

Marry Me 311

CHAPTER 311

Right after that report was a report dissecting Yanyue Contents Media that was written by a senior reporter in the industry.

Su Ziyue calmly finished the reports before looking up to see Qin Muchen staring at her solemnly. She couldn't stop herself from laughing at that. "Why so serious?"

"I will handle this." Qin Muchen didn't spare much words as he darkly said that before getting up to clear the dishes on the table.

Su Ziyue proceeded to help him when she saw him do that.

The two of them silently cleared the kitchen. Su Ziyue was about to take her apron off and head out when Qin Muchen blocked her path. He was a fair bit taller than her, so when he stood in front of her, it felt suffocating.

"Aren't you angry?" Qin Muchen asked her.

Su Ziyue broke out into a laugh. "What is there to be angry about? Those news reports are all fake."

Qin Muchen's gaze was locked on her, as though he was trying to see through her. Half a beat later, he asked, "Do you trust me then?"

"Yeah." Su Ziyue nodded.

They didn't leave the house on this day, and they didn't meet anyone else apart from Nan Chuan during his visit.

Su Ziyue immediately got to scrolling through the news when she got up the next day. Just as she expected, an article with the title 'LK Chairman to Hold a Press Conference at Lumiere Jade House Today' was at the top of the news section that morning. Articles and reports about the relationship between the three of them had mushroomed overnight, unsavory and malicious speculations abound.

Somehow, Su Ziyue was unperturbed by this.

Qin Muchen pressed himself closer to her from the back. He turned his head before taking her hand to bring her phone closer to himself. He squinted as he glanced through the news before burying his face into the juncture between Su Ziyue's neck and shoulder. He grumbled, "They can't even get my orders right; they've been too lax with my absence. I clearly said that both I and my wife will be holding this press conference."

His voice had the usual raspiness that came with being recently roused. He sounded unusually lazy like

this.

Su Ziyue put down her phone and flicked his head. “Get up. What weird nonsense are you talking about when it’s morning?”

“Let’s cuddle for a while longer.” Qin Muchen simply lay there. After a pause, he said, “What do you mean by ‘nonsense’? We’ll go together later.”

All Su Ziyue could do was go along with him since he wasn’t going to move.

“You go. I still have to handle matters over at Yanyue Contents Media.”

Even so, Su Ziyue was unable to go against Qin Muchen. In the end, both of them headed to the venue of the press conference.

The hall was already teeming with people by the time they arrived.

The news had been stewing for the past few days, and now that the subjects of those articles had decided to hold a press conference, all the media outlets wanted to be the first one to report the latest developments.

“LK’s chairman is here! Su Ziyue too!”

The reporters who first spotted them were already charging their way over.

Qin Muchen led Su Ziyue by his side with an even expression as the bodyguards behind them herded off whatever reporters that were surging toward the pair.

Su Ziyue couldn’t help but eye Qin Muchen again. She had no idea how many glances she had sneaked at him already this morning. Qin Muchen was wearing a red top on this day, and since she had chosen to wear a red one-piece dress, they looked like they were wearing matching couple outfits when they walked together.

To the others, this ‘obnoxious pair’ looked flashy and audacious without a doubt.

Once Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen were seated, Nan Chuan spoke into the microphone. “Everyone, quiet please!”

The entire hall quietened down immediately after Nan Chuan’s words made themselves known; perhaps it was because LK Group was a force with massive influence on the business world.

“Thank you for coming to today’s press conference. Today, the chairman of LK himself will be explaining about the most recent news about him in detail.”

With that, Nan Chuan turned to look at Qin Muchen.

Qin Muchen swept his gaze over the crowd with an even expression before taking out a red notebook and positioning it so that everyone could see it. He then turned to look at the confused Su Ziyue and flashed her a smile as he took her hand. Qin Muchen turned to face the crowd and said, "As you can see, Miss Su and I are legally husband and wife. We have been married for nearly three years."

The crowd went into a furor the moment he finished.

"What's going on?"

"Didn't they say that Su Ziyue's the unwanted third party?"

The whispers from below the stage grew louder and louder as time ticked by.

Qin Muchen's expression turned even stormier. Su Ziyue hastily squeezed his hand, afraid that he would become angry.

A gutsy reporter asked, "Since you have been married for nearly three years, why did you suddenly become engaged to the movie star Gu Hanyan then?"

While they were in disbelief at such a revelation, that marriage certificate couldn't possibly be a forgery. They were currently airing the press conference live for all of the nation to watch. Qin Muchen had no reason to lie with his status.

Su Ziyue whipped her head around to look at Qin Muchen. She had nearly forgotten about this.

Qin Muchen's eyes darkened before he began to speak in an unhurried manner. "It is normal that a married couple will have minor arguments and such. Back then, I did something that I shouldn't have, causing my wife to leave me out of distraught. I thought of making her return by becoming engaged to another woman, so I asked my good friend Gu Hanyan to help me with this. I realized later that this wasn't an appropriate arrangement once everything had been set in motion, so I went to seek Gu Hanyan in private and canceled the engagement."

While this story was riddled with holes, no one could refute it.

It was a normal thing for married couples to have disagreements at times.

And everyone knew that Gu Hanyan was good friends with Qin Muchen for many years and had been on television with him before.

Also, that marriage certificate was the genuine article.

Qin Muchen was pleased with the crowd's reaction. He then said again with a most solemn expression,

“I would like to apologize to my wife and ask for her forgiveness. I would also like to apologize to my friend Gu Hanyan as well for causing her much unneeded trouble due to my recklessness. Furthermore, I would also like to thank her.”

Gu Hanyan had the press conference livestream open on her phone as she sped her way over to Lumiere Jade House. Upon hearing Qin Muchen’s words, she became so infuriated that she nearly hurled her phone right there and then.

He wanted to thank her?

Gu Hanyan could of course detect the deeper meaning behind his words.

Qin Muchen wouldn’t have chosen to hold this press conference if this news hadn’t caused the huge stir that it had. On the contrary, this allowed him to parade Su Ziyue openly before the world. Su Ziyue was now officially the wife of the LK Group’s chairman.

How could she possibly swallow her anger?

Hatred oozed out of Gu Hanyan’s eyes as she gripped her phone, peeved by this. A moment later, she calmed down and dialed a number that was most certainly not a local one. Once the call went through, she hastily said, “Is Grandpa here? I’ve an urgent matter I need to speak to him about.”

Did they think that she would just surrender like this? No way!

She would not rest!

This matter couldn’t possibly end like this!

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Su Ziyue was unable to form a response when she heard his words from her seat next to him. She pulled her hands back under the table and discreetly pinched Qin Muchen’s side.

He should just tell her this in private. Why was he talking about apologies right now during the press conference?

Had he gone mad?

Qin Muchen grabbed her hand without missing a beat, imploring her not to make a scene with his eyes.

Another reporter asked, “May I ask what have you done to make Miss Su angry enough to leave you?”

Both of them went stiff at that question.

The reporter then aimed his arrow at Su Ziyue. “Miss Su, can you answer that?”

Su Ziyue pressed her lips together. In truth, she couldn't possibly answer that, so she gritted her teeth and answered the question in a way that infuriated Qin Muchen to no end.

"He wanted to send our dog away, so I didn't want to continue living with him," Su Ziyue replied, her expression unchanging.

Nan Chuan silently leaned to the side. His employer was terrifying with the murderous energy he was radiating.

The press conference ended relatively smoothly without much of a hitch, primarily because Qin Muchen had gotten Nan Chuan to prepare for anything earlier.

Once the reporters had left and the venue was cleaned up, Qin Muchen stretched his long arms out and pulled Su Ziyue's chair over to him. He placed his hands on the armrests of her chair, stopping her from getting up. He asked her icily, "So you won't stay with me if I give Beef away?"

Su Ziyue gave a dry cough before she explained earnestly, "Nope, I was just trying to get the reporter off my back..."

Qin Muchen eyed her. "I'll give Beef away today."

He hadn't liked that dog for a long time now.

When Su Ziyue was gone, the dog would constantly romp around the house and bring Su Ziyue's clothes to him. Now that she was back, the dog was always rubbing himself on her.

Why should he keep a dog who was such a fiend for his wife around?

Su Ziyue lifted her head to glower at him. "Let's see you do it!"

Qin Muchen stared at her blankly for a moment before reaching up to touch his lips. "Kiss me, and I will consider my decision about sending the dog away."

Su Ziyue fell silent.

"Where's Muchen? Where is he? I need to see him!" At that moment, Gu Hanyan's voice could be heard from not far away.

Su Ziyue turned her head to see Gu Hanyan bursting through the blockade of guards and charging toward them. It wasn't that the guards were unable to stop her, but they knew that Gu Hanyan knew Qin Muchen.

Gu Hanyan's expression shifted when she bolted over and saw how intimately Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue

were positioned.

“Muchen!” Gu Hanyan took another few steps forward, her gaze sweeping over Su Ziyue before landing on Qin Muchen. “What’s the meaning of this?”

“Whatever conclusions you’ve drawn, you’re right.” Qin Muchen retracted his hands and straightened up to look at Gu Hanyan calmly.

Gu Hanyan bit her lip, suppressing her anger as she spoke. “What do you think Grandpa will say once he knows about this? He’s not exactly in good shape. His health will worsen with his anger!”

Qin Muchen leveled a steely gaze at her. “He won’t know if you don’t tell him. He won’t get angry and cause his health to deteriorate then.”

Gu Hanyan felt somewhat small from Qin Muchen’s gaze. “But you know that this won’t stay under wraps forever! He will certainly know one day.”

“You’ve already told him, haven’t you?”

Qin Muchen chuckled coldly. His tone held a threatening edge. “It must have been difficult for you to come this far. My grandfather certainly treated you well. You better watch yourself.”

With that, he pulled Su Ziyue before getting up to head outside.

Su Ziyue’s expression shifted when she heard them mention Qin Yuchuan. Qin Muchen noticed this as well, so he didn’t continue to entertain Gu Hanyan.

As Gu Hanyan watched their disappearing figures, her face turned pale with fury.

The two of them ran into An Xia and Bai Jingshu, who rushed over once they exited Lumiere Jade House.

Upon seeing them, Bai Jingshu said to them with a straight face, “Can’t you give us a heads up before attempting to smooth over such a major event?”

Bai Jingshu and the others had been beside themselves with worry when the news first came up. Moreover, they weren’t able to contact Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen then. Now that Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen had returned, they simply set up a press conference without informing Bai Jingshu and company to inform the world of their relationship.

“A heads up?” Qin Muchen’s tone was a little scornful. “Do you think that you would have been able to settle this then?”

Bai Jingshu’s face darkened. Weren’t they like brothers? Did Qin Muchen have to show him up in front of the lady he liked?

“We still have matters to attend to.” As Qin Muchen spoke, he led Su Ziyue outside.

They had only just taken a few steps when Qin Muchen turned his head to look at Bai Jingshu. “Gu Hanyan’s inside. You can go in and greet her if you want.”

With that, he continued to lead Su Ziyue outside and disappeared into the distance.

Su Ziyue turned her head back to look at An Xia and mimed a phone call with her hands. She only turned again once she saw An Xia nod and wave goodbye to her. An Xia turned to face Bai Jingshu with a grin once the two of them had disappeared. “Mr. Bai, Miss Gu is in there. Are you going to say hi to her?”

Bai Jingshu felt that he was between a rock and a hard place. He actually did want to go in and have a few words with Gu Hanyan.

An Xia could detect his hesitation, and she giggled before telling him, “Mr. Bai, go in. I’ll wait for you here.”

Coincidentally, Gu Hanyan happened to emerge from the building just then. She froze when she noticed Bai Jingshu’s presence before walking over. “Jingshu, you’ve come.”

Her gaze shifted to An Xia then, and she asked, “And this is?”

“I’m Mr. Bai’s secretary,” An Xia piped up before Bai Jingshu could speak.

Su Ziyue didn’t return home with Qin Muchen. Instead, she headed straight to Yanyue Contents Media; there was still a mountain of work for her to do.

Li Qingluo eyed Su Ziyue with a strange look when she saw Su Ziyue return.

She wasn’t the only one; everyone was looking at Su Ziyue strangely.

It was clear that everyone had watched the livestream and knew that she was Qin Muchen’s wife. They had also seen Qin Muchen apologize to her in front of the public. It was more than enough to see how much Qin Muchen cherished her.

“Meeting in ten minutes.” Su Ziyue ignored the odd looks everyone was giving her as she told them this before ducking inside her office.

When she opened the door to her office once the meeting ended, she realized that someone was already waiting for her inside.

“Shichu? Why are you here?” Su Ziyue froze for a moment before stepping in.

Lu Shichu didn't look so good. "You've truly decided to be with Qin Muchen?"

"Yes." Su Ziyue hadn't expected him to ask this, but she still nodded anyway.

Lu Shichu was practically roaring at her in anger, "Do you truly understand Qin Muchen at all?"

"Shichu, what's wrong?" Su Ziyue had never seen Lu Shichu this enraged before.

Lu Shichu asked her again, "Has Qin Muchen ever told you about his mother? If he truly loves you, he shouldn't have hidden anything from you."

Su Ziyue fell silent. Qin Muchen had only mentioned her briefly, and he hadn't looked great when he did so. He was purposely avoiding the topic.

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Lu Shichu knew Su Ziyue very well. He knew from her expression that Qin Muchen never really brought up his mother to her.

"Ziyue, when someone purposely avoids a topic, that means that he either has something to hide, or he thinks that it's an unnecessary thing to talk about."

Lu Shichu had an aggressive edge to it.

Su Ziyue didn't like Lu Shichu when he was being like this. She thought that Lu Shichu was currently being biased. However, he wasn't typically like this.

Unless...

Su Ziyue whipped her head to look at him and asked, "Shichu, do you know something?"

Lu Shichu stiffened for a moment. "What?"

"You're not someone who'd say something just for the sake of it. You must know something. That's why you're telling me this, right?"

Su Ziyue was looking at him solemnly.

Lu Shichu's expression shifted subtly.

He did indeed know a few things, but he wasn't sure about the entire truth either. He was already sure that Qin Muchen had some other hidden motive, so he wouldn't just stand by and watch her continue to stay with Qin Muchen. And yet, Lu Shichu wasn't quite sure how he should answer Su Ziyue's question.

Su Ziyue immediately knew what he was thinking when she caught sight of Lu Shichu's expression. She languidly said, "You were saying that Qin Muchen is hiding things from me? Aren't you the same?"

Half a beat later, Lu Shichu spoke up. "Qin Muchen's mother is Qin Li!"

He didn't know where he should start his explanation when he saw how Su Ziyue still looked like she didn't comprehend him. He simply tossed out a 'that's what I know' before leaving.

Lu Shichu may have left in a hurry, but he left Su Ziyue with a bundle of questions.

Su Ziyue was still thinking about Lu Shichu's earlier words even when she reached home.

Qin Muchen was currently cooking in the kitchen. He was so focused on his cooking that he didn't notice that Su Ziyue was back.

Su Ziyue walked over and stood by the entrance to the kitchen for a while before approaching Qin Muchen from the back. She then encircled him with her arms. Qin Muchen was in the middle of chopping some meat, and he stopped when she did so. He turned his head to look at her. "You're back?"

"Yep." Su Ziyue's gaze landed on the beef that he had been slicing.

She released him and then washed her hands before taking the knife from him. "I'll cook. You probably have a lot of stuff to work on."

Yanyue Contents Media was an absolutely miniscule company compared to the behemoth that was the LK Group. If she was busy, then what did that make Qin Muchen's workload?

Qin Muchen stood behind her, watching as she sliced the beef with ease. He had a complicated expression on his face. He felt as though his child had suddenly grown up in a blink of an eye. He wasn't thrilled, merely surprised.

"I'm not busy. Let me help you wash the ingredients."

Qin Muchen ultimately stayed behind to help with dinner. Su Ziyue kept wanting to ask him about his mother, but she wasn't able to bring it up. She realized that people grew even more hesitant the more they developed themselves.

Things have flipped since the press conference that was held after news about Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue had spread. People were outright entertained by it.

However, Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen weren't affected by it much.

Despite all that, Su Ziyue's mentioning of how she walked out on Qin Muchen because he thought of

sending their dog away became a hot topic.

Headlines such as 'The Chairman's Wife Is a Kind Woman', 'Dogs Over People' and 'Mr. Qin Did Wrong, But He Still Apologized' spread all over the Internet like wildfire.

Su Ziyue couldn't figure out whether she should laugh at this.

She held her phone before Qin Muchen's eyes. "Look, everyone's standing up for you."

Qin Muchen scrolled through a few pages before suddenly bursting into laughter.

Su Ziyue was unamused.

"What are you laughing at?" As she spoke, she leaned in to look at the screen only to see the comment sections under the article.

'Mr. Qin, don't be shy. Just take charge if you're a man. When it comes to women, you just need to clap cheeks with them and all will be forgiven!'

There was a human conga line emoji underneath that comment.

Qin Muchen didn't quite know what that commenter meant by 'clapping cheeks', but he had a rough idea what it was.

Su Ziyue's face reddened and she snatched the phone back to lock it. "What is this?"

The smile on Qin Muchen's face deepened. He leaned in to press himself against her forehead and asked, "What did they mean when they said 'clap cheeks'?"

Su Ziyue raised her hand and hit his head with a loud 'smack' before replying calmly, "That's 'clapping cheeks'. Still, I'm not going to let you hear the end of this if you raise your hand against me."

With that, Su Ziyue got up and yelled, "Beef, time for your walk."

Woof woof...

Beef popped out of nowhere a moment later to circle Su Ziyue happily a few times before following her out.

Qin Muchen pursed his lips before logging into his alternate Twitter account. He hopped onto the topic 'dogs over people' and posted a Tweet.

'How do I get rid of the family dog in secret without letting my wife know?'

Comments flooded in the moment he posted that.

'You're in the same situation as Mr. Qin?'

'Guys, we've cracked Mr. Qin's alt!'

'Mr. Chairman, I'm your little minx!'

Qin Muchen was speechless at those comments. He had to be mad to post such a thing.

He deleted that Tweet with a hard look on his face before heading out to look for Su Ziyue and Beef.

The days trickled by. Su Ziyue's life was no different than when she first returned. She simply lived her life in a different place. She may have gone to live in Cloud Bay again, but she hadn't brought her belongings from her apartment over.

When noon came, Su Ziyue went out to eat. Just as she was about to head back to the company, she saw Su Yige stalk over to her. It had been a while since she last saw the other woman.

"Su Ziyue!" Su Yige noticed her at once.

Su Ziyue folded her arms and looked at Su Yige. "Looking for me?"

Su Ziyue wasn't sure whether Su Yige heard her, because Su Yige went off on her own tangent. "Su Ziyue, this is all your doing, isn't it? You're already living so well, so why did you have to hurt me? I've never met such a depraved person like you before!"

Su Ziyue's face darkened. She chuckled and then said, "You just can't see your own face. That's why you don't know just how depraved you are."

"You!" Su Yige's face paled with anger, stumbling from the weight of her emotions before she finally steadied herself.

Su Ziyue watched Su Yige silently, taking in her actions.

Did Su Yige just claim that she had hurt her?

"When have I hurt you?" Su Ziyue smirked coldly. "I haven't even started yet, dear cousin."

"You know how much I love Zeyang. The child in my belly is clearly his. You're the one who bribed the doctors and forged the paternity results. You're the one responsible for that!"

Su Yige's eyes were nearly bulging out of their sockets as she glared at Su Ziyue, as though she wished to

burn two holes into Su Ziyue from the heat of her stare.

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Su Ziyue raised an eyebrow slightly at her words. Bribing the doctors? Forging DNA results?

“Oh, you’re saying that you went for a DNA test because you got pregnant with Gong Zeyang’s child, but he didn’t believe you, and it turned out the kid isn’t his?” Su Ziyue wore a light smile as she scrutinized Su Yige.

“What nonsense are you saying? That’s his child! I’ve only been with him!” Su Yige was practically screeching.

They were still in the restaurant, so Su Yige’s screaming drew the customers’ attention. Su Ziyue didn’t care. After all, Su Yige was just embarrassing the Su Family and the Gong Family.

“You can yell a little louder. You went to look for me while I was at work the other day.” As Su Ziyue stated that, she lifted her head to survey her surroundings before pointing. “That, and that, and that, belongs to our company. Oh, along with what you saw last time. I wonder if you still recall that.”

Su Yige’s expression changed upon hearing Su Ziyue’s words. She immediately shut up and simply settled to glower mutinously at Su Ziyue.

Su Ziyue’s face turned icy as she turned to look at Su Yige. “Only you know the reason why the child in your belly is not Gong Zeyang’s. I don’t have time to waste on such petty little things. Don’t think that everyone is as depraved and wretched as you. Also, if you have the time, we’ll need to settle that matter from the past. I need to head to work now.”

With that, Su Ziyue got up and left.

A chill swept through Su Yige’s heart. She had gone to look for Su Ziyue out of impulse from her anger. How did she forget that Su Ziyue and Qin Muchen had reconciled and were together again?

Su Ziyue was the wife of the LK Group’s chairman.

Her husband was the chairman of a conglomerate that was worth hundreds of millions.

As for Su Yige herself, she had already been kicked to the kerb by the Gong Family...

Su Ziyue didn’t return to the company straightaway. Instead, she went to a sister branch of LK Group.

The moment she stepped inside, the receptionist immediately greeted her. “Mrs. Qin.”

This was still her first time coming here as Qin Muchen’s wife despite her multiple visits to this branch.

She felt a little awkward at that.

“I’m here for Qin Muchen. He’s here, isn’t he?” Su Ziyue asked.

The receptionist was all smiles as she answered, “The chairman is here, yes. You just need to head upstairs.”

“Thanks.”

Su Ziyue straightaway went up to find Qin Muchen. When she reached her destination, Qin Muchen had just finished a meeting. He immediately noticed Su Ziyue the moment he stepped out of the meeting room.

His frigid expression softened at that. She could see the smile in his eyes when he neared her and teased her by saying, “Why are you here? Are you that unwilling to see me go? To the point that you’re skipping work to see me?”

Su Ziyue kicked his shin before turning to head for his office while gesturing for him to come.

Qin Muchen followed after her while he carefully shook his leg.

It seemed like she wasn’t here to see him just because she missed him. She must have come to ask him some hard questions.

Su Ziyue cut to the chase immediately after he entered the office. “Were you the one responsible for what happened to Su Yige?”

Qin Muchen frowned lightly, clearly displeased. “What do you mean?”

Su Ziyue rubbed her nose. She too had noticed the unexpected implications behind those words.

“Su Yige came looking for me earlier. That baby of hers is Gong Zeyang’s, right? But when the DNA results came out, it turns out that the child isn’t his. Are you the one who arranged for this?”

Su Ziyue may not have gotten along with Su Yige, but she believed that it was impossible for Su Yige to be pregnant with someone else’s child with what she knew of the other woman.

“Oh, that,” Qin Muchen replied nonchalantly. He didn’t continue to explain himself.

He should have handled Su Yige long ago, but he had left her alone because he thought that Su Ziyue might be happier to handle it herself. Since Su Yige was the one behind the recent news reports, he decided to give her a warning due to his waning patience.

He had to hit her where it hurt, but he also had to do it swiftly and precisely.

What could the most important thing to a married woman be? And when that woman deeply loved her husband?

Still, it was obvious that he was most dissatisfied with the results, since Su Yige still went to look for Su Ziyue... It seemed like he had been too light on her.

“You actually did that?”

Su Ziyue assumed that Qin Muchen was definitely the one behind this matter when she saw his reaction.

Qin Muchen mulled things over. Ultimately, he still decided to tell everything to Su Ziyue.

“The doctors did not tamper with the results of the DNA test. The contents of that report are real. That child is truly not Gong Zeyang’s.”

He had ended up busying himself for nothing.

“How could this be?” Su Ziyue thought that things didn’t add up.

“People change. What’s impossible about that?” Scorn flashed across Qin Muchen’s eyes when he remembered the results of his investigation on Gong Zeyang.

However, he didn’t intend to tell Su Ziyue.

All this while, Su Ziyue had thought that the most admirable thing about Su Yige was her unwavering affections for Gong Zeyang, but now, even that last redeeming point turned out to be false.

“I’ll handle the Su Family myself, thank you.” Su Ziyue had only come to ask him if he had been the one who did it. She was grateful to him.

“Is Su Yige responsible for the recent happenings as well?” Su Ziyue asked him.

“Yes.”

Su Yige had indeed been the one behind all this, even if she was only doing Gu Hanyan’s bidding. However, he didn’t know when Gu Hanyan had begun using Su Yige.

Su Ziyue left not long after that.

Qin Muchen accompanied her down. Once he watched her leave, he dialed a number as he too headed out.

He felt that he must pay a personal visit to Su Yige.

Half an hour later, Qin Muchen walked straight to his reserved booth at Lumiere Jade House. The moment he stepped inside, he caught sight of Su Yige sitting on the couch, trembling.

“Miss Su, it has been a while.” Qin Muchen had a bland expression as he sat across her.

“M-Mr. Qin.” Su Yige’s voice was quivering as well. She truly was frightened.

She was used to acting like a powerful queen in front of Su Ziyue, and had always thought Su Ziyue to be inferior to her, so she treated Su Ziyue however she liked. However, Qin Muchen was different.

She had gotten to know about that two years ago in this very same booth.

There were drugs involved back then. Even though she had stopped, she still felt a chill in her bones when she thought about it.

Qin Muchen picked up the pitcher of water and said as he poured, “Miss Su, it looks like you’ve had a rough time.”

Su Yige didn’t dare to speak.

Qin Muchen continued languidly, “Do you still remember what I said ages ago? You may have a bad time now, but you may have an even worse life in the future.”

A thought suddenly struck Su Yige. Her voice was pitchy as she accused him, “You! You’re the one who got the doctors to fake my DNA test results!”

Qin Muchen didn’t speak. He didn’t deny nor confirm it.

Su Yige shook her head. “Please, I’m begging you, you can’t do this. I hadn’t treated Su Ziyue like that on purpose back then. It was because she was pregnant with Gong Zeyang’s child...”

Qin Muchen’s grip on his glass wavered as he whipped his head up to stare at her. “What child?”

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Qin Muchen placed the glass in his hand onto the table as he gazed at Su Yige with a steely glint. Su Yige’s face paled from fright. The murderous aura emanating from Qin Muchen’s eyes terrified her.

She took a gulp of water before stammering, “T-Two years ago, Su Ziyue got pregnant. I wouldn’t have thought of treating her like that otherwise. She’s my sister regardless of everything. We’ve grown up together since we were children. I never thought of harming her like that, but I love Gong Zeyang. I cannot allow another woman to have his child...” Su Yige stumbled over her words a few times before she finished her spiel. While no one ultimately managed to clearly get the upper hand here, she had at

least achieved her goals.

Su Ziyue had miscarried before disappearing without anyone knowing whether she was even alive. Su Yige told Qin Muchen all this partly so that he wouldn't focus too much of his anger on her. What she did tell him was the truth though. She might have loathed Su Ziyue, but Su Yige had never thought of torturing her like this, and yet Su Ziyue had to get pregnant with Gong Zeyang's child!

Qin Muchen's mind instantly went blank, his mouth opening and closing a few times before he finally found his voice again. However, when he spoke, he realized that his voice was abnormally dry and hoarse. He could hear his voice through his daze. "She was pregnant then?"

Su Yige thought that Qin Muchen's response was odd, but she still nodded anyway as she replied honestly, "T-That's right..."

"How did you know?" Qin Muchen asked her again.

Su Yige didn't dare to hide anything from him, so she spilled everything to him. "Someone phoned me and told me that Su Ziyue was pregnant, and that there was a very high chance that she was pregnant with... Gong Zeyang's child. That person even said..." When she reached this part, she stole a glance at Qin Muchen's face, then she fell silent, not daring to keep going on with her story.

Qin Muchen lowered his gaze so that Su Yige couldn't see his eyes. His voice was heavy when he asked, "What else was said?"

"T-That I don't need to worry about you, that you also know that the child isn't yours..." Su Yige didn't dare to continue her words. She might not be able to see Qin Muchen's expression, but she could clearly sense the murderous energy rising from him. It felt like there was a pair of invisible hands pressing down on her hard, rendering her immobile. She didn't dare to attempt to move either.

"I am not a patient man. You better tell me everything in one breath." Qin Muchen still didn't look up at Su Yige. He simply sat there like he was a statue.

"That person obscured their number when they called me. That person used a voice changer as well, so I'm not sure who it was. After that person informed me of this, I followed Gong Zeyang and found Su Ziyue. You had left without bringing Su Ziyue with you, so I... That person even said that it didn't matter if Su Ziyue was dead, that you wouldn't mind—ah!"

Qin Muchen had hurled his glass at her while she was speaking. The glass crashed violently against her head. Blood dripped down from the wound instantly. She shrieked as she put her hands to the wound, fear swirling in her eyes.

Qin Muchen clenched his fists, his expression eerie and terrifying. And yet when he spoke, his voice was airy and light. "Who said that I wouldn't mind?" He suddenly stood up and swept everything on the table off, making them all crash to the ground. He then kicked the couch that he had been sitting on as

though the earlier action wasn't enough release for his anger.

Right then, Nan Chuan knocked on the door. "Sir, Mr. Bai is here. He said that he would like to eat with you."

Hearing no answer and having heard the sound of items crashing to the ground earlier, Nan Chuan opened the door and entered with trepidation. He didn't dare to make any comments when he saw the mess on the ground, instead simply opting to test the waters by asking, "Sir?"

Qin Muchen stood where he was, panting. He didn't bother responding to Nan Chuan. Just as Nan Chuan thought that Qin Muchen was ignoring him, Qin Muchen's raspy voice rang out. "Send her back."

Nan Chuan stiffened for a moment before replying, "Alright."

Delight welled up within Su Yige. It seemed like that child really wasn't Qin Muchen's. He certainly wouldn't have let her go so easily otherwise. However, she had celebrated too early.

Qin Muchen got up and dusted off his clothes, his expression icy. His voice was cruel as he spoke to her. "Your child's DNA report wasn't tampered with. That child truly isn't Gong Zeyang's. Do you still remember that time when Gong Zeyang brought you to a hotel five months ago?" With that, Qin Muchen stepped out with large strides.

The elation on Su Yige's face had long vanished before then. She still remembered that night. Gong Zeyang had never really bothered with her, but on that day, he asked her to come to a hotel out of the blue. She thought that Gong Zeyang had come to his senses and wanted to give her a surprise. They had indeed had a delightful night then. She remembered that Gong Zeyang gave her a room key and asked her to wait for him, but then...

"No... He wouldn't do that kind of thing!" How could Gong Zeyang possibly hand her over to another man?

Qin Muchen headed for the washroom after he stepped out of the booth. His steps were brisk. He kept gathering cold water from the faucet and splashing it on his face. It felt refreshing to have the cold water hit his face with the spring chill. The chilliness seeped through his skin and burrowed itself into his body, digging its way into his own bones.

...

Nan Chuan arranged for someone to send Su Yige back before returning to look for Qin Muchen. He had served Qin Muchen for many years now, so he managed to notice the oddness of Qin Muchen's expression. "Have you seen the boss?" He kept asking everyone he met. By the time he made his way to the washroom, Qin Muchen had already gone off to look for Bai Jingshu. Nan Chuan was forced to return to the booth.

“Muchen, what are you doing?! You aren’t supposed to drink it like this...” He had just reached the door to the booth when he heard Bai Jingshu’s voice coming from inside. Nan Chuan opened the door to immediately see Qin Muchen drinking straight from a bottle of white wine. He was gulping the contents down rather rapidly; some of the liquor even flowed out of the corners of his lips, staining his collar. No matter how Bai Jingshu tried to snatch the bottle away, it was futile. Qin Muchen’s hand was seemingly welded to the bottle, unable to be pried from it.

Nan Chuan and Bai Jingshu only managed to grab the bottle away by working together. Qin Muchen stumbled before supporting his weight with a hand on the table. After a few moments of silence, he said, “Hand it over.”

Bai Jingshu hastily handed the bottle to Nan Chuan so that he could take the wine away. Bai Jingshu then looked at Qin Muchen and scoffed coldly, “Hand it over? So that you can drink yourself to death?”

“I won’t die. I just want to get wasted.” Qin Muchen’s voice was still hoarse. He only continued to speak after pausing, his voice so soft it was like he was muttering to himself. “I don’t have the courage to face her without getting drunk.”

Bai Jingshu didn’t catch his words. He frowned as he asked Qin Muchen, “What? Face who?”

However, Qin Muchen didn’t speak again. He grabbed a bottle of red wine off the table and began glugging it down. Bai Jingshu was at his wits’ end as he kicked Qin Muchen before he snatched the bottle away and smashed it on the ground.

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Bai Jingshu finally came back to his senses after he smashed the bottle. He would’ve never had the guts to snatch away the alcohol from Qin Muchen under normal circumstances. When he looked up and took a closer look at Qin Muchen, he couldn’t help being stunned. Shocked, Bai Jingshu looked at Qin Muchen, who had bloodshot eyes, while stammering, “W-What’s the matter? You’re scaring me!” Then, he sat down beside Qin Muchen, carefully observing his expression.

Hearing this, Qin Muchen replied softly, “Jingshu, ask Nan Chuan to bring some more alcohol over. I want to continue drinking.”

Since he wishes to drink, I’ll just let him be. I bet he has no courage to go back to meet Su Ziyue if he’s not drunk. He finally understood what happened between the two as well as why Su Ziyue despised him so. After all, he had murdered an innocent life, and there was no way for him to bring the innocent child back to life again.

Bai Jingshu had never seen Qin Muchen in such a desperate state. He felt that the current Qin Muchen was more terrifying than when he was angry. Not daring to continue probing the matter any further, he got up and went to look for Nan Chuan to get a drink for him.

The moment Bai Jingshu went out, Qin Muchen’s phone rang. He looked at the familiar number

displayed on the phone and hesitated for a long time before picking it up.

“Are you off work yet? What do you want to eat tonight? My company is actually quite close to the supermarket, so I’ll go straight to the supermarket to buy some food before going home.” Su Ziyue’s voice sounded through the phone, sounding a touch more gentle than usual.

Qin Muchen’s hand, which was hanging by his side, slowly tightened for a moment before relaxing again. He then swallowed nervously before he said, “Just make anything you wish. My food preference is similar to yours anyway.”

Hearing this, Su Ziyue chuckled lightly. “Alright, I’ll cook today’s dinner and wait for you to come back. If you don’t finish eating my cooking today, I swear I won’t cook anymore in the future.”

Meanwhile, Su Ziyue had reached the parking lot. Before Qin Muchen had the chance to speak again, she said, “I’m going to drive now. Be sure to work hard so that you can come home early tonight.” With that, she hung up the phone.

At this moment, Bai Jingshu happened to walk in with two bottles of strong liquor in his hand. He put the liquor in front of Qin Muchen and said, “Go ahead.”

Then, Qin Muchen took out two tissues in silence and wiped off the alcohol previously spilled on his body. Turning his head to look at Bai Jingshu, he had returned to his usual calmness as he said, “No thanks.”

Hearing this, Bai Jingshu was speechless. He was the one who had insisted on drinking just now, and now he doesn’t want to anymore?

Reading his mind, Qin Muchen added, “She’s waiting for me to go home for dinner, and I don’t want her to wait too long. She will definitely be furious if I go home reeking of alcohol.” With that, he turned around and went out, leaving behind a confused Bai Jingshu.

...

Before long, Su Ziyue returned home after buying groceries. She knew Qin Muchen had returned when she saw the leather shoes at the door. After she went in and saw that no one was in the hall, she walked to the stairs and yelled, “Qin Muchen?”

With a creak, one of the doors upstairs was pushed open. The next moment, Qin Muchen’s figure appeared in the corridor. He was wearing casual clothes, and his hair was slightly damp. It was obvious that he had just come out of the shower.

When Su Ziyue saw him, she smiled and said, “Why did you come back so early? I thought you would be busy for a while.” While talking, she walked toward the kitchen with the groceries in her hand.

Then, Qin Muchen came down from upstairs and followed her into the kitchen. Su Ziyue was placing the vegetables in the refrigerator. After she put two carrots into the refrigerator, she heard Qin Muchen say behind her, "You used to hate eating carrots." With this, Qin Muchen took over the other vegetables she was holding and put them in the refrigerator one by one.

Su Ziyue's tone eased a lot after hearing his words. "Carrots contain a lot of vitamins. Plus, I'm starting to like them after eating them a few times." She also learned at that time that people would forget many things at their lowest and saddest point in life. When one was sad, one wouldn't care about avoiding the things or food one hated.

Hearing this, Qin Muchen didn't reply to her and silently continued putting the vegetables into the refrigerator.

...

The dinner was cooked by Su Ziyue. When she was cooking, Qin Muchen and Beef waited by the side. Su Ziyue glanced at Beef and threw a piece of freshly cooked meat to it, thereafter Beef jumped up to catch it. Then, she turned around and found that Qin Muchen was staring straight at her. She tentatively said, "Do you want some too?"

She thought that Qin Muchen's expression would sour, but Qin Muchen just replied, "Yes."

Su Ziyue was slightly surprised. She didn't dare to throw it directly to him just like how she fed Beef, and instead picked it up with chopsticks and put it into his mouth. She asked him in excitement, "How is it?" Although she herself felt that her cooking was not bad, she was still a little worried and unsure of herself in front of Qin Muchen.

Qin Muchen smiled and said, "It's delicious."

Surprise flashed in Su Ziyue's eyes. She felt that something was off with Qin Muchen today.

...

After dinner was ready, the two sat at the dinner table. Then, Su Ziyue asked him tentatively, "Did something happen to you at the company today?"

Qin Muchen's hand, which was reaching for the dishes with his chopsticks, paused as he said quietly, "No."

It seemed like today was just a normal day at the office for him. Hearing this, Su Ziyue didn't press him, but she still felt that something was off about him. The whole night, Qin Muchen agreed with whatever she said.

When she woke up in the middle of the night, she found that Qin Muchen was not next to her in bed.

She guessed that Qin Muchen must be in the study, so she went to look for him. It turned out that the man was smoking in the study.

When she arrived at the study, she could smell the suffocating smell of cigarettes wafting out from inside. She raised her hand and hesitated for a moment before turning around and going back to the bedroom. She knew that even though she and Qin Muchen had reconciled on the surface, she still minded what had happened in the past. At least, she couldn't calmly talk to him about the incident two years ago. She couldn't and didn't want to talk about it. She didn't want to tear apart the wounds in her heart again, so she dared not ask nor mention about the incident again.

After a long time, Qin Muchen returned to the bedroom when Su Ziyue was about to fall asleep. Vaguely, she heard the sound of the water running in the bathroom. After a while, she felt the area of the bed next to her sink down. It was Qin Muchen.

His body leaned over and pressed against her body. His body was a bit cold to touch, so Su Ziyue shrank reflexively. Sensing this, he immediately released her. Then, he asked her in a soft voice, "You're awake?"

"Yeah... Where did you go?" Su Ziyue replied in a daze. She couldn't smell the scent of cigarettes on his body, so he must have taken a shower just now.

Qin Muchen's voice was very soft, as if he was afraid of waking her up. "I went to settle some urgent and important documents."

Su Ziyue fell silent. She had a feeling that Qin Muchen was hiding something from her. Otherwise, he wouldn't go smoking in the middle of the night.

Qin Muchen's voice then sounded by her ears again. "You should rest now. It's still early, so you can sleep for a few more hours." When he hugged her again, he clasped his hands together and pressed them to her lower abdomen, perhaps intentionally.

Feeling sensitive to his touch, Su Ziyue stretched out her hand to take his hand away, but gave up after hearing his even breathing by her ear.

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Early on the next morning, Su Ziyue didn't even have time to eat breakfast before she went directly to work because she had too many things to do in the company.

When she was heading out, Qin Muchen hadn't even changed into his clothes yet and he seemed to be in low spirits.

He hugged her for a while before letting her go. "I'll come have lunch with you at noon."

"Alright, but I'm very busy, so I may not have time to have lunch with you." With her bag in her hands,

Su Ziyue looked back at him while dragging herself out of the door.

Then, Qin Muchen watched Su Ziyue's car disappear into the distance before turning around and going back to the room.

He slowly changed into a straight suit before calling Gu Hanyan.

"Come meet me at Lumiere Jade House in half an hour."

Gu Hanyan, who just received Qin Muchen's call, was instantly delighted. She had liked Qin Muchen for so many years that it had become a habit of hers to have her hopes up for him no matter how he treated her.

With that, Qin Muchen hung up.

Meanwhile, Gu Hanyan fell into deep thought with her phone in her hand.

Why did Qin Muchen ask her to meet him at Lumiere Jade House?

Did Grandpa call Qin Muchen after she called him last time?

Thinking of this possibility, a victorious smile flashed across Gu Hanyan's face.

When Gu Hanyan arrived, she found that Qin Muchen was already waiting for her.

Seeing this, joy flashed across Gu Hanyan's face. Qin Muchen actually waited for her here in advance. It seemed like he really asked her to meet him because of his grandfather after all.

She was both pleased as well as a little sad at the same time.

She walked over and said insincerely, "Sorry for being late."

As she spoke, she slowly sat down opposite him.

"Here, have a cup of tea." Qin Muchen lowered his eyes. He looked calm as if nothing was wrong as he reached out and put a cup of tea in front of her.

Gu Hanyan took the tea he handed her ecstatically. Looking at Qin Muchen's handsome face, she became even more excited.

Yet, she put on a calm expression and said, "Why did you ask me to come meet you today?"

"Let's have some tea first."

Qin Muchen did not answer her question and instead lifted his cup and took a sip of tea.

Gu Hanyan didn't know what Qin Muchen was thinking, so she could only do as he said.

Still, Qin Muchen refused to cut straight to the chase. Finally, he looked up at her and lifted the teapot before saying, "Finish the cup of tea, and I'll pour some more tea for you."

Gu Hanyan glanced at him suspiciously but still picked up the teacup and finished the cup of tea in one breath.

Seeing this, Qin Muchen poured some more tea for her and asked her with no change in his expression, "How is the taste?"

"It's not bad. I heard from Grandpa before that you're great at making tea, but I have never had a chance to drink the tea you make."

While Gu Hanyan was speaking, Qin Muchen had already poured more tea into the teacup in front of her. Thus, she picked it up and took another sip.

After Qin Muchen put down the teapot, the expression on his face gradually turned cold, and a cruel look appeared in his eyes. "I'm indeed good at making tea. I added some sterilizing agent in it."

"Cough... Cough..."

Hearing him, Gu Hanyan started to cough violently.

Qin Muchen leaned on his chair with a dark expression and said with a faint chill in his voice, "Why are you so surprised? I'm sure that you would've thought of such an outcome when you did such a terrible thing back then."

Gu Hanyan had killed his child, so she should face retribution.

And he...

If he was more caring and concerned toward Su Ziyue at that time, the tragic incident and the subsequent events wouldn't have happened.

That was his retribution.

Su Ziyue might not be able to forgive him for the rest of his life.

Gu Hanyan knew that Qin Muchen was not the type of person to joke about such things. He must have been serious when he said that he had added in some sterilizing agent.

She looked at Qin Muchen as color drained from her face. "Muchen! How can you treat me like this?! We have known each other for so many years, and I am even your grandfather's savior! Besides, Su Ziyue's child may not be yours. I'm sure you know that she used to hook up with Gong Zeyang!"

Gu Hanyan was so anxious that she just spewed out anything that came to her mind.

If she was a little calmer, she wouldn't have mentioned Su Ziyue under such circumstances as that would undoubtedly add fuel to the fire.

After she finished speaking, she put a finger in the back of her throat and tried to make herself gag so that she could puke the tea she just drank. She didn't care about her image anymore.

However, there was no way that Qin Muchen would let her do this.

Qin Muchen grabbed her chin quickly and looked at her coldly. "You killed my child, so don't even think of having your own child in this life. Gu Hanyan, do you really think that I don't know what you've done just because I have not dealt with you?"

As he was grabbing Gu Hanyan's chin, she was forced to raise her head, and she was unable to even speak clearly.

"Grandpa... won't..."

Hearing this, Qin Muchen squeezed her chin with even more force. The hostility on his face intensified as he said, "How dare you mention my grandfather?! My grandfather has always had professional nutritionists and the best doctors around him. There's no way that he'll get so sick all of a sudden like that! Plus, he even almost died!"

It had only dawned on him after he calmed down. Although his grandfather had always had some chronic ailments, he had taken good care of his health all this while.

Plus, he would contact the doctor regularly to ask about his grandfather's condition. Yet, his grandfather had become so seriously ill out of a sudden.

Gu Hanyan's expression changed and fear was evident in her eyes. "I-I don't understand what you're saying!"

Qin Muchen suddenly let go of her chin and pushed her aside before he retracted his hand. Then, he wiped his hand repeatedly with the towel from the tea tray and continued, "Grandpa has always treated you well. You're the one who has a death wish."

He had only suspected Gu Hanyan at first, but he was completely certain now that he saw her reaction.

However, he still hadn't found out until now what Gu Hanyan gave his grandfather to make him

suddenly relapse from his old illness and almost died.

Gu Hanyan could tell from Qin Muchen's words that he already knew everything. There was no use for her to continue denying it.

With a twisted expression, Gu Hanyan said, "You were the one who rebelled against Grandpa for Su Ziyue. I did this to help Grandpa and also to help you. He doesn't want you to be with Su Ziyue, after all. You can't rebel against him for a mere woman! I was just helping you!"

Gu Hanyan knew that Qin Muchen had already found out everything, so she no longer concealed her thoughts.

From the beginning, she had always looked down on Su Ziyue.

To her, Su Ziyue was just a decent-looking immature girl. So what if she was pretty?

However, she later realized that she had underestimated how important Su Ziyue was to Qin Muchen, and thus she began to worry.

As a result, she began to take advantage of anyone she could.

She took advantage of Gong Zeyang, Su Yige, the family doctor and Grandpa.

Qin Muchen just ignored Gu Hanyan's words and looked at her coldly. "Save your explanations for when you meet Grandpa. You can also ask him to forgive you then."

Gu Hanyan's eyes widened at once. "No!"

She only managed to be successful because Qin Yuchuan was helping her. If Qin Yuchuan knew that she had harmed him, he might kill her, let alone help her.

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Gu Hanyan almost had a mental breakdown.

All of her pretense and facade all fell apart and vanished at this time.

"I beg you, Muchen, don't do this to me. I was wrong. Please don't hand me over to Grandpa. We're old friends now, aren't we? He will kill me..."

Gu Hanyan didn't care about her image at all as she knelt directly in front of Qin Muchen, begging pitifully.

However, Qin Muchen only looked at her coldly as he said ruthlessly and mercilessly, "You knew the

consequences, but you still did it. You're the one who has a death wish. No one can save you now."

After that, he forcefully pulled away Gu Hanyan's hand, which was grabbing his, and stood up.

No one can save me?

What Qin Muchen meant was that even if Qin Yuchuan was willing to let her off the hook, Qin Muchen would never let her go.

"I beg you, please let me go. We've known each other for so many years. You can't do this to me!" It was only then did Gu Hanyan truly become afraid.

It was not that she had never thought about the consequences after everything was revealed.

However, every person had wishful thinking, and she was no exception.

Plus, she thought that she had executed her plans perfectly, so she had never thought about what would happen if she was exposed.

A sneer flashed across Qin Muchen's face. "Have we? I think I should let you know that I met Su Ziyue earlier than you, and I have known her for almost 17 years."

After that, he turned around and went out without hesitation.

With her high-pitched voice, Gu Hanyan cried out hysterically, "Muchen!"

She didn't even listen to what he said; she just knew that hell was awaiting her.

Seeing Qin Muchen walk out, Gu Hanyan's last hope was completely shattered.

Before long, Nan Chuan walked in with his men.

Then, Nan Chuan walked up to her and looked down at her without a trace of pity in his eyes. His tone was as calm as usual as he said, "Miss Gu, it's time to go."

Gu Hanyan was sitting on the ground with tears on her face. The makeup that she had meticulously put on her face because she was coming to meet Qin Muchen were all smudged, and her styled hair was messed up.

She seemed to be stunned. As if her soul had left the body, she sat on the ground in a daze, motionless.

Nan Chuan didn't look impatient at all. Instead, he said faintly, "Miss Gu, if you get up now, you can still preserve your last shred of dignity."

Finally, Gu Hanyan came back to her senses and glanced at Nan Chuan. She then stood up from the ground as she said, "Can you give me another minute?"

Nan Chuan replied, "Sorry."

After coming out of Lumiere Jade House, Qin Muchen did not go to the company.

He went straight to Yanyue Media instead.

When he was passing by a flower shop, he couldn't help but park the car on the side of the road and walked in.

"Welcome!"

When the clerk saw that it was Qin Muchen, her jaw dropped.

The clerk then greeted him. Although she had repeatedly told herself to keep calm, she couldn't help stammering the moment she opened her mouth, "A-Are you here to buy flowers?"

"Yeah," Qin Muchen replied casually, his eyes darting through the flowers.

He remembered that he had bought wild roses the first time he bought flowers for Su Ziyue.

However, that was a bad memory.

He skipped the wild roses and looked around, only to realize that he didn't know what flowers Su Ziyue liked.

He turned around to look at the clerk who was following him carefully and asked, "What flowers do women like?"

The clerk was taken aback for a moment. She then hurriedly pointed to the roses and said, "R-Roses..."

Qin Muchen raised his eyebrows and fell silent.

The clerk quickly explained, "Although roses are common, it is a flower that symbolizes love. Everyone will buy this for the person they like, and most women will be happy when they receive it."

Qin Muchen was silent for a moment after hearing this, as if he was thinking about whether she was right. He then said, "I'll buy some roses then."

After the flowers were packaged, the clerk couldn't help but ask in a low voice, "Is it for your wife?"

"Yeah. Thank you."

With the box of flowers in his hand, Qin Muchen walked out.

Halfway through, he turned around and looked at the clerk again with a slight uncertainty in his eyes.

“Do you think my wife would like it?”

A few clerks were gathering together trying to take pictures of him secretly and hadn't expected Qin Muchen to suddenly turn around. They then nodded hurriedly and said, “Mrs. Qin will definitely like it!”

Hearing this, Qin Muchen turned around and left without another word.

After they were sure that Qin Muchen was gone, they gathered together and discussed in low voices. “He's even more handsome in real life than on TV!”

“What a handsome man!”

“Obviously. However, he seems to care for his wife very much, and he seems to be worried that his wife won't like the flowers he chose...”

“If it were me, I would be ecstatic even if he picked up a melon seed shell and gave it to me!”

After Su Ziyue walked out of the meeting room, she found that the employees around her were looking at her strangely.

When she walked to the office door, she happened to bump into Li Qingluo who was walking toward her. She had asked Li Qingluo to find some information for her after the meeting was over.

Su Ziyue asked her, “What happened?”

Hearing her question, Li Qingluo couldn't help but smile. “You'll know soon. Just go in and take a look yourself.”

Although Su Ziyue heard her teasing tone, she didn't say anything. She just opened the door and walked in.

However, as soon as she entered, she saw Qin Muchen sitting behind her desk.

“Qin Muchen?”

Su Ziyue called him in surprise and walked toward him. “Why are you here?”

“To see you.”

While Qin Muchen was speaking, Su Ziyue walked toward him. He then stretched out his hand to pull Su Ziyue into his arms and made her sit on his lap.

Su Ziyue felt a little embarrassed.

She stretched out her hand to push Qin Muchen. "Don't you need to go to the company? I'm sure that you have many things to deal with since you haven't returned to Yunzhou City for so long."

Qin Muchen's arms, which were around her, loosened a little as he said quietly, "Work is too boring."

Su Ziyue was stunned. What did he mean by that?

Qin Muchen's expression reminded her of a student who didn't want to go to school.

He didn't go to the company because it's boring?

Forget it. The company is his anyway, so he can do whatever he wants. I, on the other hand, still have a lot of work to deal with.

"Mm," Qin Muchen replied and helped her stand up. Then he got up and led her to sit down on her chair.

As soon as Su Ziyue sat down, she felt something hard behind her.

She turned around and saw that it was a long delicate box filled with flowers.

Through the transparent plastic mold on the package, she could see the red roses inside.

Surprise flashed across Su Ziyue's face as she looked up at him. "Did you buy this?"

"Do you like it?"

Qin Muchen took it and removed the lid of the box before he handed it to her with eagerness in his eyes.

Su Ziyue was stunned for a moment before she said, "I like it. Thank you."

CHAPTER 319

At noon—

Qin Muchen and Su Ziyue went out for lunch.

After they ordered their meal, Su Ziyue was talking to the waiter when they heard a thud.

Su Ziyue then turned around and saw that Qin Muchen's cup had fallen to the ground.

Before she could speak, Qin Muchen explained, "I accidentally dropped it."

He sounded anxious.

Su Ziyue didn't think too much about it and called over the waiter to clean it up. She then poured Qin Muchen another glass of water.

Seeing that Su Ziyue didn't really mind, Qin Muchen let out a sigh of relief secretly.

He glanced down at his left hand, his expression gloomy.

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The two of them were about to leave the restaurant after eating when a little boy suddenly ran up to them out of nowhere.

The little boy seemed to be about three years old; he was an energetic and fat little boy.

He was running mindlessly and bumped into Su Ziyue's leg.

Su Ziyue was talking to Qin Muchen, so she was caught off guard. After the little boy bumped into her, she staggered back a few steps before she steadied herself.

She did not forget to hold the little boy as well so that he did not fall down.

"Haohao! Don't run around!"

At this moment, a young woman walked toward them.

She glanced in Su Ziyue's direction with a slightly anxious expression on her face. "Haohao, come here!"

The little boy, who Su Ziyue was holding on to, chuckled and ran toward the woman. "Mom!"

His mother reached out to catch him and immediately carried him up before lecturing him softly and then smiling apologetically at Su Ziyue. "I'm sorry, are you alright? My son is a naughty kid!"

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

Then, she looked at the little boy named Haohao and asked her, "How old is he?"

"He's three-and-a-half years old. He's so naughty that his dad and I are at our wits' end... He's quite clever though, and he learned to walk and talk at a very young age. When he was just one year old, he

already knew how to play hide and seek with me and his dad. He's such a worrisome child..."

Probably all mothers in the world liked to ramble about their children even if the other party was a stranger.

Su Ziyue was originally listening to her with a slight smile, but when she heard the words 'one year old', her expression suddenly changed.

If her baby was born safely, he would have been one year old now.

When the woman realized that Su Ziyue's expression had soured, she stopped and said, "Haohao, say goodbye to this miss and mister."

"Good-bye, miss and mister!" The little boy called Haohao obediently bade farewell. His bright black eyes were darting everywhere as if he was planning to do something mischievous.

With a lump forming in her throat, Su Ziyue forced out a smile and said goodbye before walking out.

Qin Muchen, who stood beside her just now, noticed her expression as well, and his face darkened.

Before leaving, he looked at the child again.

.....

Su Ziyue walked outside the restaurant, feeling suffocated as if a tuft of cotton was stuck in her throat.

She pressed her lips together tightly, swallowed, and looked up to the sky for a long time before she finally calmed down.

Meanwhile, Qin Muchen stood not far behind her and did not walk over to her.

He looked at Su Ziyue's thin figure, and his fist, which was hanging beside him, slowly tightened. Then, he strode forward when he felt that she was going to look back.

Su Ziyue looked up, and the dark look on her face was already gone. "I'm going back to work now."

"Okay."

Qin Muchen replied and said, "Go ahead."

Su Ziyue turned to leave, but was stopped by Qin Muchen from behind.

"Su Ziyue!"

“What?”

Su Ziyue turned around, thereafter Qin Muchen stretched out his hand and pulled her into his arms. Soon after, his hot and urgent kiss fell on her lips.

Su Ziyue was leaning against him with her arms folded, and when she remembered that they were on the streets filled with pedestrians, her face reddened, and she reached out to push him away.

Qin Muchen stopped in time and put his chin on her thin shoulder as he said softly, “Don’t push me away.”

Don’t push me away physically or psychologically.

Su Ziyue was frightened by the vulnerable tone in Qin Muchen’s voice and dared not push him anymore. She then asked, “What’s wrong?”

However, Qin Muchen pushed her away at this moment with a small smile on his face. “Go back to work. I will pick you up after I get off work.”

As he spoke, he combed through her hair which was messed up by the kiss with his fingers; his movements were incredibly gentle.

“Then I’ll leave first. You don’t need to pick me up at night. I drove here by myself, so I can drive back.”

This time, Qin Muchen did not stop her.

After walking a distance, Su Ziyue looked back and found that Qin Muchen was still standing there.

Across the busy road, she still saw him at a glance.

Behind him were tall buildings and trees and people were walking past him, yet he just stood there motionlessly. He was an energetic and compelling man, but somehow, intense sadness and boundless depression were emanating from him.

What happened?

.....

Qin Muchen went to Lumiere Jade House.

“Boss, this is...”

Nan Chuan reported Lumiere Jade House’s performance this month to him, but he was not paying attention at all.

He actually wanted very badly to be with Su Ziyue every single second of every day.

However, he was overwhelmed by self-blame.

He didn't dare to ask what she felt at the time.

How did even she live through the trauma in the past two years that he wasn't by her side?

He didn't even dare to think about it. Just the thought of it made his heart ache like no tomorrow.

She was someone that he treasured, and he would feel jealous if others so much as took a glance at her. Yet, he did not take good care of her and protect her.

“Qin Muchen!”

At this time, Bai Jingshu suddenly rushed in from outside.

Bai Jingshu walked directly to Qin Muchen, pushed Nan Chuan aside, and questioned him loudly, “Did you ask your men to send Hanyan to your grandfather?”

Qin Muchen just glanced at him silently.

Seeing him keeping mum, Bai Jingshu became anxious. “Talk to me! She only did such things to your grandfather because she was confused. What's more, she did it all for you! You can just punish her yourself. I'm sure you know how cruel your grandfather is!”

Hearing this, Qin Muchen finally reacted.

He looked up at Bai Jingshu and said expressionlessly, “I'm even more cruel than Grandpa. I want to kill her, but she would be getting off easy.”

Bai Jingshu was frightened by the killing intent in Qin Muchen's eyes.

Qin Muchen said quietly, “She did it all for me?”

He then sneered with an unusually dark expression on his face. “Did she do it for me too when she killed my child?”

“What...?” Bai Jingshu didn't understand what Qin Muchen was talking about for a while.

He thought that Gu Hanyan just wanted Qin Muchen to go back to see his grandfather, and that although she had done the wrong thing, she was not inexcusable.

CHAPTER 320

Although Bai Jingshu had always been regarded as a playboy, he was actually a very loyal and protective person.

He was disappointed with Gu Hanyan, but he still felt that Qin Muchen's punishment for her was too severe.

Looking at Qin Muchen, whose expression had obviously darkened, he asked, "Muchen, wh-what are you saying? What child?"

A trace of longing appeared in Qin Muchen's eyes as he murmured, "My child."

Bai Jingshu wanted to continue asking him questions, but Nan Chuan quickly pushed him out.

After pushing him out of the room, Nan Chuan carefully closed the door and then said to Bai Jingshu, "Stop asking him about it. Can't you see how strange he's acting?"

Bai Jingshu frowned and said, "He's been acting strange since yesterday. He refuses to tell me anything, so of course I have to ask him about it. I'm sure that you know as well that he likes to bottle everything up."

Nan Chuan had been helping Qin Muchen with many things. Although Qin Muchen didn't clearly tell him, he had deduced the whole story based on Qin Muchen's reaction and Gu Hanyan's words.

After all, he had been helping Qin Muchen to investigate the incident two years ago, so he knew a lot.

He briefly told Bai Jingshu the whole story.

After listening to Bai Jingshu, he fell silent for a long time before he said, "How could this be?"

"Mr. Qin will face an emotional breakdown sooner or later if he continues bottling up his feelings like this." Nan Chuan shook his head.

"But he didn't do anything wrong. He didn't even know that Su Ziyue was pregnant..."

Thinking of this, Bai Jingshu pushed Nan Chuan away. "I'll go in and talk to him."

"Sigh..."

Nan Chuan actually wanted to tell him that Qin Muchen would not be like this now if he could be so easily persuaded.

.....

When Bai Jingshu entered the room, Qin Muchen was smoking again.

He glanced at the ashtray. He had only been gone for a while, but Qin Muchen had smoked so much that he had filled up the entire ashtray.

Bai Jingshu stretched out his hand and took the cigarette from his hand. "Stop smoking. You will kill yourself sooner or later if you continue smoking!"

Qin Muchen ignored him, took out another cigarette and lit it.

Bai Jingshu glanced at his face, not daring to snatch his cigarette away again.

He then sat down in front of Qin Muchen and said earnestly, "Muchen, Nan Chuan told me everything. Why don't you just talk it out with Su Ziyue?"

Qin Muchen said in a hoarse voice, "It's not that simple."

How could he explain himself about killing their child?

Even if Su Ziyue could forgive him, he could never forgive himself.

Bai Jingshu tried to persuade him for a long time but to no avail, and he was at his wit's end.

Then, Qin Muchen just smoked in the office all afternoon.

When it was time for Su Ziyue to get off work, he washed off the smell of smoke from his body before getting up and walking out.

He had promised to pick up Su Ziyue from work.

.....

Su Ziyue came out of the company and immediately saw Qin Muchen waiting for her at the door.

The employees passing by were chattering quietly among themselves.

Su Ziyue could hear them saying things like 'I'm so envious', 'He's so handsome', and so on from time to time.

Then, Su Ziyue walked over and took him to the side. "I already said that you don't need to come fetch me."

"I have lots of free time anyway." Qin Muchen looked down at her with a bright smile on his face.

Speechless, Su Ziyue had no choice but to drag him to the car.

.....

In the middle of the night, Su Ziyue woke up from thirst.

The area of the bed next to her was empty again.

She then turned on the bedside lamp and opened the door to go out.

She left on only a dim yellow wall lamp at the door before she went to the study. However, no one was there.

She turned around and walked to the top of the stairs before looking down. In the middle of the dark hall, a flash of light flickered.

She called out tentatively, "Qin Muchen?"

The light suddenly went out, and the next moment, Qin Muchen's slightly hoarse voice sounded. "Why are you awake? Are you thirsty?"

"Yeah," Su Ziyue said. "Please help me turn on the light. I'm coming down to pour myself a glass of water."

"Go back to the room first. I will bring it to you right away."

With that, footsteps sounded in the dark hall.

Su Ziyue stayed there for a while, then turned to go back to the bedroom.

.....

Qin Muchen soon came upstairs with a glass of water.

Su Ziyue took a sip and found that the water was warm.

"Why were you in the living room? It's late and you should be sleeping," Su Ziyue asked him while drinking water.

Qin Muchen coughed dryly and said, "I got up to drink some water. My nicotine addiction is acting up again, so I smoked a cigarette."

There was a heavy scent of cigarette smoke emanating from his body. It was obvious that he had smoked more than just one cigarette.

However, Su Ziyue didn't expose him.

She was already certain that Qin Muchen was bothered by something.

Plus, the thing that was bothering him was probably very important.

She was no longer the meek Su Ziyue who could be easily fooled two years ago.

She had matured and had become more cautious.

.....

On the weekend, Su Ziyue invited An Xia to have some tea with her.

At the end of their tea session, she asked An Xia, "Do you have Nan Chuan's phone number? Can you give it to me?"

"Of course. Why do you need his number?" An Xia said while taking out her mobile phone and scrolled through her contacts.

Su Ziyue smiled and said, "Qin Muchen asked me to get something from him. I forgot to save his number, and since you're already here, I decided to just ask you for his number so that I don't have to call Qin Muchen and cause him more trouble."

Hearing this, An Xia did not doubt her at all and directly gave Nan Chuan's number to Su Ziyue. "Here, this is his number. He hasn't changed his number in the past two years."

After saving the number in her phone, Su Ziyue said to her, "Thanks. I will go look for Nan Chuan first, and I will go shopping with you another day."

After watching An Xia leave, Su Ziyue called Nan Chuan.

She said straightforwardly, "Nan Chuan, are you free to meet now?"

"Miss..." Nan Chuan was about to habitually call her 'Miss Su', but he quickly stopped himself. "Mrs. Qin."

"If you're free, let's meet up now. I have something to ask you."

Nan Chuan knew that Su Ziyue must have something important to talk to him about since she had specifically called him, so he agreed readily.

.....

After half an hour, Su Ziyue and Nan Chuan sat down in the cafe.

Su Ziyue spoke first, "You must be busy these days, huh?"

"Not really." Of course I am!

Mr. Qin has not been in the mood to work recently, so I have to deal with everything in his stead. I have been so busy that I barely have time for himself.

Su Ziyue put on a faint smile as she slowly said, "I'll cut straight to the chase then. Nan Chuan, what happened to Qin Muchen? He is acting very strange recently."

"Mr. Qin... Nothing has happened recently..." Nan Chuan hesitated, but still chose not to tell her.

After all, this was Mr. Qin's personal matters, so he dared not intervene at will.

Su Ziyue already knew that Nan Chuan wouldn't tell her so easily.

She thought for a while and said, "Nan Chuan, do you know that he has been up smoking in the middle of the night every night? I don't know what happened to make him so restless until he can't even sleep well. If this continues, he will fall ill sooner or later. I know you are worried about intervening in his personal matters, but I am his wife, so his personal matters are mine as well. You don't need to hide anything from me."

She wouldn't be worried if it had just happened once or twice. However, Qin Muchen had been acting strange for almost a week.

He didn't tell her anything, but she could feel his anxiety and dejection, which was obviously a symptom of emotional breakdown.

She knew because she had gone through it before.