

Marry Me 301

CHAPTER 301

Qin Muchen stopped walking abruptly.

Narrowing his dark black eyes, a cold look flashed across his gaze.

He retracted his gaze immediately after a short but meaningful glance that went unnoticed by Su Ziyue.

Qin Muchen was fully prepared when he arrived. However, after he stepped into the 'bathroom', his brows knitted tightly.

Although it was called a bathroom, it was actually a simply thatched shed, and there were even holes on the roof, as well as a cesspit beside the shed.

Furthermore, the height of the thatched shed was actually shorter than him.

When he turned around and took a glance, he could see inside the cesspit, which contained yellowish and greenish muck...

He was livid as he gritted his teeth and picked up the bucket of water, pouring it down from his head. He put on his clothes and went out immediately.

Su Ziyue was talking to the house owner outside. When they were happily chatting, she noticed that Qin Muchen was coming toward her direction. Hence, she smiled at him and asked, "Done showering?"

Qin Muchen was slightly stunned, then he grunted.

It had been a long time since he last saw Su Ziyue smiling like that, and it was a genuine smile that came from the bottom of her heart.

Su Ziyue's gaze shifted toward his forehead, and she chuckled.

She walked over and helped him to remove several strands of straws that were stuck in his hair. "These were on your head."

As she was speaking, she showed Qin Muchen the straws.

She was wearing her sneakers, and she was about the height of his shoulders. Because she was picking out the straws in his hair earlier, she got really close to him.

So, when Qin Muchen lowered his head to look at her, it was as if he was kissing her.

"Girl, he's your boyfriend?" the owner of the place asked suddenly.

“No, Madam Zhang, he is the Pre... Boss of our partner company.” She wanted to say President, but she was afraid the owner might not understand, so she decided to go with Boss.

The owner was a woman in her thirties, whose surname was Zhang. Her husband had died in a mudslide when he was out in the mountains chopping some wood a few years ago. And she lived with two of her children who were now teenagers.

After working long-term in hard labor, she looked old, but she seemed like a carefree person as she smiled and said, “The young man is tall and handsome, and you’re very beautiful too. You two seemed like a perfect match. Since you’re partnering in business, you might as well partner up as a couple too!”

Su Ziyue smiled as her expression became stiff. “Oh Madam Zhang, stop joking.”

With that, Su Ziyue glanced at Qin Muchen and went out.

Qin Muchen raised his eyebrows and followed behind.

The moment they got out, Su Ziyue said, “Madam Zhang was joking, so don’t take it to heart.”

“I think she has a good eye,” Qin Muchen replied. He sat down on the huge rock that was at the side, looking as if he wanted to chat with Su Ziyue for a little longer.

Su Ziyue pursed her lips and turned to look to the side, as if she didn’t hear anything.

Who would’ve known why he came here suddenly?

Another thought came to her mind and she asked, “Where are the worn clothes that you’ve changed?”

The moment Qin Muchen thought of the ‘bathroom’ earlier, his expression changed.

“I didn’t take it out.” He had actually thrown it away already.

“They don’t have a washing machine here, and there is no dry cleaning shop either. They usually wash their clothes by the river.” Su Ziyue was only telling him the place to wash his clothes, but whether he wanted to wash it or not, it was up to him.

However, she had never seen Qin Muchen washing his clothes, and all of his expensive shirts and suits seemed to be dry cleaned.

Qin Muchen raised his eyes and replied casually, “I don’t know how to wash.”

“In that case, bring your laundry back home.” After Su Ziyue finished her sentence, she could see that the people from the company had returned from afar.

She was worried that she'd create a misunderstanding if she was seen alone with Qin Muchen, so she left immediately after saying, "I'll go take a look."

Qin Muchen looked at her retreating figure and a thought flashed across his mind.

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In the afternoon, after lunch, Su Ziyue and Li Qingluo went back to take a rest.

When Su Ziyue walked to the door, she stopped suddenly.

Maybe it was because of what had happened last night, she decided not to go in and went to check on Qin Muchen instead.

After staying there for several days, she was already getting used to having potatoes for three meals a day. They brought some food when they went there, but ultimately, those still couldn't be compared to when they were in YunZhou City, where they were able to eat whatever they wanted.

As she entered, she noticed Qin Muchen sitting on the bed, looking impassive with a cold look on his face.

The crude house and Qin Muchen's full set of branded outfits had formed a sharp contrast.

When Su Ziyue came in, the men who came with Qin Muchen automatically went out.

Su Ziyue was slightly uncomfortable as she asked, "You're not used to it. You can go back earlier."

She could be overconfident, but she felt the reason Qin Muchen came here had something to do with her.

Qin Muchen did not respond when he heard her; instead, he turned around and picked up a bag, then he handed it to her. "Help me to wash my clothes."

"What?" Su Ziyue thought she had heard wrongly.

"Since I don't know how to wash it, and I didn't bring extra clothes either," Qi Muchen said with a serious expression, but Su Ziyue could tell from his tone that he was being a little playful.

He added, "It's such a small matter, I believe you won't mind, right? Director Su?"

As he was speaking, he stuffed the bag of clothes in her hands.

Director Su? My arse.

Su Ziyue smiled superficially as she returned the bag to him. "But we are only partnering in business."

She might have been overly sensitive, but she thought washing his clothes was way too intimate.

Since it was no longer possible for the two to be together, then it was unnecessary to add any unwanted entanglement between them.

Qin Muchen remained expressionless. "Director Su, do you want me to trouble Madam Zhang or your assistant?"

Madam Zhang would definitely love to help Qin Muchen, but they were there to film for a charity event, not to trouble the people here.

Li Qingluo was her assistant indeed, but Su Ziyue wouldn't let her wash the clothes of a random man.

At the end of the day, it seemed like she was the only choice.

Su Ziyue took the bag of clothes and headed to the river. As she tossed the bucket on the ground, she turned around and looked at Qin Muchen. "Why are you following me?"

"The forest is dense and confined; there might be a huge wild animal, so I'm here to protect you." As Qin Muchen finished his sentence, he turned around and picked up a stick at the roadside.

Su Ziyue thought he sounded absolutely unreasonable, but she couldn't refute.

She was washing the clothes by the river when suddenly, she was splashed with water, which dampened her clothes.

She turned around and looked at Qin Muchen, who was standing beside her. He was bent over, and the stick he picked up earlier was in the water.

Su Ziyue shook away the water droplets on her clothes and asked angrily, "What are you doing?!"

Qin Muchen picked up the stick again and told Su Ziyue, "Fishing."

With that, he handed over the fish that was speared at an end of the stick to Su Ziyue, his tone sounded as if he was showing off. "Look, I caught one. We can have this for dinner."

"Childish. Are you still a kid?!" Su Ziyue squeezed the corner of her shirt; clearly, she was still mad.

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The corner of Su Ziyue's clothes were soaked, and her hair was a little wet too.

Qin Muchen was stunned as he put down the things in his hands and took off his jacket, then he handed it to Su Ziyue. "Change it."

After a moment, he asked, "Not changing?" Qin Muchen noticed that she didn't take over the jacket. He narrowed his gaze as a trace of maliciousness filled his eyes. "I'll help you."

"Don't you dare!" Su Ziyue immediately hugged herself tightly, looking at him cautiously.

She was wearing a two-piece sports attire, and her undergarment was a singlet!

Qin Muchen glanced at her as if he had thought of something. He then put his jacket on her directly and turned around to continue fishing.

The situation was a bit weird; she was washing the clothes by the river while Qin Muchen was spearing fish by the river, with his sleeves rolled up.

The river water level wasn't too deep in spring time, and the water was clean and clear. Qin Muchen had long limbs, so even when he was standing by the riverbank, he was able to throw it really far.

Su Ziyue raised her head and looked at him, feeling as if they had been transported to another lifetime.

There is the type of person who is born aristocratic and superior. Even if they only wore the simplest outfit while doing the most ordinary things, they would shine bright like a diamond, catching people's attention, and Qin Muchen is that type of man. But, is it no longer possible for us to get back together.

She lowered her eyes and looked away from Qin Muchen, but he had been watching her.

He was holding the stick and catching the fish indeed, but his gaze was actually focused on Su Ziyue.

At that moment, he caught sight of a white shadow figure from the corner of his eyes.

Qin Muchen turned around abruptly and noticed that a small tree in the bush not too far away was shaking.

There was definitely someone there. This is the second time already. And, it is always when Su Ziyue and I are together.

A dark look flashed across his eyes as he thought, No matter who that person was and no matter what the motive was, I will not let go of him.

Su Ziyue had finished washing the clothes and was about to head back, while Qin Muchen tied the fish he caught together with rope made by grass and followed behind her.

Su Ziyue thought Qin Muchen looked goofy, but at the same time, she felt that his mood seemed to

have gone downhill.

They returned to Madam Zhang's house. As Su Ziyue was hanging the clothes, Qin Muchen kept on watching her from the side.

However, his expression was slightly gloomy.

When Su Ziyue was done hanging the clothes and was about to leave, Qin Muchen grabbed her by the arm and asked, "Anything happened these few days?"

"Nope." Su Ziyue shook her head and denied reflexively.

Although she really didn't want to admit the truth, Qin Muchen's arrival had indeed relieved her of the fear she previously had.

The concept that Qin Muchen was an almighty presence was already deeply ingrained in her heart.

So, with him by her side, she'd feel secure and safe.

"Tell me the truth." Qin Muchen didn't let go of her and instead strengthened his grip.

Su Ziyue was slightly annoyed. "Who are you to me? Why do I need to answer your questions? Furthermore, I said no, so that means no. Let go of me!"

Qin Muchen's face was stiff as he stared at her for a few seconds. He looked as if he wanted to punch her in the face.

Su Ziyue felt a little guilty subconsciously when she looked at Qin Muchen.

Fortunately, Qin Muchen let go of her in the next moment and left.

Su Ziyue heaved a sigh of relief, but at the same time, she felt a little empty inside.

Qin Muchen did not go back to his room directly.

He went to look for Madam Zhang.

"Are you busy? I caught two fish. Here, stew it for your children to replenish their nutrients." Qin Muchen looked impassive as usual, but his voice was not as cold as before.

He noticed the two children coming back from school in the afternoon.

"Young man, you're amazing! The fishes in the river are very wild. How did you manage to catch them?" Madam Zhang was actually speaking in her native dialect, which had a strong accent to it, but luckily, the

pronunciation was not too far off from Mandarin.

Qin Muchen put down the fish and started a conversation, chatting with her casually.

“Must be hard to bring up two children alone, yes?”

Madam Zhang shook her head as she smiled helplessly. “It is not just that. In the beginning, I thought about giving up all of our lives together, but then again, everyone has their own destiny...”

All in all, although Madam Zhang sounded helpless and had accepted her fate, it wasn't too difficult to notice Madam Zhang's hope in life.

Being a mother was not easy.

In a brief moment, Qin Muchen looked at Madam Zhang and was caught in his memories.

He quickly pulled himself together and there was a slight change in his expression as he said, “Don't you worry; everything will get better.”

Madam Zhang laughed loudly as she sounded glad. “Right? First, Yannan came back to teach the kids; then, you guys showed up to help us. Our lives will definitely get better and better!”

Qin Muchen replied hoarsely, “Yes, of course.”

For some people, they were always working harder than most people to survive, but luck and fate were not on their side. People would say that poverty and suffering would always come hand in hand.

He realized that Madam Zhang had mentioned ‘Yannan’ earlier, and he recalled the white figure he saw. He asked, “You mentioned there was someone teaching here?”

“Yeah, his name is Lee Yannan. He's also a poor kid. He lost his parents when he was younger, and he grew up receiving blessings around the neighbourhood. Then, he left the village to earn a better living, but I didn't expect he'd come back to teach. He's indeed a grateful child!”

Madam Zhang looked grateful when she brought up Lee Yannan.

However, Qin Muchen knitted his brows slightly.

From Madam Zhang's tone, it seemed as if Lee Yannan is a person with gratitude. However, if he was really someone with gratitude and integrity, then how come he was following my woman secretly?

Although Qin Muchen couldn't be sure, based on his assumption, he thought the person must have been Lee Yannan.

The reason was because the people in the village were all farmers, and they all had to work in the field during the day. It was impossible for someone to wear a white-colored shirt which was too hard to avoid being dirtied.

He only needed to ask someone to find out what the situation was.

“I have something to do, so I’ll get going.”

After Qin Muchen excused himself from Madam Zhang, he went back to his room.

The moment he entered the room, he told one of his men, “Call Nan Chuan for me... Forget it, I’ll call him myself.”

Before he went to the village, he knew there were no phone signals, so he had already prepared a satellite phone.

The call went through after a while.

“Boss, you’ve arrived?”

Qin Muchen didn’t bother to answer Nan Chuan’s question, and he demanded right away, “Look for someone called Lee Yannan for me. Now.”

“I happened to be looking up on someone. I’ll ask them to check for you now and you’ll get the results soon.”

As Nan Chuan finished speaking, he turned to the worker next to him and said, “Look for someone called Lee Yannan.”

Immediately, before Qin Muchen could hand up the phone, Nan Chuan said, “There are over a hundred Lee Yannan in total, and one of them is a fugitive on the run...”

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Qin Muchen murmured, “A fugitive on the run?”

Before Qin Muchen could hand out his next instruction, Nan Chuan had already asked someone to hand over the information about Lee Yannan.

He took the information and paused for a moment, then he said, “Boss, Lee Yannan was a human trafficker. Later on, he was captured on the charge of raping...”

When Nan Chuan mentioned the word, he felt perturbed.

What the Boss hates the most is those rapists. Although Boss is not a kind person, when it comes to this kind of person, it still bothers him.

After a long while, he heard Qin Muchen's voice asking, "Any more information?"

"He's about thirty years old and 167cm tall; he is also literate and his hometown might be in the southwestern mountains..."

Without waiting for Nan Chuan to finish his sentence, Qin Muchen interrupted him by saying, "Is it impossible to confirm the age, height and address?"

"Because it happened several years ago, and at the time, many huge cases were happening all together. They were unable to manage the situation, so Lee Yannan escaped. This person is very cunning, and back then, even his identity card was fake..."

Nan Chuan could feel Qin Muchen's expression had changed through the phone; he initially wanted to tell him that his name could be fake too, but he back-pedalled.

However, Qin Muchen didn't get angry. Instead, he said calmly, "That's it for now. Pay more attention to the things in Yunzhou City. I'll give you a holiday when I go back."

After hanging up the phone, Qin Muchen decided to meet this person who called Lee Yannan.

But, I can't go alone. Should I let Su Ziyue take me? Yeap, that seems to be a good idea. Qin Muchen thought about it as he went out.

There was no signal over there, so he couldn't make a phone call. They would have to talk in person if there was anything they needed.

He suddenly realized that maybe having no signal was a good thing. At least when she had anything to tell him, she could only see him in person.

He walked casually to Su Ziyue's door, and noticed that she was typing away on her laptop.

He stood outside the room and stretched his arm to knock on the door.

Su Ziyue looked toward the door when she heard the sound.

When she saw Qin Muchen, she was stunned for a moment, and closed her laptop.

Then, she asked, "Anything?"

"Busy?" Qin Muchen ignored her question.

Su Ziyue felt slightly awkward about the way they were communicating—meaningless, and they sounded as if they were unfamiliar with each other.

“I was just writing down some notes,” Su Ziyue replied.

Qin Muchen nodded as he stood outside and did not enter the room. He asked her at a distance, “If you’re not busy, can you take me to the school here to have a look?”

Su Ziyue didn’t like the way he was being polite.

She was more used to the Qin Muchen who had always talked to her in a way of giving orders.

As she was surprised by her own thoughts, she came to her senses and replied immediately, “Sure. Now, right?”

Su Ziyue was turning off the laptop as she spoke.

When the two arrived at the school, it was close to the time school finished.

Children here took classes during the day, but they were dismissed early in the afternoon as they needed to help out back home.

The people here had a relatively poor mindset, all due to poverty and backwardness of the place.

They were unwilling to leave the village, and they all thought as long as they worked hard in farming, they would have a better life.

Su Ziyue was slightly tired from walking. When they were not far away from the entrance, she stood at the spot with a hand on her hips and pointed with the other as she told him, “This is it.”

Qin Muchen glanced toward the ‘school’ that they referred to and knitted his brows.

He knew there were many underdeveloped places in the world, but when he saw it with his own eyes, it still gave him a heavy impact.

Su Ziyue glanced at him and smiled. “When I saw the school the first time, I was even more surprised than you.”

“I am not surprised.” Qin Muchen glanced at her and headed toward the classroom.

Lee Yannan was writing an equation on the small blackboard, solving the question for the kids.

Qin Muchen narrowed his eyes slightly and there was a sense of scrutiny in his gaze.

He was wearing a white T-shirt, and had a slim figure; he seemed to be around thirty years old, about 168 cm tall, and he seemed pretty gentle and polite.

No matter how Muchen looked at him, it was hard to see any connection of him being a human trafficker and a rapist.

“He is the only teacher here, called Lee Yannan. I heard when he was a teenager, he left the mountains and went out to explore. He came back a few years ago and started teaching the kids here. What’s admirable is that he didn’t forget why he started it.”

Somehow Su Ziyue had walked to his side.

Qin Muchen snorted when he heard her words. “Admirable?”

Su Ziyue really thought someone like Lee Yannan was very admirable. And Qin Muchen’s snide tone only made her annoyed.

Her expression darkened. “Qin Muchen, what do you mean?”

Qin Muchen merely said enigmatically, “Take a guess.”

He actually didn’t mean anything, but the person that could potentially be someone ‘meaningful’ was Lee Yannan himself.

He had been doing business for so long, and he had never misjudged someone.

Lee Yannan was definitely not a normal person.

Su Ziyue snorted and ignored him.

He is being sardonic and deprecatative, so I will not entertain him.

At that moment, it was time for school to end.

When the kids rushed toward the door, Qin Muchen immediately took Su Ziyue into his arms.

Su Ziyue was avoiding the kids, and she didn’t realize she was already leaning against him.

When Lee Yannan came out, he looked at Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen in surprise. “Miss Su, this is your...”

Su Ziyue turned around to look at Qin Muchen, only to realize she was really close to Qin Muchen.

She immediately took a step back and said to Lee Yannan, “This is our investor, and also our business partner, whose surname is Qin.”

Lee Yannan replied politely, "Mr. Qin."

The villages here didn't typically go with Mr. or Miss. They always addressed them as young ladies or young men.

Qin Muchen stood still, and he even tucked away his hands into the pockets of his suit pants as he replied casually, "Hello."

Lee Yannan's expression became stony all of a sudden.

He turned to look at Su Ziyue. "Miss Su, is there anything I can help you with today?"

Su Ziyue shook her head and said, "Nothing, we only came to have a look. We are heading back now and you must be tired after a whole day of teaching. You should go home."

He only nodded when he heard that. He wanted to say something, but when he noticed that Qin Muchen was standing at the side looking impassive, he felt a sense of inexplicable fear.

Before he left, he gave Qin Muchen a glance, which didn't go unnoticed by Qin Muchen; even Su Ziyue noticed it too.

Somehow, she felt Lee Yannan was a little weird.

It was not her first time feeling it.

And because of what happened last night, she kept feeling a little unsettled.

After some thought, she looked at Qin Muchen and called him, "Qin Muchen."

"What's wrong?" Qin Muchen turned his head and looked at her with a serious expression. As usual, like many times before, when she looked at him, she felt she could rely on him.

She bit her lip and said, "Actually... I think this Mr. Lee is a little weird."

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She wanted to tell him what had happened last night, but when the words came to her lips, she restrained herself.

What had happened last night was her problem, and Qin Muchen and her were only business partners...

She had warned herself continuously, but she almost let it slip all the time.

"What's weird?" Qin Muchen became interested as he spoke while walking into the classroom.

Because it was a rock cave, it was very humid inside, and the lighting was poor. The tables and chairs were mostly brought by the kids from home.

The condition was really bad.

“His gaze.” Su Ziyue thought about it and said, “I think someone like Mr. Lee is really admirable, but his gaze made me slightly uncomfortable...”

And she was unable to describe how uncomfortable she felt exactly.

She believed that one’s facial features always reflected who they were.

For someone to be able to resist the temptations outside and return to the poor village to teach, he must be an open-minded and open-hearted person.

But sometimes, Lee Yannan’s gaze was really weird...

Qin Muchen was walking forward as he said, “Most of the time, trusting your own instincts is right.”

He stood in front of a table and looked at the thick layer of dirt on top. He stopped and didn’t walk deeper as he turned around to look at Su Ziyue.

Su Ziyue was still thinking about what he had said earlier.

When she saw Qin Muchen turning around, she asked, “Does that mean, you think so too?”

“Did you forget what I said earlier?” Qin Muchen returned the question.

What he said earlier... To trust my instincts?

Su Ziyue asked immediately, “You think so too? If so, what do you think is the problem with Mr. Lee?”

Qin Muchen did not answer, but he asked her instead, “Didn’t you say he was admirable?”

He admired this kind of person as well, but she praised some other man in front of him...

“What he did was indeed admirable, but his gaze really looked weird sometimes, so that’s why I’m confused.”

If it was the old Su Ziyue, she wouldn’t overthink it, but since the incident two years ago, she was becoming really careful and cautious.

She wouldn’t dare to do anything carelessly after that.

When Qin Muchen saw that Su Ziyue was conflicted, he finally said, "I'll handle it. Just stay further away from him, and don't go out alone."

And he was not planning to tell her that Lee Yannan was secretly following her.

He was afraid she would be worried.

The two bumped into Li Qingluo when they got back.

The moment Li Qingluo saw them coming back together, she couldn't hide her surprise, but she knew her boundaries, so she didn't mention anything.

"President Qin, Director Su."

Su Ziyue knew Li Qingluo would definitely misunderstand her and Qin Muchen again. So, she walked over and asked, "Is there any problem?"

Li Qingluo muttered, "There are some things that I wanted to consult you..."

She was still slightly afraid of her boss.

"You can ask as we walk." Su Ziyue finished her sentence and turned to Qin Muchen. "We'll be going first. You can roam around on your own."

With that, she went away with Li Qingluo.

Qin Muchen watched as they entered the house, only then did he turn around and went the other way.

He saw Lee Yannan again.

But this time, it was not Lee Yannan who was following him. When he was walking back earlier, he noticed Lee Yannan's house by chance.

When Qin Muchen went over, Lee Yannan was sweeping the floor.

His house had two rooms—a kitchen and a bedroom. The bedroom and the kitchen were connected.

The kitchen was small, and it would be a tight fit for two people. The bedroom was slightly bigger, furnished with a bed, a worn down wooden cupboard, and a desk.

It was very simple and crude. There was nothing special to it, but it was very clean.

After hearing the footsteps, Lee Yannan looked up immediately.

He was stunned when he saw Qin Muchen. He stopped sweeping and asked, "Mr. Qin? What brings you here?"

Qin Muchen glanced around the house, and he noticed an old and shabby chair at the corner.

He pulled over the chair and sat on it.

But before he could sit properly, a loud creak was heard coming from the chair.

Qin Muchen knitted his eyebrows but continued to sit on it.

"There's no entertainment here, and since I am free, I thought I'd come and chat with you, Mr. Lee. I realized that you seem to be... different than the rest of the villagers."

Qin Muchen intentionally paused for a moment, so he'd look as if he was thinking about it before he spoke.

He had just finished his sentence, and indeed, he noticed that Lee Yannan's expression had changed.

"Well, aren't we all the same? We're all poor after all."

Lee Yannan was talking as he swept the rubbish into the dustpan and dumped it outside before walking into the house again.

"You're different from them; you're knowledgeable, and you have your own visions." Qin Muchen's tone sounded as if he was testing him.

All of Lee Yannan's behaviour so far had made Qin Muchen conclude that he wanted to stand out among the villagers.

This showed that he was someone who was ambitious and had his own vision. However, due to the environment he grew up in, he needed to work harder than ordinary people in order to stand out.

As Lee Yannan heard his words, his eyes lit up, but dimmed soon after. He shook his head as he said, "I am grateful to be able to teach in the village."

Qin Muchen smiled enigmatically when he heard his reply. "Mr. Lee, you're indeed a selfless person."

When Lee Yannan looked at the smile on Qin Muchen's face, his face suddenly went pale. "I'm sorry, Mr. Qin. I feel slightly unwell today and I would like to get some rest now."

"In that case, Mr. Lee, please get some rest, and take care." After Qin Muchen finished speaking, he got up and left.

On the way back, Qin Muchen reorganized everything in his head, including the things Lee Yannan had said as well as his reactions.

A human trafficker, a fugitive on the run, and a teacher in a poor village... Interesting indeed. However...

The people who did these kinds of things definitely didn't have any good intentions, so regardless of whether the Lee Yannan mentioned by Nan Chuan was this person, he had to alert Su Ziyue about it.

Women get confused easily sometimes.

During dinner, Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue sat on the same table.

The rest didn't join them.

Qin Muchen was slowly eating the sweet potatoes when he suddenly said, as if he was casually chatting, "I have asked Nan Chuan to search on it and there is a fugitive on the run named Lee Yannan."

Qin Muchen spoke softly, and only Su Ziyue could hear him.

Su Ziyue thought she had heard wrongly as she replied, "What?"

"Regardless of whether he is that person, just stay further away from him. And don't go running about the place."

After Qin Muchen had told her everything in a concise manner, he didn't speak again, but Su Ziyue no longer had the appetite to eat.

She thought Lee Yannan was a little weird previously, as his behaviour was contradictory with his character.

However, after hearing what Qin Muchen had said, she thought it was outrageous.

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Although Su Ziyue thought what Qin Muchen had just told her was a little outrageous, at the end of the day, she still trusted him more.

Su Ziyue hadn't seen Lee Yannan for the following days.

She was also trying to avoid him intentionally, and the person who tried to break open the door the other night didn't show up again.

However, Su Ziyue still felt unsettled.

After some thought, she decided to tell Qin Muchen about it.

Su Ziyue asked someone about Qin Muchen's whereabouts, and she was preparing to look for him.

However, when she was halfway there, she bumped into Lee Yannan.

There was a slight change in her expression, but it immediately returned to normal.

Like the way she met him before, Su Ziyue smiled at him and called, "Mr. Lee."

"Miss Su, are you busy these few days? I haven't seen you for days." Lee Yannan smiled, and his voice sounded low.

He was thin and his face was bony, as if there was no flesh on his face under that layer of skin. After looking at his smiling face for a long while, Su Ziyue thought that he looked somewhat scary.

Su Ziyue had her arms crossed unconsciously, and the smile on her face had died down a little. "Because there is still some work to do at the company, and I can't stay here for too long. So, I wanted to get the work here done quickly and go back."

Lee Yannan's expression didn't change when he heard her words. He merely nodded.

"I have some things to do, so I better get going. We'll talk later." Su Ziyue looked around when she was speaking.

Coincidentally, she noticed that there was no one around.

She felt her anxiety rose gradually.

She only wanted to leave that place at once.

"Well, talk later." Lee Yannan's speech was slower as his eyes were lowered, making it difficult for anyone to see his gaze.

Su Ziyue didn't continue the conversation as she walked past him and immediately went ahead.

"Miss Su."

She was only a few steps away from him when she heard Lee Yannan called her name.

She reflexively turned around and looked toward Lee Yannan's direction.

However, the moment she turned around, and before she could see his face, Lee Yannan's knife was already by her neck.

Everything went black suddenly, and she went unconscious.

Before going unconscious, she could only think of one thing. I can't avoid the inevitable.

Su Ziyue woke up gradually, not knowing how long she had passed out.

Her surroundings were pitch black.

She tried to move her limbs, only to notice that her hands and legs were tied up, and they were cramping and aching really badly, which suggested that she had been knocked out for a quite a while.

Her eyes were somewhat blindfolded by something. She couldn't see anything.

Su Ziyue struggled for a while, wanting to get up. But after struggling for a while, she realized it was completely a waste of energy.

Her hands and legs were tied up; she couldn't move, and she couldn't see as well.

She felt furious as she was suffering from this for no reason.

After all, she had nothing to do with Lee Yannan!

However, she was in the worst situation.

She felt a little panicky, but she could only force herself to calm down.

She screamed, "Lee Yannan!"

The only response that she heard was the echo of her voice.

She couldn't accept it, so she yelled again and again, but still, there was no other response.

She didn't know where Lee Yannan had abducted her to, and she had no idea what was his motive as well. Based on her current condition, she could only sit and wait hopelessly.

Every minute and second to Su Ziyue was exceptionally long.

Finally, after a while, she heard footsteps approaching.

She opened her mouth as she wanted to say something, but she was worried if the person was someone bad.

But, obviously she had been thinking too much.

The person who came was none other than Lee Yannan.

“You woke up so soon.”

As his voice was heard, he was already in front of Su Ziyue.

Although she couldn't see, she could feel that there was someone in front of her.

Su Ziyue tilted her head to listen as she said, “Lee Yannan, why did you kidnap me?”

“Because you came, so I had to catch you!” Lee Yannan sounded violent; his pitch was raised, as if he was very impressed by himself.

“You!” Su Ziyue got so angry that she was out of words when she heard his answer.

She pursed her lips tightly as she was secretly trying to untie her hands behind.

However, after using up every bit of her strength, she still failed to loosen the rope; she couldn't loosen it even for a tiny bit.

“Don't waste your energy. I'm the best at tying people up. I know many techniques to tie someone up without letting them have a chance to break free.”

As he spoke, Lee Yannan even sounded as if he was showing off.

Su Ziyue suddenly recalled what Qin Muchen had told her—he had asked Nan Chuan to investigate a person named Lee Yannan, who was a fugitive on the run.

Then, she connected the dots to what Lee Yannan had said just now.

Su Ziyue had goosebumps at the thought.

“You used to tie people up? What did you use to do actually?” Su Ziyue already had a good guess, but still, she didn't confront him directly.

No matter what Lee Yannan's final goal was, it was definitely not with good intention.

He seemed to be proud of what he had done, so she might as well went along with it, all the while trying not to provoke him.

It's easy to dodge a spear in the open, but hard to avoid a stab in the dark.

What with Lee Yannan's normal identity, it was impossible for anyone to figure out that he was a

fugitive, and that he was doing things that infuriated people the most.

"I am a simple teacher in the mountains! You didn't know that? Haha!" As Lee Yannan finished speaking, he started laughing on his own.

Then, he continued, "Those of you who came from the big cities, didn't you all think this is touching?"

"Yes, I think this is very rare, because I can't do it myself." Su Ziyue had told the truth.

"Bullsh*t! I should have a better life. Why should I be stuck in this poor village and spend the rest of my life here? What I have is a way to make money, and live a better life!"

Lee Yannan sounded crazy, as if he had been suppressed for too long.

He continued to blab, and Si Ziyue could not understand a single thing.

She felt that Lee Yannan's mental state was becoming abnormal.

After Lee Yannan finished speaking, Su Ziyue began to say nonchalantly, "There are many people who came with me, so if they can't find me, they'd get suspicious and until then..."

Without waiting for Su Ziyue to finish her sentence, Lee Yannan smiled as he interjected, "Do you think this is the city? Do you seriously think it's so easy to find someone here? You've been here for so long, and you probably know the terrain here, right? It's all covered by dense forests and on the mountains, there are so many caves, so do you think it'll be an easy task for them to find you?"

Su Ziyue's heart sank suddenly.

She had forgotten she wasn't in Yunzhou City.

There was no transportation, no signal and most of all, there was no police.

If Lee Yannan had taken her to one of the caves in the mountains, it would not be easy for anyone who was not familiar with the terrain to locate her.

Furthermore, even if they could find her, how long would it take?

Before they could find her, Lee Yannan could have already done a lot of things to her.

"Stay put. Blame yourself for ruining my plan!" As Lee Yannan finished speaking, he stuffed a piece of cloth into her mouth.

Then, she could hear his footsteps fading away.

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Su Ziyue sat alone feeling depressed as she shook her head violently, trying to get the rag out of her mouth.

She was already getting dizzy from shaking, but she still failed.

She took a deep breath and forced herself to calm down, trying to analyze the situation quietly in her brain.

She didn't know how long she had passed out, but when she was abducted by Lee Yannan, she had only taken her breakfast.

And she hadn't felt hungry yet, so it probably meant that it wasn't noon yet.

At the time, she was having a short meeting with her colleagues, so Qin Muchen was not suitable to be there. Then, she decided to look for Qin Muchen at the last minute.

Within this period of time, her colleagues must have thought she went to look for Qin Muchen, while Qin Muchen must have thought she was with her colleagues.

But when would her colleagues meet up with Qin Muchen?

This meant that if her colleagues didn't see Qin Muchen, they wouldn't know she was gone.

There was only a slight chance that her colleagues would go looking for Qin Muchen on their own as she had the highest rank, so she was always the one who went to him directly if there was anything.

When she thought of this, she felt slightly helpless.

She had already tried to avoid Lee Yannan, but in the end, she couldn't avoid the inevitable.

Qin Muchen was on the phone with Nan Chuan. It was a business call.

Because he had been away for a long time, and the work was piling up, so the two talked for a long while.

When he finished the call, he saw his men coming to him.

Qin Muchen was slightly annoyed when he saw them. "Why are you here? Where is she?"

Because of Lee Yannan, he was very vigilant.

He thought that alerting Su Ziyue wasn't enough, as he worried there would still be some things that he had let slip, so he had his men to follow her at all times.

The reason he came with his men was actually because of Su Ziyue.

Otherwise, he wouldn't need them at all.

One of his men asked, "I thought Su Ziyue came to look for you?"

When Su Ziyue and her colleagues were having a meeting, they waited outside.

Then, Su Ziyue had asked them to help out with tidying when the meeting finished.

They only found out that she had come to look for Qin Muchen when they finished tidying, so they immediately came afterward.

"When did she come over?!" Qin Muchen's expression darkened as his eyes dimmed, and his brows furrowed in anger.

The men were afraid to breathe when they saw Qin Muchen's reaction.

By the look of Qin Muchen's expression, they knew something was wrong.

Thud!

Qin Muchen couldn't contain himself as he smashed the satellite phone in his hand.

It was all because of the call!

Although he wanted to believe that Su Ziyue had only wandered off somewhere, the chances were really low.

Ever since he alerted her about the situation, she was pretty careful herself.

If it was two years ago, she wouldn't have listened to him so obediently.

However, during the two years without him in her life, she had grown a lot; she had learned to handle situations rationally and calmly, and she was no longer that stubborn.

Qin Muchen's expression became worse when he thought about the incident two years ago.

He suppressed the anger in him and ordered with a gloomy tone, "Find her."

Now is not the time to get angry.

This place was not Yunzhou city, and if Su Ziyue was indeed lost, it would not be easy to find her. To them, who were not familiar with the terrain, every second was important.

The men immediately went out, while Qin Muchen went to Lee Yannan's house alone.

When Qin Muchen came to Lee Yannan's door, he realized that the door was not locked.

He kicked the door open directly and strode in.

"Lee Yannan, come out!"

Qin Muchen walked into the room with a sullen face and searched through the house, but he could not find Lee Yannan.

At that moment, there were footsteps outside.

Qin Muchen turned around and noticed Lee Yannan entering the house with two books in his hands.

When Lee Yannan saw Qin Muchen, a hint of surprise flashed across his eyes. "Mr. Qin, why are you here?"

Qin Muchen no longer had the mood to play around with him.

He walked over and grabbed Lee Yannan by the collar directly, his voice as cold as ice as he demanded, "Speak, where did you take her?!"

He should've dealt with Lee Yannan the hard way since the beginning, but he knew Su Ziyue had some hopes deep down that Lee Yannan was not the type of person he thought he would be.

On the other hand, he knew this project was really important to Su Ziyue.

However, it still ended up this way.

Qin Muchen was a lot taller than Lee Yannan. As he was furious, he grabbed Lee Yannan's shirt tightly, almost lifting him up.

Lee Yannan was on his toes, and his anxiousness made him struggle to speak. "Mr. Qin, I don't understand what you are saying..."

Qin Muchen scoffed, "You don't understand?"

Before waiting for Lee Yannan to react, he bent his knee and dug it deep into Lee Yannan's stomach.

Qin Muchen was born with an aggressiveness and ferocity within him, but he was very good at hiding and controlling it during normal times.

Lee Yannan coughed as he bent over while clutching his stomach.

When Qin Muchen was about to speak, he raised his eyes and noticed that Madam Zhang was walking toward their direction.

She was carrying a bag on her shoulder, and it was obvious that she was to deliver it to Lee Yannan.

Madam Zhang was facing the door when she came over, so she had witnessed everything that was happening between Qin Muchen and Lee Yannan.

Hence, she rushed over and said, "Hey, what's going on? Why are you guys fighting? Let go of him quickly! Don't fight..."

Madam Zhang tossed the bag off her shoulder as she came running to stop the fight.

Lee Yannan didn't say anything else but looked at Madam Zhang calmly, and his voice sounded slightly weak. "Madam Zhang, why are you here again?"

"I dug out some potatoes this morning, and I was thinking of sending you some..." Madam Zhang was pulling Qin Muchen's arm as she spoke with Lee Yannan. "Young man, hurry up and let go of him. The children in the village all depend on Yannan to educate them!"

"You don't need to worry about this. As for the children here, I will build a school for them and hire professional teachers so they will learn according to the system."

Qin Muchen's expression was sullen as he spoke coldly. He was no longer the young man who chatted about parenting with her the other day.

Madam Zhang was stunned as she looked at him, then she looked at Lee Yannan again. In the end she still sided with Lee Yannan.

"You should let go of Lee Yannan first..."

Qin Muchen glanced at her coldly as he let go of Lee Yannan and sat down at the side as he told Madam Zhang, "You may leave now."

When Madam Zhang saw that Qin Muchen had finally let go of Lee Yannan, she muttered something before she left.

As she was leaving, she turned around and looked at them again. Are they going to fight again?

When Madam Zhang disappeared from their sight, Lee Yannan, who was relieved, looked toward Qin Muchen. "Is Miss Su your woman?"

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Qin Muchen gave him a cold glance and didn't speak.

Lee Yannan smiled and said, "She's beautiful. I'd assume she has a lot of admirers!"

"Where is she?!" Qin Muchen suppressed his anger as his tone sounded frosty.

Lee Yannan could tell Qin Muchen's persistence, so he stopped messing around with him. He took out two pills out of nowhere and handed it to Qin Muchen. "Swallow them, then I'll bring you to her. Only you, alone, can go with me."

Qin Muchen glanced at him, and without hesitation, he took the pills and swallowed them. Lee Yannan was surprised as he said playfully, "You're not afraid that I would poison you?"

Qin Muchen looked at him coldly and didn't respond. Lee Yannan thought it was no fun, so he said, "Let's go then." With that, he started walking.

Lee Yannan led Qin Muchen along a small trail behind the village and headed into the mountains. There, weeds were growing everywhere. After a short walk, no roads could be seen. They were surrounded by weeds and the forest, and it was impossible to tell the direction. Qin Muchen stared at Lee Yannan from the back, and he quietly spit out the pills that he had hid under his tongue.

Lee Yannan thought he sensed something, and he suddenly turned around to look at him. "What are you doing?"

"Nothing." Qin Muchen was surprised at Lee Yannan's sharpness, and he began to reflect on his own carelessness. He should've asked Nan Chuan to look into Lee Yannan's details previously.

Lee Yannan snorted and continued to walk, but he suddenly sped up his pace. Qin Muchen had to speed up as well as he followed behind. However, when they walked across an area that was densely covered in weeds, he accidentally missed a step and lost his balance as he fell into a hole. Thud! Qin Muchen fell to the ground, but fortunately, it wasn't very deep. He quickly got up and looked toward Lee Yannan, who was looking at him from the top as he squatted down.

"Mr. Qin, you didn't guess it, right? I saved an extra trick!" Lee Yannan looked proud. When he noticed that Qin Muchen's expression had darkened, he felt triumphant. "You thought I would believe that you actually swallowed the pills? You shall wait here then. But don't worry, I will bring your woman to you very soon."

...

Su Ziyue's body was aching as she was tied up, but she couldn't break herself free, so she could only endure the pain. Luckily, not long after, she heard footsteps again. Su Ziyue tilted her head so she could hear better, and she tried to call out tentatively, "Lee Yannan?"

“Get up. I’m taking you to meet your man.” As Lee Yannan was speaking, he lifted her up aggressively and dragged her.

Although Su Ziyue was wearing long sleeves and trousers, her clothes were rolled up after all the dragging, so her skin was grazed badly. Fortunately, after a while, Lee Yannan stopped. Before Su Ziyue could take a breath, she felt that Lee Yannan had pushed her, and she fell forward directly. She could hear Lee Yannan’s voice calling out, “Catch! Your woman is here!”

Subsequently, she could hear an anxious voice calling her name, “Su Ziyue.”

“Mmh...” Su Ziyue felt she had landed on something warm...

Then, Qin Muchen’s voice followed. “Are you okay? Speak!”

Qin Muchen? “Mmmh... “ She was still tied up!

Qin Muchen immediately took down her blindfold and removed the rag in her mouth as he helped her to sit up. Looking at her anxiously, he asked, “Are you hurt anywhere?”

Su Ziyue shook her head in a daze. As she hadn’t been speaking for a while, her voice sounded hoarse. “Why are you here?”

At the moment, they remembered Lee Yannan. They raised their heads and saw Lee Yannan, who was squatting down and looking down at them from above the pit. Lee Yannan sneered when he saw them looking at him, and he said, “Well, you can catch up. Take advantage of the days you have left and enjoy your time.” As he finished speaking, he stood up and covered the hole.

The hole was about three to four meters deep; the walls were smooth, and nothing grew inside. Obviously, it was a newly dug hole, and after the hole was covered, it became pitch black inside. Qin Muchen took the lead to speak. “Let me undo the ropes for you.”

Su Ziyue responded with a grunt. However, there was no light in the hole, so Qin Muchen could only try to touch around to untie her. The moment he stretched his hand, he accidentally touched Su Ziyue’s breast.

Su Ziyue got anxious. “Hey, where are you touching?!”

“Sorry.” Qin Muchen withdrew his hand immediately.

Su Ziyue bit her lip; knowing that Qin Muchen might not have done it on purpose, she didn’t speak again. After a long while, Qin Muchen finally untied the rope on Su Ziyue. Su Ziyue was in great pain after being tied up, and the moment she was untied, she lay down on the ground directly.

In the dark, Qin Muchen took off his suit and laid it on the ground. “Sit here. Don’t lie there; the ground

is cold.”

“I’m in pain all over my body. Just let me rest for a bit,” Su Ziyue replied weakly. Her fear and anxiousness went away gradually when she saw Qin Muchen. She was now completely relieved. Even so, the woman got up quickly and asked him, “You didn’t tell me why you are here.”

“I came with him to look for you,” Qin Muchen replied lightly, not sounding nervous at all.

Su Ziyue was relieved, so she said, “I’m sorry to have troubled you and dragged you into this.”

“It’s not your problem. He targeted me as well.”

Su Ziyue didn’t understand. “What do you mean?”

Qin Muchen’s tone became solemn as he said, “I was underestimating Lee Yannan previously. He is surely not an ordinary human trafficker.”

Su Ziyue recalled what Lee Yannan had said before, so she told him, “He told me earlier that we have messed up his plan.”

His plan? Qin Muchen narrowed his eyes, but at the time, they had no leads at all, so he couldn’t have guessed what Lee Yannan’s true motive was.

The two quieted down. Su Ziyue stood up and checked if there was a way out, but as she touched the smooth wall, she knew it was impossible to get out. The heights of Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen added up together might not even be taller than the hole, and apart from the rope that was taken down from her, they had nothing else to use. She sat down again feeling depressed. She was slightly hungry by now.

“Su Ziyue,” Qin Muchen suddenly called her amidst the silence.

“What?”

Qin Muchen was quiet for a long while. Just when Su Ziyue thought he wasn’t going to speak, he said, “Why do you hate me?”

Su Ziyue was stunned as she hadn’t expected him to ask her the question. However, why did he ask her the question? She laughed to herself and said, “Why do you ask? Is it because you’re thinking I shouldn’t hate you?”

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Qin Muchen retorted, “So, it’s true then, that you still hate me?”

Upon hearing that, Su Ziyue finally realized the reason Qin Muchen asked that question earlier was just to trick her into admitting she still hated him.

Ever since she said those words to Qin Muchen at the Cloud Bay Villa, she never thought she would talk about these with him in private again, not even when they were now in a helpless situation.

“So what? Whether I still hate you or not, what can you do about it? Everything is over now.” Although Su Ziyue sounded like she had let things go, she couldn’t hide the resentment in her tone.

Qin Muchen almost gritted his teeth as he said, “No, it’s not over! I won’t allow you to forget about this either!”

“I’ve said everything I needed to say last time. I don’t want to say any harsher words to you. And Qin Muchen, the fact that you would keep on pestering me again and again even though we’re over is not something you would normally do! No matter what reason that is making you refuse to let me go after all this time, I beg of you to stop it, alright?” Su Ziyue sounded like she was in pain.

Qin Muchen noticed the pain in her voice, but he didn’t want to force her either.

Qin Muchen sighed and he said in a helpless voice, “You’re still being unreasonable. Was it me who wouldn’t let go of you, or was it you who wouldn’t let me go?”

Without waiting for Su Ziyue to say anything again, Qin Muchen grabbed her hand precisely and placed it over his chest.

There was a hint of sorrow in his usually pleasant voice. “If you’re willing to walk out of here, I will never look at you again, not to mention divorcing you.”

Through the thin shirt, Su Ziyue could feel Qin Muchen’s warm skin and his strong heartbeat.

Feeling as though getting scorched by his warmth, the panicked Su Ziyue wanted to retract her hand, but Qin Muchen didn’t give her the chance. He pulled her into his embrace and wrapped his arms around her tightly.

“Su Ziyue, don’t be so heartless. Do you want to pretend the days we spent together before this didn’t exist too?”

He held her very tightly; his embrace was so tight that Su Ziyue felt he had almost broken her waist.

The thing which Su Ziyue didn’t want to hear from him the most was their past. Tears rolled down from her eyes the moment she heard his words.

However, she thought of her child. Her heart that had started to melt slightly became cold again gradually. “I’m no match for you when it comes to being heartless.”

Since she couldn’t break free of Qin Muchen’s embrace, she stopped struggling to free herself all

together.

Because of his words, her heart that had softened up gradually became stone cold again.

Even if she really could forgive Qin Muchen for everything he did, she couldn't forget about the child.

Feeling the warm liquid around his neck, Qin Muchen trembled violently. In a panic, he comforted immediately, "I'll stop saying that. Don't cry, don't cry..."

Upon hearing his words, Su Ziyue cried even louder.

"You're the most heartless person in the world. Gong Zeyang and I have always been innocent. Nothing happened between us. If you really don't believe me and think that I'm that kind of promiscuous woman, you shouldn't have begun a relationship with me in the first place!"

As she finished her words, she started to sob. Her tears dampened his shoulder.

Her words stung Qin Muchen, who felt as if an invisible hand had squeezed his heart tightly. It pained him very much.

However, he was never a person who was very good with his words. He just held her tightly and explained, "It's not that I don't believe you... I'm just jealous of him."

He was jealous because Su Ziyue used to like Gong Zeyang. He was jealous because she had liked Gong Zeyang for her entire youth. It wasn't because he didn't believe her; he was just angry.

Su Ziyue snorted coldly. "Stop kidding me. You're richer than him, better-looking than him and even taller than him. You're better than him in every way. Why are you jealous of him?"

Qin Muchen was ecstatic. His voice trembled slightly as he said, "If I'm that good, then don't divorce me, and come back to me, okay? We can start all over again."

We can start all over again. Such tempting words. She thought she could be cold-hearted enough to get a divorce with Qin Muchen. But, when she was in his arms and listened to him saying they could start over again, his words shook her resolve and she was in a great dilemma. Her reliance on Qin Muchen and reluctance to be separated from him was far beyond her imagination.

Su Ziyue dared not open her mouth to say anything. She was afraid that she might say 'okay' as soon as she opened her mouth.

Qin Muchen asked her again, "Okay?"

Su Ziyue had seen how cold and heartless he could be before. However, she never saw him say something in such a cautious tone before, as if he had placed all his fortune on one last bet in a game.

She wasn't a cold-hearted person. Her heart would melt in front of the man she loved too.

There was a moment when she suddenly felt no matter what had happened between them, she could forgive him and she wouldn't mind about everything at all.

Since he didn't receive her reply after a long time, Qin Muchen still felt dejected even though he held her in his arms.

He lowered his head and kissed her on her forehead. It was a yearning and cautious kiss. He kissed her forehead repeatedly without moving the kiss elsewhere nor kissing her more passionately. He looked like a criminal waiting to be trialed, who was about to face his final judgement.

After a long pause, Su Ziyue said quietly, "I'll agree if you say you're sorry."

Qin Muchen was dazed for a moment before he said in a stupefied manner, "I'm sorry."

"Okay," Su Ziyue replied in a low voice. She didn't sound happy at all.

She buried her face in Qin Muchen's embrace and cried loudly and sadly. Baby, daddy says he's sorry. Did you hear that?

Because she was extremely nervous before this, Su Ziyue became rather exhausted now. She fell asleep after she got tired from all her crying.

Not long after that, he heard someone talking up there.

"Are you sure it's here?"

"Yes, it's here!"

The next moment, the cover was opened and a ray of light shone into the pit. Coincidentally, the light shone on him and Su Ziyue.

"Mr. Qin! Miss Su!"

They were Qin Muchen's subordinates.

Su Ziyue didn't fall asleep very soundly. So, she woke up now. As she raised her head in a daze, she saw the light shining on them from above.

"Mr. Qin, Miss Su, we'll pull both of you up now."

Su Ziyue snapped out of her daze immediately when she heard that. She became more awake now.

“How did they come here?”

Qin Muchen pulled her from the floor. He said seriously, “Let’s go up first.”

After struggling for some time and spending much effort, Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue finally managed to climb up out of the pit.

The sky was dark now. They raised their heads and saw millions of stars twinkling in the night sky.

Su Ziyue only had breakfast for the day. Since she didn’t have lunch and dinner, she was so hungry that she felt slightly dizzy now.

Several subordinates stood beside them. They asked concernedly, “Mr. Qin, are you alright?”

“You guys could have come later.” Qin Muchen’s tone sounded acidic as he snorted coldly. He was alright and could still endure the harsh conditions, but Su Ziyue couldn’t.

His subordinates lowered their heads. They couldn’t say anything to refute Qin Muchen.

Su Ziyue turned and saw that Lee Yannan was with them too. However, he looked very miserable. She was certain that he was severely tortured by Qin Muchen’s subordinates.

She took a step back involuntarily.

Qin Muchen held out his hand and touched her head. He squatted down in front of her. “Get up and let’s go back.”

Su Ziyue refused his offer by saying, “I can walk by myself.”

Qin Muchen remained squatting on the ground without moving. Su Ziyue had no choice but to climb up his back.

Qin Muchen managed to walk steadily even though the road in the woods was bumpy.

Su Ziyue bit her lips as she turned her head carefully and placed her face close on his back. She could smell the familiar scent from his body.

CHAPTER 309

By the time they went back to the village, it was already ten o’clock in the evening.

Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen were having their dinner while sitting at the same table. They felt everything that had happened on this day was absolutely surreal.

Coincidentally, there was a blackout in the house. There was only a candle lit up on the table. It was so dark in the house that she couldn't even see Qin Muchen's face clearly.

After pondering for a while, she asked Qin Muchen. "What do you think Lee Yannan's real motive was?"

Qin Muchen's reply was very straightforward. "I don't know."

Since very limited information was available on the matter, he couldn't make any guess now.

On the next day, Su Ziyue went to work at the office as usual like the rest of the staff.

She didn't tell anyone about the incident where she was kidnapped by Lee Yannan; even Li Qingluo wasn't aware of that.

She just told the outsiders that she got lost. Qin Muchen went to find her because he had something to talk to her and both of them got lost together.

As for whether the people believed what she said, it was not so important anymore.

She knew Lee Yannan's matter wasn't over yet, but she must finish her work here as well. So, she couldn't affect everyone else's focus because of her personal matter.

However, just after a short meeting, Qin Muchen came over to find her.

Su Ziyue asked, "What happened?"

"Lee Yannan disappeared." Qin Muchen looked a bit grim.

The expression on Su Ziyue's face changed abruptly when she heard that.

After all, Lee Yannan had disappeared now even before they could find out about his motive clearly.

The matter had become more complicated and mysterious now.

Due to Lee Yannan's disappearance, Su Ziyue still felt very worried, so she increased the speed of her work progress.

The people in the village had their own different theories on the matter.

When no one was looking, Madam Zhang asked Qin Muchen carefully, "Young man, do you know where Yannan went?"

With an impassive expression on his face, Qin Muchen replied, "I don't know."

Madam Zhang saw Qin Muchen's frightening look when he was being cold and distant before, so she dared not ask further questions. However, she felt Qin Muchen wouldn't simply harm Lee Yannan without any reasons.

Finally, a week later, they finished the filming here. Everyone was ready to go back to Yunzhou City. They had a happy and delighted expression on their faces. After all, they had been staying in a place like this for almost a month now, and they were starting to miss the city life.

Although the air around here was fresh, everything else was very inconvenient. All they could eat every day was either sweet potatoes or potatoes; other than that, it was biscuits and instant noodles they brought themselves.

After they arrived at Yunzhou Airport, they went their separate ways quickly.

Before Li Qingluo left, she glanced at Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen with a funny look in her eyes.

After everyone had left, Su Ziyue pursed her lips and said, "I'll go back first."

Qin Muchen replied to her with a simple 'okay' before he took her luggage from her hand and held her hand with his other free hand. "Let's go."

"What are you doing? Where are you going?" Su Ziyue was forced to follow behind him. She needed to take several huge steps quickly before she could catch up with him.

Qin Muchen noticed he was walking too fast too. So, he slowed down and said in a relaxed voice, "It's either you come home or I'll go to your apartment; choose one from the two options."

Is there any difference between the two options? Both of us still have to live together.

Su Ziyue thought of something else instead as her expression darkened a bit.

"You and Gu Hanyan..."

She didn't forget about the engagement between Qin Muchen and Gu Hanyan. Everyone in the world knew Gu Hanyan was his fiancée.

The expression on Qin Muchen's face froze into a rictus. He stared at her closely and said in an unusually serious tone, "I'll make an announcement to clarify that. I'll organize a press conference in the afternoon today."

Su Ziyue let out a long sigh. She shook her head and said, "You don't have to be in such a hurry."

In the end, the couple decided to go back to Cloud Bay.

Initially, Su Ziyue thought she wanted to go back to her own apartment, but Qin Muchen said, "There's no one at home to look after Beef. It's very pitiful."

Su Ziyue's eyes widened in shock. "You locked Beef in the house for so long? Don't you know that you can send it to Lumiere Jade House and ask Nan Chuan to look after it for you?"

Qin Muchen was driving. He slowed down the car when he heard her. He turned and took a glance at her. "I left suddenly in a hurry and Nan Chuan was too busy for that."

Su Ziyue didn't say anything anymore after hearing his explanation. She went back to Cloud Bay with him first.

Just as the couple reached the villa entrance and parked their car carefully. Their cell phones rang almost simultaneously. They exchanged glances with each other; a look of surprise flashed through their eyes.

Su Ziyue looked at the caller indication shown on her cell phone screen. It was actually a call from Lu Shichu.

As soon as she answered the call, she heard Lu Shichu's slightly uptight voice. "Ziyue, you're back?"

"Yeah, I just came back from the airport and I just reached the entrance of the house." Su Ziyue noticed his peculiar tone. So, she waited for him to say something next.

There was a slight questioning tone in Lu Shichu's voice. "What happened between you and Qin Muchen? You guys are back together again?"

"He and I..." Su Ziyue hesitated for a while. She didn't like Lu Shichu's tone very much. Besides, for some unknown reasons, she actually felt a bit guilty about this.

While Su Ziyue was hesitating, Lu Shichu said something again. He sounded as if he understood something. "So, you guys are really back together again. It seems the news isn't all fake after all. Check out the news first, and call me again if you have anything else."

As soon as he finished his words, Lu Shichu straight away hung up the phone.

Su Ziyue noticed that Lu Shichu was a little angry.

Even though she didn't know what he was angry about, she decided to check out the news first.

At that moment, Qin Muchen, who was on the phone beside her, asked the caller on the other side of the phone, "What did the news say?"

She didn't know what the caller said, but Qin Muchen looked furious after he hung up the phone.

Su Ziyue asked, "Nan Chuan called?"

He tried to control his temper and looked less angry when he heard her voice. He replied to her with a nod.

"What did he say?" She heard Qin Muchen mentioning the news. It seemed it was about the same thing as the one Lu Shichu referred to when he called just now.

It seemed like the news was related to her and Qin Muchen. She had a feeling that it was definitely not a good news.

Qin Muchen turned to look at her. He held out his hand and caressed her hair in a way that would mess up her hair, like he used to do all the time. "No matter what, let's not care about it first. Let's go in there, have a meal, take a rest and we'll talk about it later."

Su Ziyue nodded. She lowered her head and took a look at her cell phone before closing the search engine which she already opened.

Since Qin Muchen had said so, she decided not to find out about it first.

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Just as the couple reached the doorway, they saw a mess in the living room. Apparently, it was evidence of Beef making a mess around the house.

Su Ziyue couldn't help but laugh. She knew something like this would happen.

As for Qin Muchen, he marched right into the dog room fiercely, but he couldn't find Beef there.

His face turned dark when he thought of something. It'll be dead meat if it dared to go into the bedroom!

Noticing that Qin Muchen had dashed upstairs furiously, Su Ziyue followed him immediately as well.

As soon as Qin Muchen pushed the bedroom door open, he saw Beef lying on its belly while sleeping on the bed.

He growled angrily, "Beef, get down from the bed at once!"

Beef, which was startled by his growl, leaped down quickly from the bed. It then ran toward Qin Muchen and jumped into his arms. It even whined in a pitiful way, like it was 'sobbing'.

Su Ziyue gave him a nudge. "Don't be so angry. It just misses you."

As she finished speaking, she squatted down and held out her arms toward Beef. "Beef, come over here and let me hug you."

Noticing that, Beef dashed toward Su Ziyue quickly and leaped into her arms immediately, almost causing her to fall over.

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Amused by the dog, Su Ziyue held Beef as she stretched out her arms and caressed its head. She comforted the dog by saying softly, "Alright, it's okay now. Stop jumping around. Stay put and be quiet; we're home now."

Qin Muchen stood beside and stared at Su Ziyue and Beef coldly.

After a while, he snorted and went into the bathroom.

Su Ziyue released Beef only after she heard the bathroom door closing. She grabbed its ear and whispered in a low voice, "You're finished. Your daddy is very angry with you. He wants to deal with you later."

As if Beef could understand Su Ziyue, it glanced in the direction of the bathroom before circling in the room twice. It then jumped onto the bed quickly and started to chew on the bed sheet.

Su Ziyue goggled at Beef's behavior with her jaw dropped in surprise. Is Beef challenging Qin Muchen now?

At that moment, the bathroom door sprung open. Qin Muchen opened the door from inside the bathroom and saw Beef that was chewing on the bed sheet immediately.

He had already removed all his clothes and was only wrapped in a towel.

Beef barked twice before it jumped off the bed quickly and dashed out of the room. Su Ziyue pulled the door open, followed it out of the room and took a look. She saw that Beef already ran downstairs in a haste.

Su Ziyue couldn't help but chuckle. "Exactly how did you mistreat it to make it so scared of you like that?"

Qin Muchen smirked and remarked, "If it is really scared of me, it wouldn't have dared to make such a mess around the house anymore, just like somebody."

He looked at Su Ziyue suggestively.

Su Ziyue blinked innocently. What did he mean by somebody? Perhaps he didn't mean me?

As Qin Muchen finished, he went to take his clothes. Then, he turned around and looked at Su Ziyue. "Do you want to take a bath together?"

"N-No, you should take your shower first!" As Su Ziyue finished speaking, she turned and went out.

Qin Muchen stood there motionlessly for a while before he turned and went back into the bathroom again.

Although Su Ziyue agreed to start all over again with him and even followed him back, he knew everything would be completely different now. There was a layer of invisible obstacles in between them.

After Su Ziyue went downstairs, she still half-heartedly taught Beef a lesson.

Beef lowered its ears while pretending to look innocent. It sat down in front of her obediently and stared at her with its cute glistening eyes, looking extremely pitiful.

Su Ziyue let out a snort. You just know how to pretend to be pitiful.

By the time Qin Muchen finished showering, Su Ziyue was almost done tidying up the living room.

Standing in the corridor on the second floor, Qin Muchen glanced downward at Su Ziyue, who was in the living room. He appeared slightly sullen when he saw her tidying up the living room swiftly.

His little woman, whom he used to worry about all the time, had changed so much within these two years. She became a lot more independent, mature and steady now. She could manage everything well in her work and life now.

For some unknown reasons, it made him feel somewhat dejected. It seems... she doesn't need me so much now.

"You've finished showering?"

Su Ziyue felt someone was looking at her. She turned around and saw Qin Muchen, who stood in the corridor on the second floor.

"Yeah." Qin Muchen came down. "You take your shower first. I'll take it from here." Qin Muchen walked toward her, held out his hand and wiped the sweat off her forehead.

When Qin Muchen prepared the meal, he purposely cooked according to Su Ziyue's preferences. He made two extremely spicy dishes.

In the end, when they had their meal, he noticed that Su Ziyue had barely touched those two dishes at all.

Su Ziyue noticed the way he looked at her and realized what he was thinking. She smiled and explained, "I lived with my uncle before this. Since he doesn't like spicy dishes, I seldom have them too."

This wasn't the real reason at all. In fact, it was because she had been taking care of her health for the past two years. She wasn't allowed to eat certain things due to her health. So, after she got used to her new lifestyle, she didn't like spicy dishes so much anymore.

Qin Muchen froze. For the past two years, he thought he had always watched her closely and secretly from the dark. He thought he had never strayed very far away from her at all. However, reality hit him; he realized that two years had passed and everything that happened in between was real. Her gradual changes over the two years had shown throughout every detail in her life.

Su Ziyue wasn't aware of Qin Muchen's unusual expression.

At that moment, her cell phone rang. She was taken aback when she saw who was calling. It was a call from Feng Xingyan. She thought she would call him right after the meal, but she didn't expect he would call her first.

Su Ziyue put down her chopsticks and clicked to answer the call. "Uncle Xingyan."

"Why didn't you call me when you came back to Yunzhou City?" There was a slightly angry tone in Feng Xingyan's voice.

Su Ziyue was slightly puzzled. What happened that caused Uncle Xingyan to talk to me in such a tone?

Su Ziyue glanced at Qin Muchen before she continued, "I just came back. I was planning to call you just now. I'm sorry for making you worry about me."

Feng Xingyan asked, "You don't know about the news yet?"

"I'm not so sure about that at the moment." Although Lu Shichu called to tell her about the news before, she hadn't checked it out on the Internet yet.

"Ziyue, I never thought of meddling in your personal life before, but you're the Executive Director of Yanyue Media now; everything you do and say concerns Yanyue Media's reputation. I believe you can settle all these by yourself."

Feng Xingyan didn't reprimand her. As he finished saying those words, he hung up the phone after reminding her several things and asking her to settle the problem carefully.

She remembered that Feng Xingyan had always been a gentle man who was usually mild-tempered, but he was an extremely strict man when it concerned work.

Su Ziyue lost her appetite after hanging up the phone. She had several mouthfuls of rice in a haste and said, "I'm full. I'd liked to go upstairs first and take a rest."

Suddenly, Qin Muchen called out to her, "Wait a second."

Su Ziyue raised her eyes and looked at him. Her eyes were bright and clear as she asked him, "What's the matter? Is there anything you want to talk to me about?"

After a pause, Qin Muchen said, "You don't have to go and check the news. I'll just tell you about it."

Of course, he knew she wasn't in the mood of having her meal. He knew she would certainly go and search for the news on the Internet too. It was better for him to tell her about it rather than let her see the news herself. Even if she would be angry, at least she would get angry right in front of him.

Upon hearing that, Su Ziyue turned around and sat down again.

"It's about us and Gu Hanyan. The news was published two days ago. Now, even the Su Family, the Gong Family and Yanyue Media were being dragged into the scandal..."

Some media made things even more complicated and dragged LK Group into the scandal as well. However, LK Group was after all a large corporation with powerful influences and well-connected resources, so it couldn't possibly be affected by just some insignificant entertainment news.

Su Ziyue could roughly guess what the news was about after she heard that.

Without waiting for Qin Muchen to finish his words, she picked up her cell phone and checked the news.

The earliest news was published three days ago. The news title was ambiguous, which would definitely cause readers to have their imaginations run wild. 'A movie star and her fiancé are about to face a crisis in their relationship—speculations about an involvement of a third party in between them...'

The news was published with several photos featured down below along with some comments that discussed who was in the right and who was to blame. There were a bunch of speculations in the discussion forum.

Another news update was published on the second day. The news directly indicated the movie star was Gu Hanyan, while her fiancé was Qin Muchen, the President of LK Group, and the third party was Su Ziyue, the second eldest daughter of the Su Family and the newly appointed Executive Director of Yanyue Media.

She read through the newest piece of news.

'According to the report, Su Ziyue went to a village for a charity project not long ago. Soon after that, the

President of LK Group, Qin Muchen followed her to the village too. It was unknown whether they went on a secret date under the pretext of work, or they really went there for work...'