too tired from all the filming she had recently.

Several photos were published in the article as well. Even though exact details of the accident were not known, the photos were obviously taken by paparazzi in secret.

Besides, the location in the photos was a junction not far away from Cloud Bay.

What Gu Hanyan said was true; there were lots of paparazzi following her at any given moment, hoping to get some different valuable news and photos.

Ding! Suddenly, her telephone rang from the side.

Su Ziyue took a look at the telephone and noticed it was a call from the reception through the internal company phone line.

Li Qingluo might be on the phone now, so the front desk called her directly instead.

She answered the call and asked, "Is there anything?"

The girl at the reception had a very sweet voice. Probably because she had been reprimanded by Su Ziyue last time, she sounded very polite now. "Director Su, we have a lady here who claims to be your cousin. She wants to see you."

My cousin? Su Yige! Why would Su Yige want to see me?

She almost forgot about the members of the Su Family all these years.

However, even if people from the Su Family didn't come looking for her, she would go and find them sooner or later. After all, those people from the Su Family knew the most about what had happened to her father.

"Bring her up here," Su Ziyue ordered before she hung up the phone.

Soon, someone knocked on the door. "Director Su."

"Come in." As Su Ziyue replied, she rummaged through her desk for the documents she needed.

The next moment, her office door was pushed open. The receptionist had brought Su Yige into the office.

"I'll be heading out first, Director Su." The receptionist went out consciously after leading Su Yige into the office.

Then, Su Ziyue heard Su Yige's voice. "Where have you been for the past two years, Ziyue? Is everything going well?"

Su Ziyue raised her head and smiled enigmatically at Su Yige as she pointed at a chair opposite her. "Have a seat."

CHAPTER 296

Su Yige hadn't changed much; she still looked very gentle and mild like how she used to be. However, she appeared slightly more charming and mature than before.

She sat down on a chair opposite Su Ziyue and studied the latter quietly. "Ziyue, why didn't you come home to visit after you came back?"

Su Ziyue pursed her lips slightly with a faint smile on her face; an icy look flickered in her eyes.

"Even if I don't go back, you'd come looking for me, am I right?"

It was Su Yige who had caused her misfortune back then; Su Yige played a part in resulting in the death of her child too. Yet, Su Yige still had the nerve of sitting here and talking to her like nothing had ever happened.

The more Su Ziyue thought about this, her hatred for Su Yige grew even stronger. She unknowingly tightened her grip around her arms, which she folded across her chest.

“Ziyue, what are you talking about? After all, we are family.” As she said that, Su Yige held out her fingers and tucked a lock of hair behind her ear in an attempt to hide her guilt.

In terms of appearance, Su Ziyue still looked the same as she used to despite being thinner. However, she felt the way Su Ziyue looked at her was somewhat frightening. Perhaps... Su Ziyue knew it was me who did that back then?

Su Yige couldn't help but shiver when she thought about this.

She knew that the Feng Group from Jingcheng City had acquired Yanyue Media. However, she wasn't sure about the exact connection between Su Ziyue and the Feng Family. Besides, she didn't know exactly why Su Ziyue had disappeared for two years.

Luckily, Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen were separated. Otherwise, if Su Ziyue had used his influence to get back at her, there was nothing she could do except to wait for her doom!

“Family?” Su Ziyue repeated the word. Then, she said suggestively, “Since you think that way, perhaps we can have lunch or dinner together when you're free. Bring your husband along as well; after all, he's my cousin-in-law.”

The expression on Su Yige's face changed when she heard Su Ziyue's words.

An alarmed look crossed her face. “Zeyang has been very busy lately. I still have something else to do, so I'll leave first.”

Su Yige became very nervous; she looked like a cat which had its tail stepped on. She rose from her seat and went out as soon as she finished her sentence.

Glancing at Su Yige's retreating figure, Su Ziyue took a deep breath before she turned and looked outside through the French windows. A thought flashed through her mind. How did Su Yige know that I came back to Yunzhou City?

She recalled bumping into Gong Zeyang by chance last time. Did Gong Zeyang have a slip of tongue and told Su Yige about it? That can't be right. If Gong Zeyang mentioned me by mistake, Su Yige wouldn't have put on such a pretense when she came earlier; she would've come to give me a scolding if that was the case.

...

Since Su Yige knew that Su Ziyue was back, this meant the entire Su Family knew about it too.

She went out for lunch at noon. Just as she reached the company entrance, a black car halted right in front.

Initially, Su Ziyue wasn't aware of the car and was ready to walk past it directly.

However, before she walked past the car, she was stopped by the person who had gotten out of the vehicle.

"Ziyue."

Su Ziyue stopped in her tracks. She turned around and saw Su Yuanming.

There were many people walking around at the company entrance. Su Ziyue pursed her lips as a look of impatience flashed through her eyes. Still, she opened her mouth and greeted Su Yuanming. "Uncle Yuanming."

Su Ziyue noticed some staff—who happened to be walking past them—glancing in their direction carefully.

Su Yuanming nodded in satisfaction. He turned around and opened the car door at the back.

Su Ziyue narrowed her eyes. She didn't expect the news of her return to alert Su Youcheng too.

The expression on Su Ziyue's face appeared very cold and distant. "Grandpa."

Apparently, Su Youcheng wasn't very pleased with Su Ziyue's cold and impassive greeting.

He frowned. "Let's find a place to have lunch first."

...

The party went to a nearby restaurant for lunch.

"Director Su!"

She bumped into several company staff as soon as she entered the restaurant.

Su Ziyue replied with a smile on her face, "Are you guys having lunch here?"

Su Youcheng felt even more displeased when he noticed Su Ziyue talking to her staff with a grin on her face.

He thought Su Ziyue was being disrespectful to him even though he was her grandfather. However, he had simply forgotten how he used to treat Su Ziyue back then.

The party was led by a waiter into a suite.

After sitting down, Su Ziyue passed the menu to Su Youcheng. "Grandpa, please place your order."

Su Youcheng took the menu and started placing orders without feeling embarrassed at all.

He didn't even reject my offer. He really considers himself as an elder whom everyone must respect.

Su Ziyue stared at them coldly. Right after they had finished ordering, Su Yuanming pretended to be apologetic and said, "Ziyue, we don't know what kind of dishes you like, so we ordered a variety of dishes instead. I suppose you'll be fine with any dishes, right?"

A faint smile crossed Su Ziyue's face. "Just order whatever you guys like."

They were just as selfish as they used to be.

Su Ziyue knew that Su Yuanming and Su Youcheng didn't meet her in person today just to have lunch with her; things were not as simple as that. They couldn't possibly just want to visit her on purpose after not seeing her for two years either.

As she expected, Su Youcheng, who had been silent since the beginning, finally said something when the dishes were served.

"Ziyue, you are the executive director of Yanyue Media now, aren't you? I heard that it was the President of Feng Group who made the announcement himself and sent you here from the headquarters over there."

She went out for lunch at noon. Just as she reached the company entrance, a black car halted right in front.

Indeed, older people were more experienced when it came to scheming and extracting information. Su Youcheng went straight to the point as soon as he opened his mouth. There was a slight hint of an elderly yet autocratic tone in his voice—he sounded almost like he was questioning Su Ziyue.

The reason why he had asked such a question was to find out about the relationship between Su Ziyue and Feng Xingyan.

However, Su Ziyue thought of something else instead. The smile on her face remained unchanged as she said, "Grandpa, do you still remember my mother?"

Su Youcheng frowned. Evidently, he was very unhappy because Su Ziyue had not replied to his question and even changed the subject.

Su Ziyue couldn't care less about what he thought. She said bluntly, "Grandpa, you were not very pleased with my mother as your daughter-in-law, weren't you? Because of my mother, you weren't very close to me, so that's why my father moved out of the Su Family after he got married."

Su Youcheng raised his voice. He had a funny expression on his face. "This happened a long time ago. Why are you bringing it up now?"

Su Ziyue was puzzled by the expression on Su Youcheng's face; she thought something was off about his reaction. However, she didn't show it on her face.

The reason she said this was to find out what Su Youcheng thought of her mother.

When she was younger, she could feel that something was off even though her father had never said anything about it. What was more, she seldom met Su Youcheng back in the day.

The Feng Family wasn't a small and insignificant family. If her mother had married into the Su Family as the wealthy daughter of the Feng Family, Su Youcheng would've been very pleased to have her as his daughter-in-law.

"Then, I'll stop talking about my mother. Let's go back to your question just now." After a pause, Su Ziyue continued, "Grandpa, you've certainly done a lot of homework just to come over and meet me personally."

Su Youcheng was very furious when he heard that. "You still have the nerve to say that? You disappeared without a trace for two years, but you didn't even come back to the Su Family when you returned, allowing others to make nonsense speculations about your disappearance and turn yourself into their laughing stock!"

"Grandpa, does that mean you've come here today with Uncle Yuanming to personally invite me back to the Su Family?" She knew very well that this was definitely not the real reason why Su Youcheng and Su Yuanming came to find her today.

"Is this the attitude you should have when you're talking to me?"

A faint smile crossed Su Ziyue's face. "Grandpa, you're getting old and probably can't remember well, but I can still remember very clearly—especially everything that happened in the past."

CHAPTER 297

Su Youcheng also recalled the past events at Su Ziyue's mention of them. He had to admit that his treatment of Su Ziyue in the past was a little unjustifiable. However, he treated her like that at the time because he had no other choice, so he did not think that he was wrong at all. Suppressing his anger, Su Youcheng said, "In any case, you're a member of the Su Family!"

"I'm still a member of the Su Family, of course. Even though my Dad moved out of the Su Residence a long time ago, he is still named Su Yizi." The meaning behind what Su Ziyue said was obvious—she was a member of the Su Family, but she only acknowledged Su Yizi as her father. Not only did she refuse to acknowledge Su Youcheng as her grandfather, but she also refused to acknowledge other members of

the Su Family.

Su Youcheng was speechless with rage, for he did not expect her to be so outrageous and ungrateful.

Su Yuanming immediately took up Su Youcheng's cause, saying, "Ziyue, Dad is old, so don't make him angry."

"I didn't intend to make anyone angry. Since you have come for me, we'd better make certain things clear, of course," replied Su Ziyue. She thought to herself, So am I to blame for them asking to be pissed off?

The dishes happened to be served one after another at this very moment, so Su Ziyue ignored them and began eating right away. Su Youcheng had always called the shots in the Su Family. Therefore, when Su Ziyue paid no attention to him, he was of course so furious that he did not even touch his chopsticks. Even so, he still remembered the purpose of him coming to see Su Ziyue. "Ziyue, LK Group has canceled its partnership with Su Group because of you. As a result, Su Group has suffered a huge loss, and it's now time for you to make up for it."

Su Youcheng was so angry that his head hurt when he recalled how he had missed such a golden opportunity to collaborate with LK Group, of which Qin Muchen was the President. Even though Feng Group was a bit less successful than LK Group, it was, at the very least, a business group that was famous both domestically and abroad. Therefore, it would be nice to be able to collaborate with Feng Group.

Su Ziyue sneered inwardly as she thought to herself, So is he finally willing to disclose the real purpose of him coming today? One has to talk in a roundabout way and be patient while dealing with a sly old fox like Su Youcheng indeed.

"What does it have to do with me? Why does it matter when I know LK Group's President in person? Why don't you say that it was because of you?" The smile on Su Ziyue's face deepened. "Grandpa, you must be quite anxious over the last two years. Were you worried that Qin Muchen would find a way to get back at Su Group?"

Su Youcheng looked stunned, for Su Ziyue had said exactly what he worried about. "You..."

"Be rest assured. If Qin Muchen really wants to get back at Su Group, it'll be useless no matter how hard you try to watch out for him. No matter who you collaborate with, he is still able to turn Su Group into another Mu Group..."

She did not finish her sentence, but Su Youcheng could figure out what she did not say out loud. He came for Su Ziyue with the initial intention to satisfy everyone by having her obediently promise to persuade Feng Group's President into collaborating with Su Group. But now, it was obvious that Su Ziyue wouldn't agree with him, so he stopped restraining himself. He jumped to his feet while glaring at Su Ziyue with a piercing gaze, saying, "In any case, you're a member of the Su Family. That is a fact that

couldn't be changed no matter what! Let's go, Yuanming!" With that, he left with Su Yuanming in a great rage.

Watching them leaving the room, Su Ziyue leisurely finished eating her lunch before going back to her office.

...

As Su Ziyue had expected, everyone's eyes were drawn to her when she returned to her office. That was because a lot of people had come looking for her ever since she joined the company. Furthermore, these people were by no means ordinary—Lu Shichu, Gu Hanyan, and the Su Family members... Gu Hanyan was an international movie star, whereas the others had quite some standing in Yunzhou City. However, Su Ziyue did not care about these things at all.

After she returned to her office, she looked into how Su Group was doing over the last two years. Over the last two years, she never paid close attention to anyone or anything related to Yunzhou City. Now that they had come for her one by one, she couldn't just sit around and do nothing as she awaited her demise, of course. After reading numerous news reports and analyses on financial publications, she found out that Su Group's prospects were indeed unpromising.

Even though Su Group wasn't close to bankruptcy as the Mu Group was, it was surpassed by Gong Group by a huge margin. Therefore, it was understandable that Su Youcheng was anxious as well. Su Group's performance had also slipped year by year. Not only did the performance show no signs of improving, but it also gradually grew worse, little by little. It was as if the company's performance was chipped away in a fashion similar to ants moving nests! In her professional view, such a situation was quite unusual. Su Youcheng must have realized it as well, which was why he was desperate to collaborate with a stable and large company.

After studying Su Group's performance for a while, Su Ziyue wasn't able to notice other information, so she called Feng Xingyan. The instant the call was put through, she went straight to the point by saying, "Uncle Xingyan, I just looked into how Su Group was doing over the last two years, and I noticed a problem..." Su Ziyue waited for Feng Xingyan's answer after telling him everything she wanted to say.

Feng Xingyan asked her, "Has Su Youcheng offended anyone?"

Su Ziyue thought of Qin Muchen, but she thought that the latter did not seem to be such a procrastinator. If he were to take action against Su Group, he would bring it down in one move. Even though she thought Qin Muchen couldn't possibly be the mastermind behind this, she said, "He and Qin Muchen used to bear grudges against each other."

"Think about it yourself, for I have got things to do. By the way, I'll come to Yunzhou City for a trip next month."

Su Ziyue was startled for a moment before she said, "Oh, okay, but I'll have to go to the mountains with

the filming crew at the end of this month.”

The first shooting location of the company’s newly-added public welfare project was a remote mountain that was inaccessible by road. The transportation infrastructure there was extremely underdeveloped, whereas people who lived there were unimaginably poor, for they did not have enough food to eat. There were plenty of such documentaries, but these documentaries were always the best at tugging at people’s heartstrings. Feng Xingyan attached great importance to this project, so she decided to take the trip in person.

Feng Xingyan was silent for a moment. Then, he said, “The environment there is poor, so take good care of yourself.”

“I will.”

Even though she had many things to investigate and take care of in Yunzhou City, these things wouldn’t be solved anytime soon. To Su Ziyue, work came first before anything else right now. Therefore, after she finished dealing with the company’s business, she set out for the remote mountain with the filming crew at the end of the month.

After taking a plane trip, she boarded the high-speed rail, then the train. After that, she traveled by car and walked for about five hours until she finally reached her destination. Su Ziyue wasn’t a person who couldn’t bear hardships, but she had never endured such an arduous journey before. Therefore, she fell ill as soon as she reached the destination.

Li Qingluo pushed the door from the outside and came in with a steaming hot bowl of something in her hand. She said to Su Ziyue, “Director Su, this is the herbal medicine prepared by the villagers.”

Herbal medicine? Su Ziyue took a glance at the bowl. Its rim was stained black, and it had two chips in it. She took the bowl and took a sip of the medicine without saying anything. The next instant, she bent over the side of her bed and spat it out, for the medicine was too bitter.

“Director Su, please drink some of this medicine. We have to stay here for a month. The villagers said that this medicine will take effect after you drink it.” Li Qingluo had secretly tasted a little of the medicine before, so she knew that the medicine was really bitter. At the same time though, she thought Director Su was really too delicate, which proved that the latter was, as expected, a person who grew up in a wealthy family. The rumor about Director Su being a relative of Feng Group’s President is presumably true, thought Li Qingluo to herself.

CHAPTER 298

Leaning back against the headboard, Su Ziyue raised her hand to press the back of it against her forehead. As the cool back of her hand touched her fevered forehead, she sighed comfortably before saying in a feeble voice, “I’m sorry to have troubled you. Just put the medicine here; I’ll drink it when it has cooled down a little later.”

Li Qingluo had a look of concern in her eyes when she saw Su Ziyue in such a state. She knew that Su Ziyue knew her manners; even though Su Ziyue was physically a little delicate, she wasn't finicky. Instead, she conformed to local practices very readily.

The house in which they were staying right now was very simple and crude. The roof was made of thatch grass and its walls were made up of mud bricks.

The houses here were all thatched because tiles were too much of an expense for the families here. Moreover, this place was difficult to reach by transport.

The floor inside the room was full of bumps and hollows, and there were no windows. When Li Qingluo came in earlier, she even saw rats...

Even Li Qingluo, who grew up in the countryside since her childhood, couldn't help but sigh when she saw such surroundings.

Worried, she urged again before leaving, "In that case, I'll put the medicine here. Remember to drink it."

"I got it," said Su Ziyue as her lips curled up into a faint smile.

Li Qingluo was too clumsy in dealing with things, but she was very diligent and eager to learn. Su Ziyue was grateful to her no matter whether she was sincere or not when she showed her concern for her at this moment.

Meanwhile, back at LK Group's branch in Yunzhou City, a top management executive was analyzing the data for this quarter in the meeting room. After finishing his speech, he turned to look at Qin Muchen, who was sitting in the head seat.

Obviously, he was asking for Qin Muchen's opinion.

Still clad in a well-pressed pure black suit, Qin Muchen leaned back in his chair with a pensive look in his eyes.

Everyone thought he was contemplating something.

After waiting for an entire ten minutes, Qin Muchen slightly raised his eyelids to look at the top management executive, who was standing in front of the projector with an embarrassed look on his face.

However, what Qin Muchen said after that surprised everyone. Staring at the top management executive for half a second, he asked, "Have you finished your speech?"

Only then did everyone come to the sudden realization that their President wasn't thinking about the

data analysis just now.

“Yes...” The top management executive stealthily clenched his fists as it was apparent that he was feeling nervous.

“Then that’s it for now. The meeting is over,” said Qin Muchen as he stood up and went out before everyone else.

After Qin Muchen left, everyone shifted their gazes to Qin Muchen’s secretary, who also looked a little embarrassed as she said, “I’ll be leaving first as well...”

She had no idea what was wrong with the President lately. Qin Muchen did not look much different from before on the outside, but the secretary, who had been in more contact with him, knew that something seemed to have happened to him recently, for he was a little absent-minded.

However, as a well-trained secretary, she couldn’t possibly ask the President about his matters.

After leaving the meeting room, Qin Muchen walked while taking out his cell phone.

Only when he took out his cell phone did he recall that he did not have the phone number of the person-in-charge of the partnership project with Yanyue Media.

He pinched the space between his eyebrows and returned to his office in displeasure.

His secretary came in after him with a stack of documents in her hands that the executives had told her to hand them to the President. “President, these are the documents submitted after the meeting just now...”

Before she could finish her sentence, Qin Muchen interrupted her right away, saying, “Put them over there. You may go out now.”

The secretary could only put down the documents and left.

After a while, the person-in-charge came to see Qin Muchen. “President.”

“Have a seat.” Qin Muchen sat firmly on the executive chair behind his work desk with an unusually calm expression.

The person-in-charge knew that Qin Muchen was waiting for him to report the progress of the partnership project. “The project plan given by the liaison from Yanyue Media...”

Qin Muchen raised his hand to cut the person-in-charge short. Then, he asked, “Where’s their director?”

The person-in-charge was perplexed in his mind, but he still answered honestly, “Yanyue Media’s team

set out a few days ago after deciding on all the matters last week. I heard that Director Su went with them as well.”

He thought that Yanyue Media attached great importance to this project, for the company’s executive director even took charge of it personally.

She set out a few days ago? Qin Muchen’s face darkened a little when he heard what the person-in-charge said.

Upon seeing Qin Muchen’s darkened expression, the person-in-charge dared not speak for a moment, for he couldn’t figure out if he had just said something wrong.

Qin Muchen asked him coldly, “Why didn’t you tell me beforehand?”

“It was my mistake...” The person-in-charge thought he only had to tell Qin Muchen the progress on the partnership project regularly. Right now, though, it seemed what the President cared about was not the progress on the partnership project, but Director Su of Yanyue Media.

As the person-in-charge hit upon this possibility, he was stunned deep down inside, and he hung his head even lower.

Qin Muchen then said with a wave of his hand, “Go out first, and give me a copy of the information about that place.”

Upon hearing Qin Muchen’s words, the person-in-charge gave him all the documents about the remote mountain village that Su Ziyue went to.

Qin Muchen’s face darkened as he read the document. There’s no television and cell phone reception in this place? Also, the power supply there is unstable and breaks down from time to time? What the hell is this place?

Pressing his lips together, Qin Muchen crumpled the document up into a ball and flung it out forcefully.

She was so skinny as if she could be blown away by the wind. Therefore, what was the point of her going to a place with such rough conditions?

Qin Muchen could hardly sit still as the thought flashed across his mind, so he grabbed his cell phone and went out.

Qin Muchen’s secretary was in her cubicle when she saw him whizzing past her like the wind. She immediately tried to stop him, asking, “President, may I know where you are going? Would you like me to get something ready for you?”

Qin Muchen ignored her since he had no time to even answer her.

As a result, his secretary could only watch him leaving the office. She sat down silently while thinking to herself, In a moment, the top management executives will ask me again where the President went and why he didn't read the data analysis they submitted... It isn't easy to be a secretary with high pay when one has a willful boss who likes to leave as he pleased.

Qin Muchen went back right away to the villa in Cloud Bay. After packing a simple piece of luggage, he drove straight to the airport.

When he was halfway to the airport, Bai Jingshu called him. As soon as he answered the phone, Bai Jingshu said, "I found something interesting."

"Get straight to the point." Qin Muchen had no time to listen to Bai Jingshu's nonsense.

Bai Jingshu had long since accustomed himself to Qin Muchen's bad temper, so he continued to keep Qin Muchen in suspense. "Guess who was the one that secretly messed about with Su Group over the last two years?"

Beep... Qin Muchen had hung up the phone right away.

"Sh*t!" said Bai Jingshu to his cell phone on the other end of the line.

F*ck, what a bad temper Qin Muchen has! Bai Jingshu thought to himself. Still, he called Qin Muchen again.

This time, Bai Jingshu broke the suspense as soon as the call was put through. He said hastily, "It was Feng Xingyan, the President of Feng Group in Jingcheng City!"

CHAPTER 299

Upon hearing Bai Jingshu's words, Qin Muchen repeated, "Feng Xingyan?"

"That's right; it was him! It was assumed that the Feng Family would suffer a drastic decline after Old Master Feng passed away. However, little did anyone expect the family to have made better progress than when he was still alive, for the family has scaled new heights."

Bai Jingshu thought that Feng Xingyan was quite an interesting person.

Qin Muchen frowned slightly as he said seriously, "I got it. Don't mess with Feng Xingyan if you have no reason for doing so."

"Why?" Beep...

Qin Muchen hung up on Bai Jingshu as soon as the latter spoke.

On the other hand, after hanging up on Bai Jingshu, Qin Muchen immediately called Nan Chuan, saying, "Look into what Feng Xingyan has been doing over the last two years. Also, investigate in detail what happened after he saved Su Ziyue back then. Make a trip to send a few people over while you stay in Yunzhou City."

Then, he hung up without giving Nan Chuan the opportunity to ask more questions.

Qin Muchen had paid little attention to Feng Xingyan in the past. While the Feng Family was based in Jingcheng City, he had been staying overseas, so he had never been bothered about Feng Xingyan. Moreover, he and the Feng Family did not run businesses in the same industry.

After Feng Xingyan took Su Ziyue away later, he looked into Feng Xingyan's background, but he did not investigate it in detail.

There did not seem to be any problem with Feng Xingyan's background. Most importantly, Feng Xingyan was pretty nice to Su Ziyue; he had really made every effort to look after her as an uncle.

That was why Qin Muchen let his guard down.

Old Master Feng was among the earliest batch of people who quit their jobs and went into commerce in the last century. He gained some reputation in business circles, but he went back to Jingcheng City and settled there later since his family stayed in the country.

After Old Master Feng passed away, Feng Xingyan took merely less than three years to bring Feng Group to new heights, which was apparently not achievable by ordinary people.

At the very least, this showed that Feng Xingyan was a man of extraordinary means.

Since Feng Xingyan was capable of such means, he must be very ambitious. Therefore, there might be another reason for such a person to be so kind to a long-lost niece.

Li Qingluo had told the truth when she said that the medicine produced quick effects, for Su Ziyue felt much better when she woke up the next morning.

Even though this place was poverty-stricken, the air here was very fresh.

As Su Ziyue went out for a stroll, she took several pictures using her cell phone so that she could show them to Feng Xingyan when she went back later.

She thought she had a rough idea why Feng Xingyan attached such great importance to this project.

In one respect, engaging in public welfare was beneficial to the company's image. From another aspect, even though they lived in times of peace and prosperity, some people still lived in conditions where they might not have enough to eat and wear, and these people really needed other people's help.

Su Ziyue took a few pictures when she heard Li Qingluo calling her from behind, "Director Su!"

"Are we leaving soon?"

Li Qingluo ran toward her and replied, "Yeah, everything is ready, and we're just waiting for you."

"Alright. We'll be there right away," said Su Ziyue before she turned back first.

This day happened to be a Monday, so they planned to film the kids as they went to school.

Li Qingluo walked behind Su Ziyue while asking the latter in a low voice, "It's quite far from here. Can you hang in there?"

"I'm fine." Su Ziyue knew in her heart the state of her physical well-being.

The village had over ten kids that were aged differently, yet they attended school together. It was said that they attended school in a cave with only a teacher.

"We've arrived, Director Su," said Li Qingluo, who had been keeping a close eye on Su Ziyue's physical state along the way.

"You don't have to bother about me. Just go over there," said Su Ziyue, who reached out to point at the location that was being shot, for she knew that Li Qingluo was interested in those things.

Feeling embarrassed, Li Qingluo scratched her head and went over there.

Su Ziyue took two pictures as well. Then, she looked at the upper right corner of her phone screen, only to find that there was still no cell phone signal.

She had wanted to send a few photos to Feng Xingyan and call An Xia and Lu Shichu to tell them that she was safe, but it seemed that she could only do so in her imagination.

After a while, Su Ziyue suddenly heard someone's footsteps from behind. She looked back sharply to see a thin man in a white shirt standing behind her.

The man looked quite ill at ease.

Su Ziyue was startled for a moment. Then, she said, "Hello, Mr. Lee."

She had previously heard from the film crew that the only teacher here was named Lee Yannan.

Lee Yannan seemed to be about 30 years old. He was skinny, and his white shirt was spotless, which was a stark difference from other local residents.

Perhaps because he grew up in extremely harsh conditions since childhood, he was only nearly as tall as Su Ziyue.

“Do you know me, Miss Su?” Lee Yannan’s eyes visibly lit up when he heard Su Ziyue calling his name.

Su Ziyue wondered if she was seeing things, but she felt that there was something strange about his gaze.

She felt a little uncomfortable under his gaze, but she still answered his question politely, “You’re the only teacher here, so it’s difficult not to know you. I heard that you left before and came back into the mountains as a teacher afterward, didn’t you?”

Su Ziyue was curious about this, for it was really rare for a person who had lived in a world full of temptations to remember where they had come from and still be willing to return.

If she were in Lee Yannan’s shoes, she would probably be unable to do so. Even though she thought that the people here desperately needed help, she wasn’t a selfless person.

She had grown accustomed to various electrical alliances, clean roads, and high-rise buildings.

She did not know if she had said something wrong, but Lee Yannan’s expression changed subtly as soon as she finished her sentence.

“Isn’t it said that a person residing elsewhere would eventually return to his home like fallen leaves returning to their roots? No matter how good the outside world is, it’s still not my home after all. Moreover, it’s too stressful to live out there. The mountain is impoverished and underdeveloped, but I feel comfortable here,” said Lee Yannan with a touch of sincerity in his voice.

Su Ziyue was about to say something else when the documentary’s director walked toward them. “Director Su, we’re going to interview Mr. Lee now.”

“Go there first then. Thank you for cooperating with us,” said Su Ziyue before stepping toward the other side as well.

The shooting on this day went well.

That night, Su Ziyue and Li Qingluo slept in the same room.

Li Qingluo was active in the daytime as she bustled around with the film crew. Therefore, she had long since fallen asleep at this moment.

Well, she isn’t bothered by the conditions here, thought Su Ziyue to herself. She sniffed at the blanket, which had a musty smell.

She did not fall asleep after a long time, so she wanted to go to the toilet.

Just then, she heard a slight noise outside the door.

She held her breath for a few seconds before hearing a clear clicking sound.

Someone's outside the door! It sounds like someone is prizing the door open! thought Su Ziyue as her heart clenched with fear.

The house where she and Li Qingluo were staying belonged to the richest family in this village, but this family stayed a little further from other houses.

Therefore, those who came along with them—the company's documentary director and photographers—stayed in other houses, which were a distance away from this house!

The person who was prizing the door open couldn't be from the company!

CHAPTER 300

Su Ziyue couldn't help clenching her fists under her blanket.

She reached out her hand to fumble for her cell phone, yet only then did she recall that there was no cell phone signal here. Even when she had a cell phone, she couldn't make any calls.

Li Qingluo was sound asleep at this moment, and Su Ziyue had no idea how many people were outside.

Furthermore, she couldn't be sure whether they were from another family or the family of the place she stayed at.

Just then, the old and shabby wooden door opened with a squeak.

Hiding under the blanket, Su Ziyue looked outside through the blanket's edge. As she was in the darkness, she could vaguely see the dim light outside and a silhouette standing by the door after the door was opened.

Only one person is there?

All she heard since a moment ago was the sound of the door being opened. She did not hear anyone talking, so there should only be one person outside.

Su Ziyue's heart was in her mouth. She sat up instantly, looked at the silhouette by the door, and hurled her cell phone at it, yelling, "Who is it?!"

The silhouette by the door seemed to have grunted as it paused for a moment. Then, it turned around

and ran away.

Li Qingluo got up in a daze as Su Ziyue's voice woke her up with a start. She asked Su Ziyue, "What's wrong?"

Su Ziyue's heart thumped heavily as the panic still lingered in her heart. She tried her best to say in a calm voice, "Nothing. I just had a nightmare."

Li Qingluo was deeply confused as she had suddenly woken up from a deep sleep. Upon hearing Su Ziyue's explanation, she turned over and continued sleeping without giving a second thought.

It did not take long before the sound of Li Qingluo's even breathing was heard. Su Ziyue sat on the bed for a long time before she finally got out of bed to close the door back.

The next morning, Su Ziyue got up early, for she had barely slept for the rest of that night.

She quietly eyed the villagers up and down while having breakfast. Each of them did not seem to be bad people, but they also seemed to be not as honest and kind-hearted as they looked on the outside.

Li Qingluo stared at her with a look of concern. "You look so unwell, Director Su. Would you like to go back first to take a rest? There aren't many things to do today anyway."

"It's alright," answered Su Ziyue as she did not want to stay in the room alone.

In the daytime, the villagers would go to work in the fields, whereas the kids would attend school. If she stayed in the house, she would be alone.

She did not know who the person last night was and what his or her purpose was. Therefore, she couldn't let her guard down like that.

However, she couldn't tell others about the incident.

The film crew's task this day was to film an elderly who lived alone.

Even though the elderly would appear in the shot for merely several minutes, it wasn't easy to do shooting in such a place.

Moreover, the reclusive elderly stayed quite far away.

Before they finished shooting the footage, someone ran up to them and said they had a few visitors.

"Who are they?" Su Ziyue turned to look at the person.

"A few men came, and they asked for Su Ziyue as soon as they arrived. They're looking for you."

Some men came to such a place to look for her? Who would they be?

Lu Shichu couldn't possibly be one of them. He was quite busy these days, so he couldn't leave to do something else. Moreover, he couldn't possibly come here.

Su Ziyue only knew a handful of men, so after eliminating the possibilities, she figured out who it was without a doubt.

She thought for a moment with a frown before saying, "I'll go with you to take a look."

Su Ziyue went over with that person, only to see Qin Muchen, who was surrounded by everyone.

Sitting on a rock, he seemed to be in a sorry state, his hair slightly disheveled and his suit jacket draped over his arm. He had two buttons on his black shirt unfastened, and his sleeves were rolled up to his forearm.

He looked quite tense as he pressed his thin lips together, making him appear even more distant and unapproachable in his somber black shirt.

It was just that... Su Ziyue could hardly suppress a laugh when she shifted her gaze to the legs of his pants, which were stained with a lot of mud.

There was a mountain path that led to the village. To enter the village, one would need to walk down the path on foot without relying on any means of transportation for around five hours.

Qin Muchen's subordinate, who stood behind him, suddenly looked over the crowd in Su Ziyue's direction. Then, he bent down and whispered something into Qin Muchen's ear.

After that, Su Ziyue saw Qin Muchen looking in her direction.

Seeing that he noticed her presence, she went over right away.

"This is our company's collaborating partner. Pardon us for having to trouble you again after this." Su Ziyue came over and said a few words of courtesy to the villagers, who then went back to attend to their own business.

Qin Muchen's subordinate left with the villagers to arrange for his accommodation, leaving only Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue here.

Su Ziyue kicked the pebbles at her feet in a careless way while putting her hands in her shirt pockets. She asked him, "Why are you here?"

Qin Muchen stood up and fixed his gaze on her for a moment.

Su Ziyue wore neither dresses nor high heels since the conditions here prevented her from doing so. She stood there in a tracksuit, her long, curly hair in a ponytail, making her look youthful and beautiful without her makeup.

It suddenly struck Qin Muchen that he would turn thirty very soon, and he felt a sudden surge of inexplicable dejection deep down inside.

He averted his gaze to look at the forest in the distance. Then, he said flatly, "I'm here to take a look."

Su Ziyue tilted her head to one side with an odd look in her eyes before turning around and walking toward the shooting location. As she walked, she said, "In that case, go and have a look. They're shooting the footage."

Su Ziyue couldn't be bothered to think why exactly he came here.

He couldn't possibly be here just because he wanted to take a look, for Qin Muchen was never such a person who would act on a whim.

Moreover, nothing was interesting about this place, which had nothing else but barren hills and untamed rivers.

Qin Muchen followed her without saying a word. As he looked at her ponytail—which swayed as she walked—a hint of realization flashed across his eyes...

When the two of them reached the shooting location, the crew was filming the last footage before calling it a day.

Qin Muchen stood aside and looked on silently for a while. Then, he bowed his head to look at the mud-stained legs of his pants.

Frowning slightly, he turned around and walked up to Su Ziyue, saying, "Let's go back."

Quick-witted as she was, Su Ziyue realized that he wanted to go back to take a shower and get changed when she saw his long face.

However, the conditions here probably wouldn't allow for that.

Su Ziyue took him back into the village. When they were about to arrive, she said to him, "The conditions here are quite poor, so you..."

"Since you don't mind the conditions as well, do you think that I can't do better than you?" said Qin Muchen with a cold snort as he walked ahead of her.

Su Ziyue tutted and shot an angry glance at his back before catching up with him.

To her surprise, the villagers also arranged for Qin Muchen to stay at the place she was staying.

As she walked past the room where she stayed, she couldn't help but shudder upon recalling the incident last night.

Her face turned pale at once, and she quickly walked to Qin Muchen's side.

Qin Muchen was sharp; he noticed that something was wrong with her, so he asked her, "What's wrong?"

"Nothing," said Su Ziyue flatly as she bowed her head slightly.

Slowing down his pace, Qin Muchen quietly glanced over his shoulder to see a white figure flashing past the corner.